



August 2016

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# THE TENNESSEE MAGAZINE



## Washington Youth Tour

Glassblowers  
Turn Up the Heat

**History for Kids:**  
TVA Deeds Land to Cherokee

Honeydew-licious  
Recipes for Summer

## Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation

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### Mission Statement

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

## AS I SEE IT

*Manager's Viewpoint*

# Caring about youth is the cooperative way

In June, Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation sent 12 high school juniors to Washington, D.C., for the 52nd Annual Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. Students who experience Youth Tour have the opportunity to explore our nation's capital, make lasting friendships, compete for college scholarships, learn a bit about how our government operates and see the impact electric cooperatives have on the legislative process.

Youth Tour is one of the programs for which electric cooperatives across the country are best known. (Read more about Youth Tour on pages 22-24.) But electric cooperatives go far beyond Youth Tour when it comes to making a difference in our young members' lives.

At CEMC, we are invested in youth education and engagement programs throughout our local community. Each year, CEMC awards 12 college scholarships to well-deserving graduating seniors across our service area. Every summer, we send sixth- and seventh-grade students to 4-H Electric Camp to learn electric safety as well as the science of electricity in general. Throughout the school year, CEMC provides electric safety demonstrations to students of all ages, participates in career days and sponsors spelling bees, math competitions and more.

And we're not the only ones getting involved. We are happy to be a part of the broader co-op community, which strives to provide young Americans with safety and educational programs during

the summer and throughout the year. Here's how some of them are getting young people involved:

Electric co-ops in several states, including Wyoming, Colorado, Kansas and Utah, run summer camps that teach kids about the cooperative business model. In fact, the kids get to create and run a co-op for the summer! They pay their dues (50 cents) to become a part of the co-op and proceed to handle co-op business — from voting on board members and choosing a general manager to setting prices and determining inventory for

their chosen business.

Here in Tennessee, our co-ops are taking students to their state capital so they can see their state government at work. Students participating in the Youth Leadership Summit visit Nashville and meet their state legislators. They leave the program having learned about more than just their hometown cooperatives and Tennessee state government; they leave with practical experience, leadership skills and a desire to work hard for their future.

There are many great co-op programs out there that focus on youth education and engagement. But what all of these programs have in common, no matter how big or small, is the fact that electric cooperatives come together for a common cause to not only teach our youth about the cooperative difference but to give them opportunities to see and reach their potential.



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

# 2015 WYT delegates collect shoes for kids

By Stephanie Lobdell, CEMC community relations coordinator

One thing all Washington Youth Tour (WYT) winners have in common when they return home is sore feet! During their weeklong trip to D.C. this year, students took more than 123,000 steps — walking a whopping 61 miles! So when asked to come up with a group community service project, it was no surprise the 2015 WYT delegates decided to host a shoe drive.

The students engaged their communities, family and friends in their efforts and jointly collected more than 100 pairs of new, youth-sized athletic shoes. This was no ordinary shoe drive, though, as the students chose to donate the shoes to Ashland City Elementary, a local school in rural Cheatham County. Principal Chip Roney was overwhelmed by the generosity and excited about being able to distribute the shoes during the school's upcoming open house event.

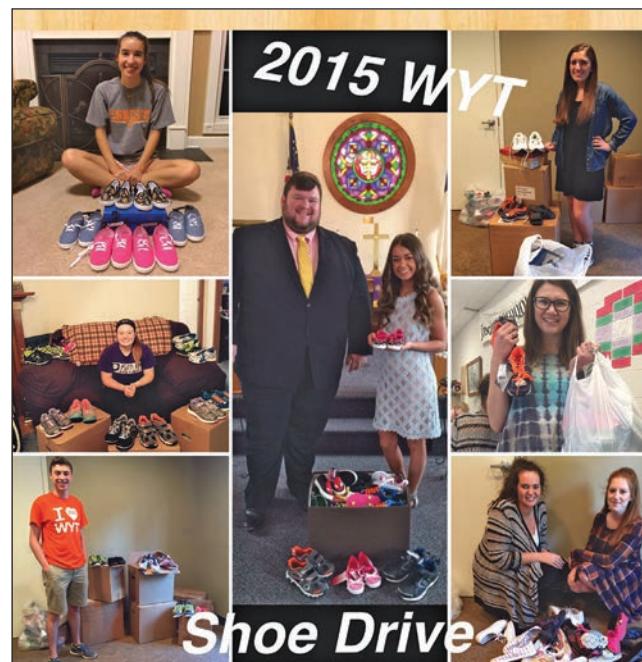
That same excitement was shared by the students who gathered the shoes. "The amount of shoes we were able to collect will bring smiles to the faces of many children who otherwise might not get a new pair of school shoes this year," says Eli Creasy, a 2015 WYT alumnus.

Youth Tour participants often return to their hometowns as stronger leaders with confidence they can



From left, Ashland City Elementary School counselor Joy Daniel, Lobdell, and ACES Principal Chip Roney — along with some help from a few ACES students — gather the shoes donated by Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation's 2015 Washington Youth Tour delegates.

make a difference. The 2015 WYT delegates exemplified this through their dedication to this community service project.



CEMC's 2015 Washington Youth Tour delegates collected more than 100 pairs of shoes that will benefit children in need at Ashland City Elementary.

## Coming next month

**B**e sure to keep an eye out for next month's issue of *The Tennessee Magazine*! It will contain everything you need to know about Cumberland Electric Membership's 78th annual membership meeting. We hope you'll join us Saturday, Sept. 17, at White House Heritage High School in Robertson County for our cooperative's biggest event. Director elections will be held, a complimentary breakfast will be served, entertainment will be provided and some exciting door prizes will be given away. Mark your calendar for Sept. 17, and make plans to join us as we celebrate 78 years of serving you!

# 2016 Washington Youth Tour



Early 140 high school seniors from across Tennessee have returned from a weeklong “experience of a lifetime” courtesy of their local electric cooperatives. Shelby Adcock, Cheatham County Central High School; Caroline Collins, Montgomery Central High School; Jaz Crook, Portland High School; Dalton Cunningham, Cheatham County Central High School; Erica Juriasignani, Stewart County High School; Grace Kuchenbecker, Montgomery Central High School; MaKayleigh Lackey, Stewart County High School; Thomas Littleton, Stewart County High School; Lucinda Shea, Greenbrier High School; Kayde Stroud, Jo Byrns High School; Estelle Turner, White House Heritage High School; and Carder Veneble, Portland High School, as well as Kathryn Van Mater, Cheatham County Central High School, were sponsored by Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation to participate in the 2016 Washington Youth Tour June 10-16.

The popular event included sightseeing, visits with elected officials and lots of fun meeting peers from across Tennessee and the nation. Delegates earned their spots on the Youth Tour for writing winning short stories titled “Electric Cooperatives: Powering Everyday Life.” In their winning entries, the talented young writers described how member-owned, nonprofit electric co-ops strengthen their local



At top, CEMC's 2016 Washington Youth Tour delegates are, from left, MaKayleigh Lackey, Dalton Cunningham, Erica Juriasignani, Estelle Turner, Thomas Littleton, Shelby Adcock, Carder Veneble, Jaz Crook, Grace Kuchenbecker, Caroline Collins, Kayde Stroud and Lucinda Shea. Above, Youth Tour delegates visit the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial.

communities and improve lives across their service areas while providing safe, reliable, affordable energy.

“We take great pride in rewarding the best and brightest from our service area,” said Stephanie Lobdell, CEMC community relations coordinator who, along with Member Services Assistant Susie Yonkers, was a chaperone on this year’s trip. “By recognizing



CEMC's group poses for a fun photo in front of the Supreme Court building.

their accomplishments through programs like the Washington Youth Tour, we show these leaders of tomorrow that their hometown electric co-op is more than a utility provider; CEMC is an active member of the community and fully invested in its prosperity.”

For more than 50 years, the Washington Youth Tour has taken students from electric co-op service areas to our nation’s capital to learn more about our country and the cooperative business model. The annual event is coordinated by CEMC, the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association and National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). This year’s Youth Tour involved 1,700 students from 43 states.

On their 2016 visit, Tennessee’s Youth Tour delegates saw the White House and memorials to past presidents Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Franklin Delano Roosevelt as well as monuments honoring the sacrifices of veterans of World War II and the Vietnam and Korean Wars. During visits to the museums of the Smithsonian Institution, the touring Tennesseans saw and experienced natural, historical and artistic treasures. Other fun stops included historic homes of former presidents — George Washington’s Mount Vernon and Jefferson’s Monticello — as well as Madame Tussauds Wax Museum, the Hard Rock Cafe and a boat cruise down the Potomac River. Among other Youth

Tour highlights were a solemn and sobering visit to Arlington National Cemetery where the group laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns and a stirring Sunset Parade performance by the U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps and Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon.

The group was welcomed to the U.S. Capitol by Sens. Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker, and Reps. Diane Black and Marsha Blackburn

spent time with their young constituents from CEMC, posing for photos and answering their questions.

“Our commitment to community is what sets cooperatives apart from other businesses,” said CEMC General Manager Jim Coode. “The Washington Youth Tour is one way we show the youth of our service area that CEMC is more than their electricity provider. We genuinely care about the prosperity of our communities, and that includes providing special opportunities for these exceptional students and preparing them for future success.”

Entry details for the 2017 Washington Youth Tour will be distributed to high schools within CEMC’s service area this fall.

Information can also be found in the January 2017 issue of *The Tennessee Magazine* and on CEMC’s website, [www.cemc.org](http://www.cemc.org).

For an idea of what this contest is all about, read CEMC’s top 2016 short story written by MaKayleigh Lackey, currently a senior at Stewart County High School, on page 24.



Delegates stop at Thomas Jefferson's Monticello to tour the home of our nation's third president and author of the Declaration of Independence.

**ON THE COVER —**  
*Standing on the grounds of the U.S. Capitol are CEMC's 2016 Washington Youth Tour representatives. From left are Susie Yonkers, Estelle Turner, Caroline Collins, Grace Kuchenbecker, Kayde Stroud, Thomas Littleton, MaKayleigh Lackey, Carder Veneble, Shelby Adcock, Dalton Cunningham, Lucinda Shea, Kathryn Van Mater, Jaz Crook, Erica Juriasignani and Stephanie Lobdell.*

# Electric Cooperatives: Powering Everyday Life

By MaKayleigh Lackey, Stewart County High School



underneath Charlotte's web, which today said, "Some Pig."

"Oh, Charlotte! Thank you for everything you have done for me. All of these people came just to see your web!" Wilbur's chocolate-brown eyes glistened with tears of happiness. Charlotte pondered his claim for a moment; her years of life had made her wise enough to know this wasn't just her doing.

"I can't take all of the credit. Honestly, this couldn't have been done without our local electric co-op." Raising his eyes quizzically, Wilbur began racking his brain for how the co-op could possibly be responsible for this marvelous night at his beloved home. Defeated, he finally responded.

"OK, I know that the local electric co-op does a lot for our community. But I just can't figure out how it could be responsible for tonight!" Charlotte's gossamer body settled into the alabaster folds of her web.

"Well, back in the early 1930s, power companies found it unprofitable to build power lines out into rural communities. This forced families who lived and worked in rural areas to rely specifically on agriculture as their source of income. In addition, this caused traffic in these areas to become very few and far between." Wilbur's eyes widened with fear.

"So that means ..." His sentence trailed off in the somber realization of what this would have meant for him. "That means Farmer Homer wouldn't have had enough money to keep me. And, if he did, these visitors wouldn't have traveled out to see us!" Charlotte nodded her sable head, making the glistening web bounce.

"Can you think of anything else that the local electric co-op could be responsible for?" Charlotte asked Wilbur with a hint of a smile in her voice. Wilbur rose and shook the straw off of himself and walked to the edge of the barn, gazing out into the night scene. The visitors who had grown to love Charlotte and Wilbur were still milling around the barnyard, drinking fresh lemonade. He redirected his gaze to the frosted farm house in the distance, where he could see more multitudes of people pass by the large windows. Their silhouettes, darkened by the light behind them, cruised from room to room. Wilbur turned his eyes upward to the yellow lantern lights that

were strung along the roof of the rustic barn. They reminded him of ships bobbing in the current. The corners of Charlotte's mouth turned up into a smile as Wilbur gasped in excitement.

"I know!" he exclaimed. "The lights, of course!"

"You're right, Wilbur!" Charlotte shifted her body, causing droplets of late-night dew to be thrown to the ground below. They hit the dirt of the barn floor and were quickly absorbed into the thirsty soil. "The local electric co-op doesn't even do all this for profit. It is owned by the consumers it serves. This means the customers like us are always the priority." Wilbur's jaw was agape in amazement.

"Charlotte," he pondered, "does the co-op teach us how to use energy more efficiently as well? I think it's really important that Farmer Homer doesn't have to pay a lot for his electricity. You know, so he can keep me here on the farm."

Charlotte smiled. "Of course it does! These co-ops make it their duty to teach their consumers how to use energy as efficiently as possible. They have lots of programs put in place just for this reason! One example of these programs is the Energy Right Water Heater Program. This helps customers cut back on their water heater utility bill by providing a rebate for the installation of a new, more efficient water heater!" Charlotte finished this sentence with excitement oozing out of her voice. Wilbur couldn't help but be excited, too; these local electric co-ops were great!

"Wow! I didn't realize these co-ops did so much for us!" Wilbur's brain was overflowing with new information.

"Well, I'm not finished yet," Charlotte responded curtly. Wilbur's salmon ears perked up. "The local electric co-ops also make community service another of their priorities. They sponsor lots of activities for the youth in their service zones. Some examples are the Washington Youth Tour, Electric Camp and local school safety programs." Wilbur was shocked why these co-ops would do all of this for these people; he realized it was just because they wanted to help their communities. He was struck with an amazing idea.

"Hey, Charlotte, since the electric co-ops do so much for us, why don't we do something for it?"

"I think that's a great idea, Wilbur!" The pair quickly got to work brainstorming and creating their masterpiece. Charlotte and Wilbur, exhausted, finally went to sleep late into the cool summer night. The next morning, the residents of the Zuckerman Farm quickly began placing calls to every television and radio crew in the area. Charlotte had written something new in her web. Illuminated by the early-morning sunshine, covered in glistening drops of dew, was written: "Electric co-ops, our friend."

## Student art featured in 2017 CEMC calendars



*East Region Overall Winner — Ellie Kastner  
Ninth grade, Merrol Hyde Magnet School*

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation is proud to present winning artwork from its 2017 Calendar Art Contest. Students from CEMC's service area submitted hundreds of entries, each vying for a spot in this year's calendar.

Two different wall calendars, one representing the East Region and the other the West Region, as well as pocket calendars in five different designs will be available at your local CEMC business office beginning in November. Above are the overall winning entries for each region, and below and on the following page are the winning entries for the pocket calendars.

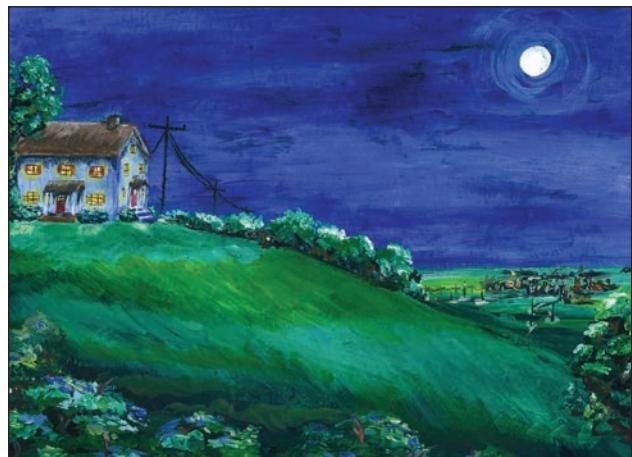
CEMC thanks the students who submitted artwork and the schools and teachers who encouraged participation. As always, we were amazed by the talented artists, and choosing the winners was no easy task!



*Rebecca White — East Pocket  
12th grade, Merrol Hyde Magnet School*



*West Region Overall Winner — Zoi Chan  
12th grade, Cheatham County Central High School*



*Maria Popescu — East Pocket  
12th grade, Merrol Hyde Magnet School*



*Lucas Brizendine — West Pocket  
12th grade, Cheatham County Central High School*

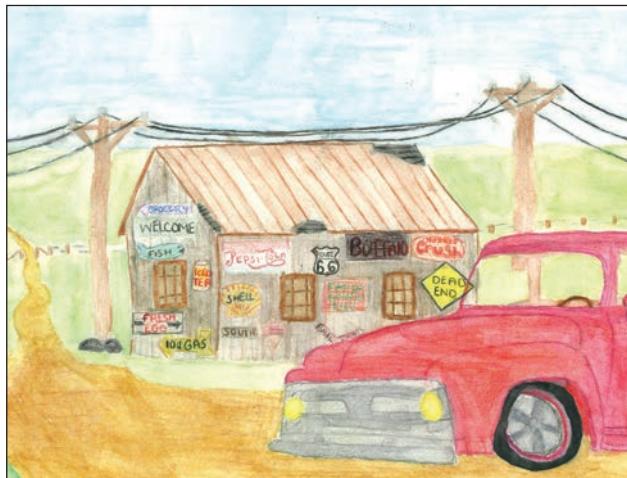
*Continued on page 26*

# 2017 CEMC calendars

Continued from page 25



Amie Edwards — West Pocket  
12th grade, Cheatham County Central High School



Caylee Weninger — West Pocket  
12th grade, Stewart County High School

## CEMC Linemen compete at 2016 Rodeo

**C**umberland Electric Membership Corporation sent a group of expertly trained linemen to participate in the 19th Annual Tennessee Valley Lineman Rodeo June 10-11 at Paris Landing State Park in Paris, Tennessee.

Lineworkers who participate in the rodeo are required to compete in a series of tests, balancing skill with safety. Much of the rodeo takes place atop 40-foot-tall poles. For safety reasons, the lines are not energized, but competitors are judged as if every aspect is real. The lineworkers perform a variety of tasks scored by a team of well-qualified judges.

This year, CEMC employees — Portland District Apprentice Lineman Justin Bradley and Portland District Linemen Justin Short, John Vander Wielen and Matt Hunter — competed with lineworkers representing cooperatives and municipal utilities from across the Tennessee Valley.

CEMC linemen brought home two first-place awards this year. Short, Vander Wielen and Hunter claimed first place in the team Hurtman Rescue event, and Bradley finished first in the apprentice Hurtman Rescue competition.

Additionally, Construction Crew Working Foreman Mark Heathman, Springfield District Operations Supervisor Nicky Roberts, Transmission Engineer Kevin Cain and Safety Coordinator Chip Miller served as judges.

"Our lineworkers are among the best-trained, most dedicated and hardest-working people you will ever meet," says Miller. "The rodeo gives them the chance to match their knowledge and skills against those of their peers."



With John Vander Wielen on the ground, Matt Hunter, left, and Justin Short participate in a team event atop a pole at the 19th Annual Tennessee Valley Lineman Rodeo.



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*Serving our members since 1940.*

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## AS I SEE IT

*Manager's Viewpoint*

# Women and cooperatives

In honor of Women's Equality Day on Aug. 26, let's take a look at the roles women play in cooperatives across the globe. Even though women in the U.S. and U.K. were not allowed to vote until the early 1900s, women were granted equal voting rights in the first modern-era cooperative, the Rochdale Pioneers Equitable Society. Established in 1844 in Rochdale, England, the co-op's founders agreed that women should have equal voting rights. So you see, treating women equally has been baked into our cooperative DNA right from the start. And the cooperative business model continues to champion women's equality worldwide.

According to a 2015 global study conducted by the Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives, co-ops have an increasingly positive impact on women and their inclusion in the labor force and enhance women's abilities to achieve positions of authority (both within and outside of the co-op).

In developing countries — where women have long suffered due to biased cultural norms, government policy and lack of opportunities — the role cooperatives play in the lives of women as well as the role women play in cooperatives is now more meaningful than ever.

In Paraguay, a South American country bordered by Brazil and Argentina, gender equality has transformed the Manduvira Sugarcane Cooperative.

This fair-trade sugar co-op has seen a dramatic increase in the participation of female members and leaders. Manduvira is a multiservice co-op with two types of operations: organic, fair-trade sugar production and savings and credit. In both of its operations, Manduvira has seen a significant increase in its success as women's participation grows.

According to several co-op leaders in Manduvira, female members are generally more likely to apply what they learn in training and adopt new farming techniques compared to their male counterparts. Because women are more likely to adopt new technologies and the co-op has seen a higher percentage of women in leadership roles, the co-op has become stronger and more stable.

This is just an example from one cooperative. In South Africa, women make up 60 percent of co-op members from nearly all sectors. In Japan, women make up 95 percent of co-op members in consumer cooperatives and hold key governance positions. And globally, more women join savings and credit cooperatives, giving them increased access to financial resources.

Right here at Caney Fork Electric Cooperative, women serve on our board, in leadership roles and other positions in which all of them work hard to help make the co-op run smoothly. Treating everyone equally and ensuring folks have fair opportunities reflect the cooperative way of doing business.



**Bill Rogers**  
*General Manager,  
Caney Fork  
Electric Cooperative*

# Cool summer evenings call for fans, not A/C

**E**ven the hottest summer gives us a break occasionally, sending pleasant temperatures and gentle breezes our way, especially in the evenings. When it's not too hot outside, you can cool your house more economically with fans than by running your central or window air conditioner.

Placing a fan in a window circulates the air and freshens the home by exhausting stale air. It can remove odors from smoking and cooking that tend to

linger in the air when all the windows are closed. A ceiling fan can be used whether the air conditioning is on or off. During the summer, the blades send a slight breeze down into the room, making anyone in that room feel more comfortable.

Fans don't actually cool the house off. Instead, they make the rooms where they are located feel cooler because they move the air around. So turn them off when you leave the room.

## Smart window use can regulate indoor comfort

You can use your windows to let cool air into your home and keep hot air out during the summer. Here's how:

- Whenever it cools off at night, turn off the air conditioner and open the windows to let the breezes in while you sleep.
- In the morning, close the windows and the blinds or curtains. That will "trap" the cool air indoors and prevent hot air from getting in as the day heats up.
- Choose window treatments that not only look nice but that save energy. Some choices: Interior blinds made

from heat-reflective material can reduce heat gain by 45 percent when you close the slats. And draperies with white plastic backings can reduce heat gain by 33 percent when they're closed.

- If you shade the exterior of your windows with wooden or vinyl blinds, overhangs, awnings, shutters or storm panels, you'll keep the sun from heating up your interior.
- Replacing old, single-pane windows with double-pane models can keep your home more comfortable and shave hundreds of dollars off your energy bills, according to Energy Star.

## CFEC participates in career days



**C**aney Fork Electric Cooperative welcomes the opportunity to visit area schools and provide materials for students during career day events. At CFEC, we truly believe in the importance of educating the future generations about the job opportunities in the energy industry.

In order to include your school's career day on our schedule, please contact CFEC Communications Coordinator Angel Wood at 931-473-3116 or 888-505-3030.

*CFEC representative Angel Wood pauses for a moment for a picture with students during Irving College Elementary's career day.*

# Caney Fork Electric Cooperative sends students on 2016 Youth Tour

Early 140 high school seniors from across Tennessee have returned from a weeklong “experience of a lifetime” courtesy of their local electric cooperatives. Megan Cravens of Sparta, Noah Thornton of Spencer, Jayrah Trapp of Smithville and Hannah Wright of McMinnville as well as White County High School teacher Jennifer Spivey were sponsored by Caney Fork Electric Cooperative to participate in the 2016 Washington Youth Tour June 10-16.

## ON THE COVER:

In front of the U.S. Capitol are, from left, Hannah Wright, Megan Cravens, Noah Thornton, Jayrah Trapp, Jennifer Spivey and Angel Wood.

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The popular event included sightseeing, visits with elected officials and lots of fun meeting peers from across Tennessee and the nation. Delegates earned their spots on the Youth Tour for writing winning short stories titled “Electric Cooperatives: Powering Everyday Life.” In

their local communities and improve lives across their service areas while providing safe, reliable, affordable energy.

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For more than 50 years, the Washington Youth Tour has taken students from electric co-op service areas to our nation’s capital to learn more about our country and the cooperative business model. The annual event is coordinated by CFEC, the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association and National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). This year’s Youth Tour involved 1,700 students from 43 states.

“Young Americans given the opportunity to come to Washington, D.C., by their electric cooperatives experience a life-changing event,” said NRECA Interim CEO Jeffrey Connor. “They talk to their elected officials in person, connect to our nation’s rich history and have a hands-on experience with democracy. Youth Tour enriches their understanding of the political process and the vital importance of direct engagement. As a result, they return to their communities with a deeper commitment to the communities they represent.”

On their 2016 visit, Tennessee’s Youth Tour delegates saw the White House and memorials to past presidents Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Franklin Delano Roosevelt as well as monuments honoring the sacrifices of veterans of World War II and the Vietnam and Korean Wars. During visits to the museums of the Smithsonian Institution, the touring Tennesseans saw and experienced natural, historical and artistic treasures. Other fun stops included historic homes of former presidents — George Washington’s Mount Vernon and Jefferson’s Monticello — as well as Madame Tussauds Wax Museum, the Hard Rock

*CFEC’s group poses in front of Monticello, Virginia home of Thomas Jefferson. From left are Jennifer Spivey, Jayrah Trapp, Hannah Wright, Megan Cravens, Noah Thornton and Angel Wood.*





Cafe and a boat cruise down the Potomac River. Among other Youth Tour highlights were a solemn and sobering visit to Arlington National Cemetery where the group laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns and a stirring Sunset Parade performance by the U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps and Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon.

The group was welcomed to the U.S. Capitol by Sens. Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker, and Reps. Diane Black and Scott DesJarlais spent time with their young constituents from CFEC, posing for photos and answering their questions.

“Our commitment to community is what sets cooperatives apart from other businesses,” said CFEC General Manager Bill Rogers. “The Washington Youth Tour is one way we show the youth of our service area that Caney Fork Electric Cooperative is more than their electricity provider. We genuinely care about the prosperity of our communities, and that includes providing special opportunities for these exceptional students and preparing them for future success.”

*At top, delegates from CFEC meet Reps. Diane Black, left, and Scott DesJarlais on the House steps of the U.S. Capitol. At right, the group visits the Washington National Cathedral.*



# Electric co-ops help offer place, prize for research on greenhouse gases

By Paul Wesslund

**W**hat if carbon dioxide from burning coal at power plants could be contained and turned into something useful?

A group of electric co-ops and other partners that want to investigate that issue recently broke ground on a research facility at the Dry Fork Station, a power plant in northeast Wyoming owned by Basin Electric Power Cooperative.

More than a dozen sites around the globe now study “carbon capture” as one possible solution to climate change, but they generally don’t offer the real-world conditions the Integrated Test Center partners say their site will offer when it’s finished next summer.

The facility will allow researchers to place equipment that can test ways to grab carbon dioxide from a working power plant and use it in ways the world might find valuable.

In addition to Basin Electric’s involvement, financial support comes from Denver-based Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. The state of Wyoming has been the main funder and organizer of the test center, and another key partner is the XPRIZE Foundation.

XPRIZE Foundation is an organization that seeks “radical breakthroughs for the benefit of humanity.” In the past, it has offered cash prizes for space travel and health innovations. More recently, it announced two \$10 million prizes for “transformational approaches to converting (carbon dioxide) emissions into valuable products.”

The carbon XPRIZE will be awarded in 2020, but this past spring’s preliminary deadline has already produced several applicants, says Dr. Paul Bunje, principal scientist and senior director of energy and environment at



*Electric co-ops will help lead research into removing greenhouse gas from coal plant emissions, with a research station now being built next to this Basin Electric Power Cooperative plant in Wyoming. The International Test Center is also being supported by the state of Wyoming and Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, a Denver-based cooperative. The Test Center is scheduled to be completed next summer, and will study ways to capture and develop uses for the carbon dioxide emitted as part of the coal-burning process.*

*Source: Basin Electric Power Cooperative*

XPRIZE. He says those entries have come from “big corporations, garage tinkerers, universities and small-and medium-sized businesses.”

The variety of planned research includes using carbon dioxide to make fuels, ingredients in chemical processes or thin, extremely strong “supermaterials” of the future.

XPRIZE contestants will begin moving equipment to the test center in the summer of 2018, says Dr. Marcus Extavour, XPRIZE director of technical operations. And what will that look like?

“Some of the equipment will be tall and skinny, some of it low and wide,” says Extavour. “Some of it might be in a smooth steel case, others will be exposed pipes, others will be, who knows what?”

To read more about the carbon XPRIZE, visit [www.carbon.xprize.org](http://www.carbon.xprize.org).

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

# Still burning old lightbulbs? Make the switch

If your home's lamps and light fixtures are still housing old-fashioned incandescent lightbulbs, it's time to switch to something that's far more energy-efficient. Twisty, compact fluorescent lightbulbs — CFLs — are better. But LED bulbs are even more energy-efficient and last much longer.

Yes, LEDs cost more than other kinds of lightbulbs — sometimes more than twice as much. But they use about 80 percent less energy than your out-of-date incandescents. CFLs use about 70 percent less energy than the old bulbs.

Over time, though, LEDs shine the brightest of the three when it comes to energy use and cost savings. The average life span of an LED bulb is 25,000 hours, compared with 1,200 hours for a traditional bulb and 8,000 for a CFL. And at about 12.5 cents per kilowatt-hour — the national average, according to the U.S. Energy Information

Administration — you'll pay \$38 to operate the LED bulb for 23 years. If the incandescent or CFL bulb lasted 23 years — it won't — you would pay \$201 or \$48, respectively.

So make the switch today for a couple of decades — on average — of energy savings.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



*Is your room air conditioner working overtime? Reduce air leaks by installing rigid foam panels (instead of the commonly used accordion panels) in between the window frame and unit and secure with duct tape.*

*Source: energy.gov*

**Just A Sampling of 2016's Conference!**

**Don't Miss This One!**

**Mike Skaggs, TVA Watts Bar 2 Story**

**Martha Layne Collins, Former Governor of Kentucky**

**Dr. Phyllis Qualls-Brooks, Director TN Economic Council on Women**

**Mary Jane Mapes, You CAN Teach a PIG to Sing**

**DeCosta Jenkins, President- Nashville Electric Service**

**The Women's International Network of Utility Professionals Announces its National Conference to be held in Nashville, Tennessee October 10-12, 2016**

**DoubleTree by Hilton Downtown**

**REGISTER TODAY! [www.winup.org](http://www.winup.org)**

**Registration Fees from \$395**

**Tour The Music City Center Solar Array**

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## Participating Local Businesses

### **McMinnville area**

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Professional Tint  
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931-473-3403

Lawson Mill  
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931-808-2728

Elizabeth Smith  
Photography  
931-952-8151

### **Sparta area**

Jongee's Gifts  
and Fine Furnishings  
931-836-2822

Jack's Sheer Delights BBQ  
and Hotdog Shack  
931-836-2118

Caribbean Cafe  
931-836-1550

Belk Grocery  
615-597-4196

The Landing  
931-686-2603, 657-2639

The Co-op Connections Card is free to all CFEC members. Obtain your card at any CFEC office.

If you are a business owner who would like to be part of this exciting program or you frequent a business you'd like to refer, call 931-473-3116 or email [awood@caneyforkec.com](mailto:awood@caneyforkec.com) for additional information.

# Save when you use your Co-op Connections Card

By Meghaan Evans

**S**ummer has quickly come and is almost gone, but that doesn't mean the fun has to end! Did you know that Caney Fork Electric Cooperative has a program in place to help you save on a variety of goods and services — from hotel discounts to fitness club memberships?

The Co-op Connections® Card is a free program that saves CFEC members money on everyday expenses. The card also gives you access to Cash Back Mall, where you can get money back for shopping online at more than 3,000 leading online retailers.

Your Co-op Connections Card gives you access to discounts from tens of thousands of retailers because it taps into a national business community. But it doesn't just help you save at big box stores and chains. The card also provides discounts for businesses right here in our local community. In fact, it was created specifically to help businesses on our nation's Main streets! Just take a look at the list of local participants at left. And the program consistently adds new retailers to help improve our members' experience.

One of the most popular features is the prescription discount benefit. Even if you don't have insurance, the card will help you save up to 85 percent on your medications at more than 60,000 pharmacies across the country.

CFEC knows how important it is to save, and we want to make sure that

you are taking full advantage of the programs we offer. The Co-op Connections card is an easy way to see the value of being an electric cooperative member. So don't let the end-of-summer blues get you down. Plan a trip for the family, get fit with a discounted gym membership or take advantage of other deals available to you. It really is the one card that does it all!

You can learn more about the discounts we offer by visiting [www.caneyforkec.com](http://www.caneyforkec.com) or [www.connections.coop](http://www.connections.coop) or calling CFEC's Member Services Department at 931-473-3116.

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



August 2016 [www.tnmagazine.org](http://www.tnmagazine.org)

# THE TENNESSEE MAGAZINE



## Washington Youth Tour

Glassblowers  
Turn Up the Heat

History for Kids:  
TVA Deeds Land to Cherokee

Honeydew-licious  
Recipes for Summer

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**Valerie Morrow**, Director of Engineering  
**Patrick Jordan**, Director of Operations  
**Steve Oden**, Director of Member Services  
**Sheila Orrell**, Director of Financial Services  
**David Young**, Director of District Services

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## AS I SEE IT

*Michael's Viewpoint*

### 80th DREMC annual meeting is a special event

I want to personally invite all co-op members to the 2016 Duck River Electric Membership Corporation Annual Membership Meeting on Saturday, Aug. 20, at the Tennessee Farm Bureau headquarters located at 147 Bear Creek Pike in Columbia. This will be your co-op's 80th anniversary meeting and a very special event.

Every year since DREMC was organized, the members who own the co-op have gathered for a business meeting. This is a requirement of the bylaws and one of the things that make electric cooperatives unique. During the early years, the meetings were held to issue updates on the progress of constructing lines and poles, signing up members and keeping the co-op financially afloat.

World War II slowed the pace of expansion. Materials were needed for the war effort, and our nation was focused on the conflict. Then, there came an era of frenetic electric co-op construction and rapid growth. Line-building and hookups extended into the mountains, hills and hollers, fulfilling the promise of universal service made by the pioneers who established DREMC in 1936.

Great strides were made in the electrification of rural America in the late 1940s and early 1950s. At DREMC, we almost tripled our miles of line from 1941 to 1951 while increasing power sales by more than 86 million kilowatt-hours over what we had started with in 1936. In fact, electric rates were falling as more meters were hooked up and revenues increased.

The DREMC annual meeting was an eagerly awaited event. Crops had been laid by in August, so farm families were free to attend. Director elections topped the agenda. Prizes, entertainment and food brought out the crowds. The audience eagerly awaited the contestant lineup for the annual Miss Duck River Electric Beauty Pageant — and, yes, there was even a bathing suit competition.

Our annual meeting has changed with the times. Today, it is a shorter, more compact event, taking only a couple of hours on a

Saturday morning. The beauty pageant was long ago discontinued, but there are still prizes and fellowship aplenty. Of course, we provide updates about the business of your electric cooperative. Voting, when there are contested director elections, is conducted the week before, and we announce the winners during the business session.

So why still hold the annual meeting? We want our members to be informed as owners of this large electric cooperative. Since our inception, the annual meeting has provided the opportunity for DREMC's board of directors and management staff to communicate with the membership about financial and operational conditions.

DREMC is a multimillion-dollar business providing power to homes, farms, businesses and industries from the Natchez Trace to the Tennessee-Alabama border. We have more than 6,000 miles of line, eight offices and 170 employees. Our operations are complex, we are heavily reliant on technology and the co-op's workforce operates with specific goals and objectives.

Also, it is important for co-op members to be aware of the challenges ahead. The power generation, transmission and distribution industries are radically changing due to regulations and the transition to low- and no-carbon energy sources. This will affect what you pay for electricity in the future.

Please join us as 80 years of DREMC are celebrated on Aug. 20. The member registration gift this year is a 130-page commemorative cookbook, but you can only receive it at the annual meeting; none will be made available for purchase. It is chock full of recipes, history and photos.

And you might be the lucky winner of a lithium-ion battery-powered lawn and garden package, including an electric lawnmower. I wonder if any of those original incorporators of DREMC ever dreamed of using electricity to mow their yards?



**Michael Watson**  
Duck River EMC  
President/CEO

# Official Notice: 2016 Annual Membership Meeting

*Tennessee Farm Bureau Headquarters — 147 Bear Creek Pike, Columbia*

*Saturday, Aug. 20, at 9:30 a.m.*

The 2016 Annual Membership Meeting of the members of Duck River Electric Membership Corporation will be held Saturday, Aug. 20, beginning at 9:30 a.m. at the Tennessee Farm Bureau Headquarters in Columbia.

## **Meeting agenda:**

1. Reading of the notice of the annual meeting and unapproved minutes of previous meeting of the members and taking action thereon.
2. Presentation and consideration of and acting upon reports of officers, directors and committees.
3. Pursuant to the requirements of the bylaws, these members have been nominated for election for one director seat in each of five zones by the Nominating Committee or Petition:

Zone 1: Coffee and Warren counties:

Baxter White

Zone 2: Franklin, Grundy and Marion counties:

The University of The South — to be appointed  
Laura Willis

Zone 3: Moore and Lincoln counties:

Buford Jennings

Zone 5: Marshall and Giles counties:

John Moses

Zone 6: Maury, Hickman, Lawrence, Lewis and

Williamson counties:

Bob DuBois

4. Consideration of any unfinished or new business.

Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. at the Tennessee Farm Bureau headquarters. Attendance prizes will be awarded to the first 300 members registering for the meeting, and valuable door prizes will be given away at the conclusion of the business session.

Any members with special needs planning to attend the annual membership meeting are asked to contact DREMC's Member Services Department at 931-680-5881 prior to the meeting so appropriate accommodations can be made.



Barry Cooper  
Secretary

Duck River EMC  
*Invites You to Its*  
80th Annual Meeting  
Saturday, Aug. 20, 2016

Tennessee Farm Bureau  
Headquarters Building  
147 Bear Creek Pike  
Columbia, TN 38401



Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. | Business session begins at 9:30 a.m. | Door prizes

80th anniversary cookbooks will be available for the first 300 members who register (one cookbook per membership).

# Local students represent DREMC on Washington Youth Tour

Nearly 140 high school seniors from across Tennessee have returned from a weeklong “experience of a lifetime” courtesy of their local electric cooperatives. Ten students from the Duck River EMC service area were sponsored by the co-op to attend the 2016 Washington Youth Tour June 10-16.

The popular event included sightseeing, visits with elected officials and lots of fun meeting peers from across Tennessee and the nation. Delegates earned their spots on the Youth Tour for writing winning short stories titled “Electric Cooperatives: Powering Everyday Life.” In their winning entries, the talented young writers described how member-owned, nonprofit electric co-ops strengthen their local communities and improve lives across their service areas while providing safe, reliable, affordable energy.

“We take great pride in rewarding the best and brightest from our service area,” said DREMC Consumer Information Specialist Connie Potts, a chaperone on this year’s trip.

“By recognizing their accomplishments through programs like the Washington Youth Tour, we show these leaders of tomorrow that their hometown electric co-op is more than a utility provider; DREMC is an active member of the community and fully invested in its prosperity.”

For more than 50 years, the Washington Youth Tour has taken students from electric co-op service areas to our nation’s capital to learn more about our country and the cooperative business model. The annual event is coordinated by DREMC, the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association and National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). This year’s Youth Tour involved 1,700 students from 43 states.

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*The Duck River EMC group enjoys visiting Monticello.*

Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Franklin Delano Roosevelt as well as monuments honoring the sacrifices of veterans of World War II and the Vietnam and Korean wars. During visits to the museums of the Smithsonian Institution, the touring Tennesseans saw and experienced natural, historical and artistic treasures. Other fun stops included historic homes of former presidents — George Washington’s Mount Vernon and Jefferson’s Monticello — as well as Madame Tussauds Wax Museum, the Hard Rock Cafe and a boat cruise down the Potomac River.

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*ON THE COVER:* In front of the U.S. Capitol are, from left, Justin West, Bedford County; Rhonda Winton, Coffee County teacher; Taylor Patin, Marshall County; Frances Uwechia, Coffee County; Nathan Colwell, Coffee County; Candace Hargrave, Franklin County; Samantha Prosser, Marshall County; Kaitley Sanders, Franklin County; Justin Richardson, Bedford County; Elizabeth Pimentel, Marshall County; Bailey Sudduth, Bedford County; and Connie Potts, DREMC chaperone.

# Morrow named DREMC director of engineering

**V**alerie Morrow has been named Duck River Electric Membership Corporation's director of engineering.

Morrow, a graduate of Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Indiana with a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical and electronics engineering, has been an electrical engineer at DREMC since October of 2014.

Formerly, Morrow was manager of engineering services at Boone Rural Electric Membership Corporation in Lebanon, Indiana, where she managed the Metering Department, which included automated metering infrastructure (AMI), line staking, GIS and purchasing and inventory.

She also has extensive experience as an engineering consultant, working with PowerTech Engineering and Hi-Line Engineering, where she assisted clients with distribution design and planning studies. An expert in her field, Morrow has taught classes in engineering



Valerie Morrow

fundamentals and served on various national engineering committees.

Morrow has served on the National Electric Cooperative Association Transmission and Distribution System Planning Subcommittee and is also running for a seat on the Milsoft Utility Solutions Advisory Board.

"I believe that Valerie will take our Engineering Department to the next level," DREMC President/CEO Michael Watson says. "She has a broad range of experience with knowledge of electric cooperatives and the electric industry."

Morrow assumed her duties as

Engineering Department director on June 6. She and her daughter, Lois, reside in Shelbyville.

"I'm thrilled about the opportunity to serve our members as the director of engineering," Morrow says. "This job will be challenging, but I know that my staff and I will be able to accomplish Duck River's goals and objectives."

## Lusk named Manchester District Operations Supervisor



**T**im Lusk has been named Manchester District operations supervisor, replacing Bryant Shearin, who retired at the end of June.

Lusk began his employment with DREMC in 1990 as an apprentice groundman and in 2012 was promoted to senior working foreman.

"The levels of knowledge and experience that Tim has gained over the past 25 years during his time in line construction and as a foreman will be of great benefit to us," said Manchester District Manager Michael Millraney. "I look forward to the contributions he makes to our Manchester team in his new position."

## Burk and Wiser join Headquarters team



**L**ucas Burk joined the Duck River Electric Membership Corporation's Dispatch Center on June 6. A Bedford County native, Burk grew up in Shelbyville, graduating from Community High School and Middle Tennessee State University with a

bachelor's degree in agribusiness. While attending college, Burk held various jobs in the farming industry. Prior to joining DREMC, he was employed with Randstad.

Burk enjoys spending time outdoors, hunting, fishing, riding horses and kayaking. He is also involved with the Backwoods Outreach Ministry in Shelbyville, which hosts various activities for area youth.



**A**mber Wiser joined Duck River Electric Membership Corporation's Finance Department on May 16. The Bedford County native grew up in Shelbyville, graduating from Shelbyville Central High School and most recently from Middle

Tennessee State University with a bachelor's degree in accounting.

Wiser is no stranger to DREMC, having served as an accounting intern for the past two years.

Wiser is very involved with her church, teaching the youth girls' sixth-12th grade classes. She also enjoys spending time with her family and friends.



*Retired DREMC employee Blake Butler, left, is a pilot of the elite 80-year-old "Flagship Detroit."*

*By DREMC Member Relations Specialist Claire Sellers*

# FLYING HIGH

Duck River EMC Director of Engineering Blake Butler flies into retirement after 31 years of service to cooperative members

**D**uck River Electric Membership Corporation employees unwind in various ways after a long day or week of serving electric cooperative members. Flying airplanes is Blake Butler's mode of relaxation.

After 31 years of DREMC service, Butler has retired as the co-op's director of engineering. Now, instead of designing substations and circuits, he plans to log as much cockpit time as possible, flying around North America in pursuit of new adventures.

"Our dad piqued the interest of my younger brother, Ed, and me in airplanes," says Butler. "Right after I began my career at DREMC, I began to take flying lessons at Bomar Field in Shelbyville."

Today, Butler owns four planes, including a glider, 1947 Piper Cub and Beechcraft Bonanza.

He is also one of the pilots of the elite 80-year-old "Flagship Detroit," the 21st of American Airlines' fleet of 84 Douglas DC-3s operated from 1936 to 1947. The plane has the distinction of being one of the oldest flying DC-3s in the world.

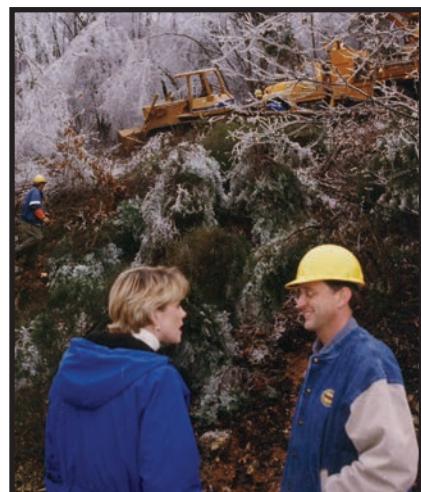
The DC-3 is a classic aircraft design from the 20th century that helped change commercial aviation. The C-47 Skytrain was a military variant famed as a workhorse during World War II.

Butler completed rigorous tests to become a pilot of the restored DC-3, and his retirement plans include piloting the historical aircraft across the country.

A Wilson County native, Butler graduated from Tennessee

Technological University with a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering. After working with Florida Power and Light for two years, Butler saw the opportunity to move closer to home and accepted a position at DREMC.

"I think the skills I learned flying made me



*News Channel 2 reporter Kristin Helm interviews DREMC Director of Engineering Blake Butler during the 1998 ice storm, which left more than 30,000 members without power.*

a more intuitive engineer," says Butler. "It's not easy to become a pilot, and the engineering background I had definitely helped as I learned the art of aviation."

Butler's DREMC career began in 1985 when General Manager Charles Grissom hired him as an electrical engineer. Butler became director of engineering in 1987.

"Blake experienced firsthand the modernization of our power system," says DREMC President/CEO Michael Watson.

"He also developed an advanced geographic information system, the supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system and guided deployment of a highly sophisticated distribution automation system."

Butler's other notable accomplishments included overseeing the construction of 20 substations across DREMC's 16-county service area.



DREMC retiree Blake Butler is a pilot of the elite 80-year-old "Flagship Detroit," the 21st of American Airlines' fleet of 84 Douglas DC-3s operated from 1936-1947.

"I really enjoyed being involved in the construction process for the substations," says Butler. "I'm very proud of everything my department accomplished while I was director."

Butler currently lives in Bedford County and is a DREMC member.

"Blake made a positive impact on DREMC and its members," says Watson. "I wish him the best in his retirement."

## DREMC communicator Sellers wins national CCA award

**W**histling Through Wartrace," a feature that Duck River Electric Membership Corporation Member Relations Specialist Claire Sellers wrote for the January edition of *The Tennessee Magazine*, won third place in the "Excellence in Communication" national contest sponsored by the Cooperative Communicators Association (CCA).

CCA is an organization of professional cooperative communicators who work for various types of co-ops in the United States and Canada.

Sellers was presented the award June 6 at the CCA Institute, held in Omaha, Nebraska.

More than 200 entries were submitted to the CCA writing contest. Sellers, a Columbia native, has communications experience with both farmers and electric cooperatives.

She is a 2013 graduate of Middle Tennessee State University and received her Master's Degree this year

from Austin Peay State University.

"We are thrilled to win this award," says DREMC President and CEO Michael Watson. "It's an honor for DREMC to be recognized nationally."



DREMC Member Relations Specialist Claire Sellers won third place in the featurette category of the CCA Communications Contest.

## Crowell wins TVA scholarship

Jordan Crowell has been awarded a \$4,000 scholarship through a special program made possible by Duck River EMC and other local power companies across the Tennessee Valley Authority's seven-state service area.

Jordan, son of Troy (Lewisburg) and Laurie Crowell, is among 35 recipients of this year's Power Play scholarship provided by the Power Play Scholarship Association to recognize outstanding academic performance and a commitment to community service among high school seniors whose parents are employed by local power companies.

A graduate of Cornersville High School, Jordan will start his college career at Tennessee Technological University where he will pursue a degree in math.

Scholarship recipients were chosen by an eight-member selection team of educators from colleges and universities in the seven states of the Tennessee Valley. Winners were selected based on academic achievement, standardized test scores, leadership qualities, letters of recommendation and essays.

Since 1995, a total of 517 Power Play scholarships have been awarded. This year, 142 applications were received from across the Tennessee Valley.

The Duck River Electric family is extremely proud of Jordan for winning this prestigious scholarship and wishes him success as he begins his college career.



Scholarship recipient Jordan Crowell, center, is joined by his dad, DREMC Lewisburg employee Troy, right, and Lewisburg District Manager Timmy Terry.

# *Still counting electric blessings*

By DREMC Member Relations Specialist Claire Sellers

## **Duck River EMC members James and Barbara Troxler remember the early days of electricity**

**D**uck River Electric Membership Corporation members James and Barbara Troxler appreciate electricity and the luxuries it provides.

Why do they appreciate it so much? The couple, who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in May, remembers what it's like to not have running water, lights and appliances that make life so much easier.

The Troxlers recall when meals were prepared on a wood stove and what it was like to live in a home without a central heating or cooling system.

James and Barbara both grew up in Normandy, located in Bedford County.

"I was 7 years old in 1940 when we received electricity from Duck River," says James. "It wasn't until 1944 that we received water in our house. We had to dig a ditch a half a mile from the spring so we could have running water."

The Troxlers use the same spring to this day on their farm and in their home in Normandy.

James' parents, Cecil and Lorine, were dairy farmers. Today, James and Barbara live on the same family farm.

"I remember a man coming to visit my dad right after the war," says James. "He asked my dad if he would sell the tractor. My dad sold the tractor to him and bought our first milking machine with the money. The milking machine made life on the farm much easier."

The Troxlers have seen many changes over the years. As electricity came to the rural areas, DREMC members were not educated on the appliances that would make life easier in the home.

"I remember attending a session by Duck River employee Anne Throneberry years ago," adds Barbara. "She explained how to use a mixer, electric skillet and

blender. We had never seen appliances like these before, and she educated co-op members on appliance use and safety."

James recalls going to Normandy on Saturday nights to listen to the Grand Ole Opry on the radio station. He also remembers the day Franklin D. Roosevelt (FDR) died because the train porter got off a stopped train in Normandy and came over to tell everyone. FDR and the New Deal paved the way for central-station power in the countryside, turning the dreams of millions of rural residents into reality.

"Electricity changed our entire way of living," says James. "People had to work hard back then. People today don't realize how blessed they are with electricity at their fingertips."

Building on the excitement of DREMC's 80th anniversary celebration in 2016, DREMC is featuring those who remember when the lights came on for the first time.



*DREMC members James and Barbara Troxler remember when they first received electricity in their hometown of Normandy.*

## Duck River Electric Membership Corporation

Mark your calendar for Saturday, Aug. 20, as DREMC celebrates its 80th annual meeting at the Farm Bureau Headquarters in Columbia at 147 Bear Creek Pike. Follow the signs to visitor parking and join us to learn more about your co-op. Door prizes and refreshments will be available. The first 300 members to register will receive special anniversary cookbooks. Registration opens at 8:30 a.m., and the business session begins at 9:30 a.m.



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## Washington Youth Tour

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# Continuing system improvements offer better, brighter future

The Fayetteville Public Utilities board of directors recently approved for fiscal year 2016-2017 a \$17.19 million budget that includes aggressive work plans for all of the utility's departments.

We take seriously the challenges ahead, but in preparing, we also are getting ready for unprecedented opportunities as new technology shapes our daily operations.

We operate in a rapidly changing industry. Increasingly complex rate structures are resulting from rising fuel costs, renewable energy construction, conservation programs and new, stricter government regulations for safety and quality of utilities. Along with these changes, we are also adapting to the brave new world of smart technology, which promises to further enhance the way we handle simple, everyday tasks in and outside the office. In the future, the complexity of the utility industry will only increase for FPU and our customers, too.

With each new fiscal year, FPU designs a plan of action to address not only our immediate needs of infrastructure improvements but also our growing requirements for advanced technology to keep pace with the needs of our customers. As each new generation relies more and more on instant communication and online business transactions, the

utility industry is creating innovative ways in which we can more quickly and accurately care for our customers.



Britt Dye  
CEO/General Manager

For some time, FPU's SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) system, digital GPS mapping, advanced meter reading, online services and SmartHub have improved the way we do business and interact with our customers. We are always open to and researching the local applications of new technology, and in the near future, we aspire to implement some of these new technologies to improve utility and customer services at FPU.

In retrospect, although advancing technology is at the forefront of today's society, our utility's deep-rooted commitment will continue to be keeping the utilities on and rates low. If we no longer considered those issues important, how well would these new technologies work? After all, what use is a cell phone if you're unable to charge it with abundant and reliable electricity? Reliable utilities continue to drive today's world — no matter how much we advance with technology.

As stated earlier, we take seriously the challenges ahead — and that's why continued utility system improvements across our city and county are essential stepping stones our community needs for a better, brighter future.



## Secondary water supply planned for south of Elk River in 2017

In Fayetteville Public Utilities' continued commitment to system redundancy and service reliability, the utility is planning to construct a secondary water supply line to customers located south of the Elk River.

Fayetteville Public Utilities received a total of \$5.05 million in low-interest loans from the Tennessee Drinking Water Loan Fund Program, giving FPU the go-ahead to proceed with plans for the design, location and construction of the secondary water supply line.

"This project is in the beginning stages," says FPU CEO and General Manager Britt Dye. "We do not expect construction of the new water supply line to begin until sometime in 2017. Securing the necessary project funding with the help of the city was our first step, and that was granted in June. Our next step is to work with engineers to design the best possible solution and the most effective alternative water delivery system to meet the needs of our customers."

Dye explains that FPU's current water system infrastructure was put in place before the area south of the Elk River was developed. Today, development of this area is so extensive that a loss of water supply

could create a serious hardship to businesses and residents.

Numerous water and wastewater improvements have been made systemwide over the past 10 years to provide safe, reliable and quality water services to our customers.

FPU remedied sewer line inflow, infiltration and other issues that led to the moratorium halting new wastewater service construction. After completing many phases of wastewater system improvements and enhancing plant operations, the moratorium was lifted, and new wastewater service line construction resumed.

FPU has also addressed concerns of its water treatment plant on Eldad Road by constructing the new plant featuring a state-of-the-art membrane filtration system. The new plant increases both production and purity of FPU's drinking water to meet our growing customer base and higher water quality standards.

"Much progress has been and continues to be made thanks to the cooperation of our city, county and utility leaders," says Dye. "We at FPU remain dedicated to addressing all of our infrastructure improvements and providing unbeatable utility services for our customers now and in the future."

# Experiencing the trip of a lifetime in D.C.



**On the cover:**  
*In front of the U.S. Capitol are, from left, Sarah Mac Young (FPU), Sarah Cox, Holly Gray, Erica Martin and Gina Warren (FPU).*



*The first stop along the D.C. tour is Monticello, home of Thomas Jefferson.*

Early 140 high school seniors from across Tennessee have returned from a weeklong “trip of a lifetime” courtesy of their rural electric systems. Erica Martin of Lincoln County High School, Holly Gray of Riverside Christian Academy and Sarah Cox of Fayetteville High School were sponsored by Fayetteville Public Utilities to participate in the 2016 Washington Youth Tour, June 10-16.

Delegates earned their spots on the Youth Tour by writing winning short stories titled “Electric Cooperatives: Powering Everyday Life.” In their winning entries, the talented young writers described how locally-owned and -operated rural electric systems strengthen their communities and improve lives across their service areas while providing safe, reliable, affordable energy.

“Through the Washington Youth Tour experience, these students have been given an opportunity that we hope has changed their lives and has encouraged their dreams of how they can make an impact on their community, state and country,” said FPU CEO and General Manager Britt Dye.

For more than 50 years, the Washington Youth Tour has taken students from across Tennessee to our nation’s capital to learn more about our country and the cooperative business model. The annual event is coordinated by FPU, the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association and

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Above, from left are Sarah Cox, Holly Gray and Erica Martin from Lincoln County who won first place in FPU's writing contest in their respective schools and received the week-long tour of D.C. as their grand prize.

National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. This year's Youth Tour was attended by 1,700 students from 43 states.

The 2016 Youth Tour event included sightseeing, visits with elected officials and lots of fun meeting peers from across Tennessee and the nation. Tennessee's Youth Tour delegates saw the White House and memorials to past presidents Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Franklin Delano Roosevelt as well as monuments honoring the sacrifices of veterans of World War II and the Vietnam and Korean wars. Students also visited the museums of the Smithsonian Institution and Arlington National Cemetery. At Arlington, the group laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns and watched the changing of the guard.

"I had an awesome time in Washington, D.C., getting to see our nation's capital and meeting so many amazing people from across the country!" says Sarah Cox. "It's definitely a life-changing experience I will never forget."

The group was welcomed to the U.S. Capitol by Sens. Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker, and Rep. Scott DesJarlais spent time with his young constituents from Lincoln County, posing for photos and answering their questions.

"The places I have been and the people I met have changed my life," says Holly Gray. "Little did I know writing a short story about electricity would light the way to a once-in-a-lifetime trip that I will cherish forever!"

"This trip offered so many great opportunities such as making new friends and the chance to earn scholarships," says Erica Martin. "I am truly thankful that I got to go with FPU this year to D.C."



"Our commitment to community is what enhances who we are," said Dye. "The Washington Youth Tour is one way we show our local youth that FPU is more than their electricity provider. We genuinely care about the future of our community, and that includes providing special opportunities for these exceptional students and preparing them for future success."

*FPU representatives will soon visit local high schools to present writing contest materials to junior class students. Home-schooled students who live in FPU's service area and are customers of FPU are encouraged to contact FPU for contest materials. The annual writing contest serves as the basis for selecting students to attend the Washington Youth Tour. Each year, first- and second-place winners are selected at each local high school; first-place winners attend the weeklong tour of Washington, D.C.*

Above, clockwise from top right, Holly, Erica and Sarah pose outside the Washington National Cathedral; Erica touches the images etched in granite at the Korean War Veterans Memorial; Holly takes a selfie in front of the White House during the nighttime tour of D.C.; and Sarah, Holly and Erica visit the Lincoln Memorial. At left, Sarah is humbled by the names listed at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

# Protecting customer privacy: It's more than our policy

We value your relationship with Fayetteville Public Utilities and will do everything we can to protect your personal information and customer records. As a customer of FPU, you're carefully protected by a privacy policy where personal information is strictly treated as confidential. After all, customer trust is at the heart of every FPU relationship. It's because you trust FPU that we're here to serve you.

FPU does not sell or share your personal information with any outside, unaffiliated person, company or organization, except in legally permitted circumstances. These exceptions include responding to a court order or law enforcement officer or reporting to credit bureaus. We believe our customers understand these circumstances, and we intend to honor them.

Customer information includes all of the data about you that FPU collects in the course of providing or offering our services to you. It may include information that would also be available from public sources such as a listed phone number, and it may include these types of routine nonpublic information:

- *Information you record on applications or other account forms (such as your name, phone number,*

*address, email address, Social Security number, driver's license number and/or other forms of identification)*

- *Records retained from your transactions with FPU like your checking account or credit card numbers*
- *Credit information obtained from consumer reporting agencies or other creditors*

We follow strict information security procedures designed to protect the confidentiality of your information. Access to your personal information is restricted to those employees who need to know that information to provide products and services to you. We maintain physical, electronic and procedural safeguards that comply with federal standards and FPU's Identity Theft Protection Policy to safeguard your customer information.

We understand the concerns about identity theft, and we employ standard identification procedures designed to deter these situations. Protecting your confidentiality is important to us. We will continue to protect your customer information at FPU, even when you are no longer our customer. All of your closed and inactive utility accounts will continue to be covered under the privacy policies and practices described in this statement.

## Keep your customer information up-to-date to enhance utility service

**Fayetteville Public Utilities works extremely hard to keep your service reliable around the clock, but sometimes utility interruptions and other service issues can't be avoided. As soon as we are aware of an outage or leak, we immediately dispatch our crews and restore service as quickly and safely as we can. But did you know there are steps you can take to ensure your utilities are quickly restored? By keeping your contact information up-to-date, you can expedite service restoration and take full advantage of the services FPU offers.**

**Not only can correct customer contact information assist FPU employees when there's an outage, it is**

**also extremely helpful when there's a need to contact you concerning discovered water leaks, improper payments and planned utility outages. FPU's outside personnel have also been known to inform customers of livestock gates left open and of other important safety issues. With your correct phone number(s) and mailing and email addresses, we can simply serve you better.**

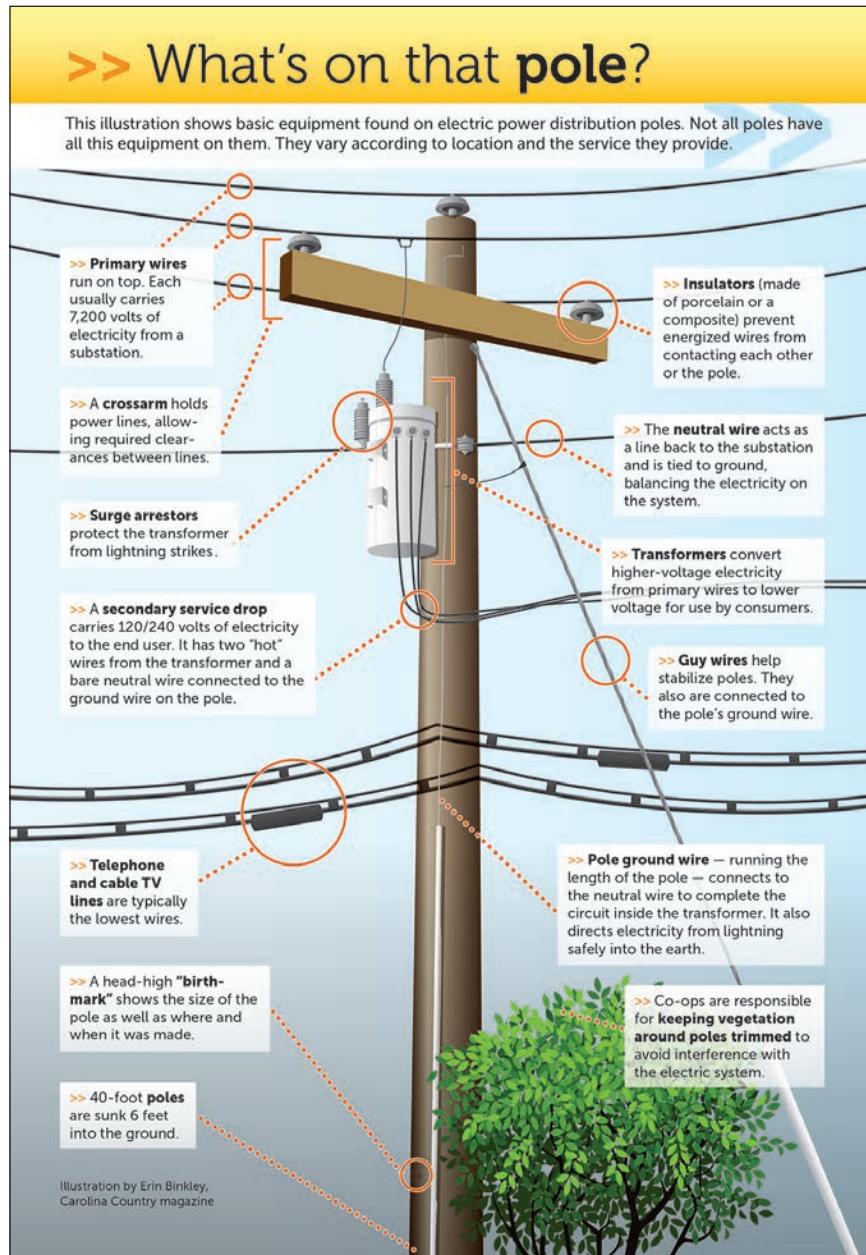
**Please email our Customer Service Department by visiting [www.fpu-tn.com](http://www.fpu-tn.com), send us a message using your SmartHub account or call us at 931-433-1522 to be sure we have your most up-to-date account information.**

# The purpose of pole changes

We understand how important service reliability is to our customers. That is why Fayetteville Public Utilities has an ongoing system maintenance program in which we invest time and dollars each year to execute a strategic and continual process of tree-trimming, pole inspections and system upgrades or replacements. It's all to keep your electric service as reliable as possible. Strong, sturdy poles are the backbone of our electric distribution system. In fact, more than 33,000 electric poles support some 2,000 miles of electric line throughout the FPU service area.

A standard wooden distribution pole is expected, on average, to last about 30 years; steel poles are rated to last much longer. Occasionally, however, poles need to be replaced for other reasons like damage caused by weather, birds, pests or vehicular accidents.

It is a time-intensive process to install or replace a utility pole. Before the on-site work begins, there is a series of steps for each pole replacement: inspections, underground utility locates, engineering plans, computer mapping updates and scheduling. On the jobsite, our lineworkers attach the crossarms, braces, insulators, ground wire, etc., to the pole. If it is a replacement pole, crews safely detach the power lines from the old pole, and the new pole is then raised and guided carefully into position. Dirt is filled in around the pole and tamped down to pack it securely. Lastly, the electric lines are attached to the new structure.



It's dangerous and difficult work. So the next time you travel the roads and see FPU lineworkers changing out a pole, please slow down and move over into the far lane to help us keep them safe while they do their jobs.



## Follow us on Twitter!

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

# Pick your payment option

One are the days where you could only make a utility payment in person or send a check by traditional mail in a stamped envelope. Today, Fayetteville Public Utilities offers many payment options that add flexibility and convenience to make monthly utility payments easy and worry-free. In addition to paying in person or by mail, FPU customers also have these payment options available:

## SmartHub

SmartHub is FPU's online bill payment service that also allows you to monitor your utility use history. SmartHub is accessible on your desktop, laptop and on both mobile app versions (iOS and Android). SmartHub gives FPU customers secure access to their utility accounts whether at home, at work or on the go.

*Please note: Payments made via the internet must be made by 6 p.m. Central time in order to avoid being charged a late fee.*

## Bank Draft

FPU's Bank Draft offers worry-free, automatic utility payments each month. Have your monthly FPU payments automatically deducted from your checking or savings account on their due dates. Bank Draft is a free service. To apply, all you need is a blank, voided check from your active checking account and your signature on the FPU draft authorization form. With Bank Draft, you'll never worry about your payment arriving late.

## Budget Billing

Budget Billing is an averaged billing plan that "levels" out your payments to avoid the usual changes in your bills from the heating and cooling seasons. Budget Billing amounts are based on your most recent 12-months' average billing. This payment option only applies to your FPU electric and natural gas accounts. The Budget Billing payment plan has a "catch-up" month in May each year to reconcile credit and debit balances that sometimes accrue with the bill-averaging process.

## Delayed Payment

If you receive monthly Social Security or disability income as the primary means of paying your utility bill, you may qualify for Delayed Payment, which sets a later date for utility payments to be received past the original due date to help avoid service disconnection for late payments for those who qualify. Delayed Payment does not waive the late fee that applies beyond the bill's original due date. Applications for Delayed Payment are available at our Customer Service Department. Proof of your income must accompany the application.

## Drive-Thru Window

The FPU drive-thru window is open during normal business hours to make bill payments more convenient. Please

visit our main office located at 408 W. College St. to use our drive-thru window. Continue to use caution when entering FPU's drive-thru lanes during our office construction.

## Night Deposit

FPU accepts payments by night deposit after regular office hours. For payments to be considered paid by the due date, they must be left in FPU's night deposit on or before your due date. If you receive a payment reminder by mail after using our night deposit, please call us to ensure payment was received and posted to your account. If you have questions about using FPU's night deposit, please call 931-433-1522.

## Credit/Debit Card

FPU accepts VISA and Master Card credit or debit card payments either in person at our office, online using SmartHub or over the phone if you call during regular office hours. This is a terrific service when you're out of town and have forgotten to pay your utility bill. Simply call us at 931-433-1522 or toll-free at 800-379-2534 and give us your information over the phone, visit our website or use your smartphone app to access your SmartHub account or come by the FPU office to make credit or debit card payments for your utilities. A \$3.95 convenience fee applies to your total when paying by phone or using FPU's SmartHub online payment service. The fee does not apply when paying in person at our office. A minimum utility bill of \$79 applies to online and phone payments.

FPU accepts regular methods of payment for your utility bills: cash, checks and certain debit and credit cards. For added convenience, we also take approved checks and credit card payments over the phone.

**Please remember:** If FPU utility payments are not received by the close of business on the due date, the account will be assessed a late charge as indicated on the bill, and a late reminder will be mailed. Should the payment due date fall on a nonbusiness day (i.e. a weekend day or FPU holiday), the next business day will be held by FPU as a day of grace for delivery of payment.

We always encourage you to call us at 931-433-1522 if you have questions about FPU utility payments or about our payment services.

**Fayetteville Public Utilities will be closed on Monday, Sept. 5, for Labor Day.  
If you need to report a leak or outage, please call FPU at 931-433-1522.  
Dispatchers and service crews will be available during the holiday to assist you.**

## Your energy dollars may be leaking away.

You wouldn't put up with a leaking water pipe, so why would you put up with a leaking air duct? Air leaks in your home's ductwork could be wasting energy and adding unnecessary costs to your energy bill. Read energy expert Patrick Keegan's column on page 27 to learn how to get your home's "ducts" in row.

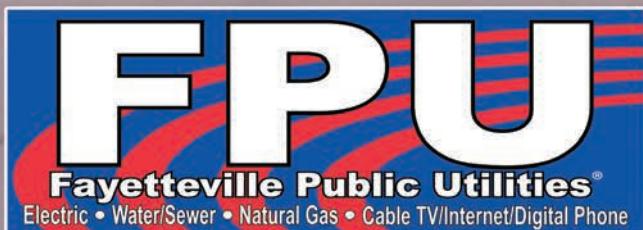


They don't draw much attention from passersby as they stand quietly along the roadside. Electric poles and power lines safely tower above us some 30 plus feet in the air carrying a minimum of 7,200 volts of electricity across our service area.

Safety becomes a concern when the poles and lines are threatened by storms and fallen trees that sometimes bring electric poles and energized lines within our reach.

In addition, summertime outdoor activities like flying a kite to home maintenance or construction work – can all bring people into close proximity to live power lines.

- Never touch a downed power line. Always assume all downed lines are energized and contact Fayetteville Public Utilities immediately.
- Remember, if a power line is touching someone, stay away. If you attempt rescue, you could easily become a victim yourself. Call 9-1-1 for emergency help. If you have a way to disconnect the power source, do so.
- Always keep at least 50 feet away from any downed line. The ground around a power line may be energized as well, making it very dangerous.
- Never touch trees or limbs that are touching power lines.
- Never drive over a fallen power line, or under a line that is sagging over the roadway.
- Don't touch cars, debris or fallen branches that are near downed lines. Anything touching a power line is just as dangerous as the power line itself.



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

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**Mary Blake**, Office Manager

**Trenisa Anderson**, Cashier

**Jay Burress**, Operating Line Superintendent

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**Morgan Bowser**, Apprentice Lineman

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**Kevin Fair**, Work Order Clerk

**Cameron Green**, Groundman

**Rosalind Green**, Member Services Representative

**Kenneth Hankins Jr.**, Groundman

**Bubba Humphreys**, Crew Chief/Working Foreman

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**Madison Laster**, Apprentice Lineman

**Kelly Mayo**, Accounting Clerk

**Ross Norrid**, Equipment Operator

**Chad Paris**, Journeyman Lineman

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## AS I SEE IT

Manager's Viewpoint

# Women and cooperatives

In honor of Women's Equality Day on Aug. 26, let's take a look at the roles women play in cooperatives across the globe. Even though women in the U.S. and U.K. were not allowed to vote until the early 1900s, women were granted equal voting rights in the first modern era cooperative, the Rochdale Pioneers Equitable Society. Established in 1844 in Rochdale, England, the co-op's founders agreed that women should have equal voting rights. So you see, treating women equally has been baked into our cooperative DNA right from the start. And the cooperative business model continues to champion women's equality worldwide.

According to a 2015 global study conducted by the Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives, co-ops have an increasingly positive impact on women and their inclusion in the labor force and enhance women's ability to achieve positions of authority (both within and outside of the co-op).

In developing countries — where women have long suffered due to biased cultural norms, government policy and lack of opportunities — the role cooperatives play in the lives of women as well as the role women play in cooperatives is now more meaningful than ever.

In Paraguay, a South American country bordered by Brazil and Argentina, gender equality has transformed the Manduvira Sugarcane Cooperative.



**Jeff Newman**  
General Manager,  
Forked Deer  
Electric Cooperative

This fair-trade sugar co-op has seen a dramatic increase in the participation of female members and leaders. Manduvira is a multiservice co-op with two types of operations: organic, fair-trade sugar production and savings and credit. In both of its operations, Manduvira has seen a significant increase in its success as women's participation grows.

According to co-op leaders in Manduvira, female members are generally more likely to apply what they learn in training and adopt new farming techniques compared to their male counterparts. Because women are more likely to adopt new technologies and the co-op has seen a higher percentage of women in leadership roles, the co-op has become stronger and more stable.

This is just an example from one cooperative. In South Africa, women make up 60 percent of co-op members from nearly all sectors. In Japan, women make up 95 percent of co-op members in consumer cooperatives and hold key governance positions. And globally, more women join savings and credit cooperatives, giving them increased access to financial resources.

Right here at Forked Deer Electric cooperative, dedicated women work hard to help make the co-op run smoothly. Treating everyone equally and ensuring folks have fair opportunities exemplify the cooperative way of doing business.

# Electric co-ops help offer place, prize for research on greenhouse gases

By Paul Wesslund

**W**hat if carbon dioxide from burning coal at power plants could be contained and turned into something useful?

A group of electric co-ops and other partners that want to investigate that issue recently broke ground on a research facility at the Dry Fork Station, a power plant in northeast Wyoming owned by Basin Electric Power Cooperative.

More than a dozen sites around the globe now study “carbon capture” as one possible solution to climate change, but they generally don’t offer the real-world conditions the Integrated Test Center partners say their site will offer when it’s finished next summer.

The facility will allow researchers to place equipment that can test ways to grab carbon dioxide from a working power plant and use it in ways the world might find valuable.

In addition to Basin Electric’s involvement, financial support comes from Denver-based Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. The state of Wyoming has been the main funder and organizer of the test center, and another key partner is the XPRIZE Foundation.

XPRIZE Foundation is an organization that seeks “radical breakthroughs for the benefit of humanity.” In the past, it has offered cash prizes for space travel and health innovations. More recently, it announced two \$10 million prizes for “transformational approaches to converting (carbon dioxide) emissions into valuable products.”

The carbon XPRIZE will be awarded in 2020, but this past spring’s preliminary deadline has already produced several applicants, says Dr. Paul Bunje, principal scientist and senior director of energy and environment at



*Electric co-ops will help lead research into removing greenhouse gas from coal plant emissions, with a research station now being built next to this Basin Electric Power Cooperative plant in Wyoming. The International Test Center is also being supported by the state of Wyoming and Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, a Denver-based cooperative. The Test Center is scheduled to be completed next summer, and will study ways to capture and develop uses for the carbon dioxide emitted as part of the coal-burning process.*

*Source: Basin Electric Power Cooperative*

XPRIZE. He says those entries have come from “big corporations, garage tinkerers, universities and small-and medium-sized businesses.”

The variety of planned research includes using carbon dioxide to make fuels, ingredients in chemical processes or thin, extremely strong “supermaterials” of the future.

XPRIZE contestants will begin moving equipment to the test center in the summer of 2018, says Dr. Marcus Extavour, XPRIZE director of technical operations. And what will that look like?

“Some of the equipment will be tall and skinny, some of it low and wide,” says Extavour. “Some of it might be in a smooth steel case, others will be exposed pipes, others will be, who knows what?”

To read more about the carbon XPRIZE, visit [www.carbon.xprize.org](http://www.carbon.xprize.org).

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

# 2016 Washington Youth Tour



Above, FDEC's Washington Youth Tour delegates and chaperone pose with a statue of Thomas Jefferson at the former president's Virginia mansion, Monticello. From left are Rae Scott, Hanna Hardister, Andrea Newman, Jenna Porter and Nicole Flowers. Below, the group visits the home of another president, George Washington's Mount Vernon.

Early 140 high school seniors from across Tennessee have returned from a weeklong "experience of a lifetime" courtesy of their local electric cooperatives. Nicole Flowers of Dyersburg, Hanna Hardister of Ripley, Jenna Porter of Dyersburg and Rae Scott of Gates were sponsored by Forked Deer Electric Cooperative to participate in the 2016 Washington Youth Tour June 10-16.

The popular event included sightseeing, visits with elected officials and lots of fun meeting peers from across Tennessee and the nation. Delegates earned their spots on the Youth Tour for writing winning short stories titled "Electric

Cooperatives: Powering Everyday Life." In their winning entries, the talented young writers described how member-owned, nonprofit electric co-ops strengthen their



On the cover: In front of the U.S. Capitol are, from left, Nicole Flowers, Hanna Hardister, Rae Scott, Jenna Porter and Andrea Newman



local communities and improve lives across their service areas while providing safe, reliable, affordable energy.

"FDEC takes great pride in rewarding the best and brightest from our service area," said FDEC chaperone Andrea Newman. "By recognizing their accomplishments through programs like the Washington Youth Tour, we show these leaders of tomorrow that their hometown electric co-op is more than a utility provider; FDEC is an active member of the community and fully invested in its prosperity."

For more than 50 years, the Washington Youth Tour has taken students from electric co-op service areas to our nation's capital to learn more about our country and the cooperative business model. The annual event is coordinated by FDEC, the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association and National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). This year's Youth Tour involved 1,700 students from 43 states.

On their 2016 visit, Tennessee's Youth Tour delegates saw the White House and memorials to past presidents Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Franklin Delano Roosevelt as well as monuments honoring the

*Other stops on the 2016 Rural Electric Youth Tour include the Washington National Cathedral, left, and the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial, bottom.*

sacrifices of veterans of World War II and the Vietnam and Korean Wars. During visits to the museums of the Smithsonian Institution, the touring Tennesseans saw and experienced natural, historical and artistic treasures. Other fun stops included historic homes of former presidents — George Washington's Mount Vernon and Jefferson's Monticello — as well as Madame Tussauds Wax Museum, the Hard Rock Cafe and a boat cruise down the Potomac River. Among other Youth Tour highlights were a solemn and sobering visit to Arlington National Cemetery where the group laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns and a stirring Sunset Parade performance by the U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps and Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon.

The group was welcomed to the U.S. Capitol by Sens. Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker, and Rep. Stephen Fincher spent time with his young constituents from FDEC, posing for photos and answering their questions.

"Our commitment to community is what sets cooperatives apart from other businesses," said FDEC General Manager Jeff Newman. "The Washington Youth Tour is one way we show the youth of our service area that FDEC is more than their electricity provider. We genuinely care about the prosperity of our communities, and that includes providing special opportunities for these exceptional students and preparing them for future success."



# Manage your energy use with handy apps

By Anne Prince

**T**racking your steps, keeping an eye on your children, monitoring your banking activity or locating your parked car — these days, it seems like there is an app for everything. If you are efficiency-savvy and want to manage your energy use, there may be an app that works for you. While there are several energy use apps to choose from, some can be difficult to use, particularly those aimed at general efficiency. Since there are no clear standouts, try a few and choose the app that works best for you.

Purchasing a smart thermostat for your home is a great way to begin managing your energy use. But if you are looking for a more detailed way to obtain information about your energy use, an app can provide useful insight into how specific actions impact your utility bill. Here is a snapshot of a few energy efficiency mobile apps. All of the apps mentioned in this article are available for Apple and Android systems.

## Forked Deer app

Forked Deer Electric Cooperative's mobile app — now available for Apple and Android devices — is designed to give you fast, secure account access so you can easily manage your details, view your bill and account balance, make payments, find payment locations, schedule alerts and reminders, receive push notifications and more. Nearly everything you can do from our web portal can now be handled instantly — whether you're at home, at work or on the go.

Search for "Forked Deer" in your device app store, or find links on our website, [forkeddeer.com](http://forkeddeer.com).

## Nest

Owned by Google, created by Nest Labs and linked only to the Nest thermostat, this free app has several useful features. You can adjust your home thermostat by simply using your smartphone or tablet — whether in your car or on your couch. App users can view and edit a thermostat schedule and keep an eye on how much energy is being used. You can also opt to receive extreme temperature alerts before your pet overheats or your pipes freeze. In addition, there is an option for smoke and carbon monoxide alerts, among others.

## Together We Save

Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives offers the Together We Save app, which enables users to calculate the energy



*Users of the Lennox iComfort app can remotely control their home Lennox thermostats and program their heat-and-air systems to go into the energy-saving "away mode" when no one is home. Source: Lennox International*

use of many household appliances based on national averages. This free app includes roughly 100 calculators that determine the projected energy use and cost of particular appliances and activities. The app also offers 100 practical energy-saving tips.

## Lennox iComfort

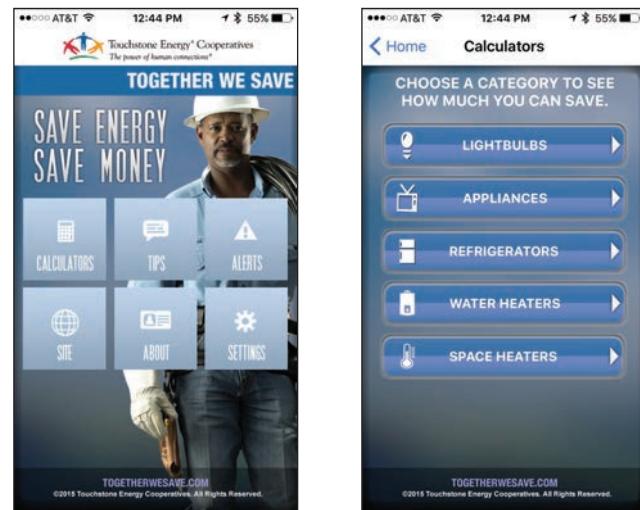
Like the Nest app, the Lennox iComfort app is only compatible with Lennox products — in this case, the Wi-Fi thermostat. It has similar features to the Nest in that users can remotely control their home thermostats and other settings. In addition, the app allows users to program

the system to an energy savings “away mode” when no one is home. For example, you can select the settings you wish to run, then cancel the “away mode” as you return home to ensure a comfortable temperature awaits you.

## Your trusted energy resource

While these apps employ the latest technology to maximize your ability to manage your use, the next generation of energy apps will likely integrate across multiple platforms — managing your thermostat, appliances, water heater, home electronics and other devices from the convenience of your smart phone. In the meantime, while app technology continues to evolve, your best resource for saving energy and money remains Forked Deer Electric Cooperative.

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



*The Together We Save app from Touchstone Energy Cooperatives enables users to calculate the energy use of many household appliances based on national averages and offers 100 practical energy-saving tips.*

## Cool summer evenings call for fans, not A/C

Even the hottest summer gives us a break occasionally, sending pleasant temperatures and gentle breezes our way, especially in the evenings. When it's not too hot outside, you can cool your house more economically with fans than by running your central or window air conditioner.

Placing a fan in a window circulates the air and freshens the home by exhausting stale air. It can remove odors from smoking and cooking that tend to linger in the air when all the windows are closed.

A ceiling fan can be used whether the air conditioning is on or off. During the summer, the blades send a slight breeze down into the room, which will make anyone in that room feel more comfortable.

Fans don't actually cool the house off. Instead, they make the rooms where they are located feel cooler because they move the air around. So turn them off when you leave the room.

## Smart window use can regulate indoor comfort

You can use your windows to let cool air into your home and keep hot air out during the summer. Here's how:

- Whenever it cools off at night, turn off the air conditioner and open the windows to let the breezes in while you sleep.
- In the morning, close the windows and the blinds or curtains. That will “trap” the cool air indoors and prevent hot air from getting in as the day heats up.
- Choose window treatments that not only look nice but that save energy. Some choices: Interior blinds made from heat-reflective material can reduce heat gain by 45 percent when you close the slats. And draperies with white plastic backings can reduce heat gain by 33 percent when they're closed.
- If you shade the exterior of your windows with wooden or vinyl blinds, overhangs, awnings, shutters or storm panels, you'll keep the sun from heating up your interior.
- Replacing old, single-pane windows with double-pane models can keep your home more comfortable and shave hundreds of dollars off of your energy bills, according to Energy Star.

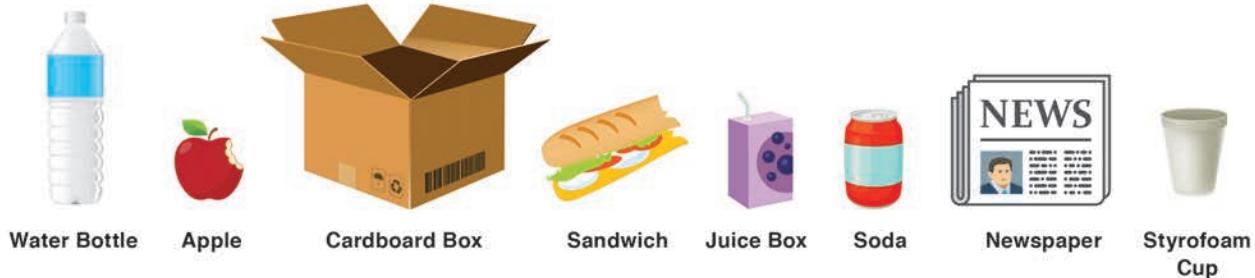
# SORTING THINGS OUT



Recycling is important for the future of our planet! Can you sort the items below into the correct bin? Write the name of the item in the correct category.

RECYCLE

GARBAGE



Water Bottle

Apple

Cardboard Box

Sandwich

Juice Box

Soda

Newspaper

Styrofoam Cup

RECYCLE: Water Bottle, Cardboard Box, Juice Box, Soda Can, Newspaper  
GARBAGE: Apple, Sandwich, Styrofoam Cup

Answer Key:

August 2016 [www.tnmagazine.org](http://www.tnmagazine.org)

# THE TENNESSEE MAGAZINE



## Washington Youth Tour

Glassblowers  
Turn Up the Heat

History for Kids:  
TVA Deeds Land to Cherokee

Honeydew-licious  
Recipes for Summer

## Gibson Electric Membership Corporation

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

## Cooperatives and Women's Equality

In honor of Women's Equality Day on Aug. 26, I'd like to spotlight the important roles women play in Gibson Electric Membership Corporation's operation.

When you think of an electric cooperative, you may picture our lineworkers. No question, we couldn't do without these hardworking guys, but Gibson EMC's 32 female employees and board members are equally valued.

Throughout our cooperative's 80-year history and since the co-op business model was first introduced, women have contributed tremendously. Even before women were allowed to vote in the United States and in the United Kingdom, they had equal voting rights in the first modern-era cooperative — the Rochdale Pioneers Equitable Society, established in 1844 in Rochdale, England. Equality for women has been a part of our co-op DNA right from the start, and the cooperative business model continues to champion women's equality across the globe.

In Paraguay, a South American country bordered by Brazil and Argentina, gender equality has transformed the Manduvira Sugarcane Cooperative. This fair-trade sugar co-op has seen a dramatic increase in the participation of female members and leaders. Manduvira is a multi-service co-op with two types of operations: organic, fair-trade sugar production and savings and credit. In both of its operations, Manduvira has seen a significant increase in its success as women's participation grows.

According to several co-op leaders in Manduvira, female members are generally more likely to apply what

they learn in training and adopt new farming techniques compared to their male counterparts. Because women are more likely to adopt new technologies and the co-op has seen a higher percentage of women in leadership roles, the co-op has become stronger and more stable.

In South Africa, women make up 60 percent of co-op members from nearly all sectors. In Japan, women make up 95 percent of co-op members in consumer cooperatives and hold key governance positions. And globally, more women join savings and credit cooperatives, giving them increased access to financial resources.

Right here at Gibson EMC, two women serve on our board of trustees, and two are in senior leadership positions. Another 28 women with a wide variety of important roles help ensure that our cooperative runs smoothly on a daily basis. We appreciate the enormous contribution of these women, and we appreciate the value of diversity in making our cooperative the very best employer and service provider it can be. Treating everyone — our members, our employees and the public — equally and fairly always has been and always will be the cooperative way.



Dan Rodamaker  
President and CEO  
Gibson EMC



Rita Alexander  
VP of Human Resources  
and Communications



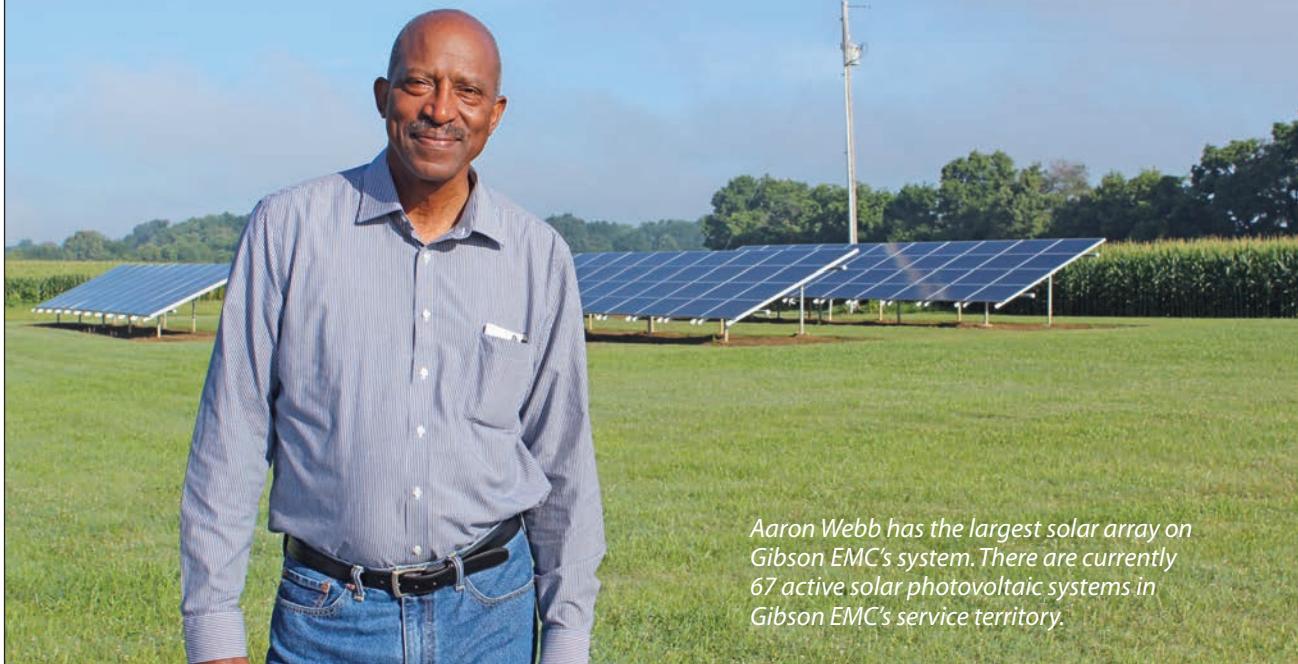
Rana Buchanan  
Board of Trustees  
District 7



Joan Mouser  
Board of Trustees  
District 6



Emily Sullivan  
VP of Economic  
Development and  
Community Relations



*Aaron Webb has the largest solar array on Gibson EMC's system. There are currently 67 active solar photovoltaic systems in Gibson EMC's service territory.*

## Solar equipment 101

If a person had a Rip Van Winkle moment and fell asleep under a tree a decade ago, he or she would be amazed at how far solar photovoltaic (PV) systems have come. Once the most expensive form of electricity generation, economies of scale in manufacturing and advances in technology are steadily driving prices down.

The typical PV system has two main components: the panels and the inverter. Disconnect switches are also necessary so the system can be safely isolated for maintenance and other reasons.

Let's first take a look at the solar panels. Each panel is composed of many smaller cells that are all connected and together produce a certain amount of direct current (DC) electricity. When the system is being designed, the number of panels used is determined by the amount of electricity required and the amount of space available to mount them. The collection of panels is called an array.

Since solar cells generate DC power but our homes and businesses use alternating current (AC) power, the next major system component is the inverter. This piece of equipment converts the DC electricity into AC power, which flows into your home.

Many consumers are surprised to learn that heat has no part in the production of the electricity. In fact, solar panels increase in efficiency as temperatures drop. A solar array will produce at its best on a cold, clear winter day, all things being equal.

Scientists are constantly working with the solar cell components to develop more efficient and powerful combinations. Today, the best commercially available panels

have an average efficiency around 17 percent with some high-efficiency panels exceeding 21 percent.

PV systems are installed in what is called a grid-tied configuration. This means that the system will only operate when electricity is present on Gibson Electric Membership Corporation's power lines. When a power outage occurs, the inverter automatically shuts down the flow of electricity from the solar array. Without this protective feature, the PV system could potentially back-feed electricity into the co-op's lines, becoming a life-threatening danger to line crews and anyone in the area. When the inverter shuts down, the solar power stops flowing, so members should not install a system with the expectation that it will power their home or business during an outage.

While systems are sized to come close to the expected electrical needs of the member, there is no way to continuously match the output of the array to the current need for electricity. At times, the amount of solar power will be more than needed. At other times, it will be less.

Storage is the final piece of the renewable energy puzzle. In the past, a battery system could cost as much as the total PV system. Today, companies like Tesla are bringing to the market battery systems that allow PV system owners to extend the capability and value of their investment at a price that doesn't break the bank. Being able to store excess power with a battery system provides the owner with power during an outage or at night when the PV system is not producing.

For more information about renewable energy systems for your home, contact the energy experts at Gibson EMC.

# Gibson EMC students visit D.C.

Nearly 140 high school seniors from across Tennessee have returned from a weeklong “experience of a lifetime” courtesy of their local electric cooperatives. Bailey Burden of Ridgely, Matthew Watson of Humboldt, Ashton McCage of Bells, Tucker Pounds and Jennan Dial of Union City, Anna Gorman of Trimble and Halley Stewart of Fulton were sponsored by Gibson Electric Membership Corporation to participate in the 2016 Washington Youth Tour June 9-16.

The popular event included sightseeing, visits with elected officials and lots of fun meeting peers from across Tennessee and the nation. Delegates earned their spots on the Youth Tour for writing winning short stories titled “Electric

Cooperatives: Powering Everyday Life.” In their winning entries, the talented young writers described how member-owned, nonprofit electric co-ops strengthen their local communities and improve lives across their service areas while providing safe, reliable and affordable energy.

“We take great pride in rewarding the best and brightest from our service area,” said Jenni Lynn Rachels,

Gibson EMC communications specialist, a chaperone on this year’s trip. “By recognizing their accomplishments through programs like the Washington Youth Tour, we show these leaders of tomorrow that their hometown electric co-op is more than a utility provider; Gibson EMC is an

“Young Americans given the opportunity to come to Washington, D.C., by their electric cooperatives experience a life-changing event,” said NRECA Interim CEO Jeffrey Connor. “They talk to their elected officials in person, connect to our nation’s rich history and have a hands-on experience with democracy.

Youth Tour enriches their understanding of the political process and the vital importance of direct engagement. As a result, they return to their communities with a deeper commitment to the communities they represent.”

On their 2016 visit, Tennessee’s Youth Tour delegates saw the White House and memorials to past presidents Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Franklin

Delano Roosevelt as well as monuments honoring the sacrifices of veterans of World War II and the Vietnam and Korean Wars. During visits to the museums of the Smithsonian Institution, the touring Tennesseans saw and experienced natural, historical and artistic treasures. Other fun stops included historic homes of former presidents — George Washington’s Mount Vernon and Jefferson’s Monticello — as well as Madame Tussauds Wax Museum, the Hard Rock Cafe and a boat cruise down the Potomac River.



Gibson EMC's students thank a World War II veteran for his service to our country.

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On the cover: In front of the U.S. Capitol are, from left, Gibson EMC Communications Specialist Jenni Lynn Rachels, Emily Bargery, Matthew Watson, Bailey Burden, Anna Gorman, Ashton McCage, Halley Stewart, Jennan Dial and Tucker Pounds.



Gibson EMC students visit Thomas Jefferson's Monticello during the 2016 Washington Youth Tour. From left are Ashton McCage, Emily Bargery, Anna Gorman, Matthew Watson, Tucker Pounds, Bailey Burden, Jennan Dial, Halley Stewart and Gibson EMC Communications Specialist Jenni Lynn Rachels.

Among other Youth Tour highlights were a solemn and sobering visit to Arlington National Cemetery where the group laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns and a stirring Sunset Parade performance by the U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps and Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon.

The group was welcomed to the U.S. Capitol by Sens. Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker, posing for photos and answering their questions.

"Our commitment to community is what sets cooperatives apart from other businesses," said Gibson EMC President and CEO Dan Rodamaker. "The Washington Youth Tour is one way we show the youth of our service area that Gibson EMC is more than their electricity provider. We genuinely care about the prosperity of our communities, and that includes providing special opportunities for these exceptional students and preparing them for future success."



Students toured Mount Vernon, the home of George Washington. From left are Gibson EMC Communications Specialist Jenni Lynn Rachels, Emily Bargery, Anna Gorman, Jennan Dial, Tucker Pounds, Halley Stewart, Matthew Watson, Ashton McCage and Bailey Burden.

## Lineworkers compete at Tennessee Valley Lineman Rodeo

Each year, Gibson Electric Membership Corporation sends an expertly trained group of employees to participate in the Tennessee Valley Lineman Rodeo, which requires the lineworkers to compete in a series of tests that balance skill with safety.

The timed events in which they compete simulate the work linemen do on the job. The rodeo requires them to follow the protocol exactly, and if they don't, their scores reflect their mistakes.

This year, Gibson EMC employees — Apprentice Lineworkers Payton Featherston, Jonathan Petty, P.J. Haskins, Russell Hopper, Landon Spencer and Josh West; First Class Lineworkers Jeff Milam, Trent Cary, Josh Ferrell and Bob Nerren; and Line Crewleaders Jeremy Swift, Kendall Byassee and Mark Perry — competed with other lineworkers of cooperatives and municipal utilities from across the Tennessee Valley at the 2016 Tennessee Valley Lineman Rodeo at Paris Landing State Park.

"All Gibson EMC employees represented us well," said Vice President of Operations and System Planning Barry Smith. "They conducted themselves professionally, exhibited teamwork and showcased their skills."

Several other Gibson EMC employees contributed to our co-op's and the rodeo's success. Smith served as a master judge and on the rodeo's board of directors. Safety Coordinator Billy Porter and Field Engineers Jeff Boyd and Justin Weaver were judges, and Operations Supervisor Eddie Bell coached the Gibson EMC team.

*A special thank you to Hannah Milam for the rodeo photos.*



*First Class Lineworker  
Jeff Milam*



*First Class Lineworker  
Trent Cary*



*Apprentice Lineworker  
Landon Spencer*



*Apprentice Lineworker  
Jonathan Petty*



*Line Crewleader  
Mark Perry*



Apprentice Lineworker  
Russell Hopper



Apprentice Lineworker  
Josh West



Apprentice Lineworker  
Payton Featherston



Crewleaders Kendall Byassee, left,  
and Jeremy Swift



First Class Lineworker  
Josh Ferrell



First Class Lineworker  
Bob Nerren



Apprentice Lineworker  
P.J. Haskins



Gibson Electric Membership Corporation participants at the Tennessee Valley Lineman Rodeo are, from left, Jeremy Swift, Barry Smith, Eddie Bell, Bob Nerren, Russell Hopper, Mark Perry, P.J. Haskins, Billy Porter, Jeff Boyd, Landon Spencer, Jonathan Petty, Jeff Milam, Josh Ferrell, Justin Weaver, Trent Cary, Josh West, Payton Featherston and Kendall Byassee.

## Help keep our lineworkers safe

**W**hat 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.

Gibson Electric Membership Corporation's 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 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 10 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 includes a section 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 of the pole). Supporting structures should be kept free from other climbing hazards such as tacks, nails, vines, and through bolts not properly trimmed."

Please help us 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.



August 2016 [www.tnmagazine.org](http://www.tnmagazine.org)

# THE TENNESSEE MAGAZINE



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Turn Up the Heat

History for Kids:  
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Honeydew-licious  
Recipes for Summer

## Holston Electric Cooperative

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

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[www.holstonelectric.com](http://www.holstonelectric.com)

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*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*

# Women and cooperatives

In honor of Women's Equality Day on Aug. 26, let's take a look at the roles women play in cooperatives across the globe. Even though women in the U.S. and U.K. were not allowed to vote until the early 1900s, women were granted equal voting rights in the first modern-era cooperative, the Rochdale Pioneers Equitable Society. Established in 1844 in Rochdale, England, the co-op's founders agreed that women should have equal voting rights. So you see, treating women equally has been baked into our cooperative DNA right from the start. And the cooperative business model continues to champion women's equality across the globe.

According to a 2015 global study conducted by the Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives, co-ops have an increasingly positive impact on women and their inclusion in the labor force and enhance women's ability to achieve positions of authority (both within and outside of the co-op).

In developing countries — where women have long suffered due to biased cultural norms, government policy and lack of opportunities — the role cooperatives play in the lives of women as well as the role women play in cooperatives are now more meaningful than ever.

In Paraguay, a South American country bordered by Brazil and Argentina, gender equality has transformed the Manduvira Sugarcane Cooperative.

This fair-trade sugar co-op has seen a dramatic increase in the participation of female members and leaders. Manduvira is a multiservice co-op with two types of operations: organic, fair-trade sugar production and savings and credit. In both of its operations, Manduvira has seen a significant increase in its success as women's participation grows.

According to several co-op leaders in Manduvira, female members are generally more likely to apply what they learn in training and adopt new farming

techniques compared to their male counterparts. Because women are more likely to adopt new technologies and the co-op has seen a higher percentage of women in leadership roles, the co-op has become stronger and more stable.

This is just an example from one cooperative. In South Africa, women make up 60 percent of co-op members from nearly all sectors. In Japan, women make up 95 percent of co-op members in consumer cooperatives and hold key governance positions. And globally, more women join savings and credit cooperatives, giving them increased access to financial resources.

Right here at Holston Electric Cooperative, 20 women work hard to help make the co-op run smoothly. Treating everyone equally and ensuring folks have fair opportunities is the cooperative way of doing business.



James B. Sandlin  
General Manager,  
Holston Electric  
Cooperative

# Sign of Safety

**S**ummer came quickly upon the South, but Holston Electric Cooperative celebrated the arrival of June. The 10th day of the month marked seven completed years without a lost-time accident, an extraordinary feat worth commemorating in the electric distribution industry.

Sixty-one employees completed another full year without time off work due to injuries. "Keeping this record intact is not just a goal to our employees," stated Director of Job Training and Safety Scott Price. "It is a way of life, and everyone at Holston Electric Cooperative gives 110 percent to make certain all return home safely on a daily basis."

The accomplishment can be accredited to routine safety training, a main priority at Holston Electric Cooperative. During the sessions, HEC folks are reminded to do their jobs while keeping in mind their own safety as well as the safety of their co-workers and the public.

Congratulations to all employees for their keen eyes for safety! Let's extend that record to eight safe years and beyond!



*The safety sign in front of the Holston EC main office in Rogersville displays the record of 2,557 days (seven years) without a lost-time accident.*

## Still burning old lightbulbs? Make the switch

If your home's lamps and light fixtures are still housing old-fashioned incandescent lightbulbs, it's time to switch to something that's far more energy-efficient. Twisty, compact fluorescent light bulbs — CFLs — are better. But LED bulbs are even more energy-efficient and last way longer.

Yes, LEDs cost more than other kinds of lightbulbs — sometimes more than twice as much. But they use about 80 percent less energy than your out-of-date incandescents. CFLs use about 70 percent less energy than the old bulbs.

Over time, though, LEDs shine the brightest of the three when it comes to energy use and cost savings. The average life span of an LED bulb is 25,000 hours, compared with 1,200 hours for a traditional bulb and 8,000 for a CFL. And at about 12.5 cents per kilowatt-hour — the national average, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration —

you'll pay \$38 to operate the LED bulb for 23 years. If the incandescent or CFL bulb lasted 23 years — it won't — you would pay \$201 or \$48, respectively.

So make the switch today for a couple of decades — on average — of energy savings.

### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



*Is your room air conditioner working overtime? Reduce air leaks by installing rigid foam panels (instead of the commonly used accordion panels) in between the window frame and unit and secure with duct tape.*

*Source: energy.gov*

# Holston EC linemen compete in rodeo

Seven Holston EC linemen participated in the 2016 Tennessee Valley Lineman Rodeo June 10-11 in Paris Landing State Park. The rodeo is a two-day competitive event started in 1998 by and for employees of Tennessee Valley Authority power distributors.

The rodeo, which includes competitive events for apprentices, journeyman teams of three, individual linemen and senior individuals (ages 45 and up), recognizes and rewards excellence in safety, skill and knowledge in their fields. The apprentice category includes a written test as well as completion of assigned skills tests.

Holston EC was represented by Chris Couch, Shannon Foster, Dustin Fugate, Renn Lawson, Wayne McCracken, Chad McLain and Scott Price. McCracken and Price served as judges for various events, while Foster, McLain and Lawson competed as a three-man team. Fugate was an apprentice participant, and Couch competed in the senior division.



Among the Holston Electric Cooperative employees participating in the Lineman Rodeo are, from left, Chad McLain, Wayne McCracken, Dustin Fugate, Renn Lawson, Shannon Foster, and Chris Couch.

Couch swept the senior division as the overall winner, taking first in fused cutout relocation, hurtman rescue and pole top pin insulator change-out.

Congratulations to these men for their performance at the rodeo as they test and sharpen skills used in the daily performance of their jobs as linemen.

## HEC sends students on Youth Tour

Nearly 140 high school seniors from across Tennessee have returned from a weeklong “experience of a lifetime” courtesy of their local electric cooperatives. Cherokee High School students Olivia Snodgrass of Rogersville, Allison Evans of Rogersville and Kierra Bullion of Mooresburg; Volunteer High School students Devon Gill and Saianne Bryant of Church Hill and Morristown-Hamblen High School East student Gia Hodges of Morristown were sponsored by Holston Electric Cooperative to participate in the 2016 Washington Youth Tour June 10-16.

The popular event included sightseeing, visits with elected officials and lots of fun meeting peers from across Tennessee and the nation. Delegates earned their spots on the Youth Tour for writing winning short stories titled “Electric Cooperatives: Powering Everyday Life.” In their winning entries, the talented young writers described how member-owned, nonprofit electric co-ops strengthen their local communities and improve lives across their service areas while providing safe, reliable, affordable energy.



Holston Electric Cooperative's 2016 Youth Tour delegates pause for a photo in front of Monticello, home of Thomas Jefferson. From left are Saianne Bryant, Devon Gill, Allison Evans, Gia Hodges, Olivia Snodgrass and Kierra Bullion.

"We take great pride in rewarding the best and brightest from our service area," said Michelle Simpson, director of member services and a chaperone on this year's trip. "By recognizing their accomplishments through programs like the Washington Youth Tour, we show these leaders of tomorrow that their hometown electric co-op is more than a utility provider; Holston Electric Cooperative is an active member of the community and fully invested in its prosperity."

For more than 50 years, the Washington Youth Tour has taken students from electric co-op service areas to our nation's capital to learn more about our country and the cooperative business model. The annual event is coordinated by Holston Electric Cooperative, the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association and National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). This year's Youth Tour involved 1,700 students from 43 states.

"Young Americans given the opportunity to come to Washington, D.C., by their electric cooperatives experience a life-changing event," said NRECA Interim CEO Jeffrey Connor. "They talk to their elected officials in person, connect to our nation's rich history and have a hands-on experience with democracy. Youth Tour enriches their understanding of the political process and the vital importance of direct engagement. As a result, they return to their communities with a deeper commitment to the communities they represent."

On their 2016 visit, Tennessee's Youth Tour delegates saw the White House and memorials to past presidents Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Franklin Delano Roosevelt as well as monuments honoring the sacrifices of veterans of World War II and the Vietnam and Korean Wars. During visits to the museums of the Smithsonian Institution, the touring Tennesseans saw and experienced natural, historical and artistic treasures. Other fun stops included historic homes of former presidents — George Washington's Mount Vernon and Jefferson's Monticello — as well as Madame Tussauds Wax Museum, the Hard Rock Cafe and a boat cruise down the Potomac River. Among other Youth Tour highlights were a solemn and sobering visit to Arlington National Cemetery where the group laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns and a stirring Sunset Parade



Holston Electric Cooperative's group visits Mount Vernon, home of George Washington. From left are Olivia Snodgrass, Sianne Bryant, HEC Director of Member Services Michelle Simpson, Devon Gill, Allison Evans, Kierra Bullion, Gia Hodges and HEC General Manager Jimmy Sandlin.

performance by the U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps and Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon.

The group was welcomed to the U.S. Capitol by Sens. Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker, and Rep. Phil Roe spent time with his young constituents from Holston Electric Cooperative, posing for photos and answering their questions.

"Our commitment to community is what sets cooperatives apart from other businesses," said General Manager Jimmy Sandlin who also attended this year's trip. "The Washington Youth Tour is one way we show the youth of our service area that Holston Electric Cooperative is more than their electricity provider. We genuinely care about the prosperity of our communities, and that includes providing special opportunities for these exceptional students and preparing them for future success."

**ON THE COVER:** In front of the U.S. Capitol are, from left, Michelle Simpson, Kierra Bullion, Olivia Snodgrass, Devon Gill, Allison Evans, Sianne Bryant, Gia Hodges and Jimmy Sandlin.

# Electric Cooperatives: Powering Everyday Life

By Gia Hodges, Holston EC overall winner, 2016 Washington Youth Tour Short Story Contest

We begin in a beautiful Tennessee home. Dangling in the living room is a beautiful chandelier with various sizes of crystals hanging below three small lightbulbs. This trio of lightbulbs has watched over the Wrights' family for almost two years. The first is Ohm. He is the optimistic and eccentric one of the bunch. He always fetches the "bright ideas" to keep the chandelier happy and working efficiently. The second is Volt. She has a "short fuse" and blows any situation out of proportion. The third, Watt, is always wondering what is going on and is also very afraid of the dark. These three quietly illuminate the daily activities of the Wrights' family. They especially love to watch Carter, the cheerful and abounding 11-year-old son of Todd and Michelle Wright. They enjoy his adorable antics each day and admire his curiosity as he quickly grows up. It is late in the evening when Carter and his parents finally arrive home from a Boy Scout meeting.

"What do you guys think Carter has been up to today?" prods Ohm.

"I don't know, probably getting dirty. It seems like he attracts dirt like a moth to a light," replies Volt.

"Whatever it is, I hope he is safe. Did you see the scrape on his knee last week?" Watt says.

Carter soon sprints to the living room and proceeds to play some video games to unwind after a long day of Boy Scout festivities. Following after are his mom and dad talking about buying a new energy-efficient heat pump for their home.

Ohm quickly adds, "They should contact their local electric cooperative!"

Watt is immediately confused, and Volt is irritated by Ohm's enthusiasm.

"What is an electric cooperative?" Watt asks.

"An electric cooperative is a local, not-for-profit organization that gives power to our home!" replies Ohm.

The still confused Watt asks, "What do you mean, 'gives power'?"

The seemingly frustrated Volt hatefully replies, "We are lightbulbs, Watt. We need power to turn on!"

"OHHHHH!" Watt realizes. "But what does that have to do with a heat pump, Ohm?"

"Our electric cooperative not only maintains our electricity, but it also gives its members access to qualified contractors that will help Carter's parents select the proper heat pump system through the Energy Right Heat Pump Program. This program will not only ensure affordable

financing for Carter's parents, but it will also include a free inspection after installation to make sure it is done correctly and providing the most energy efficiency!" says Ohm.

Watt is in amazement while Volt seeks to find the flaw in the idea before she is cut off by a power outage. Watt quickly panics due to his fear of the dark. While Ohm tries to comfort Watt, Volt peers into the living room to check on the Wrights.

"Awe! I was just about to get a high score!" Carter cries.

Carter's mom picks up the phone. As she is dialing, Carter asks, "Who are you calling, Mom?"

She answers, "I am calling our local electric cooperative, Sweetie!" Carter's mom then proceeds to talk with the representative to confirm their power is out.

Volt commands for Watt and Ohm's attention.

"Listen!" shouted Volt. Watt and Ohm draw their regard to what the Wrights are doing to solve the problem.

"What's an electric cooperative?" Carter asks.

"An electric cooperative is a consumer-owned electricity provider. This means that, because we are members, we are also the owners!" replied Carter's dad.

"That's so awesome! We own a company!" replies Carter.

"Well, we collectively own a company with the rest of our community to benefit each other!" replies Carter's dad.

Soon after, the electricity comes back on!

"Phew! I'm glad that's over!" says Watt.

Sensing Watt's nonsense was finally over, in a sarcastic tone Volt exclaims in a sarcastic tone, "Trust me! Nobody is happier to see the light than I am!"

"Hooray! The power is back on!" Carter says.

"That was quick!" Carter's mom adds.

"The electric cooperative is pretty neat, huh?" Carter says.

Carter's dad says in reply, "Yes, it is, Carter! And I almost forgot to tell you that it also plays an important role in our community. The electric cooperative's employees, managers and directors have contributed to organizations such as the American Red Cross, United Way and even the Boy Scouts of America!"

"I am so thankful for our cooperative, Dad," says Carter.

"Me, too, son."

"Awe! How beautiful! A father-son moment ..." says Watt.

*Continued on page 25*



Gia Hodges

"You know, we also have a reason to be thankful for our electric cooperative," says Ohm.

"Like what?" Volt asks.

"We were recommended to be used in the Wrights' chandelier through our electric cooperative's eScore In-Home Energy Evaluation Program!"

"Really?!" Watt exclaims.

"Yeah! Since we are energy-efficient lightbulbs, we not only save energy, but we also help the Wrights save money each year!" Ohm replies.

"Wow! The little things like us really do count toward a bigger cause," says Volt.

"Imagine if other households in Tennessee devoted time to helping their community and installing cool lightbulbs like us," Watt said.

"I think Carter has learned a valuable lesson about how communities power their future through energy conservation and public service," says Ohm.

"Yeah. I'm really proud of him," Watt says in admiration.

## Happy Labor Day!



Holston Electric Cooperative  
will be closed Monday, Sept. 5, 2016.

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

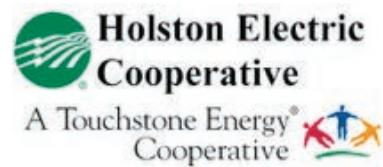
## Smart window use can regulate indoor comfort

You can use your windows to let cool air into your home and keep hot air out during the summer. Here's how:

- Whenever it cools off at night, turn off the air conditioner and open the windows to let the breezes in while you sleep.
- In the morning, close the windows and the blinds or curtains. That will "trap" the cool air indoors and prevent hot air from getting in as the day heats up.
- Choose window treatments that not only look nice but that save energy. Some choices: Interior blinds made from heat-reflective material can reduce heat gain by 45 percent when you close the slats. And draperies with white plastic backings can reduce heat gain by 33 percent when they're closed.
- If you shade the exterior of your windows with wooden or vinyl blinds, overhangs, awnings, shutters or storm panels, you'll keep the sun from heating up your interior.
- Replacing old, single-pane windows with double-pane models can keep your home more comfortable and shave hundreds of dollars off your energy bills, according to Energy Star.



# Get \$10 for paying your bill

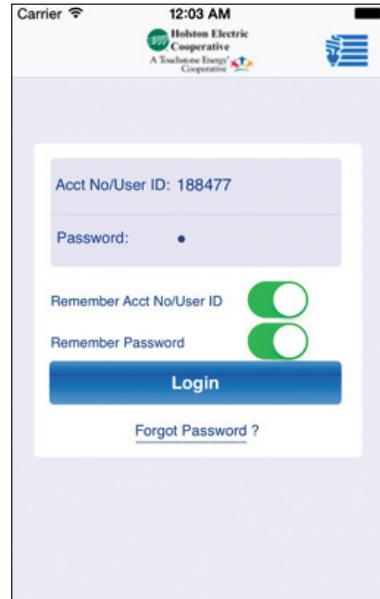


Holston Electric Cooperative mobile app

## Want to take one thing off your to-do list?

- The Holston Electric mobile app allows you to pay your monthly bill from your phone.
- Every residential member who pays the August, September and October monthly bills using the HEC mobile app will receive a \$10 credit toward his or her account.

*Credits will be posted after three consecutive monthly payments have been successfully transmitted.*



## SAVE THE DATE

The Annual Meeting  
of Holston Electric Cooperative  
will be held Tuesday, Oct. 11, 2016,  
at the Rogersville Office.

Business meeting begins at 7 p.m.

A drawing will be held at the conclusion of the business meeting  
for a retired Holston Electric Cooperative  
2008 Ford F-150 four-wheel-drive truck.

The drawing is only open to Holston Electric Cooperative members who register for annual meeting. Employees, directors, retirees, corporations, subcontractors and representatives and their immediate families (mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, spouses) are not eligible. Winner will accept the vehicle "as-is," and taxes on the fair market value are the sole responsibility of the winner. Recipient will be required to complete tax documents. Acceptance of the prize constitutes permission for Holston Electric Cooperative to use winner's name, likeness and other personally identifiable information for promotional, advertising and marketing purposes.

August 2016

[www.tnmagazine.org](http://www.tnmagazine.org)

# THE TENNESSEE MAGAZINE



## Washington Youth Tour

Glassblowers  
Turn Up the Heat

History for Kids:  
TVA Deeds Land to Cherokee

Honeydew-licious  
Recipes for Summer



Celebrating 75 Years  
1941-2016

## Mountain Electric Cooperative

604 S. Church St.  
Mountain City, TN 37683  
423-727-1800  
[www.mountain.coop](http://www.mountain.coop)

### Newland, N.C., office

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

**Roan Mountain,**  
**Tenn., office**  
8477 Highway 19E  
Roan Mountain, TN 37687  
423-772-3521

**Office Hours**  
Monday through Friday  
8 a.m.-5 p.m.

### General Manager

Joe Thacker

### Board of Directors

President —  
**R. Bruce Lacey** (District 5)  
Vice President —  
**George Lowe** (District 2)  
Secretary/Treasurer —  
**Joe Atwood** (District 1)  
**Ross Dowell** (District 3)  
**Harry Smith** (District 4)  
**Ronnie Townson** (District 6)  
**W.O. Hampton** (District 7)  
**David Ellis** (District 8)

## AS I SEE IT

Manager's Viewpoint

# OPC marks \$2 million in grants

**M**ountain Electric Cooperative's Operation Pocket Change (OPC) program has now donated more than \$2 million in grants to help meet the needs of neighbors, worthy charities and community service organizations throughout MEC's customer service area.

The funds are donated by MEC customers who allow their electric bills to be rounded up to the next whole dollar amount each month — that spare pocket change going to fund the grants.

The program began in June 2002, and over these 14 years, we are very pleased to have supported so many genuinely worthwhile causes that have made a big impact on our local communities.

OPC's contributions are administered by an independent board of directors composed of eight volunteer cooperative members, one from each of the cooperative's eight districts.

Each customer who participates donates an average of \$6 per year to the program. Those nickels, dimes and quarters add up fast when combined from more than 25,400 pockets. Each month, the program funds about \$13,000 in grants that are distributed across MEC's service area. The grants vary in amounts of less than \$150 to a maximum of \$10,000.

Grants to groups, organizations or charities are limited to \$10,000 annually but average less than \$3,500. These are generally used to assist charitable organizations that benefit MEC service area individuals in educational and humanitarian needs. They are only

used for special purposes (a project or piece of equipment, for example) and are not to support an organization's regular budget or other recurring expenses. Examples include equipment for volunteer fire departments and ambulance or rescue squads, youth programs, recreation facilities, community food/clothing programs for the needy, community projects and other services.

Grants to individuals are limited to \$2,500 and are generally used for critical situations such as medical needs and following natural disasters (flood, fire, tornado, etc.). Grants have funded handicap facilities, house fire recovery, hearing aids for an elderly invalid and other assistance such as food, shelter, clothing and health care for those suffering devastating illnesses and other hardship situations.

Also, 25 percent of the contributions are designated for scholarships to help deserving students in need of financial assistance attend college. Over the last 14 years, 258 college scholarships totaling \$504,000 have been awarded.

Some charities keep a portion of their collections to cover operating costs, but with Operation Pocket Change, 100 percent of the money donated will be distributed. None of the money collected is used to pay for electric bills owed to Mountain Electric or to finance the operations of the cooperative. Expressly religious and political organizations or causes are ineligible for grants.

Awards are listed each month in *The Tennessee Magazine*. Due to the personal nature of requests, names of individuals are not released.



**Joe Thacker**

General Manager,  
Mountain Electric  
Cooperative

# MEC announces 2016 Operation Pocket Change Scholarship recipients



Emma Grace Shell  
Avery High



Thomas R. Daniels  
Avery High



Margaret R. Burgin  
Avery High



Zachary T. Lyons  
Avery High



Faith Nixon  
Avery High



Haven L. Dennie  
Avery High



Josie E. Carnett  
Cloudland High



Shane D. Slobecheski  
Johnson County High



Dylan B. Nichols  
Johnson County High



Channie P. Cretsinger  
Johnson County High



Bailey M. Spencer  
Johnson County High



Aisia T. Robbins  
Johnson County High



Halie E. Howard  
Johnson County High



Brianna H. Snyder  
Johnson County High

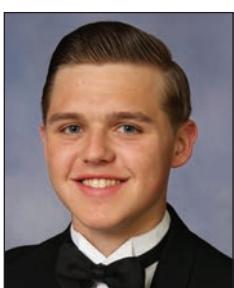


Deanna F. Barrett  
Johnson County High

Continued from page 20

If you're already a participant in this program, you have my sincere gratitude. If you aren't currently contributing, I ask you to please consider joining the other 25,400 members as we come together to keep alive the cooperative tradition of caring for the well-

being of our neighbors and communities. Perhaps you or someone you know has been touched in some way by the donations, and you've changed your mind. All it takes is a phone call to one of our offices to be a part of this effort.



Austin L. Gouge  
Cloudland High

Not pictured:

McKinley Calloway,  
Avery High  
Desirae D. Clark,  
Cloudland High  
Noah C. Johnson,  
Cloudland High  
Lani J. Rogers, Avery  
High

# Mark your calendar for MEC's 75th anniversary annual meeting

Join us for the 75th Mountain Electric Cooperative annual meeting!  
Saturday, Sept. 24, 2016, at Cloudland Elementary School in Roan Mountain  
Health fair begins at 10 a.m.  
Lunch is at 11 a.m. with entertainment at noon.  
Business meeting begins at 1 p.m.  
We hope to see you there!  
Electric safety demonstration trailer will be on site (weather permitting).

## Operation Pocket Change — Changing Lives with Pocket Change

### Grants in May

Butler Volunteer Fire Department: repairs to retaining wall	\$10,000
Individual Medical Hardship	\$ 2,000
<b>Total for May</b>	<b>\$12,000</b>

Donating to Operation Pocket Change is completely voluntary. All it takes is a phone call to your local MEC office. You can also cancel at any time, also by a phone call. Some 25,400 consumers participate in the program.

## Calendar of events

### *Mountain City, Tennessee*

- Aug. 5-6** • Fifth Annual Joe Barlow/Kim Sutton Motorcycle and Car Show and Party Fest. For more information, call 423-291-1082.
- Aug. 6** • Fifth Annual Joe Barlow Memorial Motorcycle Ride. For more information, call 423-291-1082.
- Aug. 6** • Surviving the Snake 50- and 100-Kilometer Bike Ride. For more information, call 423-302-3122.

### *Butler, Tennessee*

- Aug. 5-6** • 27th Annual Old Butler Days. For more information, call 423-768-3177.

### *Laurel Bloomery, Tennessee*

- Aug. 26-27** • 91st Annual Fiddler's Convention at Old Mill Park. For more information, call 423-727-9595.

## Proffitt, Fletcher celebrate 20 years of service



Ethen Proffitt



Johnny Fletcher

### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



*Is your room air conditioner working overtime? Reduce air leaks by installing rigid foam panels (instead of the commonly used accordion panels) in between the window frame and unit and secure with duct tape.*

*Source: energy.gov*

# Official Notice of Mountain Electric Cooperative District Meetings

## District 2

Thursday, Aug. 18, at 7 p.m. at Doe Elementary School, Mountain City, Tennessee. Presently represented by George Lowe. Early voting will begin at 6 p.m. if the election is contested. District 2 includes billing cycles 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 60, 61, 62 and 63.

## District 6

Tuesday, Aug. 23, at 7 p.m. at Little Doe Freewill Baptist, Hampton, Tennessee. Presently represented by Ronnie Townson. Early voting will begin at 6 p.m. if the election is contested. District 6 includes billing cycles 80, 81, 82, 83, 480 and 590 from Bear Cage Road to Roaring Creek. The Tennessee-North Carolina border is the boundary on Poga Road and Dark Ridge Road between districts 6 and 7.

## District 4

Tuesday, Aug. 16, at 7 p.m. at Banner Elk Elementary School, Banner Elk, North Carolina. Presently represented by Harry Smith. Early voting will begin at 6 p.m. if the election is contested. District 4 includes billing cycles 400, 470, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 737, 740, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755 and 760.

## District 8

Monday, Aug. 15, at 7 p.m. at Freedom Trail Elementary School, Elk Park, North Carolina. Presently represented by David Ellis. Early voting will begin at 6 p.m. if the election is contested. District 8 includes billing cycles 410, 420, 500, 510, 570, 580, 741, 761, 762, 763, 765, 766, 768, 769 and 560 from Minneapolis to the concrete bridge on Old Toe River Road.

\*Billing cycle information can be found on the top line of your electric bill.

## District meeting agenda

Each district meeting is held to take action on these matters:

1. Establish the existence of a quorum of members.
2. Reading of the Official Notice of the meeting and proof of proper mailing thereof.
3. Presentation and consideration of reports from officers, directors or committees.
4. Election of a director (elected director will serve a three-year term).
5. Transaction of any other proper action to come before the committee.
6. Drawing for door prizes.

*Cooperative bylaws contain complete information concerning the election of directors. A copy of the bylaws can be picked up at any MEC office.*

## MEC district election voting rules

1. Each member is entitled to one — and only one — vote. The member must be in good standing and have an active account to be eligible to vote.
2. A member shall only be allowed to vote in the district where his or her principal address is located — as reflected by the cooperative's records.
3. A joint membership is only allowed one vote, which may be cast by either spouse.
4. No proxy voting for other individuals is allowed.
5. A sole proprietorship cannot vote as a separate legal entity. The proprietorship is considered an additional premise served under the owner's membership. The only exception is if the sole proprietorship's owner does not have a membership in his or her name.
6. A partnership, corporation or association is entitled to one vote. The person authorized to vote on behalf of the "nonperson" legal entity must present an Authorization to Vote form prior to or upon registration. Authorization to Vote forms are available upon request.

# MEC sends students on 2016 Youth Tour

Nearly 140 high school seniors from across Tennessee have returned from a weeklong “experience of a lifetime” courtesy of their local electric cooperatives. Montana Woodard, Johnson County High School; Malkam Davis, Cloudland High School; and Haley Carroll, Avery County High School, as well as Missy Lyons with Avery County High were sponsored by Mountain Electric Cooperative to participate in the 2016 Washington Youth Tour June 10-16.

The popular event included sightseeing, visits with elected officials and lots of fun meeting peers from across Tennessee and the nation. Delegates earned their spots on the Youth Tour for writing winning short stories titled “Electric Cooperatives: Powering Everyday Life.” In their winning entries, the talented young writers described how member-owned, non-profit electric co-ops strengthen their local communities and improve lives across their service areas while providing safe, reliable, affordable energy.

“We take great pride in rewarding the best and brightest from our service area,” said Sally Snyder,



ON THE COVER: In front of the U.S. Capitol are, from left, Malkam Davis, Haley Carroll, Montana Woodard and Sally Snyder.



MEC's group visits Mount Vernon, home of George Washington. From left are Missy Lyons, Sally Snyder, Malkam Davis, Haley Carroll and Montana Woodard. Below, the delegates pose across the Tidal Basin from the Washington Monument.

MEC director of member services, as a chaperone on this year’s trip. “By recognizing their accomplishments through programs like the Washington Youth Tour, we show these leaders of tomorrow that their hometown electric co-op is more than a utility provider; MEC is an active member of the community and fully invested in its prosperity.”

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*At left, MEC representatives visit a museum of the Smithsonian Institution. Below, they pose in front of Thomas Jefferson's Monticello*

and a stirring Sunset Parade performance by the U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps and Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon.

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*For the first time in MEC history, a student from MEC was chosen to be Youth Leadership Council representative for the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association. As representative, Montana Woodard, left, receives another expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., in July and will also travel to San Diego in 2017 to be recognized at the NRECA annual meeting. Montana has made Mountain Electric so proud!*

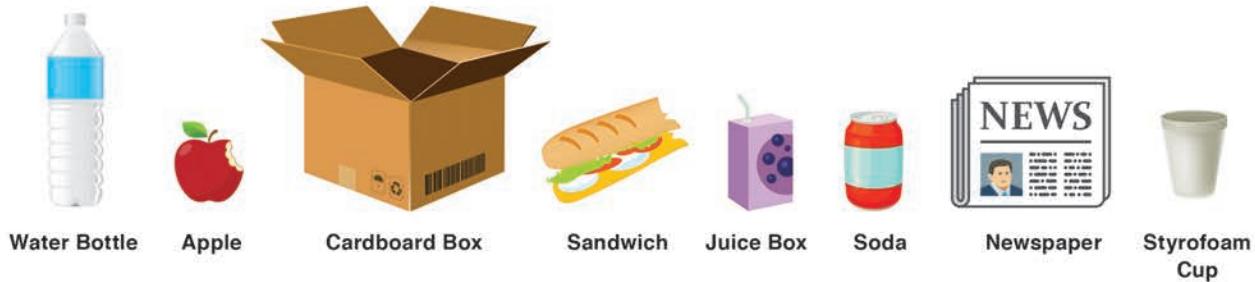
# SORTING THINGS OUT



Recycling is important for the future of our planet! Can you sort the items below into the correct bin? Write the name of the item in the correct category.

RECYCLE

GARBAGE



Water Bottle

Apple

Cardboard Box

Sandwich

Juice Box

Soda

Newspaper

Styrofoam Cup

RECYCLE: Water Bottle, Cardboard Box, Juice Box, Soda Can, Newspaper  
GARBAGE: Apple, Sandwich, Styrofoam Cup  
Answer Key:

August 2016 [www.tnmagazine.org](http://www.tnmagazine.org)

# THE TENNESSEE MAGAZINE



## Washington Youth Tour

Glassblowers  
Turn Up the Heat

**History for Kids:**  
TVA Deeds Land to Cherokee

Honeydew-licious  
Recipes for Summer

## Meriwether Lewis Electric Cooperative

### 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  
in Watt's Up on  
[mlec.com](http://mlec.com)

- Burning old bulbs?
- Summer savings for fans
- Smart window use



Like



or

Follow

Pay the easy way ...  
sign up for  
bankdraft today!

## AS I SEE IT

Manager's Viewpoint

## The mirror of brands and co-ops

When my wife, Lisa, makes her grocery list, a few staples just have to be on there. I'm sure some of them would be the same for you — bread, milk, eggs, sugar, cereal, etc. There are just some things we can't live without.

And, even though the list might not say Sunbeam bread or Captain Crunch cereal, we know from experience the brand names we prefer. Likewise, we know that regardless of where we buy them, they'll be good every time.

The power and service you receive from Meriwether Lewis Electric Cooperative is not on the grocery shelf. These are not things you can hold in your hand. However, like the brand of cereal you've come to love, MLEC wants you to count on us to deliver on quality — day-in and day-out, regardless of where you live.

It does not matter if you live in Hickman, Houston, Humphreys, Lewis or Perry County. It does not matter if you know our customer service representatives, managers or linemen by name. Regardless of your location or interaction, member service should always be *good* member service. If you move around within our service area, to the lines of a neighboring co-op or even across the nation, electric cooperatives are the same. It's in our DNA to aspire to deliver safe, reliable, affordable energy and couple that with stellar member service.

Cooperatives like MLEC are their own brand of business. We adhere to and uphold the Seven Cooperative Principles. Whether it is Democratic Control, Members' Economic Participation or Cooperation Among Cooperatives, we believe in the success of the cooperative business model.

Why does this matter? If we didn't believe in the model, we would be like any other utility. True, it might get the

job done, but there isn't anything special about it.

Here at home, we feel that celebrating our 77th birthday this month is certainly something special and a testimony to what co-ops mean to the community. We've proudly served generation after generation, so I guess you could say MLEC is also about tradition.

However, don't think of traditions as something stale and outdated. MLEC and cooperatives like us have always made it a priority to deliver quality service to our members. It is our goal to supply much more than energy to our member-owners. We're also committed to community and are always looking for ways to pair innovation and technology to meet your evolving needs.



Keith Carnahan  
President and CEO,  
Meriwether Lewis Electric  
Cooperative

are the people you see at local high school ballgames. They are the ladies working the bake sale for a local cause or the guys coaching Little League teams. They are the people you went to school with and now have the joy of experiencing life's challenges together as your families grow. We are local folks serving local folks.

As school reconvenes this month, I'm reminded of visiting the store and buying school supplies with my girls. Elmer's glue was a tried-and-true tradition just like Crayola crayons were a favorite because they are brands we've used for years. Some things are always the same.

Familiarity with products and those around us provides a certain level of faith and security. It is the hope of all of us who serve you at MLEC that you feel the same about the energy, programs and service we provide. Our goal is not only to be your source for power and information but also to be your trusted source time after time.

Keith

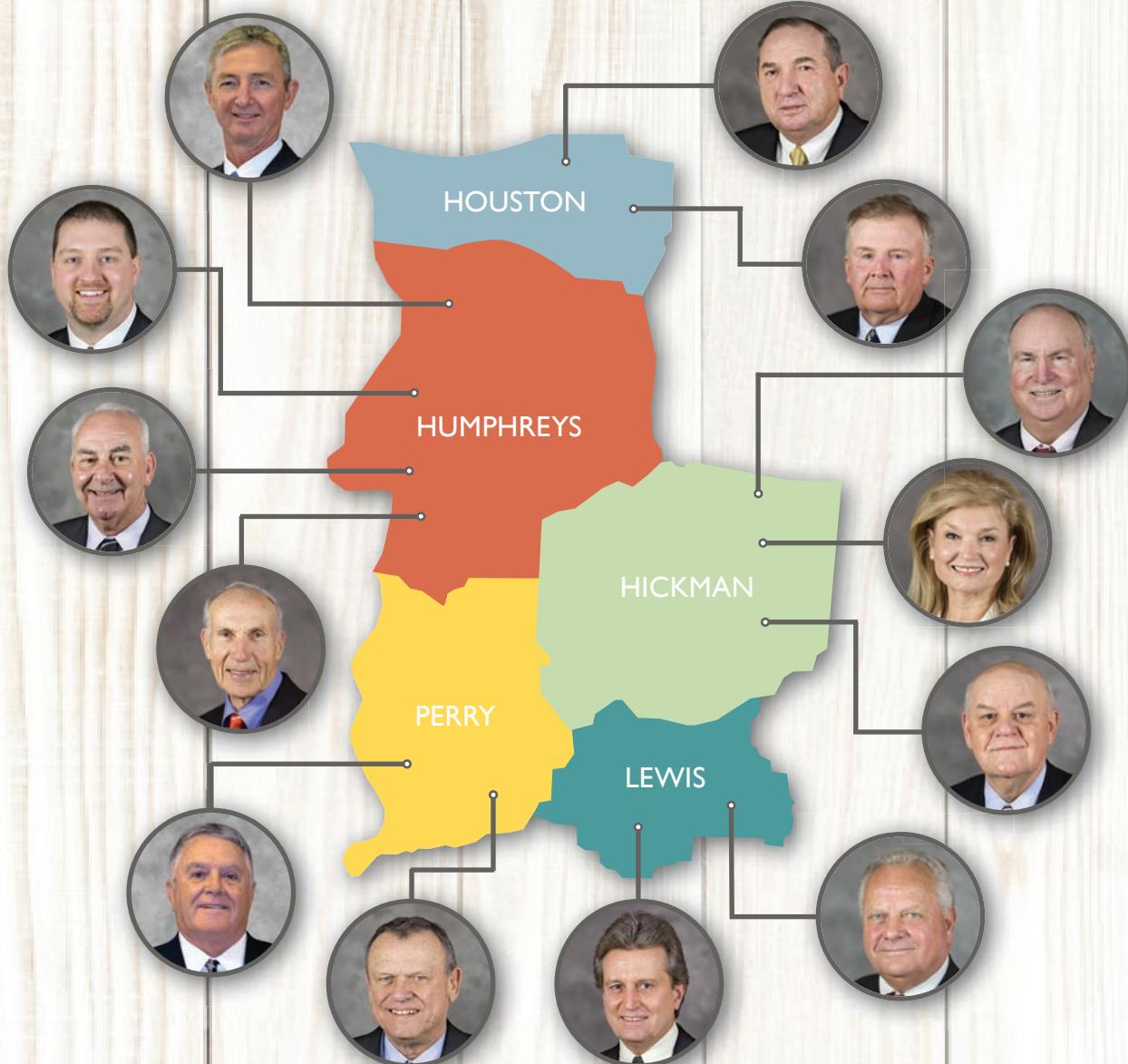
# Your MLEC board *of* directors

Do these faces look familiar? While some may not, those connected to your county are likely people you know. Some may even be someone for whom you voted to represent you on the Meriwether Lewis Electric Cooperative board of directors.

Did you know that one of the Seven Cooperative Principles is about Democratic Member Control? By being an MLEC member, you have a voice — a vote — in who serves your county on the MLEC board. Through

your vote and their actions, you actively participate in setting policies and making decisions that affect the cooperative membership.

Who are they? They are MLEC members just like you. They call the same communities home. Some are retired while others own and work at local businesses. They are honored to serve you, and they do their level best to be good stewards of the trust you have placed in them.



## HICKMAN

Dr. Zack Hutchens  
Johnnie Ruth Elrod  
Wayne Qualls

## LEWIS

Bill Webb  
Dr. Jeff Peery

## PERRY

Tommy Graham  
Ronny Averett

## HUMPHREYS

Reed Dreaden  
Larry Mayberry  
Andy Porch  
Jessie Wallace

## HOUSTON

Sam Fussell  
Cass Rye

# 2016 Meriwether Lewis & Washington Youth Tour



Nearly 140 high school seniors from across Tennessee enjoyed a week-long “experience of a lifetime” with their local electric cooperatives. Michaela Frank of Perry County High, Katie Grebner of McEwen High, Emily Jeffers of Houston County High, Hope Kelley of Lewis County High, Taryn McCaleb and Katelyn Prince of Hickman County High, Jenny Reynolds of Waverly Central High and Charis Waters from East Hickman High as well as Cindi Baxter, teacher from Lewis County, represented Meriwether Lewis Electric Cooperative on the 2016 Washington Youth Tour June 10-16.

The event included sightseeing, visits with elected officials and lots of fun meeting peers from across Tennessee and the nation. Sponsored delegates earned spots on the Youth Tour for writing winning short stories titled “Electric Cooperatives: Powering Everyday Life.” In their entries, the young writers described how member-owned, nonprofit electric co-ops strengthen their local communities and improve lives across their service areas while providing safe, reliable, affordable energy.

“We take great pride in rewarding the best and brightest from our service area,” said MLEC Vice President of Employee and Member Services Miranda McCaleb, who served as a chaperone.

For more than 50 years, the Washington Youth Tour has taken students from electric co-op service areas to our nation’s capital to learn more about our country and the cooperative business model. The annual event is coordinated by MLEC, the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association (TECA) and National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). This year’s Youth Tour involved 1,700 students from 43 states.

“Young Americans given the opportunity to come to Washington, D.C., by their electric cooperatives experience a life-changing event,” said NRECA

*“At the beginning of this trip, I had no idea what to expect. I had heard words like ‘failure, and then success.’ With the help of my chaperones, I found that failure was just a part of the process, and that success can be found in many ways. I am grateful for the opportunity to travel to Washington, D.C. and experience this trip. It has been a life-changing experience, and I am so proud of myself for achieving my first success of many. I feel prepared for anything and my future.”*

— **Emily Jeffers, Hickman County High School**

*“This trip to Washington, D.C. has been an amazing experience. I have met so many new and interesting people, and I am proud to call them my friends.”*

— **Charis Waters, East Hickman High School**

*“The Washington Youth Tour has been an amazing experience, and I am so proud to have won first place in the writing competition.”*

— **Hope Kelley, Lewis County High School**

*“This trip has been incredible! I am truly blessed to have been a part of it.”*

— **Katelyn Prince, Hickman County High School**

*“This trip has truly been the trip of a lifetime. I am so grateful to not only my chaperones but also my fellow chaperones, Upcoming juniors, be interested in the Washington Youth Tour.”*

— **Jenny Reynolds, Waverly Central High School**

*“It will change your perspective on the world. There's nothing like it.”*

— **Katie Grebner, McEwen High School**

*“My feet may be blistered, but my heart is full — for the better.”*

— **Michaela Frank, Perry County High School**

*“So many new friends in such a short amount of time.”*

— **Taryn McCaleb, Hickman County High School**



On the left, a group of young women in red t-shirts with a blue logo on them pose together indoors. On the right, a group of young women in red t-shirts with a blue logo on them pose together outdoors in front of a large white building with columns, likely the U.S. Capitol. The text "On the left" is positioned above the photo of the women in red shirts.

# Electric Cooperative TON YOUTH TOUR

*I had to write a six-word  
life. My phrase said, 'Lots of  
winning this contest has been  
and I believe that this is the  
prepared to face the world'*

Houston County High School

*C., has changed my life.  
and influential people, and I  
friends."*

East Hickman High School

*ur has been an amazing  
ud to have brought home  
!"*

Lewis County High School

*le. There is nothing like it. I'm  
part of it all."*

Hickman County High School

*trip of a lifetime. Thank you  
but MLEC and TECA as well.  
sted immediately!"*

Waverly Central High School

*ctive and challenge your  
no experience like it."*

ebner, McEwen High School

*ut my life has been changed*

nk, Perry County High School

*uch a short amount of time."*

Hickman County High School

## On the cover:

Capitol are, from left,  
Celyn Prince, Cindi  
ank, Taryn McCaleb,  
Kelley, Jenny  
ters, Emily Jeffers  
eb.

Interim CEO Jeffrey Connor. "They talk to their elected officials in person and connect to our nation's rich history. Youth Tour enriches their understanding of the political process and the vital importance of direct engagement. As a result, they return home with a deeper commitment to their communities."

On their 2016 visit, Tennessee's Youth Tour delegates saw the White House and memorials to past presidents Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Franklin Delano Roosevelt as well as monuments honoring the sacrifices of veterans of World War II and the Vietnam and Korean Wars. During visits to the museums of the Smithsonian Institution, the touring Tennesseans saw natural, historical and artistic treasures. Other fun stops included historic homes of former presidents — George Washington's Mount Vernon and Jefferson's Monticello — as well as Madame Tussauds Wax Museum, the Hard Rock Cafe and a boat cruise down the Potomac River. Among other Youth Tour highlights were a visit to Arlington National Cemetery where the group laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns and a stirring Sunset Parade performance by the U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps and Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon.

The group was welcomed to the U.S. Capitol by Sens. Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker, and Rep. Marsha Blackburn spent time with her young constituents from MLEC, posing for photos and answering their questions.

"Our commitment to community is what sets cooperatives apart from other businesses," said MLEC President and CEO Keith Carnahan, who also participated in the trip. "The Washington Youth Tour is one way we show area youth that MLEC is more than their electricity provider. We genuinely care about the prosperity of our communities, and that includes providing special opportunities for these exceptional students and preparing them for future success."



# Ways to Save with Wagner

## Air conditioners

**C**ooling a home on hot, humid days can be an energy-intensive process—in fact, cooling generally becomes the largest energy expense homeowners face during the summer. A room air conditioner may seem like an easy-to-install, low-cost way to add comfort, but it's easy to waste energy and money in the process if you're not careful.

Costing between \$100 and \$1,000, room air conditioners can be purchased at home improvement centers, big box retailers — even yard sales and flea markets. They tend to last a long time with minimal maintenance, so selecting the right model can save significant amounts of energy.

Room air conditioners rated by ENERGY STAR, a program run by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Department of Energy, deliver the same or better performance and use 10 percent less energy on average than comparable models. National appliance standards require room air conditioners to have a minimum energy efficiency ratio (EER) of 8.0 or greater. The higher the EER, the more efficient the unit.

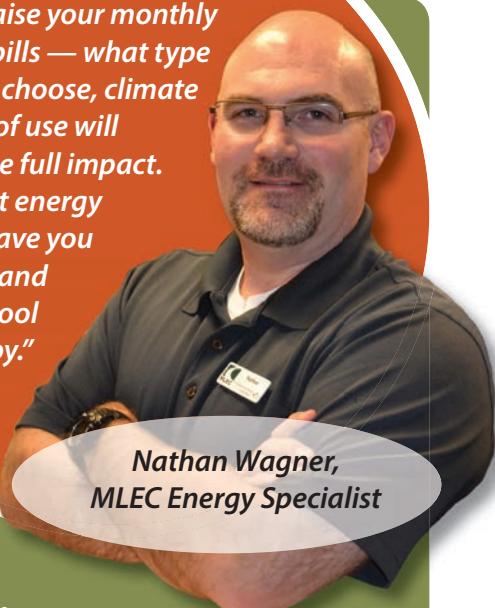
Nationally, an average consumer saves approximately 76 kilowatt-hours per year — about \$8 — with an ENERGY STAR-rated room air conditioner. Residents in hot and humid states could save up to \$30 annually. So over the life of the appliance, a consumer could save between \$50 and \$250, depending on the model and climate.

Consumers should look for room air conditioners that have timers and programmable thermostats. These features offer better temperature control, allowing users to cool spaces according to their preferences.

Room air conditioners come in a variety of sizes. Many people buy the largest one they can afford, assuming more power is better. While that may be true in racing, it's not necessarily the case with an air conditioner. A unit too large will cool a room too quickly to properly remove humidity, leaving the space feeling cool but also wet and clammy.

Most room air conditioner purchases are “impulse buys” — bought during hot weather by consumers who have conducted little research. Think before you buy!

*“Running the air conditioner will raise your monthly electric bills — what type of A/C you choose, climate and length of use will determine the full impact. Making smart energy choices will save you some green and leave you cool and happy.”*



**Nathan Wagner,  
MLEC Energy Specialist**

### Before you buy

Before buying a room air conditioner, make some easy and inexpensive energy-saving improvements in your home. Any of these will maximize the cooling power of your air conditioner.

- Caulk and weather strip around doors and windows
- Add insulation to attics and exposed walls
- Move furniture and other obstacles away from room air conditioners
- Close blinds and curtains during the day

### MLEC Energy Tip by Annie Villarreal



Annie is Humphreys County's K-2 first-place winner from MLEC's #MLECEnergySaver poster contest that took place this past fall. \*Correction for the name on the June MLEC Energy Tip: The poster featured was by Jailynn Bates, K-2 first-place poster winner from Perry County. MLEC apologizes for the mistake.

# Stay connected with Co-op Connections!

**M**embership has its privileges. As a member of Meriwether Lewis Electric Cooperative, you get discounts on products and services from participating local and national businesses. The Co-op Connections MLEC Membership Card is absolutely free.

Use the card to support local business owners in your neighborhood whether you're spending on dining, shopping or automotive needs. And don't forget that there are big savings when you shop online! You can also sign up for Cash Back Mall and, you guessed it, earn cash back on

all your purchases while shopping at more than 1,000 online retailers. You're able to print coupons and shop for your groceries online; you can also save on medical needs such as 10 percent to 85 percent on prescriptions. Other discount offers include eye care (such as exams, glasses and contacts), dental care (such as cleanings, crowns, etc.), chiropractic visits, lab tests and hearing aids.

Here is a list of the local participating businesses. For a complete list of their offered discounts as well as others, please see the Co-op Connections page at [mlec.com](http://mlec.com).

**Breece's Cafe**

**Four Season's Outdoor & Sports**

**Hickman Veterinary Hospital**

**Life Source of Centerville**

**Owen's Corner Mart**

**Papa KayJoe's BBQ**

**Remember When**

**Town Crier Gift Shop**

**War Ink Graphics**

**Buffalo River Services Inc.**

**General Assembly Academy/  
Early Learning Center**

**High Forest Health Group**

**Hohenwald Animal Hospital**

**Janet's Memories**

**Jesse's Locksmith Shop**

**Olive Branch Natural Soap Company**

**Roden Electrical Heating and Air Conditioning LLC**

**Vince's Heating and Cooling**

**B&H Dairy Bar**

**Buffalo River Ceramics**

**Butterfly Garden**

**Hens & Hogs BBQ**

**Jones Cedar Mill**

**All Occasion Printing**

**David's Place Family Restaurant**

**Jen's Steak and Seafood**

**SkyWay Lanes & Pizza**

**Waverly Cafe**

**Accents by Bonnie**

**"D" Butler's Air Duct Cleaning Service**

**Total HVAC**

*If you're a business owner and would like to be part of this exciting program or you frequent a business you would like to refer, email [memori.depriest@mlec.com](mailto:memori.depriest@mlec.com).*



**PLEASE NOTE:** Discounts are NOT insurance and are NOT intended as a substitute for insurance. The discount is only available at participating providers.

# POSTERS

**It's time for MLEC's annual poster contest!**

**Poster Title:** #MLECEverydaySafe

**Theme:** Illustrate an electrical safety tip.

## Contest Rules

- *Size - One-half of a full-size piece of poster board turned so it's wider than tall*
- *The words "#MLECEverydaySafe" must be present on the poster.*
- *If materials are applied, the poster cannot be more than 2 inches thick when laid flat.*
- *A completed identification tag must be taped or glued to the back right-side corner. If information tag is missing or incomplete, the poster will not be judged. (NO EXCEPTIONS.)*

## PRIZES!

*Each county winner (notified by mail) in two grade divisions (K-2 and 3-5) will receive a certificate and the following:*

**First Place — \$25 and a new bicycle**

**Second Place — \$25**

**Third Place — \$20**

**Honorable Mention Winners — \$10**

*Additionally, each first-place winner will be entered in the MLEC service area (five counties) contest. A single winner will be chosen to receive a \$100 gift card!*

Your poster must be turned in at the school office or directly to MLEC on or before closing on Tuesday, Sept. 13. None will be accepted after the deadline.

## Questions?

See [www.mlec.com](http://www.mlec.com) or contact

Vanessa Clayborn at 931-729-7232 or  
[vanessa.clayborn@mlec.com](mailto:vanessa.clayborn@mlec.com).

# PROGRAMS

M eriwether Lewis Electric Cooperative is a proud supporter of its area schools and offers programs for all ages to learn and engage with professionals in the energy industry. MLEC sponsors many activities in Hickman, Houston, Humphreys, Lewis, and Perry counties. Some of the most popular with teachers include:

## Electric Junction

This live demonstration shows how safety around electricity is a must, how electrical accidents happen and how they can be prevented.

## Louie the Lightning Bug

Louie is a jazz-singing lightning bug who teaches elementary school kids how to "Play It Safe Around Electricity." His video covers topics like staying away from downed power lines and not overloading electrical outlets.



## 4-H Electric Camp

The 4-H Electric Camp is open to students in sixth and seventh grades. MLEC and other electric cooperatives provide instructors for the four-day camp at UT Knoxville campus. Students get hands-on learning experience about electricity with activities such as building a working meter lamp, operating an electric vehicle and more!

## Tours at MLEC

School groups are welcome to visit! Let us know when you would like to come, and we will gladly schedule a tour and presentation, complete with prizes for the students.

## Adopt-A-School Grants

A grant of \$1,000 is available in each county served by MLEC each school year. The program helps teachers fund special projects, purchase room supplies and more! Applications (available from MLEC) are due Wednesday, Nov. 16, 2016.

*Just email [power@mlec.com](mailto:power@mlec.com) to learn more.*

## Meriwether Lewis Electric Cooperative

MLEC is member-owned and prides itself in providing safe, low-cost, reliable electricity. We are also committed to improving the quality of life in the communities we serve and pairing innovation and technology to meet the evolving needs of our members.



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Apply. Subject to  
Availability

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and Regional Sports

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August 2016

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# THE TENNESSEE MAGAZINE



## Washington Youth Tour

Glassblowers  
Turn Up the Heat

History for Kids:  
TVA Deeds Land to Cherokee

Honeydew-licious  
Recipes for Summer

## Join us for MTEMC's annual meeting

**M**iddle Tennessee Electric's 80th Annual Meeting of Members is set for Saturday, Aug. 27, at the Embassy Suites Murfreesboro Hotel and Conference Center, with registration opening at 7:30 a.m.

The conference center is located near Interstate 24, and the entrance to the meeting is on the northeast side of the building. (See the map below.)

The 2016 Nominating Committee met in June and nominated incumbents Gloria O'Steen, District 1C (Williamson, with parts of Cheatham, Davidson, Hickman, Marshall and Maury Counties); Mike Woods, District 2B (Rutherford County); and Charlie Bowman, District 3 (Cannon, with parts of Coffee and Warren Counties), for vacancies on the board of directors.

(See the candidates' profiles on page 21.)

Since no director candidate petitions were submitted prior to the deadline, there will be no contested elections this year. That means there will be no voting by machine in our offices the week prior to the meeting or at the meeting itself. Instead, a voice vote at the meeting will confirm the candidates.

This procedure is covered in the MTEMC bylaws, Article II, Section 5. Once the business portion of the meeting, at which the past year's financial statements will be reviewed, has taken place, the candidates will be voted in.



Chris Jones  
President,  
Middle Tennessee  
Electric  
Membership  
Corporation

In addition to the business meeting, members who attend can participate in a free health fair and register to win a 2006 Chevy Malibu that is being retired from the MTEMC fleet of vehicles.

Members who are interested in registering for the grand prize or any other prizes available must do so before 10 a.m., and you must be present to win.

I encourage you to come out to the 80th Annual Meeting of Members to hear about the great things your member-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperative has been doing and what is in store for the future.

I look forward to seeing you there.



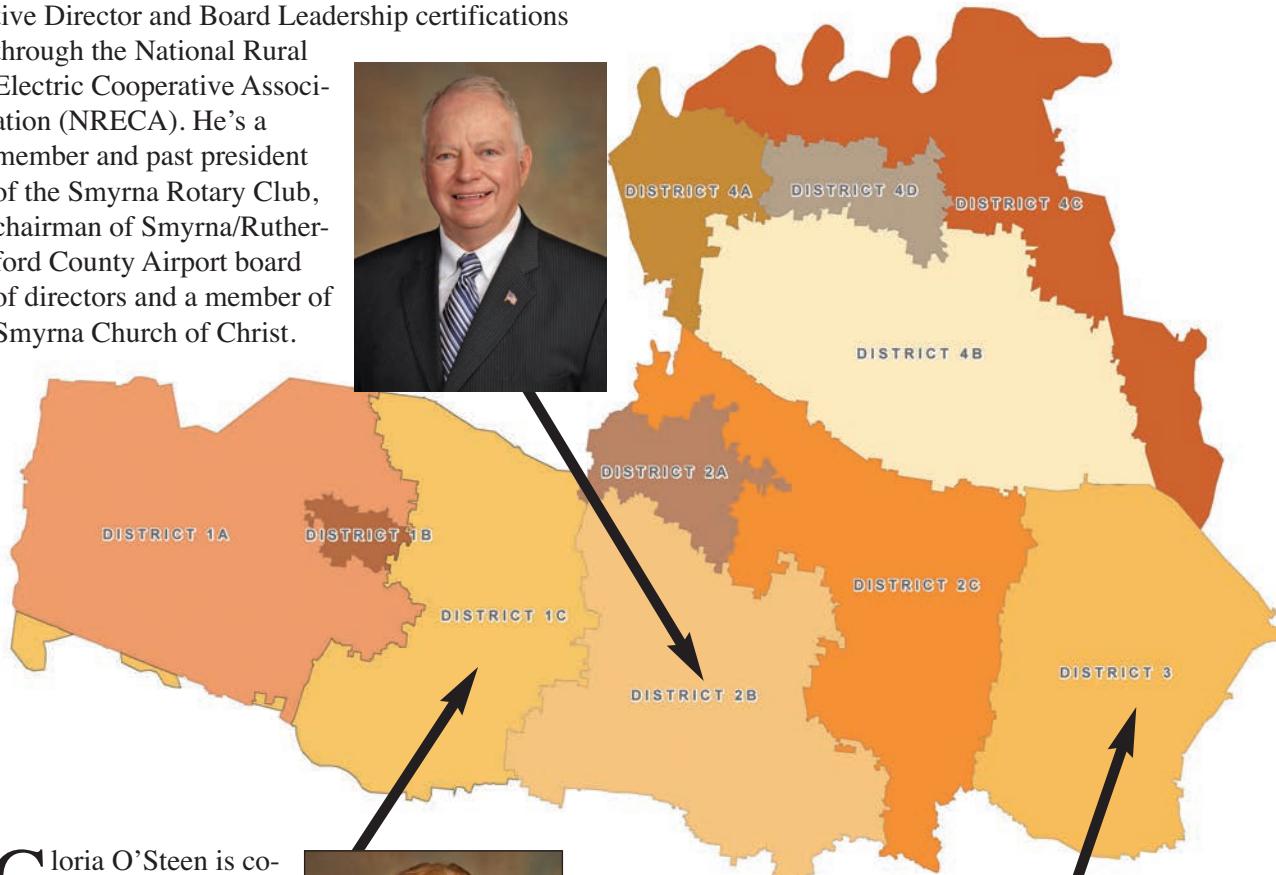
## Directions to the Meeting

**Embassy Suites Murfreesboro Hotel and Conference Center** is located at the corner of Medical Center Parkway and Conference Center Boulevard next to The Avenue shopping center and is just off Interstate 24's Exit 76. Make sure to enter on the northeast side of the facility.

# Board of directors candidates

## — For the 2016-2019 term —

Mike Woods, a property manager, is a 50-year member of MTEMC. He lives in Smyrna with his wife, Jackie. He has been a member of the MTEMC board for 15 years, currently serving as chairman. He holds both his Credentialled Cooperative Director and Board Leadership certifications through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). He's a member and past president of the Smyrna Rotary Club, chairman of Smyrna/Rutherford County Airport board of directors and a member of Smyrna Church of Christ.



Gloria O'Steen is co-owner of Agape Angus Farm and American Professional Search. A 38-year member of MTEMC, she lives in College Grove with her husband, Ray. O'Steen has served on the MTEMC board of directors since 2001 and has earned both the NRECA Credentialled Cooperative Director and Board Leadership certifications. She is a 4-H volunteer and member of Arno FCE Club, the Battle of Franklin Trust and Harpeth Lick Cumberland Presbyterian Church.



Charlie Bowman, a fence contractor and farmer, is a 33-year MTEMC member who has served on the board of directors for 18 years. He lives in Bradyville with his wife, Cynthia, and two children, Christopher and Sara. He holds both his Credentialled Cooperative Director and Board Leadership certifications through NRECA. He's also president of Mid-State Livestock Producers, member of the Cannon County Cattlemen's Association, president of Cannon County Young Farmers and Homemakers, vice chairman of Rutherford Farmers Co-op and a member of Woodbury Church of Christ.

# MTEMC, students head to Washington

## Co-op sponsors 14 local high school seniors on Youth Tour

**M**iddle Tennessee Electric sent 14 high school seniors to Washington, D.C., to participate in the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) Washington Youth Tour.

The annual tour provides some of the nation's best and brightest high school students the opportunity to meet with their local elected officials on Capitol Hill, train in leadership and form a peer network with students from across the United States. This year, 1,700 students participated in the tour.

"These 14 students are winners of this year's writing contest," said MTEMC Community Relations Coordinator Cathy Mitchell. "This trip allows the students to learn and experience so much about our nation's government and see the sights of Washington, D.C."

This year, Elizabeth Overcast, Jared Nesbitt, Maddox Burgess, Madison Flannery, Jody Williams, Emily Joyner, Grayson Burke,

Hannah Erickson, Julia Bolin, Alexis Seilkop, Grace Mathews, Tatiana Rosenberg, Brooklynn Woodall and Travis Marlow were added to the list of nearly 50,000 previous Youth Tour visitors.

"Young Americans given the opportunity to come to Washington, D.C., by their electric cooperatives experience a life-changing event," said NRECA Interim CEO Jeffrey Connor. "They talk to their elected officials in person, connect to our nation's rich history and have a hands-on experience with democracy. Youth Tour enriches their understanding of the political process and the vital importance of direct engagement. As a result, they return to their communities with a



*Loaded on the bus, the 2016 Washington Youth Tour participants and chaperones from Middle Tennessee Electric embark on the adventure of a lifetime.*

deeper commitment to the communities they represent."

Previous Youth Tour participants have become university presidents, CEOs of Fortune 500 companies and members of Congress.

See more photos of the 2016 Washington Youth Tour on page 23.

## 2017 Nominating Committee candidates announced

**M**iddle Tennessee Electric's Nominating Committee is selected by members at the annual meeting. It is the committee's job to nominate candidates for open board of directors positions. Committee members are nominated by petition requiring five member signatures no fewer than 60 days prior to the annual meeting. Having met the qualifications described in Article III, Section 3, Nominations, of MTEMC's bylaws, the following have requested by petition that their names appear on the

ballot at this year's annual meeting for election to the 2017 Nominating Committee:

**DISTRICT 1:**

W.J. (Joey) Davis  
Donald Lampley  
Juanita Patton

**DISTRICT 2:**

Thomas E. (Teb) Batey II  
Jamey Faulkner  
Robert Mullins

**DISTRICT 3:**

Jeanne Melton

**DISTRICT 4:**

Ken Howell  
Hilton A. Mires  
Quintin Smith



*The 2016 Nominating Committee is, from left, Quintin Smith, Juanita Paton, Teb Batey, Jeanne Melton, Jamey Faulkner and Robert Mullins. Not pictured: W.J. (Joey) Davis, Donald Lampley, Lori North, Ken Howell, Hilton A. Mires and John R. Woodroof.*

# A photo tour of Washington, D.C.



On a tour of monuments and memorials in the nation's capital, Youth Tour delegates visit the one dedicated to President Franklin D. Roosevelt, whose New Deal was the foundation of electric cooperatives.



Members of the 2016 Washington Youth Tour from Middle Tennessee Electric stand next to "Graft", a Roxy Paine sculpture in the National Gallery of Art's Sculpture Garden.



While Youth Tour is about learning, students spend some time having fun as well — here at a statue of Albert Einstein. Pondering the tour, the future, or the Theory of Relativity, only the students will know.



ABOVE: Among the stops on the tour is Mount Vernon, where tour participants saw the home and tomb of George Washington.



LEFT: Students visit with a Marine Corps guard at the Sunset Parade held on the grounds of the Iwo Jima Memorial.

# MTEMC linemen compete in 2016 rodeo

Eleven linemen from Middle Tennessee Electric Membership Corporation participated in the 2016 Tennessee Valley Lineman Rodeo June 10-11 at Paris Landing State Park. The annual event draws teams from utilities across the Tennessee Valley to compete in a variety of events.

This year, Bobby Buttrey, Danny Crawford, Chris Gossett, James Hazelwood, Brad Kincaid, Nathan Neal, Rusty George, Jeff Pulley, Jonathan Fitzpatrick, Jimmy Grant and B.J. Bobo represented MTEMC.

"Linemen work very hard every day, building and repairing lines, ensuring the overall reliability of the electrical grid," said MTEMC President Chris Jones. "They stand at the ready to respond to outages caused by storms, accidents or anything else that may knock out the



Members of the 2016 MTEMC Lineman Rodeo team are, from left, Brad Kincaid, Danny Crawford, Bobby Buttrey, Jimmy Grant, James Hazelwood, Nathan Neal, Rusty George, B.J. Bobo, Johnathan Fitzpatrick, Jeff Pulley and Keith Davenport. Chris Gossett is not pictured.

power. They are the ones who, through their tireless efforts, help ensure system reliability of member-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives."

Team MTEMC brought home 10 awards, including the individual journeyman overall title for Danny Crawford.

In the lineman events, Team MTEMC captured these awards:

**Danny Crawford** — Individual Journeyman Overall, first place; Fuse Replacement and Dual Voltage Transformer Changeout, second; Transformer Arrestor Changeout, third

**Nathan Neal** — Transformer Arrestor Changeout, second

**Chris Gossett** — Hurtman Rescue, second

Team MTEMC also placed in apprentice events:

**Brad Kincaid** — Pole Top Pin Insulator Changeout, first

**Jimmy Grant** — Hurtman Rescue, second

**Jonathan Fitzpatrick** — Hurtman Rescue and Pole Top Pin Insulator Changeout, third

More information on the 2016 rodeo can be found at [www.tnrodeo.com](http://www.tnrodeo.com).



MTEMC Apprentice Lineman Jimmy Grant competes in the 2016 Tennessee Valley Lineman Rodeo at Paris Landing in June.

Remember to sign back up to make a difference!

Visit  
[www.SharingChange.org](http://www.SharingChange.org)  
today!



## JUNE GRANTS

### Area 16 Special Olympics

Rutherford — \$3,000

### American Legion Post 279

Cannon — \$2,700

### Center for the Arts

Rutherford — \$3,500

### Williamson County Literacy Council

Williamson — \$10,000

### Williamson County Cultural Arts Commission

Williamson — \$5,000

### The Gear Foundation

Williamson — \$10,000

### Wilson County Shrine Club

Wilson — \$800

### Leadership Wilson

Wilson — \$7,542.10

## TOTAL GRANTS:

**\$42,542.10**

## SharingChange Spotlight



### Center for the Arts

Performers rehearse a production of "Annie, Jr." at Center Stage Academy, an after-school and summer theater arts training program in which children ages 5 through 18 are inspired to love the arts.

**S**haringChange is a foundation created by Middle Tennessee Electric'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 \$8 million to more than 550 organizations in our communities. For more information, visit our website at [www.SharingChange.org](http://www.SharingChange.org).

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

## MAY GRANTS BY COUNTY

### WILLIAMSON

**\$25,000**

Beginning balance ..... \$51,951.43  
Incoming ..... \$33,292.90  
Funds available ..... \$85,244.33  
Ending balance\* ..... \$60,244.33

### WILSON

**\$8,342.10**

Beginning balance ..... \$149,538.02  
Incoming ..... \$21,241.31  
Funds available ..... \$170,779.33  
Ending balance\* ..... \$162,437.23

### RUTHERFORD

**\$6,500**

Beginning balance ..... \$48,621.54  
Incoming ..... \$24,459.46  
Funds available ..... \$73,081.00  
Ending balance\* ..... \$66,581.00

### CANNON

**\$2,700**

Beginning balance ..... \$6,542.18  
Incoming ..... \$2,595.89  
Funds available ..... \$9,138.07  
Ending balance\* ..... \$6,438.07



\* 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  
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## 550+

OVER 550 LOCAL  
ORGANIZATIONS HAVE  
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All offers require credit qualification, 24-month commitment with early termination fee and eAutopay.

All calls with InfinityDISH are monitored and recorded for quality assurance and training purposes. **Qualification:** Advertised price requires credit qualification and eAutoPay. Upfront activation and/or receiver upgrade fees may apply based on credit qualification. Offer ends 8/03/16. **2-Year Commitment:** Early termination fee of \$20/mo. remaining applies if you cancel early. **Included in 2-year price guarantee:** \$49.99 advertised price; America's Top 120 Plus programming package, Local channels and Regional Sports Networks (where available), and monthly 1st receiver and HD service fees. **Included in 2-year price guarantee for additional cost:** Programming package upgrades (\$64.99 for AT200, \$74.99 for AT250), monthly fees for additional receivers (\$7 per additional TV, higher fees may apply for advanced receivers), and monthly DVR service fees (\$10). **NOT included in 2-year price guarantee or \$49.99 advertised price (and subject to change):** Taxes & surcharges, add-on programming (including premium channels), Protection Plan, and transactional fees. **Premium Channels:** Subject to credit qualification. After 3 mos., you will be billed \$60/mo. for HBO, Cinemax, Showtime, Starz and DISH Movie Pack unless you call to cancel. **Other:** All packages, programming, features, and functionality are subject to change without notice. After 6 mos., you will be billed \$8/mo. for Protection Plan unless you call to cancel. For business customers, additional monthly fees may apply. Free standard professional installation only. All rights reserved. HBO®, Cinemax® and related channels and service marks are the property of Home Box Office, Inc. SHOWTIME is a registered trademark of Showtime Networks Inc., a CBS Company. STARZ and related channels and service marks are property of Starz Entertainment, LLC. Visa® gift card must be requested through your DISH Representative at time of purchase. \$50 Visa® gift card requires activation and \$2.95 shipping and handling fee. You will receive a claim voucher within 3-4 weeks and the voucher must be returned within 30 days. Your Visa® gift card will arrive in approximately 6-8 weeks. InfinityDISH charges a one-time \$49.99 non-refundable processing fee which is subject to change at any time without notice. Indiana C.P.D. Reg. No. T.S.R1903.

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AUTHORIZED RETAILER

# TENNESSEE MAGAZINE

THE



## Official Annual Membership Meeting Notice



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



*Grand prize vehicle is a used 2006 Chevy Malibu,  
similar to the one pictured above, from the MTEMC fleet.*

*Winner MUST be present to win.*

Saturday, Aug. 27, 2016  
Embassy Suites Murfreesboro  
Hotel and Conference Center  
— Schedule of events on reverse —

## MTEMC 80th Annual Meeting **Official Registration Card**

Detach and bring this card with you  
to the 80th Annual Membership Meeting  
of Middle Tennessee Electric Membership Corporation.

*Members must register before 10 a.m.  
to be eligible for the grand prize,  
and you must be present to win.*

# 80th Annual Membership Meeting

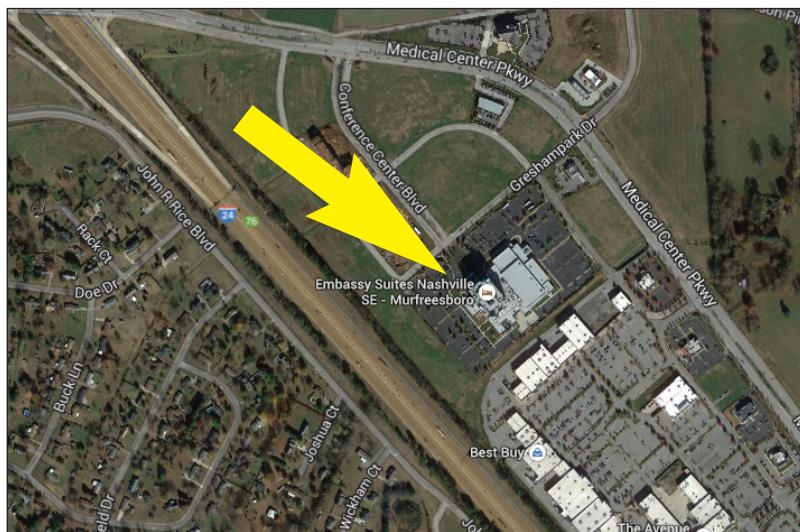
## Tentative Schedule of Events

7:30 a.m.	Registration, Health Screenings and Artist Palette Exhibition Open
9:00 a.m.	The National Anthem <i>Taylor Bennett</i>
9:05 a.m.	Business Meeting <i>Mike Woods, Chairman, MTEMC Board</i>
9:15 a.m.	Board and Staff Reports
9:30 a.m.	Special Presentations
9:45 a.m.	Patriotic Medley <i>Blackman High School Choir</i>
10:00 a.m.	Registration for Prizes Closes
10:00 a.m.	Recognition of MTEMC Writing Contest and SharingChange Scholarship Winners <i>Cathy Mitchell, Community Relations Coordinator</i>
10:10 a.m.	Blackman High School Choir Performance
10:25 a.m.	Final Prize Drawing
10:30 a.m.	Meeting Adjourned

\*All times are approximate and subject to change

### Directions to the Meeting

**Embassy Suites Murfreesboro Hotel and Conference Center** is located at the corner of Medical Center Parkway and Conference Center Boulevard next to The Avenue shopping center and is just off Interstate 24's Exit 76. Make sure to enter on the left side of the facility.



Aug. 1, 2016

Dear Co-op Member,

The annual meeting of the members of Middle Tennessee Electric Membership Corporation will be Saturday, Aug. 27, 2016, at Embassy Suites Murfreesboro Hotel and Conference Center on Medical Center Parkway in Murfreesboro with the business session beginning at 9 a.m. Action is to be taken on the following:

1. Reports of officers, directors and committees
2. Election of three directors for three-year terms
3. Election of 10 Nominating Committee members for one-year terms

In connection with the election of directors, these candidates have been nominated by the 2016 Nominating Committee:

District 1C:

(Williamson, with parts of Cheatham, Davidson, Hickman, Marshall and Maury counties)

Gloria O'Steen

District 2B:

(Rutherford County)

Mike Woods

District 3:

(Cannon, with parts of Coffee and Warren counties)

Charlie Bowman

No petitions were received as of the deadline of 60 days prior to the deadline of the annual meeting. Therefore, as candidates have no opposition, the election of unopposed candidates shall be decided upon by a voice vote of the membership at the annual meeting, as set out in the MTEMC bylaws, Article II, Section 5. A copy of the MTEMC bylaws is available at all offices of Middle Tennessee Electric or can be accessed at [www.mtemc.com](http://www.mtemc.com).

Steve Seger  
Secretary-Treasurer

\*All members with special needs planning to attend should contact MTEMC at 615-494-1545 prior to the meeting date.

# AMY IS DOING THE EASIEST GOOD THING SHE WILL EVER DO.

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## 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](http://SharingChange.org)





## You have a voice at Middle Tennessee Electric.

Learn more about your member-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperative at our annual meeting or at [www.mtemc.com](http://www.mtemc.com).



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



August 2016

[www.tnmagazine.org](http://www.tnmagazine.org)

# THE TENNESSEE MAGAZINE



## Washington Youth Tour

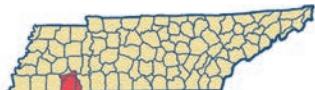
Glassblowers  
Turn Up the Heat

**History for Kids:**  
TVA Deeds Land to Cherokee

Honeydew-licious  
Recipes for Summer



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in all of McNairy County  
and portions of Chester,  
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counties in Tennessee  
and Alcorn and  
Tishomingo  
counties in Mississippi*



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[www.pickwickec.com](http://www.pickwickec.com)

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

## PEC annual meeting set for Sept. 8

The 2016 Annual Membership Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 8, at McNairy Central High School. The annual meeting is an excellent opportunity for our employees to thank our members for their business and support, exchange information and conduct the business of the cooperative.

This annual event can be enjoyed by the entire family. It will kick off at 4:30 p.m. with free hot dogs and soft drinks, face-painting and balloon characters for the kids, dis-

plays and entertainment. Registration is open from 4:30 p.m. to 7. Each of the first 400 members to register will receive a folding step stool bearing the PEC logo. The first order of business will start at 7 p.m.

The Southern Harmony Quartet will provide the entertainment again this year, starting at 5 p.m.

In addition, a

number of nice door prizes will be given away to our registered members.

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us as we celebrate 81 years of service to our community.



**John Bowers**

*President,  
Pickwick Electric  
Cooperative*

*jbowers@pickwick-electric.com*

## Holiday Closing

*The PEC office will be closed on  
Monday, Sept. 5, to observe Labor Day.*

# Still burning old lightbulbs? Make the switch

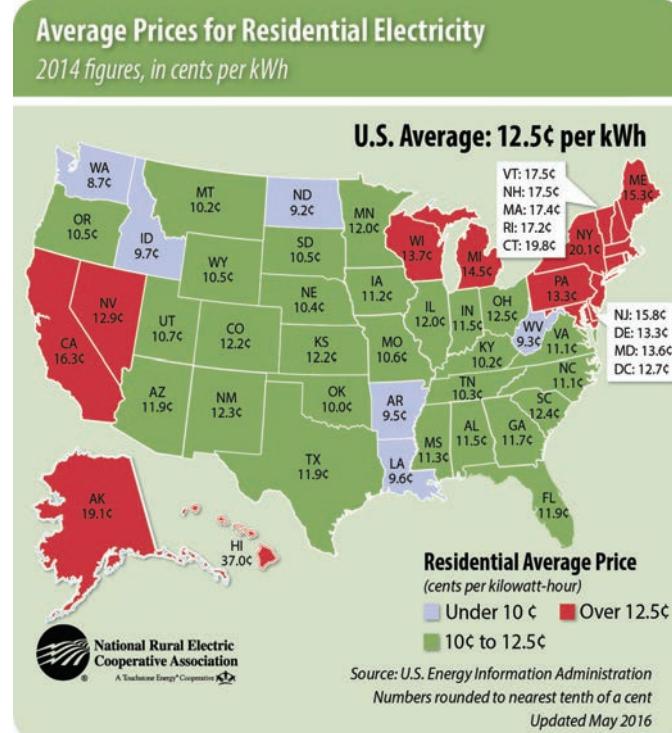
If your home's lamps and light fixtures are still housing old-fashioned incandescent lightbulbs, it's time to switch to something that's far more energy-efficient. Twisty, compact fluorescent light bulbs — CFLs — are better. But LED bulbs are even more energy-efficient and last way longer.

Yes, LEDs cost more than other kinds of light bulbs — sometimes more than twice as much. But they use about 80 percent less energy than your out-of-date incandescents. CFLs use about 70 percent less energy than the old bulbs.

Over time, though, LEDs shine the brightest of the three when it comes to energy use and cost savings. The average lifespan of an LED bulb is 25,000 hours, compared with 1,200 hours for a traditional bulb and 8,000 for a CFL. And at about 12.5 cents per kilowatt-hour — the national average, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration — you'll pay \$38 to operate the LED bulb for 23 years.

If the incandescent or CFL bulb lasted 23 years — it won't — you would pay \$201 or \$48, respectively.

So make the switch today for a couple of decades — on average — of energy savings.



## Cool summer evenings call for fans, not A/C

Even the hottest summer gives us a break occasionally, sending pleasant temperatures and gentle breezes our way, especially in the evenings. When it's not too hot outside, you can cool your house more economically with fans than by running your central or window air conditioner.

Placing a fan in a window circulates the air and freshens the home by exhausting stale air. It can remove odors from smoking and cooking that

tend to linger in the air when all the windows are closed.

A ceiling fan can be used whether the air conditioning is on or off. During the summer, the blades send a slight breeze down into the room, making anyone in that room feel more comfortable.

Fans don't actually cool the house off. Instead, they make the rooms where they are located feel cooler because they move the air around. So turn them off when you leave the room.

# Washington Youth Tour



*Exploring the home and grounds of Thomas Jefferson's Monticello are, from left, Stacy Jones, Beverly Lambert, Chad Edwards, John Sims, David Sims, Demie Milford, Dreyton Barnes and Parker Bedwell.*

## *Developing leadership skills for our future members*

Nearly 140 high school seniors from across Tennessee have returned from a weeklong “experience of a lifetime” courtesy of their local electric cooperatives. Dreyton Barnes and Demie Milford from Adamsville Jr/Sr High School and Parker Bedwell, Chad Edwards and John Sims from McNairy Central High School as well as Stacy Jones, MCHS teacher, were sponsored by Pickwick Electric Cooperative to participate in the 2016 Washington Youth Tour June 10-16.

The popular event included sightseeing, visits with elected officials and lots of fun meeting peers from across Tennessee and the nation. Delegates earned their spots on the Youth Tour for writing winning short stories titled “Electric Cooperatives: Powering Every-

day Life.” In their winning entries, the talented young writers described how member-owned, nonprofit electric co-ops strengthen their local communities and improve lives across their service areas while providing safe, reliable, affordable energy.

“We take great pride in rewarding the best and brightest from our service area,” said Beverly Lambert, PEC human resources/communications coordinator, as a chaperone on this year’s trip. “By recognizing their accomplishments through programs like the Washington Youth Tour, we show these leaders of tomorrow that their hometown electric co-op is more than a utility provider; Pickwick Electric Cooperative is an active member of the community and fully invested in its prosperity.”

For more than 50 years, the Washington Youth Tour has taken students from electric co-op service areas to our nation's capital to learn more about our country and the cooperative business model. The annual event is coordinated by Pickwick Electric Cooperative, the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association and National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). This year's Youth Tour involved 1,700 students from 43 states.

"Young Americans given the opportunity to come to Washington, D.C., by their electric cooperatives experience a life-changing event," said NRECA Interim CEO Jeffrey Connor. "They talk to their elected officials in person, connect to our nation's rich history and have a hands-on experience with democracy. Youth Tour enriches their understanding of the political process and the vital importance of direct engagement. As a result, they return to their communities with a deeper commitment to the communities they represent."

On their 2016 visit, Tennessee's Youth Tour delegates saw the White House and memorials to past presidents Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Franklin Delano Roosevelt as well as monuments honoring the sacrifices of veterans of World War II and the Vietnam and Korean Wars. During visits to the museums of the Smithsonian Institution, the touring Tennesseans saw and experienced natural, historical and artistic treasures. Other fun stops included historic



George Washington's Mt. Vernon

homes of former presidents — George Washington's Mount Vernon and Jefferson's Monticello — as well as Madame Tussauds Wax Museum, the Hard Rock Cafe and a boat cruise down the Potomac River. Among other Youth Tour highlights were a solemn and sobering visit to Arlington National Cemetery where the group laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns and a stirring Sunset Parade performance by the U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps and Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon.

The group was welcomed to the U.S. Capitol by Sens. Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker, and Rep. Marsha Blackburn spent time with her young constituents from PEC, posing for photos and answering their questions.

"Our commitment to community is what sets cooperatives apart from other businesses," said PEC President John Bowers. "The Washington Youth Tour is one way we show the youth of our service area that Pickwick Electric Cooperative is more than their electricity provider. We genuinely care about the prosperity of our communities, and that includes providing special opportunities for these exceptional students and preparing them for future success."



*"The Washington Youth Tour was a life-changing adventure, making friends and creating memories along the way."*

— Parker Bedwell, McNairy Central High School

#### **On the cover:**

*In front of the U.S. Capitol are, from left, front row Stacy Jones, Chad Edwards, Rep. Marsha Blackburn and Parker Bedwell. Back row: Beverly Lambert, Demie Milford, Dreyton Barnes, John Sims and David Sims.*

# Investing in our youth through MCFAE



Eight outstanding McNairy County teachers were recognized at the annual MCFAE Appreciation Breakfast. They are, from left, Shelia Gardner, Mellanie Surratt, Beth Brown, Megan Moore, Katie Brown, Samantha Hall, Andrew Walz and Jessica Plunk. Katie Brown was named the 2016 Teacher of the Year.

**B**oth Pickwick Electric Cooperative and the Tennessee Valley Authority recognize the importance of education in our communities. With continued support of the McNairy County Foundation for Academic Excellence (MCFAE) through teacher grants, we feel that we are effectively contributing to the education of our future members.

MCFAE is a private, nonprofit charitable corporation that encourages local businesses and individuals to fund special projects and provides positive messages about the value of community support for education.

Each year, the foundation awards \$500 grants to teachers who develop innovative programs and concepts to improve the educational opportunities available for the leaders of tomorrow.

In addition to the annual teacher grants, the McNairy County Imagination Library/Books from Birth Program is also under the umbrella of MCFAE. Each child in McNairy County from birth to age 5 is eligible to receive a free book each month, mailed directly to his or her home. These are classic children's books, hardcover and age-appropriate. Long-term studies conducted by the Tennessee Department of Education and the Tennessee Board of Regents are revealing that kindergarten teachers can tell a significant difference in readiness to learn if a child has been enrolled in the Books from Birth Program.

One of the highlights of the foundation is sponsorship of the Teacher of the Year awards recognizing eight outstanding teachers in the McNairy County School system. From that group, one is selected as Teacher of the Year.

Katie Brown from Bethel Springs Elementary School was the 2016 recipient.

This year's MCFAE grant recipients, along with grant sponsors and program titles, are listed on the following page.

For more information about the foundation or to make a donation, contact MCFAE Chairman Gene Hebert at 731-645-3315.



MCFAE Chairman Gene Hebert, center, accepts contributions from TVA Customer Service Manager Mike Montgomery, left, and PEC President John Bowers.

<b>Grant Sponsor</b>	<b>Recipient</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Program Title</b>
Jimmie Sue Lambert Memorial <i>sponsored by Pickwick EC</i>	Bonnie Hickman	McNairy Central High School	See the Words; Hear the Words; Read the Sentences
Tennessee Valley Authority	Christy Perkins	Charlotte Boley Education Center	Bouncing and Riding through Our ABC's and 123's
Paul Fisher Oil Company	Mica Rickman	Bethel Springs Elementary	Lose the Baditude
Robert Shackelford and Shackelford Funeral Home	Misty Brown	McNairy Central High School	Now I Get It
Bethel Springs Elementary Teachers Memorial	Shelia McClain	Bethel Springs Elementary	MobyMax-Accelerated Personalized Learning
Selmer Elementary Teachers Memorial	David Duncan	Selmer Elementary	Ready, Ready, Tennessee Ready
Patsy Cain Memorial Grant <i>sponsored by AES teachers</i>	Crystal Austin	Adamsville Elementary	BUILDing Mathematicians
Home Banking Company	Lisa Roten	Ramer Elementary	Are You Attracted to Me?
Home Banking Company	Michelle Bowen	Michie Elementary	Going Live in 3-2-1
BanCorp South	Kayce Howard	Michie Elementary	Hickory Dickory Dock Math Around the Clock
Phillips 66 Spectrum Corporation	Meribeth Carpenter	Ramer Elementary	Nuts for Novels
Bank of McNairy County	Stacy Jones	McNairy Central High School	Beyond the Rhetoric: Writing for College and Career Readiness
Selmer Lions Club	Wendy Bowers	Adamsville Elementary	Fiction VS Nonfiction
Selmer Rotary Club	Katie Austin	Selmer Elementary	All Wrapped Up in a Bar of Chocolate

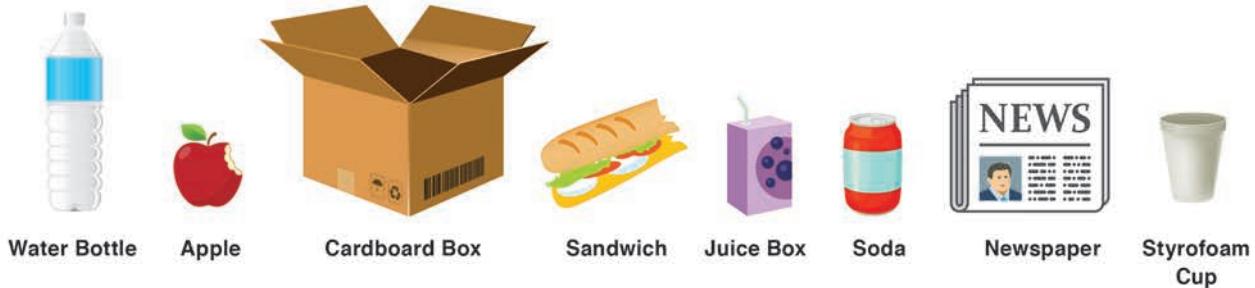
# SORTING THINGS OUT



Recycling is important for the future of our planet! Can you sort the items below into the correct bin? Write the name of the item in the correct category.

RECYCLE

GARBAGE



RECYCLE: Water Bottle, Cardboard Box, Juice Box, Soda Can, Newspaper  
GARBAGE: Apple, Sandwich, Styrofoam Cup

Answer Key:

August 2016

[www.tnmagazine.org](http://www.tnmagazine.org)

# THE TENNESSEE MAGAZINE



## Washington Youth Tour

Glassblowers  
Turn Up the Heat

History for Kids:  
TVA Deeds Land to Cherokee

Honeydew-licious  
Recipes for Summer



**Plateau Electric  
Cooperative**

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

**CEO/General Manager**  
Dave Cross

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

**Oneida Office**  
Phone: 569-8591

**Wartburg Office**  
Phone: 346-3699

**Board of Directors**

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**Tim Freels**, Vice President

**Bill Hall**, Secretary

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**Lee Armstrong**, Scott County

**Brian Boyatt**, Scott County

**Vic Davis**, Morgan County

**Harry Gosnell**, Morgan County

**Steve Lambert**, Scott County

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

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



## AS I SEE IT

*Manager's Viewpoint*

# As the lightbulb burns

There have been a lot of changes since my formative years, including how our indoor lighting has evolved. During the 1960s, my family lived in an older frame house that had simple white porcelain "light fixtures" that left the bulbs exposed. I can remember my dad upgrading those fixtures to the type that had a roughly 1-foot-square glass that diffused the light and made the lighting a bit more pleasing to the eye. Regardless, I can remember being able to see very clearly by the warm glow of those early incandescent bulbs.

When I was 13, my dad moved our family into a new ranch-style home he built himself (he was a carpenter). The new home was all-electric, including one of those newfangled heat pumps, and had modern lighting fixtures that were much more elaborate, required more bulbs and actually put out considerably less light than fixtures in the older house we had just vacated.

Fast-forward to the mid-1990s, and I vividly recall how our industry made such a push toward conversion to compact fluorescent bulbs, or CFLs. These bulbs were a typical giveaway at our annual meetings during the 1990s and into

the 2000s as CFLs were supposed to "use one-fifth to one-third the electric power and last eight to 15 times longer," according to Wikipedia.



Dave Cross  
CEO,  
Plateau Electric  
Cooperative

They may have performed that well for some folks, but I never felt that they lasted much, if any, longer than quality incandescent bulbs. After just a few months of use, the CFLs at our house became very problematic and were generally changed out for new

bulbs due to the CFL lag time in starting up, their tendency to hum and the inability to produce suitable light. And with the obvious substantial difference in purchase price, I just have never been a fan of the CFL bulbs.

Which brings us to today and the rush to adopt LED lighting. Just a few years back, we saw several manufacturers introduce new LED lighting products and then try to convince us to install those products on our system. We installed several different fixtures at our main office for evaluation purposes and came away less than impressed.

Recently, though, I will admit to having been relatively pleased with the few indoor residential bulbs I've purchased thus far. I really like that the LED bulb is pretty much "instant-on" just like the old

standby incandescent bulbs. From my limited experience thus far, I'm also pleased with the color tone of the light output — it just seems more pleasing to the eye than CFLs ever were for me. And, obviously, we all have to be excited that these new bulbs promise to use less electricity, enabling our entire national electric grid to become more efficient.

I read with interest, however, about the American Medical Association's (AMA) warnings regarding new LED street lighting that's been installed in several major U.S. cities. In summary, the AMA is concerned that the light spectrum of many of the recent installations has too much "blue" wavelength, and

not enough "red" and "yellow." We have all seen how some of the newer cars and their LED headlights can cause real eye discomfort if they're too "blue." Apparently, the AMA is concerned that we are rushing into changing the light of our surroundings and that those changes can have real and lasting effects on human health.

Here at PEC, we're evaluating some of the newer commercial outdoor lighting options and monitoring the performance as relayed by other power distributors.

Meanwhile, at home, I still have a decent stash of regular incandescent bulbs. Just in case.

— Dave

## Report from the boardroom

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

**At the March regular board meeting,** members of the Finance Committee reported that they had been working with the management staff on their recommendation to refinance approximately \$4 million of U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service debt through the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation, which would result in savings of \$573,400 in interest over the remaining life of the debt. The board approved the Finance Committee's recommendation. The board discussed the status of the Tennessee Valley Authority's regulatory oversight regarding pole attachment fees with other utilities. The board reviewed quotes for gravel on the new Morgan County pole yard and approved the list of officials and judges to conduct the upcoming directors' election.

**At the April regular board meeting,** the board approved the purchase of a new computer server. Ad Hoc Committee members reported that they

had been working with the management staff on the staff's recommendation for the replacement of the existing sign at the Oneida office due to its age and the lack of replacement parts. The board approved the recommendation of the management staff and the Ad Hoc Committee on the sign replacement. There was discussion regarding the recently announced bankruptcy petition by Pioneer Health, the operator of the local hospital. Engineer Joel McCarrt gave an update on the status of the digitized mapping project.

**At the May regular board meeting,** the board reviewed bids for fencing at the new Morgan County pole yard. CEO Dave Cross discussed the recent PEC annual meeting that had been attended by TVA CEO Bill Johnson. The board reviewed the normal monthly financial reports and heard a review of the cooperative's safety program. An update was also given on the Digitized Mapping Project.

**At a special meeting held on May 23,** the board approved a Memorandum of Understanding with TVA regarding PEC and TVA partnering in maintaining compliance with North American Electric Reliability Corporation Bulk Electric System (BES) regulations.

# PEC sends students on 50th anniversary Youth Tour

Nearly 140 high school seniors from across Tennessee have returned from a weeklong “experience of a lifetime” courtesy of their local electric cooperatives. Taylor Slaven, Cade Botts, Luke Daniel and Jordan Layne were sponsored by Plateau Electric Cooperative to participate in the 2016 Washington Youth Tour June 10-16.

The popular event included sightseeing, visits with elected officials and lots of fun meeting peers from across Tennessee and the nation. Delegates earned their spots on the Youth Tour for writing winning short stories titled “Electric Cooperatives: Powering Everyday Life.” In their winning entries, the talented young writers described how member-owned, nonprofit electric co-ops strengthen their local communities and improve lives across their service areas while providing safe, reliable, affordable energy.

“We take great pride in rewarding the best and brightest from our service area,” said Ryan Keeton, PEC chief financial officer, as a chaperone on this year’s trip. “By recognizing their accomplishments through programs like the Washington Youth Tour, we show these leaders of tomorrow that their hometown electric co-op is more than a utility provider; Plateau Electric Cooperative is an



*ON THE COVER:*  
*In front of the U.S. Capitol are, from left,*  
*Luke Daniel, Cade*  
*Botts, Taylor Slaven,*  
*Jordan Layne and*  
*Ryan Keeton.*



*PEC’s group visits Mount Vernon, home of George Washington. From left are PEC Chief Financial Officer Ryan Keeton, Cade Botts, Taylor Slaven, Jordan Layne and Luke Daniel*



*PEC delegates pause near the Washington Monument while touring the capital city.*

active member of the community and fully invested in its prosperity.”

For more than 50 years, the Washington Youth Tour has taken students from electric co-op service areas to our nation’s capital to learn more about our country and the co-operative business model. The annual event is coordinated by PEC, the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association and National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

(NRECA). This year's Youth Tour involved 1,700 students from 43 states.

"Young Americans given the opportunity to come to Washington, D.C., by their electric cooperatives experience a life-changing event," said NRECA Interim CEO Jeffrey Connor. "They talk to their elected officials in person, connect to our nation's rich history and have a hands-on experience with democracy. Youth Tour enriches their understanding of the political process and the vital importance of direct engagement. As a result, they return to their communities with a deeper commitment to the communities they represent."

On their 2016 visit, Tennessee's Youth Tour delegates saw the White House and memorials to past presidents Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Franklin Delano Roosevelt as well as monuments honoring the sacrifices of veterans of World War II and the Vietnam and Korean Wars. During visits to the museums of the Smithsonian Institution, the touring Tennesseans saw and experienced natural, historical and artistic treasures. Other fun stops included historic homes of former presidents — George



*At left, PEC's Washington Youth Tour group poses in front of the Washington National Cathedral. Above, delegates rest at the U.S. Capitol.*

Washington's Mount Vernon and Jefferson's Monticello — as well as Madame Tussauds Wax Museum, the Hard Rock Cafe and a boat cruise down the Potomac River. Among other Youth Tour highlights were a solemn and sobering visit to Arlington National Cemetery where the group laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns and a stirring Sunset Parade performance by the U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps and Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon.

The group was also welcomed to the U.S. Capitol by Sens. Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker.

"Our commitment to community is what sets cooperatives apart from other businesses," said Plateau Electric Cooperative CEO Dave Cross. "The Washington Youth Tour is one way we show the youth of our service area that PEC is more than their electricity provider. We genuinely care about the prosperity of our communities, and that includes providing special opportunities for these exceptional students and preparing them for future success."

# 'An Electric Homecoming'

By Jordan Layne, Plateau Electric Cooperative Washington Youth Tour Short Story Contest

**I**t was still daylight when I got off the train. It was the spring of 1946, and I had just been discharged from the Navy. In 1938, I had volunteered for the Navy on the day of my 18th birthday because I did not want to spend my life working in the coal mines. Then, the war broke out, and I was sent to fly planes and fight in the Pacific until about two weeks ago, when Japan finally surrendered. Mom had written to me a few times during the war. She said that some of the local farmers were forming an electric cooperative; I was not really sure what that meant, but Mom seemed excited about it. She said that they would be providing the whole county with power, but I did not believe her. I had heard that only big cities would get power because all the businessmen did not think there would be enough profit in supplying power to rural communities.

As I began to walk down the mountain, it started to get dark. So, I hitched a ride with a local farmer for the rest of the ride into town. I asked him how things were in town and the area since I had been gone. He got really excited and said that there would be a big surprise for me when we crossed over the last hill just before town. I knew it was not a parade for the soldiers because almost everyone else had gotten home the week before. I was really curious as to what the surprise might be. When we topped the hill, I could see the whole town lit up with street lights, and I could not believe my eyes. I asked him how this could be. Before I had left, the only lights the town had were oil lamps. He said the new electric cooperative had been founded a year after I left and that it was the reason for the new lights. He said that this was a community-owned and -regulated organization and that anybody who received power from this company had a say in the company. I had seen electric lights in some of the big cities I had been to, and we

even had some on our bases, but I never imagined that my little town would ever have these fancy electric lights.

As we pulled into my driveway, I thanked the man for the ride. When I walked into the house, I was hugged ecstatically by Mom and Dad; they were so happy to see me. Dad was really proud of the single bare lightbulb, which he had installed himself, in the middle of the living room. He said that it was only one but it was much fancier than before I had left. Then, Mom said she had made a special cake for my coming home. She walked over to some weird metal cabinet-like thing, opened the door and pulled out my cake. When she cut me a piece of it and I began to eat it, I noticed it was cold. I asked her how this could be since she had just taken it out of her new metal cabinet. She laughed and said that it was not a cabinet but a newfangled thing called a refrigerator. It also ran off of the new electricity and even kept things cold in the middle of the summer. I told her I knew what a refrigerator was and that we had several on my base but that I still could not believe that we had one in our home. She also said that she had bought a brand-new electric stove and oven and that these had made cooking so much easier on her and would make mine and Dad's lives easier because we would no longer have to chop wood for the stove.

Just then, my little brother came home from basketball practice. After he gave me a hug, I asked how basketball was going and how they could still be practicing at this time of night, given that you cannot see in the gymnasium after dark. He said that even the school and gymnasium had lights in them now. The lights had helped the basketball teams remarkably because now the girls and boys basketball teams did not have to take turns using the gym every other day because of the lack of daylight. The school had



Jordan Layne of Wartburg wrote the top-judged short story from PEC's service area.

even bought a new fancy electronic scoreboard, which made keeping score much easier. He also said that the gym looked so much better because they had covered up those huge windows that made the gym look so ugly. He was also really excited at the fact that he could have his own electric radio in his room since the family now did not have to buy batteries to power two radios.

I could not believe how much better and easier life in my little town had gotten while I was gone. Electricity was a great homecoming present, and it was all thanks to the new local electric cooperative. I was excited to live the rest of my life just to see what else might change. I went to sleep that night dreaming about how great life would be now that my family and whole town had electricity.

## PEC lineman Morgan showcases skills at rodeo

**P**lateau Electric Cooperative would like to recognize Ronnie Morgan for his participation and accomplishments in the 2016 Tennessee Valley Lineman Rodeo

The rodeo is a competition showcasing apprentices, journeymen teams of three and individual and senior linemen in events that recognize and award excellence in safety, skill and knowledge in their field.

Ronnie took part in the Senior classification (ages 45 and up) and placed second in the Senior Pole Top Insulator Change Out category.

Congratulations, Ronnie!



## What's your eScore?

**A**re you looking to make home improvements? If so, before you begin, visit [www.2escore.com](http://www.2escore.com) and find out about potential rebates that may be available from the Tennessee Valley Authority.

The process is simple: Visit the website and schedule an evaluation of your existing home. Once the evaluation is complete, you will receive a score on your home ranging from 0-10, with 10 being the most efficient. Make recommended upgrades, and you may be eligible for the incentives for each improvement.

Contact Jacob Billingsley at Plateau Electric Cooperative at 423-569-8591 for more information.

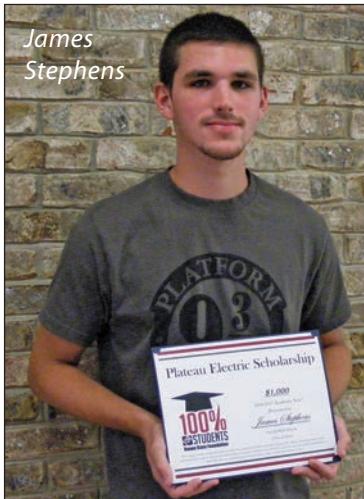


# PEC awards Roane State scholarships

Plateau Electric Cooperative would like to recognize Chelsea Smith, Sunbright High; James Stephens, Oneida High; Breanna Byrge, Scott High; and Matthew Pittman, Central High, each of whom received a scholarship to Roane State Community College (RSCC).

These recipients will be attending RSCC as full-time students beginning in the fall semester of 2016, and each will receive \$1,000 toward books and materials.

The board of directors and employees of PEC send their best wishes to these accomplished students as they begin a new chapter in their lives.



## Cool summer evenings call for fans, not A/C

Even the hottest summer gives us a break occasionally, sending pleasant temperatures and gentle breezes our way, especially in the evenings. When it's not too hot outside, you can cool your house more economically with fans than by running your central or window air conditioner.

Placing a fan in a window circulates the air and freshens the home by exhausting stale air. It can remove odors from smoking and cooking that tend to linger in the air when all the windows are closed.

A ceiling fan can be used whether the air conditioning is on or off. During the summer, the blades send a slight breeze down into the room, making anyone in that room feel more comfortable.

Fans don't actually cool the house off. Instead, they make the rooms where they are located feel cooler because they move the air around. So turn them off when you leave the room.

## Smart window use can regulate indoor comfort

You can use your windows to let cool air into your home and keep hot air out during the summer. Here's how:

- Whenever it cools off at night, turn off the air conditioner and open the windows to let the breezes in while you sleep.
- In the morning, close the windows and the blinds or curtains. That will "trap" the cool air indoors and prevent hot air from getting in as the day heats up.
- Choose window treatments that not only look nice but that save energy. Some choices: Interior blinds made from heat-reflective material can reduce heat gain by 45 percent when you close the slats. And draperies with white plastic backings can reduce heat gain by 33 percent when they're closed.
- If you shade the exterior of your windows with wooden or vinyl blinds, overhangs, awnings, shutters or storm panels, you'll keep the sun from heating up your interior.
- Replacing old, single-pane windows with double-pane models can keep your home more comfortable and shave hundreds of dollars off of your energy bills, according to Energy Star.

August 2016 [www.tnmagazine.org](http://www.tnmagazine.org)

# THE TENNESSEE MAGAZINE



## Washington Youth Tour

Glassblowers  
Turn Up the Heat

History for Kids:  
TVA Deeds Land to Cherokee

Honeydew-licious  
Recipes for Summer

## 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](http://www.pve.coop).

You also can contact us via email:  
[info@pve.coop](mailto:info@pve.coop)

### PVEC Board of Directors

**Roger Ball,** President

**David T. Kindle,** Vice President

**Judith Robertson,** Secretary-Treasurer

**Gary Russell**

**Mikel Sharp**

**Dale McNeil**

**Allen Parkey**

**Michael Shockley**

**Dr. John Short**

## AS I SEE IT

*Manager's Viewpoint*

# PVEC sends local students on 2016 Youth Tour

Early 140 high school seniors from across Tennessee have returned from a weeklong “experience of a lifetime,” courtesy of their local electric cooperatives. Pamela Seal, Shae Johnson, Autumn Trent and Jessica Livesay, as well as Hancock County High School English teacher Brooke Drinnon, were sponsored by Powell Valley Electric Cooperative to participate in the 2016 Washington Youth Tour the week of June 10-16.

The popular event included sightseeing, visits with elected officials and lots of fun meeting peers from across Tennessee and the nation. Delegates earned their spots on the Youth Tour for writing winning short stories titled “Electric Cooperatives: Powering Everyday Life.” In their winning entries, the talented young writers described how member-owned, non-profit electric co-ops strengthen their local communities and improve lives

across their service areas while providing safe, reliable, affordable energy.

“We take great pride in rewarding the best and brightest from our service area,” said PVEC employee Shane Bunch, who served as a chaperone on this year’s trip. “By recognizing their accomplishments through programs like the Washington Youth Tour, we show these leaders of tomorrow that their hometown electric co-op is more than a utility provider; Powell Valley Electric Cooperative is an active member of the community and fully invested in its prosperity.”

For more than 50 years, the Washington Youth Tour has taken students from electric co-op service areas to our nation’s capital to learn more about our country and the cooperative business model. The annual event is coordinated by Powell Valley Electric, the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association and National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). This year’s Youth Tour involved 1,700 students from 43 states.

“Young Americans given the opportunity to come to Washington, D.C., by their electric cooperatives experience a life-changing event,” said NRECA Interim CEO Jeffrey Connor. “They talk to their elected officials in person, connect to our nation’s rich history and have a hands-on experience with democracy.”



*ON THE COVER: In front of the U.S. Capitol are, from left, Shane Bunch, Pamela Jo Seal, Autumn Trent, Jessica Livesay, Shae Johnson and Brooke Drinnon.*

*Powell Valley Electric Cooperative's group visits Monticello, home of Thomas Jefferson.*

Youth Tour enriches their understanding of the political process and the vital importance of direct engagement. As a result, they return to their communities with a deeper commitment to the communities they represent."

On their 2016 visit, Tennessee's Youth Tour delegates saw the White House and memorials to past presidents Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Franklin Delano Roosevelt, as well as monuments honoring the sacrifices of veterans of World War II and the Vietnam and Korean Wars. During visits to the museums of the Smithsonian Institution, the touring Tennesseans saw and experienced natural, historical and artistic treasures. Other fun stops included historic homes of former presidents — George Washington's Mount Vernon and Jefferson's Monticello — as well as Madame Tussauds Wax Museum, the Hard Rock Cafe and a boat cruise down the Potomac River. Among other Youth Tour high-



lights were a solemn and sobering visit to Arlington National Cemetery where the group laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns and a stirring Sunset Parade performance by the U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps and Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon. The group was also welcomed to the U.S. Capitol by Senators Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker.

Our commitment to community is what sets cooperatives apart from other businesses. The Washington Youth Tour is one way we show the youth of our service area that Powell Valley Electric is more than their electricity provider. We genuinely care about the prosperity of our communities, and that includes providing special opportunities for these exceptional students and preparing them for future success.

— Randell W. Meyers



*Above, Youth Tour participants representing Powell Valley Electric Cooperative pose in front of George Washington's home, Mount Vernon. From left are Pamela Jo Seal, Autumn Trent, Jessica Livesay, Shae Johnson and Brooke Drinnon. At left, PVEC delegates visit the Washington National Cathedral.*

# Your cooperative membership

**S**ince our annual meeting is just a few weeks away, we wanted to remind you that in order for an individual to register at the annual meeting, that person must have a membership with the cooperative.

For a married couple, if only one spouse's name is on the membership, only that individual would be permitted to register. If the couple would like to have both their names listed on that membership so that either spouse could register, we can process a valid request to do so at no charge. Of course, that would mean that only one registration would be allowed

between the couple since it would still be one membership.

If a membership is in the name of a deceased individual, no surviving family member can register at the annual meeting. In the case of a surviving spouse, we will process a valid request to change a membership to the surviving spouse's name free of charge.

Any valid change that is made on a membership to permit an individual to register at our annual meeting would need to be made prior to the meeting date.

If you have questions about your membership, please give us a call!

## It's back-to-school time!

**I**t's back-to-school time across America. For parents, it's a bittersweet reminder of the passage of time as we watch our children grow and become increasingly independent. It's also a time when we think about their safety.

Powell Valley Electric Cooperative shares that concern. With the beginning of every school year, thousands of co-op line workers are keeping an eye out for your children on their way to or from school.

At first glance, it may seem that there is little connection between school kids waiting for their bus and the line crew in the local co-op's truck. But look

again. Those line crews working on utility poles probably have kids waiting for their school bus alongside yours. Making sure all our children stay safe is part of what holds local communities together, and it's part of the work in which your local cooperative takes great pride every day.

Take these precautions when your children ride the bus to and from school:

- Make sure your children know what to do if they miss the bus: Come back home or, if at school, report to a teacher. They must never accept a ride from a stranger.
- If it is dark on the way to or from the bus, make your children visible. Use retroreflective tape on their clothing and avoid dark colors.
- Make sure they wait away from the roadway and stay back until the bus has come to a full stop and the doors open.
- Children must always walk at least 10 feet in front of the bus and never walk behind it. If you can't see the bus driver, the driver can't see you. Forbid running, pushing and horseplay.
- Tell your children to come straight home from the bus with no detours.

Practice these safety tips, and have a safe and happy school year!

### Energy Efficiency

#### Tip of the Month



*Replacing your conventional power strips with advanced power strips can help reduce the electricity wasted when electronic devices are idle. These power strips are a convenient and low-cost way to save.*

*Source: U.S. Department of Energy*

## Our Tazewell office has moved!

The new address of Powell Valley Electric Cooperative's Tazewell office is 420 Straight Creek Road, New Tazewell, TN 37825. Our mailing address will remain the same at P.O. Box 1528, New Tazewell, TN 37824. **Our telephone numbers will also remain the same.**

## Cool summer evenings call for fans, not A/C

Even the hottest summer gives us a break occasionally, sending pleasant temperatures and gentle breezes our way, especially in the evenings. When it's not too hot outside, you can cool your house more economically with fans than by running your central or window air conditioner.

Placing a fan in a window circulates the air and freshens the home by exhausting stale air. It can remove odors from smoking and cooking that tend to linger in the air when all the windows are closed.

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## What is eScore?

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

eScore includes expert recommendations, inspections of work performed and, now, rebates.

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



## Smart window use can regulate indoor comfort

You can use your windows to let cool air into your home and keep hot air out during the summer. Here's how:

- Whenever it cools off at night, turn off the air conditioner and open the windows to let the breezes in while you sleep.
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- If you shade the exterior of your windows with wooden or vinyl blinds, overhangs, awnings, shutters or storm panels, you'll keep the sun from heating up your interior.
- Replacing old, single-pane windows with double-pane models can keep your home more comfortable and shave hundreds of dollars off of your energy bills, according to Energy Star.

# Powell Valley Electric customer bill payment options

**H**ere is a list of payment options from which Powell Valley Electric Cooperative customers can choose for payment of electric bills:

## *Automatic bank draft*

Payment of your electric bills by automatic bank draft can be made through a checking or savings account, or you can sign up for automatic payment by credit card.

Forms for completion to sign up for electric bill payments through your bank account or by credit card are included on page 25.

## *Payment at Wal-Mart*

Powell Valley Electric Cooperative offers you the convenience of paying your electric bill at Wal-Mart for a nominal fee. To take advantage of this option, your electric bill payments must be made **by the due date**.

## *Mail*

Mail your payment to:  
Powell Valley  
Electric Cooperative  
P.O. Box 308  
Jonesville, VA 24263

## *Online*

To pay your electric bill, visit [www.pve.coop](http://www.pve.coop). If you currently have a user ID, simply click on “Payments” then “Make a payment.” If you do not have a user ID, you will be required to create one.

## *Phone payment*

You can make phone payments using a credit card or electronic check by calling your local PVEC office.

## *Local office night depository*

PVEC office night depository provides you the convenience of dropping your electric bill payments into the depository any time.

## *Local bank locations*

Here is a list of bank locations where Powell Valley Electric Cooperative customers can pay their electric bills. At these locations, payments must be made **by the due date**.

### **New Tazewell:**

Citizens Bank  
First Century Bank  
Commercial Bank  
Home Federal  
First State Financial

### **Tazewell:**

First Century Bank

### **Harrogate:**

Citizens Bank  
First Century Bank  
Commercial Bank  
Home Federal

### **Rogersville:**

CIVIS Bank

### **Big Stone Gap, Wise and Duffield:**

Powell Valley National Bank

### **Sneedville:**

CIVIS Bank  
First Century Bank

### **Rose Hill:**

Farmers & Miners Bank

### **Jonesville:**

Powell Valley National Bank  
Lee Bank & Trust

### **Pennington Gap:**

Powell Valley National Bank  
Lee Bank & Trust  
Farmers & Miners Bank

### **Gibson Station:**

Farmers & Miners Bank



## Closing notice

Powell Valley Electric Cooperative offices will be closed Monday, Sept. 5, in observance of Labor Day. As always, cooperative dispatchers will be on duty to answer your emergency calls. Have a happy and safe holiday!

***Automatic Payment Service Request Form***  
***Checking / Savings Account***

Add:

Change:  (*If change, give new information*)

Remove:

PVEC Account # \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Print

Signature

Bank Name \_\_\_\_\_ Bank ABA # \_\_\_\_\_

Checking / Savings Account # \_\_\_\_\_ *Please attach voided check for checking acct.*

*I hereby authorize Powell Valley Electric Cooperative to automatically deduct payment for my electric bill from the bank account information provided. Either party may terminate this authorization upon adequate notification.*

***Automatic Payment Service Request Form***  
***Credit Card***

Add:

Change:  (*If change, give new information*)

Remove:

PVEC Account # \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Print

Signature

Type of Credit Card: Visa  Mastercard  Discover  American Express

Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name (*as it appears on the Credit Card*): \_\_\_\_\_

CVV2 Code (*3 digit number on back of card*): \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code (*statement billing zip code*): \_\_\_\_\_

*I hereby authorize Powell Valley Electric Cooperative to automatically charge my credit card each month for my electric bill. I am aware I will be charged a convenience fee (2.45% of amount paid) with each transaction made. Either party may terminate this authorization upon adequate notification. This charge will appear on your monthly credit card statement as a charge from SEDC (Southeastern Data Corporation). This is the vendor that processes PVEC's electronic payments.*

# Cleaning up a broken compact fluorescent lamp

## Before cleanup

- Have people and pets leave the room
- Air out the room for five to 10 minutes by opening a window or door to the outdoor environment
- Shut off the central forced-air heating/air-conditioning system if you have one
- Collect materials needed to clean up broken bulb:
  - stiff paper or cardboard
  - sticky tape
  - damp paper towels or disposable wet wipes (for hard surfaces)
  - a glass jar with a metal lid or a sealable plastic bag

## During cleanup

- **DO NOT VACUUM.** Vacuuming is not recommended unless broken glass remains after all other cleanup steps have been taken. Vacuuming could spread mercury-containing powder or mercury vapor.
- Be thorough in collecting broken glass and visible powder
- Place cleanup materials in a sealable container

## After cleanup

- Promptly place all bulb debris and cleanup materials, including vacuum cleaner bags, outdoors in a trash container or safe area until all materials can be disposed of. Avoid leaving any bulb fragments or cleanup materials indoors.
- Next, check with your local government about disposal requirements in your area because some localities require fluorescent bulbs (broken or unbroken) be taken to a local recycling center. If there is no such requirement in your area, you can dispose of the materials with your household trash.
- If practical, continue to air out the room where the bulb was broken and leave the heating/air-conditioning system shut off for several hours.

## Why is it important to properly clean up a broken CFL?

CFLs and other fluorescent light bulbs contain a small amount of mercury sealed within the glass tubing. When a fluorescent bulb breaks in your home, some of this mercury is released as mercury vapor. To minimize exposure to mercury vapor, the Environmental Protection Agency recommends that residents follow the cleanup and disposal steps described in this information.

## What if I can't follow all the recommended steps or I cleaned up a CFL but didn't do it properly?

Don't be alarmed; these steps are only precautions that reflect best practices for cleaning up a broken CFL. Keep in mind that the bulbs contain a very small amount of mercury — less than 1/100 of the amount in a mercury thermometer. However, if you are concerned about the risk to your health from a potential exposure to mercury, consult your physician.

Source: epa.gov

## How to Clean Up a Broken Compact Fluorescent Lightbulb (CFL)



A CFL's glass tubing contains about 4 milligrams of mercury. While this isn't much (classic thermometers contained 500 milligrams) consumers should still take precautions if a CFL breaks.

**1**

Ventilate the room, then wait 5 to 10 minutes.



**2**

Scoop up powder and glass fragments using stiff paper or cardboard. Seal in a plastic bag.



**3**

Use duct tape to pick up any fragments or powder.

**4**

Immediately place all materials used to clean up and the plastic bag in an outdoor trash container. Remember to wash your hands.



**5**

Not all recycling centers accept broken CFLs. Check with your local and/or state waste authority for disposal requirements, or visit Earth911.com.

To learn more visit [epa.gov/cflcleanup](http://epa.gov/cflcleanup).



Source: Electrical Safety Foundation, Environmental Protection Agency

August 2016 [www.tnmagazine.org](http://www.tnmagazine.org)

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Turn Up the Heat

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Recipes for Summer

## Southwest Tennessee Electric Membership Corporation

1009 E. Main St.  
Brownsville, TN 38012  
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## AS I SEE IT

*Manager's Viewpoint*

# Women and cooperatives

In honor of Women's Equality Day on Aug. 26, let's take a look at the roles women play in cooperatives across the globe. Even though women in the U.S. and U.K. were not allowed to vote until the early 1900s, women were granted equal voting rights in the first modern era cooperative, the Rochdale Pioneers Equitable Society. Established in 1844 in Rochdale, England, the co-op's founders agreed that women should have equal voting rights. So you see, treating women equally has been baked into our cooperative DNA right from the start. And the cooperative business model continues to champion women's equality worldwide.

According to a 2015 global study conducted by the Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives, co-ops have an increasingly positive impact on women and their inclusion in the labor force and enhance women's ability to achieve positions of authority (both within and outside of the co-op).

In developing countries — where women have long suffered due to biased cultural norms, government policy and lack of opportunities — the role cooperatives play in the lives of women as well as the role women play in cooperatives are now more meaningful than ever.

In Paraguay, a South American country bordered by Brazil and Argentina, gender equality has transformed the Manduvira Sugarcane Cooperative.

This fair-trade sugar co-op has seen a dramatic increase in the participation of female members and leaders.

Manduvira is a multiservice co-op with two types of operations: organic, fair-trade sugar production and savings and credit. In both of its operations, Manduvira has seen a significant increase in its success as women's participation grows.



**Kevin Murphy**  
President,  
*Southwest Tennessee Electric Membership Corporation*

According to several co-op leaders in Manduvira, female members are generally more likely to apply what they learn in training and adopt new farming techniques

compared to their male counterparts. Because women are more likely to adopt new technologies and the co-op has seen a higher percentage of women in leadership roles, the co-op has become stronger and more stable.

This is just an example from one cooperative. In South Africa, women make up 60 percent of co-op members from nearly all sectors. In Japan, women make up 95 percent of co-op members in consumer cooperatives and hold key governance positions. And globally, more women join savings and credit cooperatives, giving them increased access to financial resources.

Right here at Southwest Tennessee EMC, three women serve on our board and three in leadership positions within the organization, and they all work hard to help make the co-op run smoothly. Treating everyone equally and ensuring folks have fair opportunities is the cooperative way of doing business.

# 2016 Annual Meeting

**Friday, Aug. 12 • 5:30 p.m.** **Jackson Fairgrounds Park**



## Watch your mailbox for directors' election ballot

**D**on't forget that your annual meeting of Southwest Tennessee EMC will be held on Friday, Aug. 12, 2016, at the Jackson Fairgrounds Park in Jackson.

The Notice of Annual Meeting, along with ballots for the three directors' positions up for election, were mailed July 18 and must be returned by mail to arrive at the STEMC office no later than noon on Tuesday, Aug. 9.

Please be sure to follow the instructions included with the ballot. Remember: If the return envelope is not signed by the member where indicated, the ballot will not be counted.

Make your plans to attend the annual meeting, and don't forget to vote in the directors' election. These directors will represent you as members of the cooperative.

## Another **BLAST** from the **PAST**



*Southwest Tennessee EMC members gather for the annual meeting on Aug. 19, 1949, outside the Brownsville office.*

# 2016 Washington Youth Tour



Above, STEMC's Washington Youth Tour delegates pose with a statue of Thomas Jefferson at the former president's Virginia mansion, Monticello. Below, the group visits Mount Vernon, President George Washington's home. From left are Jodi Springer, Xiana Jones, Michelle Mellard, Clarissa Miller, Laurian Williams, Ellis Osburn, Jacob Edmondson, Felescia Sanders, Gretchen Quinn, Jaiden White, Amber Higgs, Dora Hernandez and Marilyn Means.

Early 140 high school seniors from across Tennessee have returned from a weeklong "experience of a lifetime" courtesy of their local electric cooperatives. Jacob Edmondson, Munford High School; Dora Hernandez, South Side High School; Amber Higgs, Covington High School; Xiana Jones, JCM High School; Michelle Mellard, Brighton High School; Clarissa Miller, Madison Academic High School; Ellis Osburn, Chester County High School; Gretchen Quinn, Liberty High School; Felescia Sanders, Brownsville High School; and Jaiden White, North Side High School, as well as Laurian Williams, teacher at Chester County High School, were sponsored by Southwest Tennessee Electric to participate in the 2016 Washington Youth Tour June 10-16.

The popular event included sightseeing, visits with elected officials and lots of fun meeting



On the cover: In front of the U.S. Capitol are, from left, Laurian Williams, Marilyn Means, Dora Hernandez, Ellis Osburn, Felescia Sanders, Xiana Jones, Jacob Edmondson, Michelle Mellard, Clarissa Miller, Jaiden White, Gretchen Quinn, Amber Higgs and Jodi Springer.





STEMC's group visits the Washington National Cathedral, left, and tour below Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, bottom.

importance of direct engagement. As a result, they return to their communities with a deeper commitment to the communities they represent.”

On their 2016 visit, Tennessee’s Youth Tour delegates saw the White House and memorials to past presidents Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Franklin Delano Roosevelt as well as monuments honoring the sacrifices of veterans of World War II and the Vietnam and Korean Wars. During visits to the museums of the Smithsonian Institution, the touring Tennesseans saw and experienced natural, historical and artistic treasures. Other fun stops included historic homes of former presidents — George Washington’s Mount Vernon and Jefferson’s Monticello — as well as Madame Tussauds Wax Museum, the Hard Rock Cafe and a boat cruise down the Potomac River. Among other Youth Tour highlights were a solemn and sobering visit to Arlington National Cemetery where the group laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns and a stirring Sunset Parade performance by the U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps and Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon.

The group was welcomed to the U.S. Capitol by Sens. Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker who spent time with these young constituents from across Tennessee, posing for photos and answering their questions.

“Our commitment to community is what sets cooperatives apart from other businesses,” said STEMC President Kevin Murphy. “The Washington Youth Tour is one way we show the youth of our service area that STEMC is more than their electricity provider. We genuinely care about the prosperity of our communities, and that includes providing special opportunities for these exceptional students and preparing them for future success.”

peers from across Tennessee and the nation. Delegates earned their spots on the Youth Tour for writing winning short stories titled “Electric Cooperatives: Powering Everyday Life.” In their winning entries, the talented young writers described how member-owned, nonprofit electric co-ops strengthen their local communities and improve lives across their service areas while providing safe, reliable energy.

“We take great pride in rewarding the best and brightest from our service area,” said Marilyn Means, STEMC marketing and energy services coordinator, as a chaperone on this year’s trip. “By recognizing their accomplishments through programs like the Washington Youth Tour, we show these leaders of tomorrow that their hometown electric co-op is more than a utility provider; STEMC is an active member of the community and fully invested in its prosperity.”

For more than 50 years, the Washington Youth Tour has taken students from electric co-op service areas to our nation’s capital to learn more about our country and the cooperative business model. The annual event is coordinated by STEMC, the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association and National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). This year’s Youth Tour involved 1,700 students from 43 states.

“Young Americans given the opportunity to come to Washington, D.C., by their electric cooperatives experience a life-changing event,” said NRECA Interim CEO Jeffrey Connor. “They talk to their elected officials in person, connect to our nation’s rich history and have a hands-on experience with democracy. Youth Tour enriches their understanding of the political process and the vital



# STEMC installs payment kiosks

In an effort to increase convenience and to better serve our members, Southwest Tennessee EMC now provides a new way to pay your electric bill. We have recently installed a kiosk in our Atoka office in addition to those already in place in the Brownsville and Covington offices.

## *Some info about the kiosks:*

- Access to kiosks is available 24/7.
- Kiosks accept cash, check or credit card.
- There is no minimum payment (except that it won't take less than \$1).
- Kiosk payments immediately post to the member's account.

- Kiosks provide receipts at the time of payment for all payment types.
- Kiosks are the only way to make a cash payment after business hours.
- In the offices where they are located, kiosks replace night drop boxes.

## *Some things to keep in mind when using a kiosk:*

- Members must have their 12-digit account numbers to use the kiosk.
- Kiosks do not give any change. The full amount of any payment is credited to the member's account.

*Please also note that there is no longer a fee to make a credit card payment online or by phone.*

## Cool summer evenings call for fans, not A/C

Even the hottest summer gives us a break occasionally, sending pleasant temperatures and gentle breezes our way, especially in the evenings. When it's not too hot outside, you can cool your house more economically with fans than by running your central or window air conditioner.

Placing a fan in a window circulates the air and freshens the home by exhausting stale air. It can remove odors from smoking and cooking that tend to linger in the air when all the windows are closed.

A ceiling fan can be used whether the air conditioning is on or off. During the summer, the blades send a slight breeze down into the room, making everyone feel more comfortable.

Fans don't actually cool the house off. Instead, they make the rooms where they are located feel cooler because they move the air around. So turn them off when you leave the room.

## Smart window use can regulate indoor comfort

You can use your windows to let cool air into your home and keep hot air out during the summer. Here's how:

- Whenever it cools off at night, turn off the air conditioner and open the windows to let the breezes in while you sleep.
- In the morning, close the windows and the blinds or curtains. That will "trap" the cool air indoors and prevent hot air from getting in as the day heats up.
- Choose window treatments that not only look nice but also save energy. Some choices: Interior blinds made from heat-reflective material can reduce heat gain by 45 percent when you close the slats. And draperies with white plastic backings can reduce heat gain by 33 percent when they're closed.
- If you shade the exterior of your windows with wooden or vinyl blinds, overhangs, awnings, shutters or storm panels, you'll keep the sun from heating up your interior.
- Replacing old, single-pane windows with double-pane models can keep your home more comfortable and shave hundreds of dollars off of your energy bills, according to Energy Star.

# High-voltage demonstrations

A high-voltage demonstration trailer will be at STEMC for one week of August to educate the community about what happens during an outage and the important work our utility crews carry out in serving members. Dates for our members, along with local fire, EMS and police departments, are listed below. Each demonstration will be set up from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. (unless otherwise noted) and will run at 60-90 minute intervals. For more information or to schedule your local fire, EMS or police demonstration, contact Brian Holland, STEMC safety coordinator, at 731-608-4401 or [bholland@stemic.com](mailto:bholland@stemic.com).

Friday, Aug. 12 — STEMC annual meeting, starting at 5 p.m.

Monday, Aug. 15 — Jackson Fairgrounds, Jackson

Tuesday, Aug. 16 — Gene Record Park, Henderson

Wednesday, Aug. 17 — Haywood County Justice Complex, Brownsville

Thursday, Aug. 18 — Home Depot, Covington

Friday, Aug. 19 — Nancy Lane Park, Atoka



SOUTHWEST TENNESSEE ELECTRIC  
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# Electric co-ops help offer place, prize for research on greenhouse gases

By Paul Wesslund

**W**hat if carbon dioxide from burning coal at power plants could be contained and turned into something useful?

A group of electric co-ops and other partners that want to investigate that issue recently broke ground on a research facility at the Dry Fork Station, a power plant in northeast Wyoming owned by Basin Electric Power Cooperative.

More than a dozen sites around the globe now study “carbon capture” as one possible solution to climate change, but they generally don’t offer the real-world conditions the Integrated Test Center partners say their site will offer when it’s finished next summer.

The facility will allow researchers to place equipment that can test ways to grab carbon dioxide from a working power plant and use it in ways the world might find valuable.

In addition to Basin Electric’s involvement, financial support comes from Denver-based Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. The state of Wyoming has been the main funder and organizer of the test center, and another key partner is the XPRIZE Foundation.

XPRIZE Foundation is an organization that seeks “radical breakthroughs for the benefit of humanity.” In the past, it has offered cash prizes for space travel and health innovations. More recently, it announced two \$10 million prizes for “transformational approaches to converting (carbon dioxide) emissions into valuable products.”

The carbon XPRIZE will be awarded in 2020, but this past spring’s preliminary deadline has already produced several applicants, says Dr. Paul Bunje, principal scientist and senior director of energy and environment at



*Electric co-ops will help lead research into removing greenhouse gas from coal plant emissions, with a research station now being built next to this Basin Electric Power Cooperative plant in Wyoming. The International Test Center is also being supported by the state of Wyoming and Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, a Denver-based cooperative. The Test Center, scheduled to be completed next summer, will study ways to capture and develop uses for the carbon dioxide emitted as part of the coal-burning process. Source: Basin Electric Power Cooperative*

XPRIZE. He says those entries have come from “big corporations, garage tinkerers, universities and small-and medium-sized businesses.”

The variety of planned research includes using carbon dioxide to make fuels, ingredients in chemical processes or thin, extremely strong “supermaterials” of the future.

XPRIZE contestants will begin moving equipment to the test center in the summer of 2018, says Dr. Marcus Extavour, XPRIZE director of technical operations. And what will that look like?

“Some of the equipment will be tall and skinny, some of it low and wide,” says Extavour. “Some of it might be in a smooth steel case, others will be exposed pipes, others will be, who knows what?”

To read more about the carbon XPRIZE, visit [www.carbon.xprize.org](http://www.carbon.xprize.org).

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

August 2016

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# THE TENNESSEE MAGAZINE



## Washington Youth Tour

Glassblowers  
Turn Up the Heat

**History for Kids:**  
TVA Deeds Land to Cherokee

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Recipes for Summer

## Sequachee Valley Electric Cooperative

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## AS I SEE IT

Manager's Viewpoint

# Join fellow co-op members at the 2016 annual meeting

It's that time of year again: Sequachee Valley Electric Cooperative is gearing up for the 2016 annual meeting, which will be held Thursday, Aug. 11, at the Sequatchie County High School in Dunlap. Registration and prebusiness meeting activities will begin at 5 p.m.; the business meeting is at 6 and will be followed immediately by the ever-popular door-prize drawing.

The annual meeting is a special time for co-op members to gather, share experiences, hear from co-op leadership and learn about the electric utility *you* and your neighbors in the SVEC service area own.

SVEC employees work hard to host this fun event, and we encourage you to attend and exercise some of the many rights you have as a member of an electric cooperative. We know for many the food, games and prizes are the best parts of the meeting, but there is so much more to the event.

Did you know the annual meeting is an occasion to discuss and learn more about the issues affecting our community and co-op?

It's a time, too, for you to learn more about topics that impact you as we talk about what we as a community can do to address our most pressing challenges and take advantage of available opportunities.

Your annual meeting is also an opportunity to discover all the services your locally owned and controlled electric utility has to offer. And it's an occasion where you can meet and talk with your board member, a resident of your community elected by the people in your district.

Your electric cooperative is not owned by faraway investors, and it is not run by an appointed board of directors. Your electric cooperative is run by a democratically elected board that is given the privilege to serve because of your vote.

So, at this year's annual meeting, not only will you have a blast (and maybe win a prize!), but you will feel good knowing that by taking an interest in the electric utility owned by you and your neighbors in the SVEC service area and by staying informed of the issues that impact one of our most vital resources — electricity — *you* are helping to keep our area "Co-op Strong."

From all your friends at SVEC, we hope to see you at the annual meeting on Aug. 11 in Dunlap.



Mike Partin  
SVEC CEO

**CO-OP  
STRONG**

A large graphic featuring the words "CO-OP" and "STRONG" in a bold, sans-serif font. The letter "O" in "CO-OP" is stylized to look like a person climbing a rope攀岩.

# SVEC Spotlight on Safety

## Use caution near co-op equipment

**A**s you find yourself spending more time outdoors this summer, Sequachee Valley Electric Cooperative reminds you to exercise caution near electrical equipment maintained by the co-op.

Substations and power lines carry extremely high voltages, and if contact is accidentally made, the results can be dangerous — or even deadly.

Never climb trees near power lines. If you make contact with a tree that is touching a power line, your body could become the path of electricity from the line to the ground. Do not attempt to remove an animal — no matter how furry and cute — trapped in a tree near power lines or inside a substation. Call your local SVEC office for assistance.

These days, we are seeing more remote-controlled toys like drones and airplanes, which can be a great way to have fun outdoors. But these gadgets also bring new safety concerns. Never fly remote-controlled toys near power lines, substations or other electrical equipment.

Remember these safety tips when flying a remote-controlled toy:

- Keep a safe distance from electrical equipment when you fly. If contact is accidentally made with a power line or a transformer inside a substation, many members of your community could be left without electricity.



SVEC's Jarvis Wooten demonstrates the danger of coming in contact with high-voltage lines. To schedule a demonstration at your school, business or event, contact your local SVEC office.

- Keep the remote-controlled toy in sight at all times.
- Avoid flying if weather conditions are unfavorable. High winds could cause you to lose control of the remote-controlled toy.

Here at SVEC, your safety is important to us. We hope you will share the message of electrical safety so that you and others can enjoy plenty of summer days filled with fun!

## Annual Meeting Notice

### 2016 Sequachee Valley Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting

Date: Thursday, Aug. 11, 2016

Time: 5 p.m. — Doors open: Registration, attendance gifts, refreshments and exhibits open  
6 p.m. — Business meeting  
Reports, regular business, door prizes  
(You must be present to win)

Place: Sequatchie County High School  
7067 State Route 28, Dunlap

#### Please Note

Any SVEC member with special needs who plans to attend the annual meeting can contact the cooperative at 837-5035 or 1-800-923-2203, ext. 5035, prior to the meeting date to make necessary arrangements.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judy A. Fults".

Judy Fults, Secretary-Treasurer  
SVEC Board of Directors

# Beersheba Porcelain — A labor of love

Phil Mayhew is a man of many talents. He is an artist, musician, writer, teacher, historian, humanitarian, at times a politician and for more than 50 years a potter with a heart full of love. Love for the art and craft of pottery, a love for helping people, a love for the historic town of Beersheba Springs, which, after the nomadic life of a United Methodist preacher's son, is the only place he says really feels like home. And a love for his wife and soulmate, Terri.

Drawings were his first artistic endeavors. He learned the art by copying the drawings in the comic books he loved as a boy: "Back when the artwork in comic books was really good," he adds. "So my drawings have always had a 'cartoonish' look."

After studying art at Austin Peay State and Memphis State universities, he says he was sick of drawing. "I didn't get to draw what I liked," he adds. "I was drawing a dress or a car or some other 'thing' with the goal of selling that item. That is just not what I wanted to do."

When he was accepted to graduate school at the University of Georgia, he didn't know what he wanted to pursue, Mayhew says, so he signed up for sculpture, art history and ceramic arts. "Within three weeks, I knew what I wanted to do with my life," he says.

His love of pottery and porcelain started with his fascination with rocks and geology. He still has on the porch of his 160-year-old log cabin in Historic Beersheba Springs the "box of rocks" he collected as a child. When Mayhew was about 9, Tom Dollard, a geologist who was visiting town, heard about a little boy who loved rocks. Dollard stopped by the Mayhew family's summer cabin in Beersheba Springs and gave Mayhew his first geology lesson.

"It was like two kids on the floor: a little, skinny, gawky guy and a big, skinny, gawky guy," Mayhew says. "He taught me why quartz has six sides, all the seven crystal classes,

about the magic of the number 7 in nature and how fossils were made. And for the first time, I understood the scientific method — that because of the laws

of nature, you can repeat an experiment and come out with the same results each time."

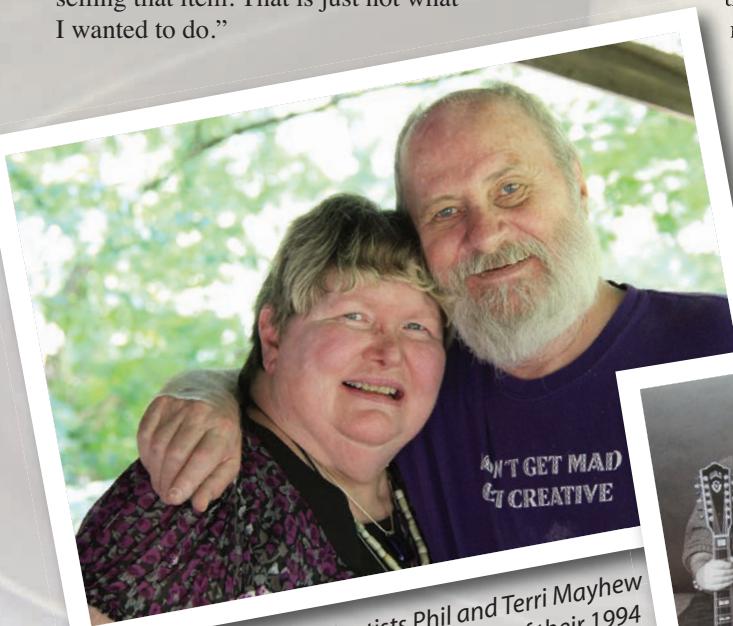
"I was always interested in science," Mayhew says. "I wanted to be a geologist or an archeologist or a paleontologist, but I ended up a potter. I soon discovered that science provides a platform from which art is made possible. Whether your art is music, painting or pottery, you have to understand the science behind it to be successful in your art."

Making porcelain involves a lot of science and a lot of experimenting. The mixture of kaolin, quartz, corundum, feldspar and other ingredients used for Beersheba Porcelain is a recipe developed by Mayhew after much experimentation, as are the glazes that give his porcelain its beautiful and unique coloring. He mixes the glazes using minerals from across the globe. Another factor that distinguishes Beersheba Porcelain is the extremely high temperature used to give his porcelain glass-like properties.

"The normal temperature for firing porcelain is 2,100 degrees to 2,350 degrees," he says. "I use heat that's 2,700-2,750 degrees. This is the temperature needed to turn the corundum — a mineral found in precious stones such as sapphires, rubies and emeralds — into a crystalline state. It is the same temperature needed to

create topaz. Each porcelain piece becomes one big crystal. I think of my process as making gemstones."

"The discovery of the effects of the extreme temperature on the glazes was a 'happy accident,'" he continues. "A miscalculation in reading the temperature of the kiln has turned into a successful business producing unique porcelain pottery that has found its way from tiny Beersheba Springs around the



Above are multitalented artists Phil and Terri Mayhew today. At right, they appear on the cover of their 1994 album of original and traditional music recorded in Nashville.



**"The coffee mugs are my favorite pieces. They are small and ordinary, but mugs reach out and grab people. They form the most intimate relationship with the owner. They're the first thing you drink out of in the morning; then you carry it with you, sometimes all day. They become a part of you. I love that every day there are 20,000-30,000 people around the world drinking out of my mugs."**

**— Phil Mayhew**



*Phil Mayhew uses a kiln he personally designed and built to fire his pottery at the extreme temperatures that give his pieces their unique look and properties. This is the 13th kiln he has built in his 50 years of work as a potter.*

world — even into the Smithsonian (Institution in Washington, D.C.).

"Porcelain is made up of minerals like the rocks I collected. Those stones and the lessons I learned from Mr. Dollard are where this journey all began," Mayhew says. "The lesson from Mr. Dollard also taught me how important it is to be a mentor."

Since its beginning, he and Terri have supported the Mountain TOP program and students of the youth development organization that strives to better the lives of the people in our rural communities.

The two have also changed lives by hiring local youth to assist in the business. Over the years, young ladies brought in to help make the beads used in the jewelry side of the business have learned the craft and earned enough money to pay their way through college and make better lives for themselves and their families.

"I think it is remarkable that four young women were able to earn college degrees from making beads," Mayhew says. "They are now like family to us. I am as proud of their accomplishments as I am of our business."

Though the Mayhews and their son, Brad, have enjoyed great success in their business, they have also overcome great obstacles. Several years ago, Terri, a classically trained flute and guitar player as well as a jewelry artist, suffered an aneurism and was in a coma for three weeks, losing her ability to speak, her musical abilities and some short-term memory. The doctors at St. Thomas Hospital in Nashville tried an experimental treatment that brought Terri back to Phil. Although she can no longer play music, she regained her speech, is again helping with the jewelry business and is her joyful self again. At the time, medical bills

nearly wiped out their finances, but the community where they have made their home for 30 years pulled together to help the Mayhews through the tough time.

The Mayhews have not forgotten that support. Phil has taken a leadership role in establishing the Beersheba Medical Clinic, a truly free facility for those in need of medical assistance but lacking the funds or insurance to pay for it. The clinic has been in business for six years and has seen more than 4,000 patients — all totally free of charge.

Small family businesses such as Beersheba Porcelain, run by inventive, hard-working people who give back to their communities, are what make our area "Co-op Strong."



*Mayhew's Beersheba Porcelain can be purchased at his home/shop, online at [www.beershebaporcelain.com](http://www.beershebaporcelain.com) or at the 50th Annual Beersheba Springs Arts and Crafts Fair Aug. 27 and 28 at the Assembly Grounds of the Historic Beersheba Springs Hotel.*

# SVEC writing contest winners tour

Nearly 140 high school seniors from across Tennessee have returned from a weeklong “experience of a lifetime” courtesy of their local electric cooperatives. Rhianna Barrow of Bledsoe County High School, Karissa Northcutt of Grundy County High School, Sarah Rreal of Marion County High School, Scarlett Tate of Richard Hardy Memorial School, Kaitlyn Springer of Sequatchie County High School, Austin Abbott of South Pittsburg High School and Emily Campbell of Whitwell High School were sponsored by Sequachee Valley Electric Cooperative to participate in the 2016 Washington Youth Tour June 10-16.

The popular event included sightseeing, visits with elected officials and lots of fun meeting peers from across Tennessee and the nation. Delegates earned their spots on the

“Youth Tour transformed me into an entirely different person. From visiting Monticello, performing our bus song and having fun at the All-States Dinner and Dance at the Hyatt, I was impacted by the culture and history of our nation’s capital. Not only are you there to have fun, you also learn about the power of electric cooperatives in our everyday lives. By participating in Youth Tour, you will make friendships that will last a lifetime. So take the plunge. Go outside your comfort zone because adventure is out there. One essay can change your life. I encourage all the upcoming juniors to participate.”

— Sarah Rreal  
Marion County High School

Youth Tour for writing winning short stories titled “Electric Cooperatives: Powering Everyday Life.” In their winning entries, the talented young writers described how member-owned, nonprofit electric co-ops strengthen their local communities and improve lives across their service areas while providing safe, reliable, affordable energy.

“We take great pride in rewarding the best and brightest from our service area,” said Cathy Black, SVEC communications specialist, a chaperone on this year’s trip. “By recognizing their accomplishments through programs like the Washington Youth Tour, we show these leaders of tomorrow that their hometown electric coop is more than a utility provider; Sequachee Valley Electric Cooperative is an active member of the community and fully invested in its prosperity.”

For more than 50 years, the Washington Youth Tour has taken students from electric co-op service areas to our nation’s capital to learn more about our country and the cooperative business model. The annual event is coordinated by SVEC, the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association and National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). This year’s Youth Tour involved 1,700 students from 43 states.

“Young Americans given the opportunity to come to Washington, D.C., by their electric cooperatives experience a life-changing event,” said NRECA Interim CEO Jeffrey



Thomas Jefferson’s home, Monticello, is a favorite with the group. From left are Scarlett Tate, Emily Campbell, Kaitlyn Springer, Austin Abbott, Sarah Rreal, Rhianna Barrow and Karissa Northcutt.

# Washington, D.C.

Connor. "They talk to their elected officials in person, connect to our nation's rich history and have a



*Sequatchie County High School delegate Kaitlyn Springer placed third in the statewide Washington Youth Tour Writing Contest. She will receive a \$1,000 college scholarship to the school of her choice as her award.*

**"The Washington Youth Tour was incredible. It has a way of making people more outgoing and comfortable with themselves. I am truly grateful for this amazing experience."**

**"With all of the talented writers I met on this trip, I was so excited and humbled to be the recipient of the \$1,000 scholarship. It will help me as I further my education for a career in health care."**

— Kaitlyn Springer  
Sequatchie County High School

hands-on experience with democracy. Youth Tour enriches their understanding of the political process and the vital importance of direct engagement. As a result, they return to their communities with a deeper commitment to the communities they represent."

On their 2016 visit, Tennessee's Youth Tour delegates saw the White House and memorials to past presidents Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Franklin Delano Roosevelt as well as monuments honoring the sacrifices of veterans of World War II and the Vietnam and Korean Wars. During visits to the museums of the Smithsonian Institution, the touring Tennesseans saw and experienced natural, historical and artistic treasures. Other fun stops included historic homes of former presidents — George Washington's Mount Vernon and Jefferson's Monticello — as well as Madame Tussauds Wax Museum, the Hard Rock Cafe and a boat cruise down the Potomac River. Among other Youth Tour highlights were a solemn and sobering visit to Arlington National Cemetery where the group laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns and a stirring Sunset Parade performance by the U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps and Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon.

The group was welcomed to the U.S. Capitol by Sens. Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker, and Rep. Scott DesJarlais spent time with his young SVEC constituents posing for photos and answering their questions.

"Our commitment to community is what sets cooperatives apart from other businesses," said SVEC President/CEO Mike Partin, "The Washington Youth Tour is one way we



*SVEC's delegation meets with their U.S. Representative, Dr. Scott DesJarlais, for a photo while on Capitol Hill.*

show the youth of our service area that Sequatchie Valley Electric Cooperative is more than their electricity provider. We genuinely care about the prosperity of our communities, and that includes providing special opportunities for these exceptional students and preparing them for future success."

**ON THE COVER:** In front of the U.S. Capitol are, from left, Sarah Rheal, Scarlett Tate, Austin Abbott, Emily Campbell, Kaitlyn Stringer, Rhianna Barrow, Karissa Northcutt and Cathy Black.

# Co-op Strong Trivia Contest

**O**ne Sequachee Valley Electric Cooperative member who correctly answers the trivia question below will be awarded a Beersheba Porcelain bowl. 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](mailto:memberservices@svalleyec.com). Entries must be postmarked or received via email by Wednesday, Aug. 31. One winner selected from a random drawing of the correct entries will be named in October's SVEC section of *The Tennessee Magazine*.

Thank you to all those who entered the June contest. The correct answer to the question, "Toyo Seat USA's Pelham plant produces approximately how many parts each year?" is "**Approximately 12 million parts per year**." Congratulations to Dianne Schlageter of Gruetli-Laager whose correct answer was drawn as the winner of a Tennessee-made rocking chair.

*Correctly answer this trivia question, and you could win a beautiful bowl, above right, made by Phil Mayhew of Beersheba Porcelain.*

## *July Co-op Strong trivia question:*

*At what temperature is  
Beersheba Porcelain fired?*



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A photograph of a smiling couple sitting on a couch. The woman is holding a magazine and a mug, while the man is holding a mug. A green house icon with the number 10 and the word 'eScore' is overlaid on the left side of the image.

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August 2016

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# THE TENNESSEE MAGAZINE



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Turn Up the Heat

History for Kids:  
TVA Deeds Land to Cherokee

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Recipes for Summer

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# Tri-County Electric

*"owned & operated by those we serve"*

**W**hen you hear the word "local," think of Tri-County Electric.

The fact that we are a locally owned company — owned by the members we serve — keeps us focused on your needs and local priorities. That means we conduct business through a locally elected board of directors and an annual meeting where policy is proposed and voted on by members. It's the "people" part — the personal involvement, the grassroots activities — that characterizes what Tri-County Electric is all about.

Our commitment to you begins with helping you keep your electric bills as low as possible. We deliver service to you at the cost of the service. There are no hidden fees and no profits for investors in faraway cities. Any money that is left over stays in our community and is put to work strengthening the economic well-being of our towns and neighborhoods.

Because electric co-ops are so closely linked to their communities, there are countless examples of activities that have the "cooperative touch:" conducting safety programs at schools and at the local library; sponsoring

local fairs; working with community organizations to get new businesses or new housing started; participating with civic groups to attract commercial and industrial jobs; donating computers or weather radios to schools, nursing homes and the local hospitals; and our directors and employees volunteering to distribute food at local food pantries — the list goes on and on.



**Paul Thompson**  
*Executive Vice President and General Manager, Tri-County Electric*

als that it is in a good position to listen and respond to your needs. All these things — helping consumers save energy, economic development and volunteerism — point to one thing: Your electric cooperative is more than just an electric utility; we are an integral part of the community. That's why Tri-County Electric will continue to do everything we can to improve the quality of life in your community.

Tri-County Electric is "owned and operated by those we serve." That service goes far beyond keeping the lights on. It's neighbors helping neighbors. That's what it's all about — that's the electric cooperative tradition.

# Frankfort Youth Leadership Tour

Tri-County Electric sponsored three young leaders to attend the Kentucky Association of Electric Cooperatives' 2016 Frankfort Youth Leadership Tour on April 27. Trevor Turner and LaKissa Young from Monroe County High School and Bethany Sears from Cumberland County High School represented their communities on the tour.

The group of high school juniors went to Frankfort on Tuesday evening, April 26, where they enjoyed dinner, a movie and board games with Tri-County Electric chaperone Tracy Roark.

The students toured the state Capitol the next day and had the opportunity to hear special speakers during the afternoon.

"We always have a great group of students participate in the Frankfort Youth Leadership Tour, and this year was no exception," said Roark. "I have no doubt we will see much more of this year's group in the future, leading our communities."

The annual leadership tour teaches students the value electric cooperatives bring to their rural communities and provides them an opportunity to see, in person, the legislative process in their state capital.



From left, Bethany Sears, LaKissa Young and Trevor Turner attend the Frankfort Youth Leadership Tour.

## Shirl Perkins retires



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### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Is your room air conditioner working overtime? Reduce air leaks by installing rigid foam panels (instead of the commonly used accordion panels) in between the window frame and unit and secure with duct tape.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)

## Still burning old lightbulbs? Make the switch

If your home's lamps and light fixtures are still housing old-fashioned incandescent lightbulbs, it's time to switch to something that's far more energy-efficient. Twisty, compact fluorescent lightbulbs — CFLs — are better. But LED bulbs are even more energy-efficient and last way longer.

Yes, LEDs cost more than other kinds of lightbulbs — sometimes more than twice as much. But they use about 80 percent less energy than your out-of-date incandescents. CFLs use about 70 percent less energy than the old bulbs.

Over time, though, LEDs shine the brightest of the three when it comes to energy use and cost savings. The average lifespan of an LED bulb is 25,000 hours, compared with 1,200 hours for a traditional bulb and 8,000 for a CFL. And at about 12.5 cents per kilowatt-hour — the national average, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration — you'll pay \$38 to operate the LED bulb for 23 years. If the incandescent or CFL bulb lasted 23 years — it won't — you'd pay \$201 or \$48, respectively.

So make the switch today for a couple of decades — on average — of energy savings.

# 2016 Washington Youth Tour

Some 1,700 future leaders, including students from Tri-County Electric's Tennessee and Kentucky service areas, traveled to Washington, D.C., June 10-16 for the annual Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. Jessica Law, Macon County (Tennessee) High School; Lauren Hammer, Monroe County (Kentucky) High School; Tara Pedigo, Clay County (Tennessee) High School; and Shaylee Ellingson, Red Boiling Springs (Tennessee) High School, were sponsored by Tri-County Electric to participate in the 2016 Washington Youth Tour.

## ON THE COVER:

In front of the U.S. Capitol are, from left, Tracy Roark, Lauren Hammer, Tara Pedigo, Jessica Law, Shaylee Ellingson and Tammy Marlow.

ers described how member-owned, nonprofit electric cooperatives strengthen their local communities and improve lives across their service areas while providing safe, reliable, affordable energy. Tammy Marlow, English teacher at Red Boiling Springs High School, was also

The popular event included sightseeing, visits with elected officials and lots of fun meeting peers from across the nation. Delegates earned their spots on the Youth Tour for writing winning short stories titled "Electric Cooperatives: Powering Every Day Life." In their winning entries, the talented young writ-



Tri-County Electric delegates pose across the Tidal Basin from the Jefferson Memorial. From left are Jessica Law, Shaylee Ellingson, Tara Pedigo and Lauren Hammer.

awarded a spot on the trip in recognition of her invaluable support of the co-op's youth program.

"We take great pride in rewarding the best and the brightest from our service area," said Tracy Roark, Tri-County Electric marketing assistant and chaperone for the trip. "By recognizing their accomplishments through programs like the Washington Youth Tour, we show these leaders of tomorrow that their hometown electric co-op is more than a utility provider; Tri-County Electric is an active member of the community and fully invested in its prosperity." In addition to being Tri-County Electric's contact person, Roark also serves on the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association Washington Youth Tour Subcommittee.

For more than 50 years, the Washington Youth Tour has been a joint effort of Tri-County Electric, the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association, Kentucky Association of Electric Cooperatives and National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). Each school year, Tri-County Electric sponsors a short story contest for high school juniors. Winners are awarded spots on the expense-paid trip to our nation's capital the following June as part of the Washington Youth Tour.

"Young Americans given the opportunity to come to Washington, D.C., by



Visiting Monticello, Thomas Jefferson's home, are, from left, Tara Pedigo, Lauren Hammer, Jessica Law, Shaylee Ellingson, Tri-County Electric's Tracy Roark and teacher Tammy Marlow.



their electric cooperatives experience a life-changing event,” said former NRECA Interim CEO Jeffrey Connor. “They talk to their elected officials in person, connect to our nation’s rich history and have a hands-on experience with democracy. Youth Tour enriches their understanding of the political process and the vital importance of direct engagement. As a result, they return to their communities with a deeper commitment to the communities they represent.”

Students on the tour visited the White House and memorials to past presidents Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Franklin Delano Roosevelt as well as monuments honoring the sacrifices of veterans of World War II and the Vietnam and Korean Wars. During visits to the museums of the Smithsonian Institution, the students saw and experienced natural, historical and artistic treasures. Other fun stops included historic homes of former presidents — George Washington’s Mount Vernon and Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello — as well as Madame Tussauds Wax Museum, the Hard Rock Cafe and a boat cruise down the Potomac River. Among other Youth Tour highlights were a solemn and sobering visit to Arlington National Cemetery where Tri-County Electric delegate Jessica Law, along with three other students, laid a wreath at the Tomb of the



Unknowns. They also saw a stirring Sunset Parade performance by the U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps and Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon.

The group was welcomed to the U.S. Capitol by Senator Lamar Alexander, Senator Bob Corker and Congressman Diane Black, who spent time with her constituents from Tri-County Electric, posing for photos and answering their questions.

“We are owned by our members, and it’s important that our member-owners understand how that makes us different,” said Tri-County Electric Executive Vice President and General Manager Paul Thompson. “Our communities need strong leadership, and the Youth Tour is one way we can help prepare students for the roles they may one day fill. The tour and similar educational opportunities made possible by Tri-County Electric are designed to help students understand what it takes to be leaders in their communities and why leadership is important.”

*At top, the Tri-County Electric group visits the Capitol, left, and Washington Monument. At left, Jessica Law, second from right, participates in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns.*



# Tri-County Electric and TVA volunteer at local food pantries

Tri-County Electric recently partnered with the Tennessee Valley Authority to provide food boxes for local families at Second Harvest Food Pantries in Lafayette (sponsored by Community Connections Church of God), Westmoreland (sponsored by Amazing Grace Mission) and Celina (sponsored by Celina United Methodist Church with support from Divine Savior Mission Parish, other local churches and civic organizations).

"We were very pleased with TVA's decision to pay for additional Second Harvest Food Bank trucks in our service area," said Paul Thompson, Tri-County Electric executive vice president and general manager, "and our directors and employees appreciated the opportunity to volunteer in their local communities."





*Photo above courtesy of Kelly Rich, Macon County Times*

# Tennessee Youth Leadership Summit

Macon County High School students Cole Johnson and Kayla Stafford were in Nashville March 21-23 for the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association's annual Youth Leadership Summit. These students were chosen by their local guidance counselor and sponsored by Tri-County Electric to attend this important conference. Tracy Roark, Tri-County Electric marketing assistant, accompanied the students on the trip.

Beth Harwell welcomed the attendees to Nashville on Tuesday morning, March 22, in the House Chamber of the Tennessee State Capitol and spent time explaining her role as speaker of the House and the process that is required to pass legislation. Rep. Kevin Dunlap also addressed the group and encouraged students to stay active and involved. "You are already leaders, or you would not be here today," he said. The 11th-graders toured the Capitol and saw state government in action at Senate and House committee meetings before posing for photos in front of the historic building. Cole and Kayla also met with Rep. Kelly Keisling in his office.

Following the visit to Capitol Hill, the group enjoyed lunch and leadership activities at a Nashville-area YMCA camp where the students were also treated to a safety trailer demonstration. The fun continued with a tour of Bridgestone Arena and a Nashville Predators hockey game. Wednesday morning, the students learned more about electric cooperatives and their daily operations through interactive games.



From left, Cole Johnson, Rep. Kelly Keisling, Tri-County Marketing Assistant Tracy Roark and Kayla Stafford meet during the 2016 Youth Leadership Summit in Nashville.

"These students will soon be our community leaders and electric cooperative member-owners," said Tri-County Electric Executive Vice President and General Manager Paul Thompson. "During this year's Youth Leadership Summit, these exceptional students were taught that advances in technology have created unique career opportunities in their hometowns. They will be our next generation of leaders, and Tri-County Electric is committed to preparing them for the challenges and opportunities they will face."

## Dyer earns TVA scholarship

Hunter Dyer of Macon County High School has been awarded a \$4,000 college scholarship from the Tennessee Valley Authority and Tri-County Electric through the TVA Power Distributors Scholarship Association. Scholarships are awarded each year in recognition of outstanding academic performance and commitment to community



Hunter Dyer receives his TVA Power Distributors Scholarship from Tri-County Electric Executive Vice President and General Manager Paul Thompson.

service among high school seniors whose parents are employed by local power companies. Hunter is the son of Jimmy and Stacey Dyer of Lafayette. Jimmy is a first class lineman in Tri-County Electric's Lafayette District.

Hunter graduated as salutatorian of the Macon County High School class of 2016 with a GPA of 4.58. Hunter has been active in the Drama Club and Beta Club and served as class vice president his junior and senior years. A four-year member of the trap-shooting and football teams, he was a competition cheerleader his senior year. Hunter has won numerous awards for both academics and athletics, including TSSAA Distinguished Scholastic Achievement, UCA All-American and U.S. Army ROTC Academic All-Star. He was voted Knight of the Blue and White by his classmates and selected by them to receive the North Central Cooperative Scholarship. His plans are to attend Tennessee Technological University in the fall, majoring in engineering.

Since they were established in 1995, more than 400 scholarships have been awarded through contributions and fund-raising efforts by the TVA Power Distributors Scholarship Association and its members. Scholarship recipients are selected by a panel of college professors from across the Tennessee Valley. TVA is the nation's largest public power provider and a corporation of the U.S. government. TVA provides power to 155 power distributors that serve 9 million consumers in all or parts of seven Southeastern states.

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**Kevin Staggs** (District 4)

**Wilbur Storey** (District 2)

**George G. Gray** —

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**Director of Member  
Services**

**Steven Turnbow**

**Purchasing Agent**

**Tony Polk**

## AS I SEE IT

*Manager's Viewpoint*

# TVEC recommends rate adjustment

Every September since 2011, I have told members at Tennessee Valley Electric Cooperative's annual meeting that I did not foresee having to implement a rate adjustment in the coming year. When I told them that at the 2015 meeting, I said I wasn't quite as confident — especially since the wholesale rate structure from the Tennessee Valley Authority was changing again.

Though we're going to make it through September without an adjustment, at this year's annual meeting I will have to tell the members that an adjustment, pending TVA approval, will go into effect Oct. 1, 2016.

Making the decision to recommend a rate adjustment to the board of directors is always a tough decision for a cooperative manager. It's a decision I know will affect all our members — and it will never be a popular one. It is a decision that can be made neither too early — which would result in excess revenue paid by the members — nor too late, possibly putting the cooperative at financial risk.

I had to make that decision and recommended an adjustment to the residential customer charge and the outdoor lighting rate at the June meeting of the directors of Tennessee Valley Electric Cooperative. The board approved my recommendation,

and the residential customer charge will increase by \$3.50 per month and the outdoor lighting rate by 0.534 cents per kilowatt-hour. The adjustment in the lighting rate will result in increases of 21 cents per month for a high-pressure sodium or LED light, 37 cents for a mercury vapor light and 88 cents for a metal halide light. All of these estimates are pending TVA approval.

My recommendation to the board was based on many factors. First, as a cooperative we are required by the financial institutions that loan cooperatives funds to maintain certain levels on several key financial ratios. By constantly monitoring these ratios, we were able to see them trending toward the minimum required levels, signaling a need for a rate adjustment.

Second, Tennessee Valley Electric Cooperative recently completed a cost of service study, which assigns all the cooperative's costs to the different rate classifications responsible for those costs. The study then allocates the cooperative's revenues to each rate classification. This study found that the revenues generated from the residential and outdoor lighting classes did not fully cover the costs allocated to those areas. In rate design, you want to be as equitable as possible across rate classifications without any one subsidizing another.



**Gerald Taylor**  
*General Manager,  
Tennessee Valley  
Electric Cooperative*

Third, I recommended the adjustments on the customer charge and outdoor lighting rate to help cover the costs associated with those classes and so I could tell you, the members, exactly how much your bill would increase per month and how you can counteract this increase (see tips below). Adjusting these fixed rates will affect you less than a per-kWh rate increase during hot and cold weather.

The increase, when spread over a month, comes up to roughly 12 cents per day, or just above the cost of 1 kilowatt-hour.

To counteract this increase and actually lower your bills even more, I urge our members to become more energy-efficient. We want you to use all the electricity you need while getting the most out of every kWh you purchase. Simple steps such as using high-efficiency fluorescent or LED lightbulbs and caulking or weather stripping around doors and windows are low-cost ways to become more efficient. Also, if you need to replace any major appliances, make sure you purchase high-efficiency models. I don't recommend replacing fully functional appliances with new models just to save on

your electric bill because the payback would be too long.

If you are planning to make any improvements to your home or just want a whole-house energy evaluation, we offer a program called e-Score. Our energy adviser, Steven Turnbow, will inspect your home and provide recommendations to help you save energy. Many of the recommended improvements, by the way, are eligible for refunds from TVA.

We also offer a way for you to monitor your electric use and see the effects weather and other factors have on your bill. All you have to do is go to [myusage.com](http://myusage.com) and sign up. It is a free service to all our members.

Again, it's never easy to have a rate increase, but, unfortunately, it is necessary at times. It is my hope that this and any future increases we implement will be made in small increments rather than waiting too long and having to make large increases.

If you want to set up an appointment to have your home evaluated please, call Steven at either of our offices. If you have any other questions or comments, feel free to contact me at the Savannah office.

## Use appliances wisely to save energy

**E**lectrical appliances in the home account for a large portion of its energy use. Computers, televisions, washers, dryers and dishwashers are some examples of common household appliances. Pool pumps and lawn fixtures, not as common, also offer great opportunities for savings.

The amount of time an appliance runs is an obvious factor on how much energy it uses. The energy rating of that appliance is the best indication of energy savings. How and when you use your appliance are others.

### Time in use

The most obvious of energy-saving methods is how long the appliance is in use. Clothes left in your dryer 10 minutes too long per load is quite a boost to the homeowner's bill when compounded over an entire month. Televisions and computers left on when no one is using them and dishwashers using water heated too hot are big users also. Pool pumps DO NOT have to run continuously to keep your pool treated. Ornamental lawn fixtures should be on timers or switched off at dark or when they don't need to run. Unplug unused appliances

be sure lights or other features don't continue to draw power.

### Energy rating

A bright, yellow tag on the cord or adhered somewhere tells you an appliance's average annual energy use. Seriously consider this information when replacing electrical equipment. Compare purchase price versus energy savings over time. You may pay more to buy a higher-rated appliance but save energy dollars each month that'll equal or often exceed the initial difference. The best savings are not always found on the price tag. ENERGY STAR is the most energy-efficient rating an appliance can have, so Tennessee Valley Electric Cooperative recommends homeowners purchase appliances that have achieved this designation. They may cost a little more but will pay for themselves in the long run.

These practices will help you achieve lower bills while still performing needed activities. For more information, contact TVEC's energy adviser, Steven Turnbow, by calling the Savannah office at 731-925-4916 or Waynesboro office at 931-722-5441.

# 2016 Washington Youth Tour



Above, TVEC's Washington Youth Tour group visits the White House. From left are Todd Alexander, Kaylie Jerrolds, Taylor Clayton, Deja Dixon and Taylor Daniel. Below, they tour George Washington's Mount Vernon.

Early 140 high school seniors from across Tennessee have returned from a weeklong “experience of a lifetime” courtesy of their local electric cooperatives. Deja Dixon and Taylor Daniel from Collinwood High School and Taylor Clayton and Kaylie Jerrolds from Hardin County High School as well as Hardin County teacher Todd Alexander were sponsored by Tennessee Valley Electric Cooperative to participate in the 2016 Washington Youth Tour June 10-16.

The popular event included sightseeing, visits with elected officials and lots of fun meeting peers from across Tennessee and the nation. Delegates earned their spots on the Youth Tour for writing winning short stories titled

“Electric Cooperatives: Powering Everyday Life.” In their winning entries, the talented young writers described how member-owned,



On the cover: In front of the U.S. Capitol are, from left, Deja Dixon, Todd Alexander, Taylor Clayton, Taylor Daniel, Jaylie Jerrolds and Steven Turnbow.



nonprofit electric co-ops strengthen their local communities and improve lives across their service areas while providing safe, reliable, affordable energy.

"We take great pride in rewarding the best and brightest from our service area," said Steven Turnbow, TVEC director of member services, a chaperone on this year's trip. "By recognizing their accomplishments through programs like the Washington Youth Tour, we show these leaders of tomorrow that their hometown electric co-op is more than a utility provider; TVEC is an active member of the community and fully invested in its prosperity."

For more than 50 years, the Washington Youth Tour has taken students from electric co-op service areas to our nation's capital to learn more about our country and the cooperative business model. The annual event is coordinated by TVEC, the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association and National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). This year's Youth Tour involved 1,700 students from 43 states.

"Young Americans given the opportunity to come to Washington, D.C., by their electric cooperatives experience a life-changing event," said NRECA Interim CEO Jeffrey Connor. "They talk to their elected officials in person, connect to our nation's rich history and have a hands-on experience with democracy. Youth Tour enriches their understanding of the political process and the vital importance of direct engagement. As a result, they return to their communities with a deeper commitment to the communities they represent."

On their 2016 visit, Tennessee's Youth Tour delegates saw the White House and memorials to past presidents Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Franklin Delano Roosevelt as well as monuments honoring the sacrifices of veterans of World War II and the Vietnam and Korean Wars.

*Other stops on the 2016 Rural Electric Youth Tour include the Washington National Monument, left, and Smithsonian Institution, bottom.*

During visits to the museums of the Smithsonian Institution, the touring Tennesseans saw and experienced natural, historical and artistic treasures. Other fun stops included historic homes of former presidents — George Washington's Mount Vernon and Jefferson's Monticello — as well as Madame Tussauds Wax Museum, the Hard Rock Cafe and a boat cruise down the Potomac River. Among other Youth Tour highlights

were a solemn and sobering visit to Arlington National Cemetery where the group laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns and a stirring Sunset Parade performance by the U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps and Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon.

The group was welcomed to the U.S. Capitol by Sens. Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker, and Rep. Marsha Blackburn spent time with her young constituents from TVEC, posing for photos and answering their questions.

"Our commitment to community is what sets cooperatives apart from other businesses," said TVEC General Manager Gerald Taylor. "The Washington Youth Tour is one way we show the youth of our service area that TVEC is more than their electricity provider. We genuinely care about the prosperity of our communities, and that includes providing special opportunities for these exceptional students and preparing them for future success."



# Manage your energy use with handy apps

By Anne Prince

Tracking your steps, keeping an eye on your children, monitoring your banking activity or locating your parked car — these days, it seems like there is an app for everything. If you are efficiency-savvy and want to manage your energy use, there may be an app that works for you. While there are several energy use apps to choose from, some can be difficult to use, particularly those aimed at general efficiency. Since there are no clear standouts, try a few and choose the app that works best for you.

Purchasing a smart thermostat for your home is a great way to begin managing your energy use. But if you are looking for a more detailed way to obtain information about your energy use, an app can provide useful insight into how specific actions impact your utility bill. Here is a snapshot of a few energy efficiency mobile apps. All of the apps mentioned in this article are available for Apple and Android systems.

## Nest

Owned by Google, created by Nest Labs and linked only to the Nest thermostat, this free app has several useful features. You can adjust your home thermostat by simply using your smartphone or tablet — whether in your car or on your couch. App users can view and edit a thermostat schedule and keep an eye on how much energy is being used. You can also opt to receive extreme temperature alerts before your pet overheats or your pipes freeze. In addition, there is an option for smoke and carbon monoxide alerts, among others.

## Together We Save

Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives offers the Together We Save app, which enables users to calculate the energy use of many household appliances based on national averages. This free app includes roughly 100 calculators that determine the projected energy use and cost of particular appliances and activities. The app also offers 100 practical energy-saving tips.



*Users of the Lennox iComfort app can remotely control their home Lennox thermostats and program their heat-and-air systems to go into the energy-saving "away mode" when no one is home. Source: Lennox International*

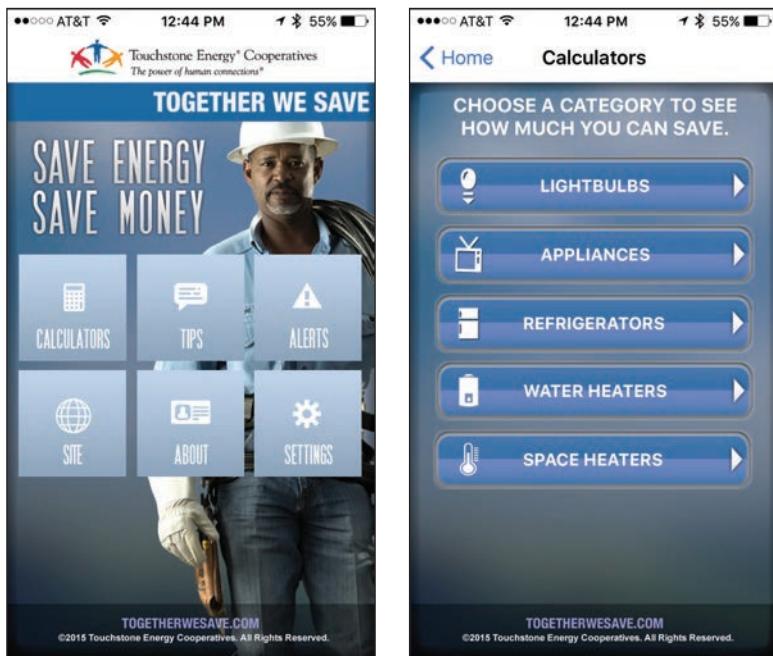
## Lennox iComfort

Like the Nest app, the Lennox iComfort app is only compatible with Lennox products — in this case, the Wi-Fi thermostat. It has similar features to the Nest in that users can remotely control their home thermostats and other settings. In addition, the app allows users to program the system to an energy savings "away mode" when no one is home. For example, you can select the settings you wish to run, then cancel the "away mode" as you return home to ensure a comfortable temperature awaits you.

## Your trusted energy resource

While these apps employ the latest technology to maximize your ability to manage your use, the next generation of energy apps will likely integrate across multiple platforms — managing your thermostat, appliances, water heater, home electronics and other devices from the convenience of your smart phone. In the meantime, while app technology continues to evolve, your best resource for saving energy and money remains Tennessee Valley Electric Cooperative.

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



The *Together We Save* app from Touchstone Energy Cooperatives enables users to calculate the energy use of many household appliances based on national averages and offers 100 practical energy-saving tips.

## Still burning old lightbulbs? Make the switch

If your home's lamps and light fixtures are still housing old-fashioned incandescent lightbulbs, it's time to switch to something that's far more energy-efficient. Twisty, compact fluorescent lightbulbs — CFLs — are better. But LED bulbs are even more energy-efficient and last much longer.

Yes, LEDs cost more than other kinds of lightbulbs — sometimes more than twice as much. But they use about 80 percent less energy than your out-of-date incandescents. CFLs use about 70 percent less energy than the old bulbs.

Over time, though, LEDs shine the brightest of the three when it comes to energy use and cost savings. The average life span of an LED bulb is 25,000 hours, compared with 1,200 hours for a traditional bulb and 8,000 for a CFL. And at about 12.5 cents per kilowatt-hour — the national average, according to the U.S. Energy Information

Administration — you'll pay \$38 to operate the LED bulb for 23 years. If the incandescent or CFL bulb lasted 23 years — it won't — you would pay \$201 or \$48, respectively.

So make the switch today for a couple of decades — on average — of energy savings.

**Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month**



*Is your room air conditioner working overtime? Reduce air leaks by installing rigid foam panels (instead of the commonly used accordion panels) in between the window frame and unit and secure with duct tape.*

*Source: energy.gov*

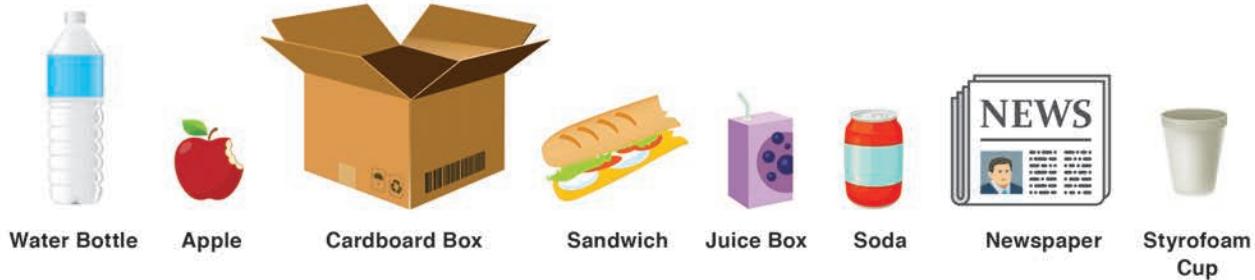
# SORTING THINGS OUT



Recycling is important for the future of our planet! Can you sort the items below into the correct bin? Write the name of the item in the correct category.

RECYCLE

GARBAGE



Water Bottle

Apple

Cardboard Box

Sandwich

Juice Box

Soda

Newspaper

Styrofoam Cup

RECYCLE: Water Bottle, Cardboard Box, Juice Box, Soda Can, Newspaper  
GARBAGE: Apple, Sandwich, Styrofoam Cup

Answer Key:

August 2016 [www.tnmagazine.org](http://www.tnmagazine.org)

# THE TENNESSEE MAGAZINE



Glassblowers  
Turn Up the Heat

Washington Youth Tour

History for Kids:  
TVA Deeds Land to Cherokee

Honeydew-licious  
Recipes for Summer

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*Delegates and chaperones sponsored by your electric cooperative visit the U.S. Capitol during the 2016 Washington Youth Tour. See your Co-op News section and page 14 for more information on the once-in-a-lifetime trip to our nation's capital.*

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## TENNESSEE TODAY *Manager's Viewpoint*

# Nine hundred words

The contest rules are specific. Rule number 3 states:

"The short story should be no more than 900 words in length (including articles of speech); 800 to 900 words will make your paper competitive."

One of the last things a high school student wants to do is write a short story. It takes more effort than a multiple-choice exam, and the odds of doing it correctly are lower than that of a true/false quiz.

This paper, however, isn't a required test. It's completely voluntary and part of a competition sponsored by Tennessee's electric cooperatives. It requires some thought and creativity, but the payoff is incredible.

Winners earn spots on the weeklong Washington Youth Tour. It's not a vacation. The trek is part history, part educational, but 100 percent fun (despite mornings that begin at 6 a.m.). The students are also eligible for a share of \$16,000 in college scholarships and the opportunity to serve with a national youth leadership group. Along with your local cooperative, it is a combined effort of the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association and our national association, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Some 1,700 students from around the nation participate in the event, but Tennessee always sends the largest group. This year, 134 students from across the state were selected to attend along with 53 teachers and cooperative employees.

For the Washington Youth Tour to be as successful as it has been takes a commitment from local cooperative boards to fund the program and dedicated cooperative employees who spend a long, tiring week chaperoning those students.

With nearly \$3 billion invested in our statewide utility infrastructure, cooperatives spend millions of dollars each year maintaining and improving the electric grid. That investment pays off immediately with improved service and other factors that keep operating costs to a minimum.

The thousands spent to send high school students to our nation's capital pales in comparison. As an investment, it isn't something that provides an immediate payoff. However, over the long term, nothing we do provides a lifetime of positive returns as does this investment in our future.

It is important to the students and their families. And it is important to the continuing prosperity of the communities we serve. These students are our leaders of tomorrow. It's important that they learn about the political process, their cooperative and service to their communities. It's important that they learn about themselves; these students gain confidence in their abilities and learn to be leaders.

This investment is ongoing. We've continued this program for more than 50 years. The results — years later — are tangible. Former Youth Tour participants turn up everywhere. We can't keep track of all of them, but some are teachers, legislators or electric utility executives. You've likely heard of one former Youth Tour participant from Alabama — current Apple CEO Tim Cook.

To quote one of our students, "I never realized how life-changing a combination of 900 words could be until I won the short-story competition."

Nine hundred words and a lifetime of memories: That's an investment we will gladly continue for the next 50 years. ■



**David Callis**  
General Manager,  
Tennessee Electric  
Cooperative  
Association

# Eye Doctor Helps Tennessee Legally Blind To See



**High Technology For Low Vision Patients Allows Many To Drive Again**

**F**or many patients with macular degeneration and other vision-related conditions, the loss of central visual detail also signals the end to one of the last bastion of independence: driving. A Lebanon optometrist, Dr. John Pino, is using miniaturized telescopes that are mounted in glasses to help people who have lost vision from macular degeneration and other eye conditions.

"Some of my patients consider me the last stop for people who have vision loss," said Dr. Pino, one of only a few doctors in the world who specialize in fitting bioptic telescopes to help those who have lost vision due to macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, and other debilitating eye diseases.

Imagine a pair of glasses that can improve your vision enough to change your life. If you're a low vision patient, you've probably not only imagined them, but have been searching for them. Bioptic telescopes may be the breakthrough in optical technology that will give you the independence you've been looking for. Patients with vision in the 20/200 range can many times be improved to 20/50 or better.

Macular degeneration is the leading cause of blindness and vision loss in people over 50. Despite this, most adults

are not familiar with the condition. As many as 25% of those over the age of 50 have some degree of macular degeneration. The macula is only one small part of the retina; however, it is the most sensitive and gives us sharp central vision. When it degenerates, macular degeneration leaves a blind spot right in the center of vision, making it difficult or impossible to recognize faces, read a book, or pass the driver's vision test.

Nine out of 10 people who have macular degeneration have the dry form. New research suggests vitamins can help. The British medical journal BMC Ophthalmology recently reported that



*A scene as it might be viewed by a person with age-related macular degeneration.*

56% of patients treated with a high-dose combination of vitamins experienced improved vision after six months. TOZAL Comprehensive Eye Health Formula is now available by prescription from eye doctors.

While age is the most significant risk factor for developing the disease, heredity, smoking, cardiovascular disease, and high blood pressure have also been identified as risk factors. Macular degeneration accounts for 90% of new legal blindness in the U.S. While there is currently no cure, promising research is being done on many fronts. "My job is to figure out everything and anything possible to keep a person

functioning, especially driving," says Dr. Pino.

When Elaine, 57, of Kingsport, TN, came to see Dr. Pino she wanted to keep her Tennessee driver's license and was prescribed bioptic telescopic glasses to read signs and see traffic lights farther away. Dr. Pino also prescribed microscope glasses for reading newspapers and menus in restaurants.

As Elaine puts it, "My regular glasses didn't help too much – it was like looking through a fog. These new telescopic glasses not only allow me to read signs from a farther distance, but make driving much easier. I've also used them to watch television so I don't have to sit so close. I don't know why I waited to do this; I should have come sooner."

"Bioptic telescopes can cost over \$2,000," said Dr. Pino, "especially if we build them with an automatic sunglass."

"The major benefit of the bioptic telescope is that the lens automatically focuses on whatever you're looking at," said Dr. Pino. "It's like a self-focusing camera, but much more precise."

To learn more about bioptic telescopes or to schedule a consultation with Dr. Pino, give us a call at 1-855-405-8800. You can also visit our website at:

[www.lowvisiontn.com](http://www.lowvisiontn.com)

For more information and a FREE telephone consultation, call us today:  
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Offices located in Lebanon,  
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**John M. Pino, O.D., Ph.D.**



## QUICK LOOK

### Events Almanac

[Page 16 and tnmagazine.org](#)

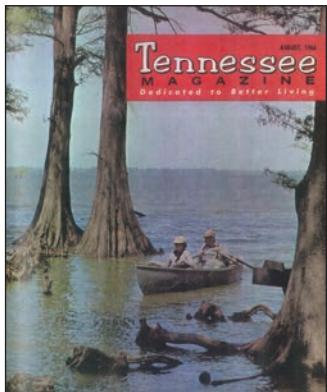
Check out this month's calendar for interesting happenings across Tennessee.



### Best of Tennessee

[Page 28 and tnmagazine.org](#)

Time's nearly up to enter our prize package giveaway. Nominate your favorites from West, Middle and East Tennessee.



### 50 Years Ago

[Page 30 and tnmagazine.org](#)

See how *The Tennessee Magazine* looked in August 1966. View the entire issue on our website.

### Art and Poetry

[Pages 36-38 and tnmagazine.org](#)

Interacting with readers is one of the most rewarding parts of our work at *The Tennessee Magazine*. This month, there are several opportunities for you to share your talents with us.

## CO-OP CONCERNS

*Manager's Viewpoint*

## Go vote! (again)

With the completion of both the Democratic and Republican national conventions, the stage is now set for the presidential election.

For some, the campaign will be a ritual obligation of citizenship in this great country, but for others, the rancor and debate are more like fingernails screeching down the chalkboard.

Let me encourage you to not overlook another very important election. On Thursday, Aug. 4, the State Primary and County General elections will be held. With all the attention paid to who will one day occupy the White House, it's understandable that you might not know exactly which election this is. But it's also important to understand that the people elected in August could impact you in even greater ways.

The County General election is where the final determination is made for who will serve in important roles in the county government: school board, county commission, various judges, sheriff and other roles like the assessor of property or county trustee. While these positions may not generally make the 6 o'clock news, they serve very important roles in keeping our communities orderly. When there is a question about how much property tax you owe, neither the president nor anyone else in D.C. makes the final decision. The time your child's bus picks up and drops off students each day is not made by your congressman; rather, these decisions are governed by and large by your neighbors.

The State Primary determines who will represent the political parties in state representative and state senator contests during the November general election. Oftentimes, several individuals will vie for a party's nomination. This election narrows the field so that one candidate represents each party.

These state representatives and senators are the people with whom I spend a lot of time. State government makes laws that affect your co-op's ability to continue to provide reliable and affordable power — or do much of anything else, for that matter. For that reason, part of my job is to work with your state representative and senator to make sure they understand how important your electric co-op is to the community.

It is entirely possible that all candidates in your district decide to run in the same primary. In this case, the August election becomes the de facto general election. If you only go to the polls when it's time to vote for president, you could miss your opportunity to choose who your legislator will be.

I spend lots of time talking with state legislators one-on-one, making sure that Tennessee's rural and suburban communities are the best they can be. Let me assure you that the vast majority of our state legislature is dedicated to serving you with honesty and integrity. I see their efforts with my own two eyes.

I do have one fear, though: More and more of my friends are growing tired of politics. They are throwing up their hands and saying, "Enough is enough!" because of what they see on cable news.

While you might be mad about whatever the scandal or outrage of the moment might be, the sheriff is still patrolling the streets, and your state senator is considering how much money should be spent on our roads.

If you don't take the time to learn who the local candidates are, make an informed decision and go vote, we are stuck with the types of leaders our indifference deserves. So, please take the time to learn about your own Aug. 4 election — and go vote!



Mike Knotts  
Vice President of  
Government Affairs



# A TOUCH OF G



**Tennessee  
glassblowers  
demystify an  
ancient artform  
by giving  
hands-on  
training and  
appreciation**

**T**hink of something you do every day, and imagine it being done the exact same way a hundred years ago. Can you think of anything? What about a thousand years ago? Chances are, everything you do, everything you touch, everything you own has been upgraded by technology or design in some way or another, likely in the last six months. We live in a rapidly changing world. It's hard to imagine doing anything the exact same way our ancestors did it.

That is, unless you're a glassblower. Except for a few minor tool and material improvements, the art of glassblowing is done as it has been since the Bronze Age — using a furnace and handling simple tools and a long blowpipe.

You've seen glassblowers at arts and crafts fairs or perhaps on a field trip when you were young. They crouched in front of furnaces and on the ends of metal rods twirled

*Story by Ron Bell*



# LASS



*Glass becomes pliable at 2,200 degrees and hardens quickly as it cools into its new shape. Above, glass artist and Appalachian Center for Craft graduate Lyla Nelson molds a piece as it cools. She now has her own glassblowing studio in Pennsylvania. Far right, Matthew Cummings starts a new piece by inserting it into the furnace.*

beautiful liquid bubbles that grew larger as they blew air through the rods. The breath is key to the art of blowing glass. No fans or bellows are used. The artist's own careful breath controls the shape and size of the piece, ensuring the different colors swirl and dance in the surreal kaleidoscope that only true handmade glass can achieve.

It's almost as much fun to watch the faces of the audience as it is to witness the transformation of the glass as it turns from a formless blob to something as beautifully functional as a vase, drinking glass or sculpture.

Glassblowing originated sometime in the first century BC when artisans of the Roman Empire discovered glass's forging abilities at extreme heat and began making glass vases and urns for drinking and serving food and wine. The process was passed down from teacher to student for centuries.

But it wasn't until the middle of the 20th century that glass artists turned it into an artform all its own, transcending its previous life as functional craft and beautiful household items. Glass is now on display in museums and galleries around the world as art pieces to be viewed as you would any sculpture. And if you've ever watched a glass artist at work, it is no less mystifying today than it must have been to onlookers in the Roman Empire.

Tom Fuhrman, a longtime glass artist from Oak Ridge and a favorite at craft fairs across Tennessee for decades, exclaims, "Glass is one of those art forms where you most often hear someone ask, 'How did you make that?' It's just very fascinating and mysterious to people."

As Tennesseans we are not only able to watch glass artists at work but can actually participate and bring home a vase or sculpture made with our own hands and our own breath. Many of our local glass artists also conduct workshops to teach students of all ages the basics of glassblowing.

Tennessee is fortunate to be home to one of North America's most comprehensive programs for learning the ancient art of glassblowing and sculpture. The Appalachian Center for Craft (ACC) in Smithville is affiliated with Tennessee Technological University, and graduates of ACC have taken what they've learned and made an impact all over the U.S. and around the world. Former students have set up shop — from small furnaces in their backyards to large businesses all their own — around the globe and are continuing the legacy of teaching as well.



*Photo courtesy of Matthew Cummings*

Professor Curtiss Brock, head of the glassblowing program at ACC since 1989, has helped launch the careers of countless glass artists and was 2009's art educator of the year. Despite his busy schedule, Brock continues to blow glass almost daily and has his own work in more than 25 galleries worldwide.

"It's not like a woodshop," says Brock, "where you can just turn it off and go home. This is a 24/7 kind of commitment. The furnace has to be so hot to work."

In order to mold and manipulate glass, a furnace must

be cranked to 2,200 degrees. That's the equivalent of six or seven conventional ovens baking at full capacity. Glass only allows itself to be manipulated when it reaches that temperature.

Once the glass is in liquid form, it can be molded and blown into shapes, and colors, bubbles and other design elements can be added. The glass cools quickly once it leaves the heat of the furnace, so the artist has only a few minutes to forge a shape and get a design he or she wants. Like most all artistic processes, accidents can often give each piece its charm.

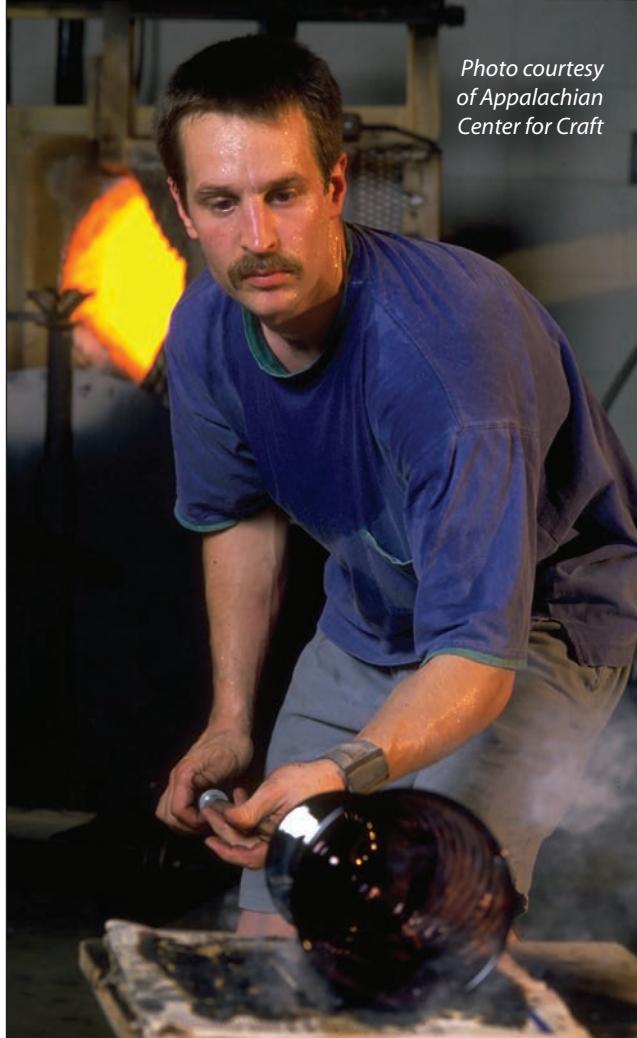
"We understand more about the material

the more we do it," says Brock. "But there is always a huge element of surprise when working with glass. That's one of the things that keeps us fascinated with it."

One of Brock's former students who is making a dent — not only in glassblowing but as an entrepreneur — is Matthew Cummings. His Pretentious Beer and Glass Company in Knoxville combines two of the young artist's loves — craft beer and handcrafted glass — into a certain one-of-a-kind business. Cummings creates his own custom glassware and sells it online and for the growing local craft beer industry. He also does commissioned work for Kingsport's Gypsy Circus Cider Company and Knoxville's Lonesome Dove Western Bistro, making everything from their swizzle sticks to cocktail glasses to tap handles.



*Photo courtesy  
of Appalachian  
Center for Craft*



*Photo courtesy  
of Appalachian  
Center for Craft*

Above, Appalachian Center for Craft (ACC) professor Curtiss Brock puts the finishing touches on a glass vase. "Working in glass is not for everyone," he stresses. "It's hard work, it's hot and one wrong move can destroy hours of work. But if you have a passion for it and a love for the material, there's just nothing better." Left, student Wes Copp finishes a piece in ACC's "hot shop."

Many of Tennessee's glassblowers are willing — passionate, in fact — to share what they've learned by passing it on to younger generations. Franklin's José Santisteban has been working with glass since 1999 and runs his Franklin Glass Blowing Studio where he creates his own work as well as teaches, giving folks a hands-on education in the art of glass.

"I've been in love with the artform for as long as I can remember," says Santisteban, who studied glassblowing in Seattle, Washington, and Rochester, New York, after receiving a bachelor's degree in literature and

*The Hoppy Beer Glass, designed by Matthew Cummings and made one at a time, comes with helpful visual instructions on where to place your fingers.*

*Photo courtesy of Matthew Cummings*



theory from Vanderbilt University. As an artist, Santisteban gathers inspiration from the world around him. He observes nature, geometry, structure, chaos, even social interactions to give him ideas. As a teacher, he tries to inspire his students with the same sense of wonder he had as a child, when he was fascinated with water in all its many forms: rain, snow, lakes, streams, oceans, ice and steam. It seems only natural that he would gravitate to working in glass.

"You never forget your first time seeing someone make this beautiful thing before your eyes," says Santisteban. "You watch it harden into this colorful crystal-like material. It was just like magic to me. I knew I had to do it."

One might expect glassblowing, with all the physical rigors of a difficult blue-collar job, to be a young man's pursuit, but Cummins disagrees. "Ugo LaPietra (the renowned Italian glass artist) is 78, and he works every day. He's still blowing glass. I know a lot of older guys doing this. It's a way of life, and you have to have a passion for it."

"You have to stay fit," stresses Brock, speaking of the intense commitment level the practice demands of a full-time glass artist. "And you have to be 'all in' at some point or you won't be able to do it well. Eventually it will just frustrate you right out of the profession."

"My goal as an instructor is to take the mythology out of glass and keep the reality of what it is, that it can be done, that it is being done by some remarkable people," Brock says. "I've been fortunate enough to teach them and pass along this craft, and now I'm watching them do the same. It's very satisfying." ■



Floral glass design by Lyla Nelson  
Photo courtesy of Appalachian Center for Craft

## Glassblowing Across the State

Workshops teaching the timeless art of glassblowing are available throughout Tennessee. We've spotlighted several here, but search the internet for glass artists in your area to see what they offer.

### Middle Tennessee:

Franklin Glassblowing Studio  
Jose Santisteban  
1143 Columbia Ave.  
Suite A10  
Franklin, TN 37064  
615-435-3746  
[franklinglassblowingstudio.com](http://franklinglassblowingstudio.com)

### East Tennessee:

Thomas Spake Studios  
P.O. Box 4041  
Chattanooga, TN 37405  
423-596-8696  
[thomasspakestudios.com](http://thomasspakestudios.com)  
iGNiS Glass Studio  
409 Broad St.  
Chattanooga, TN 37402  
423-265-2565  
[ignisglass.com](http://ignisglass.com)

### West Tennessee:

Ginkgo Glass Studio  
3542 Northwood Drive  
Memphis, TN 38111  
901-292-4866  
[facebook.com/GinkgoGlassStudio](http://facebook.com/GinkgoGlassStudio)

Visit these web links to see more work from the artists featured in this article:

**The Pretentious Beer Glass Company**  
[etsy.com/shop/  
PretentiousBeerGlass](http://etsy.com/shop/PretentiousBeerGlass)

**Lyla Nelson**  
[lylanelson.net](http://lylanelson.net)

**Sam Meketon**  
[glassartists.org/sammeketon](http://glassartists.org/sammeketon)

**Appalachian Center for Craft**  
1 William Jones Drive  
Cookeville, TN 38505  
800-255-8881  
[tnstate.edu/craftcenter](http://tnstate.edu/craftcenter)



Matthew Cummings holds one of the products he makes for the glass company he founded to serve the growing craft beer industry.  
Photo courtesy of Matthew Cummings

# TVA to deed 76 acres along Tellico Lake to Cherokee

In a story that involves Tennessee's colonial and Native American history, a proposal to deed 76 acres of Tellico Lake property to the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Nation is making slow progress through a congressional committee.

*The Chota Memorial on Tellico Lake*



Since practically all of the affected entities are in favor of its passage, House Bill 3599 will probably pass — if not this year then under the next Congress.

But the story behind it is a long one.

You see, Tellico Lake sits on land that once belonged to the Cherokee nation. So did all of southeast Tennessee, for that matter. However, the land under and surrounding the lake is especially important to the Cherokees because it used to be the site of communities such as Chota, Toqua and Tanasi — the place for which the Tennessee River and the state of Tennessee were named.

It is also the land on which Sequoyah, creator of the Cherokee syllabary, was born.

Most of Monroe and Loudon counties were deeded to the U.S. government in the Calhoun Treaty of 1819. The Cherokee villages were vacated at that time, and the land was sold to farmers and loggers after the counties were organized.

In the 1960s, the Tennessee Valley Authority announced its intention to build Tellico Dam, permanently flooding parts of Loudon and Monroe counties. It was and remains the most controversial project in TVA's history.

Part of the opposition to Tellico Dam focused on an endangered species of fish known as the snail darter. A lawsuit associated with the snail darter and Tellico Lake went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. But another vocal element of the opposition had to do with the Cherokee legacy in the area.

To allay opposition to the Tellico Lake project, TVA saw that 15 years of archaeological digs were completed, including some at the former sites of Chota and Tanasi. TVA also made arrangements to see that Cherokee culture would remain recognized and honored through the creation and funding of the Sequoyah Birthplace Museum.

As the head of TVA's cultural resources program, Max Ramsey worked extensively on the planning and impact of the Tellico Dam project for TVA in the 1960s and 1970s. Ramsey eventually became the chairman of the board of the Sequoyah Birthplace Museum.

"When Tellico Dam was being developed, it was understood by TVA that one day the tribe would seek to have some of those Tellico lands returned to them," says Ramsey.

The 76 acres consist of three main pieces of land:



*Standing at the Massey Memorial, Charlie Rhodarmer, executive director of the Sequoyah Birthplace Museum, points to the location of the village of Tanasi.*

- A 43-acre tract on which the Sequoyah Birthplace Museum and structures related to it now sit. (Currently, the museum land is owned by TVA and operated under a permanent easement by the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians.)
- An 11-acre tract on the opposite side of the lake that is also under a permanent easement to the Cherokee nation. Currently this land is undeveloped, but it is believed that eventually the museum will create structures there to help support the museum and house entertainers and lecturers who present there.
- About 22 acres of lakeshore land stretching from the former site of the Cherokee village of Chota to a piece of land near the former site of Tanasi (the actual site of Tanasi is under water). Currently, this area includes monuments that commemorate Cherokee history and culture. If the current bill passes, the Chota-Tanasi sites would be connected via an interpretive walking trail.

"I can't wait to get started," says Charlie Rhodarmer, executive director of the Sequoyah Birthplace Museum.

House Bill 3599, sponsored by Rep. Chuck Fleischmann of Ooltewah, makes it clear that none of the land can be used for gaming operations.

It must be emphasized that the 76 acres being discussed represent a tiny fraction of the land that TVA

bought when it created Tellico Lake. TVA acquired about 37,900 acres in the lake's footprint.

Some of the Cherokee villages permanently flooded by Tellico Lake are mentioned extensively in "The Memoirs of Lt. Henry Timberlake," an extremely important French and Indian War-era autobiography. Timberlake toured many of the Overhill Cherokee villages in 1761-62 and wrote extensively about his experiences.

In the book, Timberlake describes a Cherokee town house in Chota and estimated that it had enough room for 500 people: "Within it has all the appearance of an ancient amphitheatre, the seats being raised one above another, leaving an area in the middle, in the center of which stands the fire, the seats of the head warriors are nearest it."

The extensive Chota monument sits on the exact location of this town house.

In 1969, prior to the creation of Tellico Lake, University of Tennessee researchers used Timberlake's memoirs to locate the remains of Chota. They found that his map and his description of the town house were remarkably accurate. They also found and reinterred the grave of the Cherokee chief Oconastota beside the Chota monument. ■

# Washington You



*Shannon Dennard, a delegate representing Fort Loudoun Electric Cooperative, kept an online journal during his time on the Washington Youth Tour, which brings students from electric cooperatives across America to our nation's capital. We're excerpting his thoughts here as they capture the spirit of the inspirational program.*

## DAY 1 • Friday, June 10

6:19 p.m.— Just got done eating at K&W cafeteria, and whoa. That place is so good! We've played a lot of bus games. A lot. Soon, I get to stuff myself in a suit and deliver a speech that could open doors beyond my imagination. No pressure.

8:07 p.m.— In the lobby of Best Western waiting to be called to give my speech. I'm surrounded by some of the most professional-looking teenagers I've ever seen. My nerves are on edge.

## DAY 2 • Saturday, June 11

6:12 a.m.— Had to wake up at 5 this morning, but all in all I'm pretty energized. My leader, Amy Kirkland, called to wake me up. Without her, I would've overslept because I set my alarm for 7 instead of 5. "Good" start to a soon-to-be great day! I was first in line for breakfast! I was also the first to spill my drink.

## Day 3 • Sunday, June 12

8:34 a.m.— I completely forgot to write in this journal last night. Probably because of how overloaded my heart was. Being in Washington, D.C., in person is like living a dream you've had over and over. We visited all of the monuments last night, and, man, was I engaged. We had a tour guide who made the trip so much better; she could tell you each and every scandal that's happened in D.C.

9:28 a.m.— The Youth Leadership Council winner was announced, and it wasn't me. It stings, I'm gonna be honest, but I



still have four days left in D.C.! The Washington Youth Tour has already taught me: The true test to a leader is how they react when they lose.

2:56 p.m.— Just got done roaming three of the Smithsonian museums, and, man, I'm so exhausted. Other than that, I was awestruck at everything I saw. Absolutely outstanding.

## Day 4 • Monday, June 13

6:21 a.m.— Yesterday we walked through Arlington National Cemetery, and I was incredibly humbled. Seeing all of those tombstones and realizing that each one represents a human being who had feelings and actual lives is an incredible experience.

10:13 a.m.— Just got out of a program where a man with all the heart and character I could only dream of spoke to us. I don't think we realize the extent to which these amazing leaders care about us kids, and I am so grateful to be in their care. The sites in Washington give you the memories, but these leaders give you character, and character lasts a lifetime.

## Day 5 • Tuesday, June 14

7:17 a.m.— All of the excitement made me forget about writing in this journal more yesterday. We went to the Washington National Cathedral. You will NEVER find a place so indescribable! This church is so big! We took a three-hour boat tour. I never left the dance floor. So far, it's my favorite thing we've done.

## Youth Tour builds leaders

Youth Tour delegates earned their unforgettable trips to D.C. for writing winning 900-word short stories describing the valuable community-strengthening services provided by local electric cooperatives.

In addition to spots on the tour, delegates had a chance at a share of \$16,000 in scholarship money. The top-judged short story from each co-op service area was entered in a statewide competition. The scholarships were renamed this year in memory of Robert McCarty, employee of Volunteer Energy Cooperative and longtime Youth Tour chaperone who lost his battle with cancer in 2015.

Taking first place and winning a \$3,000 scholarship was **Hope Kelley**, representing Meriwether Lewis Electric Cooper-

ative. **Katie Torrance**, Volunteer Energy Cooperative, won the second-place \$2,000 scholarship. Third place and a \$1,000 scholarship went to **Kaitlyn Springer**, Sequatchie Valley Electric Cooperative.

Finally, **Megan Lewis**, who represented Tri-State Electric Membership Corporation in 2015, was awarded the \$10,000 Cooperative Youth Ambassador Scholarship given to a delegate who remains engaged with his or her sponsoring cooperative and completes certain community service requirements.

A public-speaking competition was also held on the tour to name a Youth Leadership Council representative. **Montana Woodard**, Mountain Electric Cooperative, will represent Tennessee at state and national cooperative association meetings.

# uth Tour ONLINE

1:30 p.m.— The Hard Rock Cafe was so hype! People were dancing, and the music was so fun. Madame Tussaud's is insanely creepy, guys.

7:16 p.m.— At the Sunset Parade, and WHOA! These Marines send chills down your spine; they're amazing! Makes me wanna learn the tuba.

10:27 p.m.— My experience tonight was like no other. We had a meeting announcing the state winners of the writing contest. What makes the group of kids who won this trip so special is that even in the face of a loss, they can smile for the winner — and mean it. They are life-changers.

## Day 6 • Wednesday, June 15

11:28 a.m.— I spoke to the group last night, and since then, countless people have complimented me on my speech. Someone being proud of you can give you the wings you need to soar and accomplish any goal. These people you'll meet, they're one-of-a-kind, and I can see a clear difference in myself because of them.

2:14 p.m.— Once again another OUTSTANDING tour guide (at the U.S. Capitol). The people who can find joy in teaching others will always have my admiration.

8:02 p.m.— Remember the boat party we had? Well there's a party at the host hotel that's 10 times better than that! There's over a thousand kids dancing together! The kids who are good dancers are dancing, and the kids who are bad dancers are dancing — because WHO CARES?

## Day 7 • Thursday, July 16

9:39 a.m.— Confession: kind of wishing the bus would break down so we could stay.

12:26 p.m.— We're on the plane! My first time flying! I always thought looking down at the cities and towns would be what I found most fascinating about flying, but, no, it's the clouds. From up here, every worry or care I've ever had vanishes because of how insignificant they are to the big picture. I'm going to change this world I'm flying over.

### Back Home

2:41 p.m.— I was afraid to write my final entry in this journal. I thought that once I finished, my adventure would be, too. I hope it speaks to you, future readers, how reluctant I was to write this final entry. I hope it shows you that the people you meet will leave an impact on you that will never fade. I hope it shows you that the environment created with the lack of "cliques" or social groups makes for an indescribable burst of personality from each and every kid that you won't see ANYWHERE else. And I hope it shows you that the adults you'll meet will forever be the angels on your shoulder, directing you to do right.

This journal was my attempt at conveying just some of my experiences and emotions I felt on this seven-day escape from reality. I challenge you to dig deep inside your imagination for the story you dare to send in for the Washington Youth Tour Writing Contest, the story that will take the judges through your innermost creative thoughts, the story you will never regret writing. And maybe then those 900 words will change your life, too. ■

View Shannon's journal in its entirety on our website, [tnmagazine.org](http://tnmagazine.org). And be sure to see the Co-op News section, pages 20-26, for specifics on this year's Washington Youth Tour.

## A Social Affair *Delegates speak out about their Youth Tour experience via social media #TNWYT*



**Ellis Osburn**  
Southwest  
Tennessee EMC

George Washington  
had a pretty rad  
garden



**Hannah Wright**  
Caney Fork EC

The greatest thing  
just happened! CFEC  
just met Thomas Jef-  
ferson's great-great-  
great-great grandson!



**Frances Uwechia**  
Duck River EMC

"Darkness cannot  
drive out darkness,  
only light can do that.  
Hate cannot drive out  
hate, only love can do that."



**Jody Williams**  
Middle  
Tennessee EMC

I had an amazing op-  
portunity to meet so  
many wonderful peo-  
ple on the Tennessee  
Washington Youth Tour. Thanks for helping make  
summer '16 one for the books!



**Jessica Law**  
Tri-County EMC

We didn't realize we  
were making memories,  
we just knew we were  
having fun.

## West Tennessee

**Aug. 5 • Savannah Gospel Summer Sing**, Hardin County High School, Savannah. 731-607-1948 or [joshandashleyfranks.com](http://joshandashleyfranks.com)

**Aug. 18 • Community Barn Dance**, Sagamore Lodge, Chickasaw State Park, Henderson. 731-989-5141

**Aug. 20 • Chester County BBQ Festival Pageant**, Williams Auditorium, Chester County Middle School, Henderson. 731-989-8110

**Aug. 25 • Concert in the Park Series: "Happy Birthday to the National Park Service!"** Shiloh National Military Park, Shiloh. 731-689-5696 or [nps.gov/shil](http://nps.gov/shil)

**Aug. 25 • Live at the Garden Summer Concert Series: REO Speedwagon**, Memphis Botanic Garden, Memphis. 901-636-4107 or [liveatthegarden.com](http://liveatthegarden.com)

**Aug. 26-28 • "Caged Birds,"** The Marty, Adamsville. 731-645-2671

**Aug. 27 • Envile Fun Day**, downtown Envile. 731-608-4761

**Sept. 2-11 • Delta Fair and Music Festival**, Agricenter International, Memphis. 901-867-7007 or [deltafest.com](http://deltafest.com)

**Sept. 3 • Concert in the Park Series: "Teaching Our Children: Symphonies and Concert Bands,"** Shiloh National Military Park, Shiloh. 731-689-5696 or [nps.gov/shil](http://nps.gov/shil)

**Sept. 9-12 • "You Can't Take It With You,"** The Latta, Selmer. 731-645-2671

**Sept. 10 • Cotton Pickin' 5K and 1K Cotton Candy Fun Run Benefitting Fayette Cares**, 205 S. East St., Somerville. 901-465-3802 or [fayettetcares.org](http://fayettetcares.org)

## Middle Tennessee

**July 30-Aug. 6 • Macon County Fair**, 231 Russell Drive, Lafayette. 615-666-7207

**Aug. 4-20 • "Funny Money,"** Gaslight Dinner Theatre, Dickson. 615-740-5600 or [gaslightdinnertheatre.org](http://gaslightdinnertheatre.org)

**Aug. 5 • 55th Belfast Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders' and Exhibitors' Association Lions Club Horse Show**, SW Beech Memorial Field, Belfast. 931-359-1574

**Aug. 5-6 • Hillsboro Homecoming Association Annual Tractor and Truck Pull with the Mid-South Pullers Association**, Hillsboro Park, Hillsboro. 931-596-2749

**Aug. 5-6 • Art Effects**, Memorial Building, Columbia. 931-380-4075 or [mauryregional.com/Foundation\\_Art-Effects.htm](http://mauryregional.com/Foundation_Art-Effects.htm)

**Aug. 5-7 and 12-14 • "Bye Bye Birdie,"** Manchester Arts Center, Manchester. 931-570-4489 or [millenniumrep.org](http://millenniumrep.org)

**Aug. 5 and 19 • Millersville Bluegrass Show and Jam**, Millersville Community Center, Millersville. 615-429-6831 or [millersvillebluegrass.com](http://millersvillebluegrass.com)

**Aug. 5-Sept. 22 • "Lend Me A Tenor,"** Cumberland County Playhouse, Crossville. 931-484-5000 or [ccplayhouse.com](http://ccplayhouse.com)

**Aug. 6 • Excursion Train to Del-Monaco Winery**, Tennessee Central Railway Museum, Nashville. 615-244-9001 or [tcry.org](http://tcry.org)

**Aug. 6 • 100th Annual Mt. Zion Cemetery Decoration Day**, Mt. Zion Cemetery, McMinnville. 931-635-3413

**Aug. 6 • Summerfest**, Grace Baptist Church, Manchester. 931-607-3576

**Aug. 11 • August Music on Main Street**, Main Street, Portland. 615-325-9032

**Aug. 12-13 • Tomato Art Fest**, Historic East Nashville's Five Points, Nashville. [www.tomatoartfest.com](http://www.tomatoartfest.com)

**Aug. 12-27 • "Rock of Ages,"** The Arts Center of Cannon County, Woodbury. 615-563-2787 or [artscenterofcc.com](http://artscenterofcc.com)

**Aug. 13 • Pack the Park**, John L. Sanders Park, Decherd. 931-308-6977 or [facebook.com/packtheparkdecherdt](http://facebook.com/packtheparkdecherdt)

**Aug. 19 • Cowan Cruise-In**, Cowan Welcome Center, Cowan. 931-636-1670 or [facebook.com/cowanwelcomecenter](http://facebook.com/cowanwelcomecenter)

**Aug. 19 • Full Moon Pickin' Party**, Warner Park Equestrian Center, Nashville. 615-370-8053 or [warnerparks.org](http://warnerparks.org)

**Aug. 19 • Monteagle Cruise-In**, Harton Park, Monteagle. 931-691-1765 or [finalalarm@gmail.com](mailto:finalalarm@gmail.com)

**Aug. 19-20 • Quilts in the Boro 2016**, Lane Agri-Park Community Center, Murfreesboro. 615-898-7710

**Aug. 20 • Myers Cemetery Decoration Day**, Myers Cemetery, Van Buren County. 423-881-5847

**Aug. 20 • Denim And Dazzle Comedy Dinner Benefit**, Collegeside Church of Christ, Cookeville. 931-349-8106

**Aug. 20 • Good Time Cruisers Cruise In**, Liberty Square, Sparta. 931-212-7658

**Aug. 20-27 • Sequatchie County Fair**, Sequatchie County Fairgrounds, Dunlap. 423-834-6181

**Aug. 21 • "If These Logs Could Talk,"** Historic Wynnewood, Castalian Springs. 615-452-5463 or [historicwynnewood.org](http://historicwynnewood.org)

**Aug. 23-28 • Franklin County Fair**, Franklin County Fairgrounds, Winchester. 931-308-7550

**Aug. 24 • Christian Fiction Readers Retreat**, Scarritt-Bennett Center, Nashville. 615-340-7500 or [christianfictionreadersretreat.blogspot.com](http://christianfictionreadersretreat.blogspot.com)

**Aug. 24-Sept. 3 • Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration**, 1110 Evans St., Shelbyville. 931-684-5915

**Aug. 26 • Thisbe and Noah Scott Foundation Seventh Annual Music and Masterpieces**, Houston Station, Nashville. 615-521-6195 or [thisbeandnoah.org](http://thisbeandnoah.org)

**Aug. 26 • Smyrna Senior Citizens Center Annual Spaghetti Dinner**, Smyrna Senior Citizens Center, Smyrna. 615-459-4839 or [smyrnaseniorcitizens.com](http://smyrnaseniorcitizens.com)

**Aug. 26-28 • Sweet Tea and Southern Arts**, Shamrocks & Shenanigans, Erin. 931-289-2787 or [houstoncountyarts council.org](http://houstoncountyarts council.org)

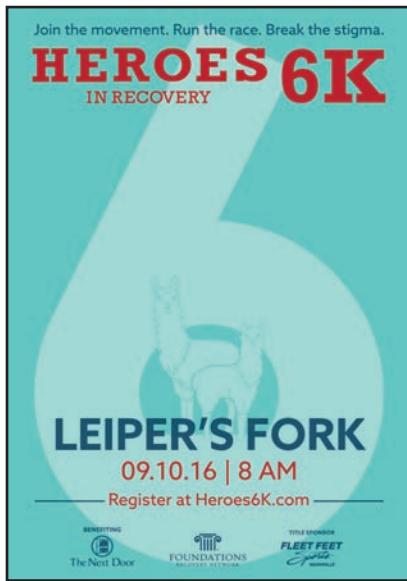
**Aug. 27 • Auction for the Arts**, Sally Wells Building, Macon County Fairgrounds, Lafayette. 615-666-7644

**Aug. 27 • American Legion Post 127 Four-Man Scramble Golf Tournament**, Hohenwald Municipal Golf Course, Hohenwald. 931-796-5421

**Aug. 27 • Rumble in the Valley**, Viola Sports Park, Viola. 931-224-6204

**Aug. 27-28 • 50th Annual Beersheba Springs Arts and Crafts Festival**, Beersheba Springs Assembly Grounds, Beersheba Springs. 931-692-3733

**Sept. 3 • Third Annual American Legion Riders Gold Star Post 78 Poker Run and Stomp**, Coffee County Conference Center, Manchester. [post78.com/stomp.htm](http://post78.com/stomp.htm) or 931-409-0047



**Sept. 5 • Town of Palmer Annual Labor Day Celebration,** downtown Palmer. 931-779-3247

**Sept. 5 • Burton Lodge No. 272 Fish Fry,** White House City Park, White House. 615-426-9400

**Sept. 9-10 • Mid-Tenn Region of the Antique Automobile Club of America 60th Annual Fall Meet,** Thomas House Hotel, Red Boiling Springs. 615-444-7315 or midtennaaca.org

**Sept. 9-10 and 16-18 • "Steel Magnolias,"** Fly Arts Center, Shelbyville. 931-684-8359 or flyartscenter.com

**Sept. 9-11 • 38th Annual Mountaineer Folk Festival,** Fall Creek Falls State Park, Spencer. 423-881-5708 or tnstateparks.com/parks/about/fall-creek-falls

**Sept. 9-11 • Lynchburg Motorcycle Rally,** Wiseman Park, Lynchburg. 931-632-5007

**Sept. 9-17 • "Anne of Green Gables,"** Springfield High School Theater, Springfield. 615-384-3516

**Sept. 9-18 • Tennessee State Fair,** the Fairgrounds Nashville, Nashville. 615-852-8997 or tnstatefair.org

**Sept. 10 • 14th Annual Wings of Freedom Fish Fry,** Smyrna-Rutherford County Airport, Smyrna. 615-459-2651

**Sept. 10 • Middle Tennessee Highland Games and Celtic Festival,** Hermitage Plantation, Hermitage. 615-889-2941 or midtenngames.com

**Sept. 10 • Nashville Corvette Club Touch of Gold Car Show,** O'More College of Design, Franklin. 615-553-0035

**Sept. 10 • Fifth Annual Farm to Table Dinner,** Comer House, Gallatin. 615-826-0033 or hendersonvilleproduce.com

**Sept. 10 • Christiana High School Reunion,** 7413 Christiana-Hoovers Gap Road, Christiana. 615-890-1210

**Sept. 10 • Leiper's Fork Heroes in Recovery 6K Run/Walk,** throughout Leiper's Fork. 615-812-9144 or heroesinrecovery.com/heroes6k/leipers-fork-tn

**Sept. 10 • White Oak Craft Fair,** The Arts Center of Cannon County, Woodbury. 615-563-2787 or artscenterofcc.com

### East Tennessee

**Now-Aug. 13 • "Unto These Hills,"** Cherokee Mountainside Theatre, Cherokee, North Carolina. 866-554-4557 or visitcherokeenc.com

**Aug. 4-6 • 42nd Tennessee Square and Round Dance Convention,** W.L. Mills Conference Center, Gatlinburg. 865-542-2866 or tnsquaredance.org/convention

**Aug. 5-30 • August Art Exhibit,** Sycamore Shoals State Historic Park, Elizabethton. 423-543-5808 or sycamoreshoalstn.org

**Aug. 6 • 14th Annual Elizabethton Butterfly Count,** Sycamore Shoals State Historic Park, Elizabethton. 423-543-5808 or sycamoreshoalstn.org

**Aug. 6 • Traditional Arts Workshops: Fall Gardening and Scottish Heavy Athletics Demonstration and Workshop,** Sycamore Shoals State Historic Park, Elizabethton. 423-543-5808 or sycamoreshoalstn.org

**Aug. 10-13 • National Quilt Trail Gathering,** General Morgan Inn, Greeneville. 423-787-1000 or nationalqtgathering.com

**Aug. 12-13 • Old Butler Days,** Butler Park, Butler. 423-768-3177 or johnsoncountytn.org

**Aug. 12-13 • Nine Mile Bluegrass Festival,** Edmons Music Park, Pikeville. ninemilebluegrass.com

**Aug. 13 • David Crockett's 230th Birthday Celebration,** Crockett Tavern Museum, Morristown. 423-587-9900 or crocketttavernmuseum.org

**Aug. 13-14 • Crockett Days Celebration,** Davy Crockett Birthplace State Park, Limestone. 423-257-2167 or dawn.bolling@tn.gov

*Continued on page 18*

## List your events in our Almanac

**The Tennessee Magazine** publishes event listings as space allows, giving preference to events of regional or statewide interest and those that are annual or one-time happenings. The magazine does not publish recurring events such as those held weekly.

The magazine assumes no responsibility for the accuracy of information submitted for publication and advises calling or emailing ahead to confirm dates, locations, times and possible admission fees.

To be included in the calendar, visit our website, [www.tnmagazine.org](http://www.tnmagazine.org), and fill out the submission form. You can also email listings to events@tnelectric.org or send them to Tennessee Almanac, P.O. Box 100912, Nashville, TN 37224.

Please include the name of the event, where it will be held (both town and physical location), a phone number readers can call for more information and an email or website address, if applicable, where readers can find more information. Event listings must be received at least two months in advance and will be accepted up to a year in advance.

Tennessee Almanac (*continued*)

**Aug. 16-20 • Bledsoe County Fair**, Bledsoe County Fairgrounds, Pikeville. 423-322-5649

**Aug. 20 • Steve Dunfee and Friends**, Heritage Hall Theatre, Mountain City. 423-727-7444 or [heritagehalltheatre.org](http://heritagehalltheatre.org)

**Aug. 27 • Veterans Homecoming Parade**, Pigeon Forge Parkway, Pigeon Forge. 800-251-9100 or [mypigeonforge.com](http://mypigeonforge.com)

**Aug. 27 • Plateau British Car Club of Tennessee British Car and Bike Show**, Historic Rugby, Rugby. 931-210-3732 or [pbccn.org/Rugby.pdf](http://pbccn.org/Rugby.pdf)

**Aug. 27 • Qualla Arts and Crafts Open Air Indian Art Market**, Qualla Arts and Crafts Mutual, Cherokee, North Carolina. 828-497-3103 or [visitcherokeenc.com/events/detail/qualla-arts-crafts-open-air-indian-art-market](http://visitcherokeenc.com/events/detail/qualla-arts-crafts-open-air-indian-art-market)

**Aug. 27-28 • 19th Annual Fort Watauga Knap-In**, Sycamore Shoals State Historic Park, Elizabethton. 423-543-5808 or [sycamoreshoalstn.org](http://sycamoreshoalstn.org)

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**Sept. 2-3 • Long Journey Home Musical Heritage Tour**, downtown Mountain City. [longjourneyhome.net](http://longjourneyhome.net)

**Sept. 3-4 • Art on the Greene**, Historic Banner Elk School, Banner Elk, North Carolina. 828-387-0581

**Sept. 5 • Labor Day Celebration**, Hancock City Park, Sneedville. 423-300-0246 or [hancoevents.com](http://hancoevents.com)

**Sept. 5-10 • Sevier County Fair**, Sevier County Fairgrounds, Sevierville. 865-453-0770

**Sept. 8-10 • Greenback Heritage Museum Annual Quilt Show**, Greenback Heritage Museum, Greenback. 865-856-2692

**Sept. 9-10 • Days of the Pioneer Antique Show**, Museum of Appalachia, Clinton. 865-494-7680 or [museumofappalachia.org](http://museumofappalachia.org)

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# Women and cooperatives

By Adam Schwartz

In honor of Women's Equality Day on Aug. 26, let's take a look at the roles women play in cooperatives across the globe. Even though women in the U.S. and U.K. were not allowed to vote until the early 1900s, women were granted equal voting rights in the first modern era cooperative, the Rochdale Pioneers Equitable Society. Established in 1844 in Rochdale, England, the co-op's founders agreed that women should have equal voting rights. So you see, treating women equally has been baked into our cooperative DNA right from the start. And the cooperative business model continues to champion women's equality worldwide.

According to a 2015 global study conducted by the Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives, co-ops have an increasingly positive impact on women and their inclusion in the labor force and enhance women's ability to achieve positions of authority (both within and outside of the co-op).

In developing countries — where women have long suffered due to biased cultural norms, government policy and lack of opportunities — the role cooperatives play in the lives of women as well as the role women play in cooperatives is now more meaningful than ever.

In Paraguay, a South American country bordered by Brazil and Argentina, gender equality has transformed the Manduvira Sugarcane Cooperative.

This fair-trade sugar co-op has seen a dramatic increase in the participation of female members and leaders. Manduvira is a multiservice co-op with two types of operations: organic, fair-trade sugar production and savings and credit. In both of its operations, Manduvira has seen a significant increase in its success as women's participation grows.

According to co-op leaders in Manduvira, female members are generally more likely to apply what they learn in training and adopt new farming techniques compared to their male counterparts. Because women are more likely to adopt new technologies and the co-op has seen a higher percentage of women in leadership roles, the co-op has become stronger and more stable.

At electric cooperatives across Tennessee, dedicated women work hard to help make their co-ops run smoothly. Treating everyone equally and ensuring folks have fair opportunities exemplify the cooperative way of doing business.

*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.*

## Still burning old lightbulbs? Make the switch

If your home's lamps and light fixtures are still housing old-fashioned incandescent lightbulbs, it's time to switch to something that's far more energy-efficient. Twisty, compact fluorescent lightbulbs — CFLs — are better. But LED bulbs are even more energy-efficient and last much longer.

Yes, LEDs cost more than other kinds of lightbulbs — sometimes more than twice as much. But they use about 80 percent less energy than your out-of-date incandescents. CFLs use about 70 percent less energy than the old bulbs.

Over time, though, LEDs shine the brightest of the three when it comes to energy use and cost savings. The average life span of an LED bulb is 25,000 hours, compared with 1,200 hours for a traditional bulb and 8,000 for a CFL. And at about 12.5 cents per kilowatt-hour — the national average, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration — you'll pay \$38 to operate the LED bulb for 23 years. If the incandescent or

CFL bulb lasted 23 years — it won't — you would pay \$201 or \$48, respectively.

So make the switch today for a couple of decades — on average — of energy savings.

### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



*Is your room air conditioner working overtime? Reduce air leaks by installing rigid foam panels (instead of the commonly used accordion panels) in between the window frame and unit and secure with duct tape.*

*Source: energy.gov*

# Electric co-ops help offer place, prize for research on greenhouse gases

By Paul Wesslund

**W**hat if carbon dioxide from burning coal at power plants could be contained and turned into something useful?

A group of electric co-ops and other partners that want to investigate that issue recently broke ground on a research facility at the Dry Fork Station, a power plant in northeast Wyoming owned by Basin Electric Power Cooperative.

More than a dozen sites around the globe now study “carbon capture” as one possible solution to climate change, but they generally don’t offer the real-world conditions the Integrated Test Center partners say their site will offer when it’s finished next summer.

The facility will allow researchers to place equipment that can test ways to grab carbon dioxide from a working power plant and use it in ways the world might find valuable.

In addition to Basin Electric’s involvement, financial support comes from Denver-based Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. The state of Wyoming has been the main funder and organizer of the test center, and another key partner is the XPRIZE Foundation.

XPRIZE Foundation is an organization that seeks “radical breakthroughs for the benefit of humanity.” In the past, it has offered cash prizes for space travel and health innovations. More recently, it announced two \$10 million prizes for “transformational approaches to converting (carbon dioxide) emissions into valuable products.”

The carbon XPRIZE will be awarded in 2020, but this past spring’s preliminary deadline has already produced several applicants, says Dr. Paul Bunje, principal scientist and senior director of energy and environment at



*Electric co-ops will help lead research into removing greenhouse gas from coal plant emissions, with a research station now being built next to this Basin Electric Power Cooperative plant in Wyoming. The International Test Center is also being supported by the state of Wyoming and Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, a Denver-based cooperative. The Test Center, scheduled to be completed next summer, will study ways to capture and develop uses for the carbon dioxide emitted as part of the coal-burning process. Source: Basin Electric Power Cooperative*

XPRIZE. He says those entries have come from “big corporations, garage tinkerers, universities and small-and medium-sized businesses.”

The variety of planned research includes using carbon dioxide to make fuels, ingredients in chemical processes or thin, extremely strong “supermaterials” of the future.

XPRIZE contestants will begin moving equipment to the test center in the summer of 2018, says Dr. Marcus Extavour, XPRIZE director of technical operations. And what will that look like?

“Some of the equipment will be tall and skinny, some of it low and wide,” says Extavour. “Some of it might be in a smooth steel case, others will be exposed pipes, others will be, who knows what?”

To read more about the carbon XPRIZE, visit [www.carbon.xprize.org](http://www.carbon.xprize.org).

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

# 2016 Washington Youth Tour



Above, in front of the Washington Monument, Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation's 2016 Washington Youth Tour delegates are, from left, MaKayleigh Lackey, Dalton Cunningham, Erica Juriasignani, Estelle Turner, Thomas Littleton, Shelby Adcock, Carder Veneble, Jaz Crook, Grace Kuchenbecker, Caroline Collins, Kayde Stroud and Lucinda Shea. Below, Southwest Tennessee Electric Membership Corporation's group visits Mount Vernon, home of George Washington. From left are Jodi Springer, Xiana Jones, Michelle Mellard, Clarissa Miller, Laurian Williams, Ellis Osburn, Jacob Edmondson, Felescia Sanders, Gretchen Quinn, Jaiden White, Amber Higgs, Dora Hernandez and Marilyn Means.

Nearly 140 high school seniors from across Tennessee have returned from a weeklong “experience of a lifetime” courtesy of their local electric cooperatives. The 2016 Washington Youth Tour ran June 10-16 and included sightseeing, visits with elected officials and lots of fun meeting peers from across Tennessee and the nation. Delegates earned their spots on the Youth Tour for writing winning short stories titled “Electric Cooperatives: Powering Everyday Life.” In their winning entries, the talented young writers described how member-owned, nonprofit electric co-ops strengthen their local communities and improve lives across their service areas while providing safe, reliable, affordable energy.

“Our co-ops take great pride in rewarding the best and brightest from their service areas,” said Tennessee





Electric Cooperative Association (TECA) Vice President of Member Relations Todd Blocker. “By recognizing their accomplishments through programs like the Washington Youth Tour, cooperatives show these leaders of tomorrow that their hometown electric co-op is more than a utility provider; it’s an active member of the community and fully invested in its prosperity.”

For more than 50 years, the Washington Youth Tour has taken students from electric co-op service areas to our nation’s capital to learn more about our country and the cooperative business model. The annual event is coordinated by TECA and National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). This year’s Youth Tour involved 1,700 students from 43 states.

On their 2016 visit, Tennessee’s Youth Tour delegates saw the White House and memorials to past presidents Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Franklin Delano Roosevelt as well as monuments honoring the sacrifices of veterans of World War II and the Vietnam

*At left, Powell Valley Electric Cooperative delegates — from left, Pamela Jo Seal, Autumn Trent, Jessica Livesay and Shae Johnson — visit the Washington National Cathedral. Below, participants from West Tennessee pose at the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial. From left are Demie Milford, Nicole Flowers, Rae Scott, Andrea Newman and Hanna Hardister*

and Korean Wars. During visits to the museums of the Smithsonian Institution, the touring Tennesseans saw and experienced natural, historical and artistic treasures. Other fun stops included historic homes of former presidents — George Washington’s Mount Vernon and Jefferson’s Monticello — as well as Madame Tussauds Wax Museum, the Hard Rock Cafe and a boat cruise down the Potomac River. Among other Youth Tour highlights were a solemn and sobering visit to Arlington National Cemetery where the group laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns and a stirring Sunset Parade performance by the U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps and Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon. The group was also welcomed to the U.S. Capitol by Sens. Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker.

“Our commitment to community is what sets cooperatives apart from other businesses,” said TECA General Manager David Callis. “The Washington Youth Tour is one way we show the youth of our service areas that their local electric cooperatives are more than electricity providers. They genuinely care about the prosperity of our communities, and that includes providing special opportunities for these exceptional students and preparing them for future success.”



# Manage your energy use with handy apps

By Anne Prince, National Rural Electric Cooperative

Tracking your steps, keeping an eye on your children, monitoring your banking activity or locating your parked car — these days, it seems like there is an app for everything.

If you are efficiency-savvy and want to manage your energy use, there may be an app that works for you. While there are several energy use apps to choose from, some can be difficult to use, particularly those aimed at general efficiency. Since there are no clear standouts, try a few and choose the app that works best for you.

Purchasing a smart thermostat for your home is a great way to begin managing your energy use. But if you are looking for a more detailed way to obtain information about your energy use, an app can provide useful insight into how specific actions impact your utility bill. Here is a snapshot of a few energy efficiency mobile apps. All of the apps mentioned in this article are available for Apple and Android systems.

## Nest

Owned by Google, created by Nest Labs and linked only to the Nest thermostat, this free app has several useful features. You can adjust your home thermostat by simply using your smartphone or tablet — whether in your car or on your couch. App users can view and edit a thermostat schedule and keep an eye on how much energy is being used. You can also opt to receive extreme temperature alerts before your pet overheats or your pipes freeze. In addition, there is an option for smoke and carbon monoxide alerts, among others.

## Together We Save

Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives offers the Together We Save app, which enables users to calculate the energy use of many household appliances based on national averages. This free app includes roughly 100 calculators that determine the



*Users of the Lennox iComfort app can remotely control their home Lennox thermostats and program their heat-and-air systems to go into the energy-saving "away mode" when no one is home. Source: Lennox International*

projected energy use and cost of particular appliances and activities. The app also offers 100 practical energy-saving tips.

## Lennox iComfort

Like the Nest app, the Lennox iComfort app is only compatible with Lennox products — in this case, the Wi-Fi thermostat. It has similar features to the Nest in that users can remotely control their home thermostats and other settings. In addition, the app

allows users to program the system to an energy savings “away mode” when no one is home. For example, you can select the settings you wish to run, then cancel the “away mode” as you return home to ensure a comfortable temperature awaits you.

## Your trusted energy resource

While these apps employ the latest technology to maximize your ability to manage your use, the next generation of energy apps will likely integrate across multiple platforms — managing your thermostat, appliances, water heater, home electronics and other devices from the convenience of your smart phone. In the meantime, while app technology continues to evolve, your best resource for saving energy and money remains your local electric cooperative.

## Cool summer evenings call for fans, not A/C

Even the hottest summer gives us a break occasionally, sending pleasant temperatures and gentle breezes our way, especially in the evenings. When it's not too hot outside, you can cool your house more economically with fans than by running your central or window air conditioner.

Placing a fan in a window circulates the air and freshens the home by exhausting stale air. It can remove odors from smoking and cooking that tend to linger in the air when all the windows are closed.

A ceiling fan can be used whether the air conditioning is on or off. During the summer, the blades send a slight breeze down into the room, which will make anyone in that room feel more comfortable.

Fans don't actually cool the house off. Instead, they make the rooms where they are located feel cooler because they move the air around. So turn them off when you leave the room.



The *Together We Save* app from Touchstone Energy Cooperatives enables users to calculate the energy use of many household appliances based on national averages and offers 100 practical energy-saving tips.

## Smart window use can regulate indoor comfort

You can use your windows to let cool air into your home and keep hot air out during the summer. Here's how:

- Whenever it cools off at night, turn off the air conditioner and open the windows to let the breezes in while you sleep.
- In the morning, close the windows and the blinds or curtains. That will “trap” the cool air indoors and prevent hot air from getting in as the day heats up.
- Choose window treatments that not only look nice but that save energy. Some choices: Interior blinds made from heat-reflective material can reduce heat gain by 45 percent when you close the slats. And draperies with white plastic backings can reduce heat gain by 33 percent when they're closed.
- If you shade the exterior of your windows with wooden or vinyl blinds, overhangs, awnings, shutters or storm panels, you'll keep the sun from heating up your interior.
- Replacing old, single-pane windows with double-pane models can keep your home more comfortable and shave hundreds of dollars off of your energy bills, according to Energy Star.

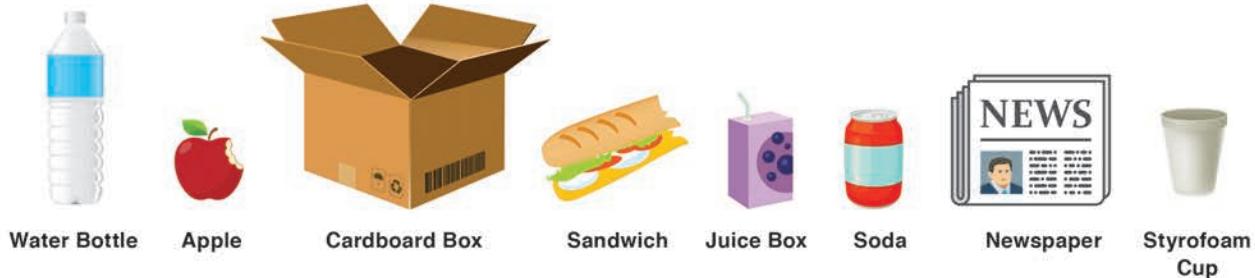
# SORTING THINGS OUT



Recycling is important for the future of our planet! Can you sort the items below into the correct bin? Write the name of the item in the correct category.

RECYCLE

GARBAGE



Water Bottle

Apple

Cardboard Box

Sandwich

Juice Box

Soda

Newspaper

Styrofoam Cup

RECYCLE: Water Bottle, Cardboard Box, Juice Box, Soda Can, Newspaper  
GARBAGE: Apple, Sandwich, Styrofoam Cup

Answer Key:

# Is your ductwork delivering?

*Dear Pat: I recently moved from a home with wall-mounted heaters to one with central heat and air and a duct system. How can I ensure my ducts are working efficiently? — Carla*

**D**ear Carla: Homes with central forced-air heating and cooling systems like furnaces, central air conditioners and heat pumps use ducts to deliver conditioned (heated or cooled) air through the home. Because ducts are often concealed in walls or in areas you don't go to often — like a crawlspace — many people do not immediately think of them as an area to save energy.

You may have received fliers in the mail with offers for air-duct cleaning and claims that doing so will improve the air quality and efficiency of your home. However, duct cleaning may not always be necessary for air quality, and there is no indication that just cleaning your air ducts will improve your system's efficiency.

Duct cleaning may be necessary if:

- There is visible mold in your duct system or there was a recent flood that caused mold or mildew in your home.
- Something like debris or an infestation in the ductwork is impeding airflow. Major renovations or new construction can put construction debris into the duct system, so postconstruction is an ideal time to consider duct cleaning.
- Your heating registers are releasing dust into the air.
- Home residents have allergies or asthma problems that have not been alleviated by other changes.

While duct cleaning may not always be necessary, regularly changing your air filters can help your heating and cooling system work more efficiently. How often you change them depends on how much your system runs, whether you have pets and whether you periodically vacuum your air filters. For the average home, air filters should be changed four to six times a year.

Though duct cleaning may not do much for the efficiency of your systems, it is important for saving energy

and lowering utility costs, particularly if your ducts are in an unconditioned space like a crawlspace or uninsulated attic. In a typical home, 20 percent to 30 percent of heated or cooled air escapes through unsealed gaps and holes in the duct system, which can cost you money and make your home less comfortable. You wouldn't put up a pipe with a leaking water pipe, so why should you put up with a leaking air duct?

The best way to assess the condition of your home's ductwork is to have it tested by a professional home energy auditor who can conduct a Duct Blaster test. If you can easily access your ducts, you might get by with a visual inspection, which will identify the larger holes and disconnections. Where ducts meet and where they connect to a heating register are common places to find leaks. A professional trained in ductwork can help you identify and fix the gaps and leaks you may not be able to see. Talk to your local electric co-op to find the right

person for the job.

Once gaps and leaks have been identified, you can work to seal your ducts. Small duct leaks can be sealed with mastic, a type of caulk. Larger duct leaks and disconnections may require additional lengths of duct, mechanical fasteners or special heat-resistant tape. Do not use duct tape — ironically, it is not designed to adhere well to ducts.

If you have ducts in unconditioned areas like the attic or crawlspace, your ducts could be wasting energy by heating or cooling the surrounding air, even if there are no leaks in the ductwork. Insulation around the ducts can help reduce this energy loss. Consider adding insulation to the unconditioned space to further increase the efficiency and comfort of your home. ■



*The best way to assess the condition of your home's ductwork is for a professional to run a Duct Blaster test. Photo credit: Ket555*

*This column was co-written by Pat Keegan and Amy Wheeless of Collaborative Efficiency. For more information on how to test and seal your ductwork, please visit [www.collaborativeefficiency.com/energytips](http://www.collaborativeefficiency.com/energytips).*



## It's THE BEST time of year again

It's time for you to have your say in determining the best Tennessee has to offer. We again invite — and urge — you to help name the honorees of the 2016 Best of Tennessee Readers' Choice Awards, which recognize winners from the three regions of the Volunteer State. And just for nominating your favorites, you'll be entered in a drawing for entertaining Tennessee-themed prizes. Vote in as many or as few categories as you feel knowledgeable, but keep in mind that only ballots with 15 or more categories with at least one vote will be eligible for the prize drawing.

You can vote for up to three "Bests" in any given category. As an example, if you have a favorite state park in each region of the state — West, Middle and East — then you can vote for one in each. Be as specific as possible, and please include the towns where businesses or parks are located. Generic answers will not be counted. To celebrate the uniqueness of Tennessee, please exclude national franchises and chains (restaurants, coffee shops, hotels, etc.) from your responses.

Our annual "Best of Tennessee" is a fun way to interact with our readers and honor the wonderful aspects of our state.

**Official Rules:** No purchase necessary. One entry per person. Ballot must be postmarked no later than Friday, Aug. 12, 2016. • To be eligible for the prize drawings, ballots must have a "Best of Tennessee" vote in at least 15 categories. You can cast votes in any or all of the regions. • Drawing to be held by Wednesday, Aug. 31. Must be at least 18 years old to win. Grand-prize winners will be notified by mail. • Best of Tennessee results will be published in the October edition of *The Tennessee Magazine*. • Electric cooperative employees and their immediate families are not eligible for the prize giveaways.

### Enter online for a chance to win \$250

You can also vote online at [www.tnmagazine.org](http://www.tnmagazine.org). To encourage online balloting, we will randomly choose one entry from our online submissions to win \$250.

### How to enter via mail

Complete the contact information form below, cast your votes on the ballot on the next page and mail both to the address on the form below.

### Prize packages

Winners will be chosen randomly from a drawing of all entries received. Three grand-prize packages will be awarded (one each from West, Middle and East Tennessee). Remember, you must vote in at least 15 categories to be eligible for the prize drawing.

**Winners** will receive certificates courtesy of Tennessee State Parks for up to a two-night stay at any of the six state resort park inns. The resort parks are Fall Creek Falls, Henry Horton, Montgomery Bell, Natchez Trace, Paris Landing and Pickwick Landing. Visit [www.tn.gov/environment/parks](http://www.tn.gov/environment/parks).



**Each winner** will receive a basket of farm-direct and locally made artisan foods from Pick Tennessee Products, a division of the Tennessee Department of Agriculture.

**The Tennessee Magazine** will award \$250 to each winner to spend while you're enjoying **THE TENNESSEE MAGAZINE** your state park visit.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Electric cooperative: \_\_\_\_\_

In which division of the state do you live: West \_\_\_\_\_ Middle \_\_\_\_\_ or East \_\_\_\_\_

All entries must be postmarked by Friday, Aug. 12, 2016. Please, no ballot-stuffing.

Return the completed forms to:

**Best of Tennessee**  
*The Tennessee Magazine*  
 P.O. Box 100912  
 Nashville, TN 37224

Complete your ballot online for a chance to win \$250!

Go to [www.tnmagazine.org](http://www.tnmagazine.org) for more information.



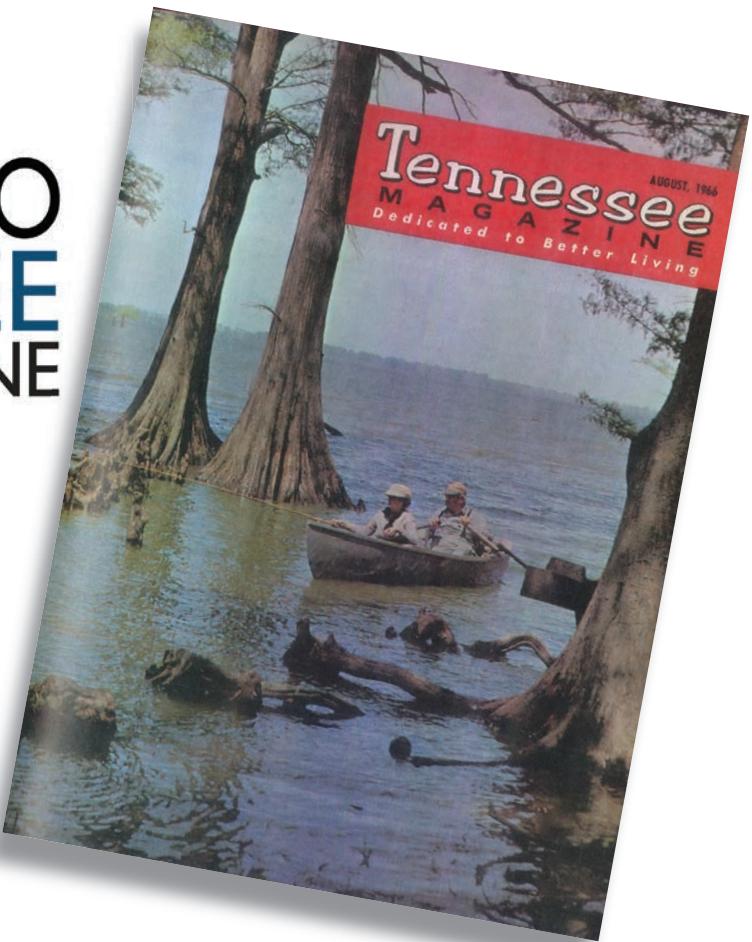
# 50 YEARS AGO in the TENNESSEE MAGAZINE

For more than 50 years, *The Tennessee Magazine* has been the official publication of our electric cooperatives, keeping member-owners informed about their co-ops, showcasing the wonders of electric service and highlighting the special events around the state.

Back in July 1966, readers relived the Washington Youth Tour through Cathy McConnell's account, found recipes for their next cookout, got tips on removing stains from their children's clothing and learned how Southern Bell could make farming easier.

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 August 1966 edition online at [www.tnmagazine.org](http://www.tnmagazine.org).



**EXTENSION TELEPHONES**  
for efficient farming

Running between the house and buildings to handle telephone calls, locate other people, or exchange information may be good exercise, but it's also time-consuming and inefficient.

With extension telephones in strategic places, you can reach instead of run when the phone rings. Save time, steps, make farm management easier. Every extension phone becomes a point from which you can keep in touch with your entire farm.

Call our Business Office about installation of extension phones on your farm.

Southern Bell

© 1966 SOUTHERN BELL TELEPHONE & TELEGRAPH COMPANY

This block contains a black and white advertisement for Southern Bell's extension telephones. It features a man in a suit standing next to a cow in a barn setting. The headline reads "EXTENSION TELEPHONES" and "for efficient farming". Below the headline, there is a paragraph explaining the benefits of extension phones for farm management. At the bottom, there is a Southern Bell logo and the copyright notice "© 1966 SOUTHERN BELL TELEPHONE & TELEGRAPH COMPANY".

**STAINS**  
Your Children Wear Home

**Let's Cook Out!**

This block contains several items. At the top left is a cartoon illustration of a young girl in a blue dress standing over a sink, looking at various bottles of laundry detergent. The word "STAINS" is written in large blue letters above her, and the words "Your Children Wear Home" are written below. To the right is a photograph of a barbecue grill with several pieces of meat cooking over flames. Below the grill is the headline "Let's Cook Out!" in a stylized font.

**WASHINGTON YOUTH TOUR**  
by Cathy McConnell

Tennessee's Youth Tour delegates and two of four chaperones, pose on rear lawn of White House.

This block contains an advertisement for the Washington Youth Tour. The headline is "WASHINGTON YOUTH TOUR" and it is attributed to "by Cathy McConnell". Below the headline is a black and white photograph of a group of people, identified as Tennessee's Youth Tour delegates and their chaperones, standing in front of the White House. A caption below the photo reads "Tennessee's Youth Tour delegates and two of four chaperones, pose on rear lawn of White House."

# LETTERS to the EDITOR

Reader feedback

## Where's our broadband?

*Hi, David,*

I thoroughly enjoyed your editorial about the electrification of rural Texas in the 1930s. What really struck a chord with me was the last three paragraphs.

My wife and I are searching for a rural location to build our retirement home here in Middle Tennessee. I have another five to seven years in my career, and as a “remote” employee, I live and die by my internet connection. You see where this is going — all the beautiful property we find is beyond where broadband reaches, and, in most cases, that even includes cellular 3G/4G LTE coverage. And, yes, I’ve been turned down by cable TV companies even though I’ve offered to pay all the construction costs of the “last mile” to connect a property.

What are the electric cooperatives in Tennessee doing to advance this cause?

*Gary Messmer*

*Hello, David,*

I just finished reading your article in *The Tennessee Magazine* and was wondering why Middle Tennessee Electric Membership Corporation can’t provide internet service to rural homes.

## Keep the letters coming!

We enjoy your letters, emails and phone calls. Here is a quick reference:

**Event submissions:** [events@tnmagazine.org](mailto:events@tnmagazine.org)

**Letters to the Editor:** [letters@tnmagazine.org](mailto:letters@tnmagazine.org)

**Story ideas:** [storyidea@tnmagazine.org](mailto:storyidea@tnmagazine.org)

**Find the Flag:** [flag@tnmagazine.org](mailto:flag@tnmagazine.org)

**Subscriptions:** [subscriptions@tnmagazine.org](mailto:subscriptions@tnmagazine.org)

**General info:** [thetennmag@tnmagazine.org](mailto:thetennmag@tnmagazine.org)

My family and I just built a house in Franklin, but the neighborhood is in an area where we don’t have access to the internet except via satellite. My question is why can other electric providers such as Chattanooga Power Board provide internet services but our electric cooperative cannot?

My wife and kids are ready to sell and move back where there’s decent internet service. We just completed construction and moved in December!

*Scott Collins*

**Editor’s note:** We asked General Manager David Callis, whose June 2016 column is referenced, to shed some light on rural broadband.

While electric cooperatives in several neighboring states offer broadband internet and video to their members, Tennessee law prohibits our electric cooperatives from providing retail broadband services to our members. Changing state law isn’t the only consideration, however. Because we serve less-populated areas, the cost to deliver broadband is much higher than in more densely populated urban and suburban areas. Tennessee’s electric cooperatives are currently exploring possible avenues to help our rural communities receive this vital service.

At our core are our cooperative principles — and Concern for Community is one of those. Just like electricity in the 1930s, broadband has become an essential service. Today, we can’t imagine a home without electricity, and I hope that in the (near) future, we won’t be



## SASE?

Our offices receive lots of mail, but one piece caught our eye recently. Here’s a young artist’s resourceful take on the “self-addressed, stamped envelope.”

able to imagine a home without broadband availability.

*David Callis*

*General Manager, Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association*

## Lights by kerosene

I am a long-time member of Holston Electric Cooperative and have been trying to reach Mr. Bill Carey. I have been a member for more than 60 years (on and off) and a regular member for the past 50 years. I came to East Tennessee about 68 or 69 years ago.

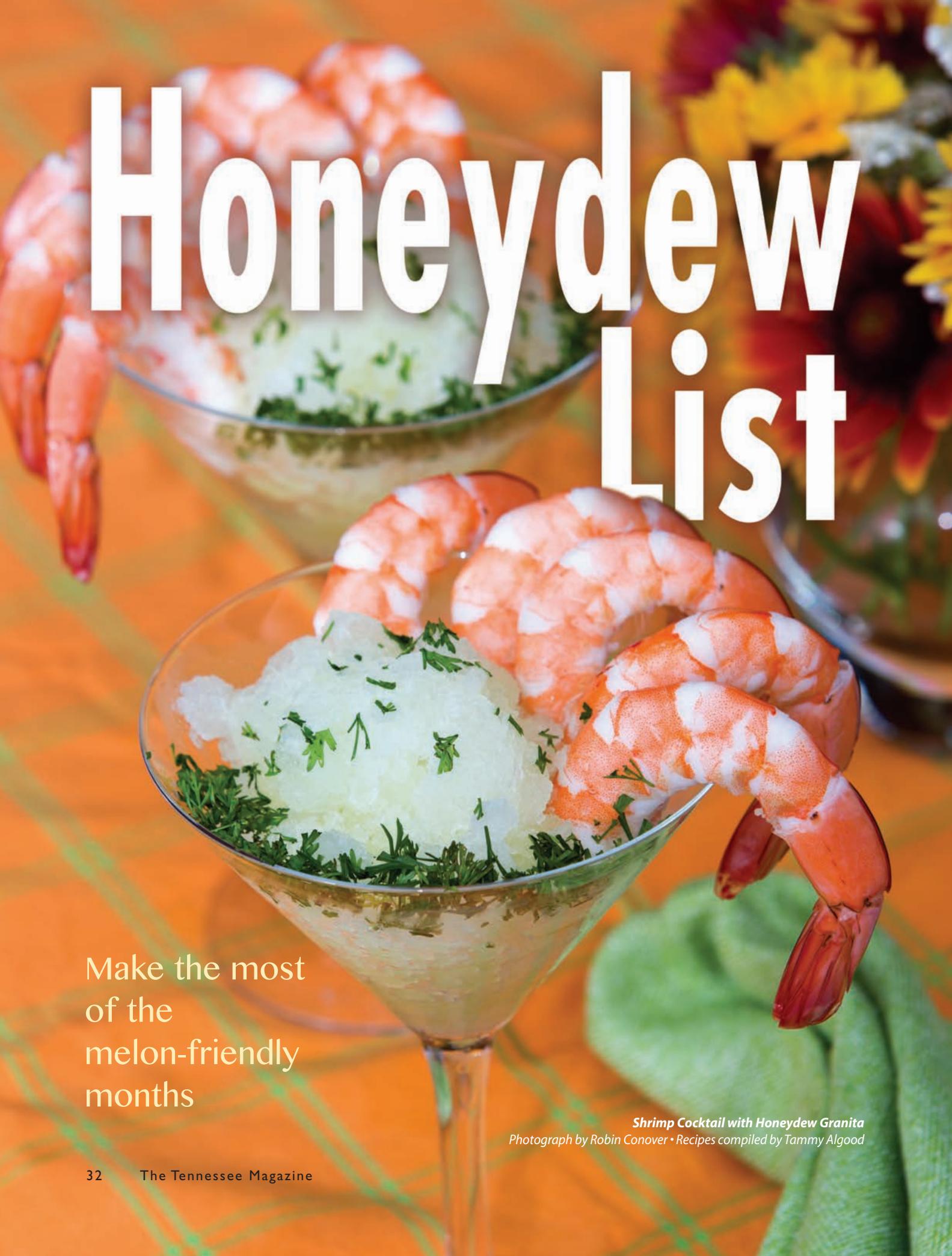
When first arriving here, Holston Electric Cooperative was in its infancy, and areas only about three miles outside town didn’t have electric service. I’d like to share our experiences with Mr. Carey.

*Amanda McPeek*

*Rogersville, Holston EC*

**Editor’s note:** Thank you for the story idea. We love to hear from members who remember when the lights came on. ■

# Honeydew List



Make the most  
of the  
melon-friendly  
months

*Shrimp Cocktail with Honeydew Granita*

Photograph by Robin Conover • Recipes compiled by Tammy Algood

In August, local melons start showing up in a big way at farmer's markets and in community-supported agriculture boxes across the state. This year, make a point to look for more than that familiar watermelon and cantaloupe: The humble honeydew is as full of flavor and just as versatile as its more popular cousins. Here's a "honeydew list" to complete before melon season ends.

### Melon Ribbons with Prosciutto

**Yield:** 6-8 servings

2 honeydew melons (not too ripe), cut in half and seeded  
1 cantaloupe (not too ripe), cut in half and seeded  
3 tablespoons lemon juice  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon salt  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon white pepper  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  cup coarsely chopped fresh mint, divided  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  pound prosciutto

With a vegetable peeler, shave along the edges of the cut melons to make long, thin ribbons. Carefully transfer to a mixing bowl and sprinkle with the lemon juice, salt, pepper and half of the mint. Toss gently to combine. Divide among chilled serving plates and arrange the prosciutto over each. Sprinkle with the remaining mint and serve immediately.

### Shrimp Cocktail with Honeydew Granita

**Yield:** 6 servings

2 tablespoons sugar  
 $1\frac{3}{4}$  cups water  
1 tablespoon wasabi paste or horseradish  
1 medium honeydew melon, seeded, peeled and cut in chunks  
 $2\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoons grated fresh ginger  
1 pound large shrimp, cooked, peeled and deveined, with the tail still attached  
1 tablespoon lime juice  
Chopped fresh cilantro for garnish

In a small saucepan over medium-high heat, bring the sugar and water to a simmer. Reduce heat to medium-low and simmer 3 minutes. Stir in wasabi or horseradish and set aside to cool.

In a food processor, puree the honeydew and ginger until smooth. Stir in the cooled syrup. Pour into an 11-by-9-inch

baking dish. Freeze 45 minutes or until ice crystals form around the edge. Whisk the mixture to break up the ice crystals and freeze 30 minutes. Repeat four times.

To serve, put scoops of the Honeydew Granita in serving glasses and place the cooked shrimp over the rims. Drizzle with the lime juice and garnish with cilantro. Serve immediately.

### Honeydew Bubbles

**Yield:** 6 servings

1 (3-ounce) package lime gelatin  
 $\frac{3}{4}$  cup boiling water  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup sweet white wine or cold water  
Ice cubes  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  fresh honeydew melon, seeded  
Mint sprigs for garnish

Place the gelatin in a heat-resistant mixing bowl and add the boiling water. Stir until the gelatin is completely dissolved. Add enough ice cubes to the wine or cold water to measure  $1\frac{1}{4}$  cups. Add to the gelatin, stirring until slightly thickened. Remove any unmelted ice cubes and measure  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cups gelatin. Divide into 6 tall serving glasses.

Using a small melon baller, cut the melon into balls and add all but 6 balls to the gelatin glasses. Use the handle of a wooden spoon to carefully place into the glasses so it looks like bubbles. Set aside.

Beat the remaining gelatin at high speed of an electric mixer until doubled in volume. Spoon over the gelatin in the glasses. Cover and refrigerate 2 hours or until set. Garnish each with a reserved melon ball and sprig of fresh mint before serving.

### Honey Chicken Salad with Yogurt Dressing

**Yield:** 4 servings

2 cups cooked, cubed chicken  
2 cups honeydew cubes  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup diced celery  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup cashew halves  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  cup chopped green onions  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  cup plain nonfat yogurt  
2 tablespoons mayonnaise  
2 tablespoons lime juice  
1 tablespoon honey  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon salt  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon black pepper  
Mixed greens

In a mixing bowl, combine the chicken, honeydew, celery, cashews and green onions. In a separate bowl, whisk together the yogurt, mayonnaise, lime juice, honey, salt and pepper. Add to the chicken mixture and toss to evenly coat. Cover and refrigerate at least 2 hours before serving on a bed of mixed greens.

### Honey Mint Melon Pearls

**Yield:** 4-6 servings

2 large honeydew melons, halved and seeded  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup honey  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  cup lime juice  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  cup chopped fresh mint



Using a small melon baller, cut balls from the melons and place in a serving bowl as you work. Cover and chill 1 hour. In a small bowl, whisk together the honey and lime juice. Stir in the mint and pour over the melon balls. Gently toss to coat and serve.

### Honeydew Smoothie

(Note: This uses the same ingredients as the recipe above but is served in liquid form!)



**Yield:** 4-6 servings  
6 cups diced honeydew, divided  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup honey, divided  
Juice of 2 limes  
Ice cubes  
Mint sprigs for garnish

Place half of the melon,  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup of the honey and the juice of 1 lime in a blender container. Fill with ice cubes and blend 1 minute on high power or until the ice is crushed. Pour into serving glasses and repeat with the remaining ingredients (except mint). Garnish with mint sprigs and serve immediately.

*Alternative: To make a thinner beverage, increase or double the lime juice and add a splash of seltzer or tonic water to each glass before serving.*

### Honeydew Salsa

**Yield:** 4 servings

1 medium honeydew, peeled, seeded and chopped  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  cup chopped mandarin oranges  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  cup chopped red onion  
2 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro



*Continued on page 34*

## Taste of Tennessee

Continued from page 33

1 teaspoon chopped pickled jalapenos  
2 tablespoons lime juice  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon ground cumin  
 $\frac{1}{8}$  teaspoon salt

In a mixing bowl, gently stir together the honeydew, oranges, onions, cilantro and jalapenos. Add the lime juice, cumin and salt and toss gently to evenly coat. Cover and refrigerate 1 hour before serving with blue corn chips or with fish tacos.

### Seafood Salad with Spiced Melon

Yield: 6 servings

1 large honeydew, peeled, seeded and diced  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup chopped celery  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup coarsely chopped pecans  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  pound cooked salad shrimp  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  pound cooked and shredded crabmeat  
1 (3-ounce) can sliced water chestnuts, drained  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup mayonnaise  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  cup chopped fresh cilantro, divided

$\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon onion or garlic salt  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon black pepper  
Mixed lettuce leaves

In a large mixing bowl, combine the honeydew, celery, pecans, shrimp, crabmeat and water chestnuts. In a small mixing bowl, whisk together the mayonnaise, half the cilantro, salt and pepper. Add to the seafood mixture and toss to evenly coat. Cover and refrigerate at least 1 hour. Serve on mixed lettuce leaves with a garnish of the remaining cilantro.

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](http://www.PickTnProducts.org) or contact Algood at 615-837-5160 or [tammy.algood@tn.gov](mailto:tammy.algood@tn.gov).



### Watch us on the web

### Keep fresh in the fridge



Watch this video to learn how to maximize refrigerator space and keep all refrigerated foods fresh and delicious by storing them in the spots that are right for them.

Where should you store those fresh melons you just brought home from the farmers market? The best way to enjoy all that melon has to offer is to keep it fresh in your refrigerator. It is possible to

freeze melon, but melon flesh is mostly water. When frozen, the water expands with each cell wall and breaks down the cell structure of the melon. Once thawed, the melon will no longer be able to hold its shape or have that crunchy goodness of fresh melon. Frozen melon is best used in smoothies, granitas

and other recipes where the melon will be pureed.

Get your refrigerator in order, then find local melons and all sorts of fresh produce straight from the farm or farmers market with the free Pick Tennessee mobile app or at [PickTnProducts.org](http://PickTnProducts.org).

Let us hear from you with an email to [food@tnmagazine.org](mailto:food@tnmagazine.org).



### Apple Pie Baking Contest

Searching for the state's best apple pie baker is an annual tradition of the Tennessee State Fair that attracts participants statewide.

All who have a knack for baking and a favorite apple pie recipe are encouraged to put their talent to the test. And if good enough, they could win a \$500 cash prize and priceless bragging rights.

The State Fair opens a 10-day run in Nashville on Friday, Sept. 9. For more information about the State Fair and the apple pie contest, visit [www.tnstatefair.org](http://www.tnstatefair.org).

Online registrations must be received by Tuesday, Sept. 13, and mailed-in registrations are due Wednesday, Sept. 7. Judging will take place at the fairgrounds on Saturday, Sept. 17.

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# "My friends all hate their cell phones... I love mine!" Here's why.

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Say good-bye to everything you hate about cell phones. Say hello to the **ALL-NEW Jitterbug Flip**.

**"Cell phones have gotten so small,  
I can barely dial mine."** Not the new Jitterbug® Flip. It features a larger keypad for easier dialing. It even has a larger display so you can actually see it.

**"I had to get my son to program it."** Your Jitterbug Flip set-up process is simple. We'll even program it with your favorite numbers.

**"I tried my sister's cell phone...  
I couldn't hear it."** The Jitterbug Flip is designed with a powerful speaker and is hearing aid compatible. Plus, there's an adjustable volume control.

**"I don't need stock quotes, Internet sites or  
games on my phone. I just want to talk with  
my family and friends."** Life is complicated enough... The Jitterbug Flip is simple.

**"What if I don't remember a number?"** Friendly, helpful Operators are available 24 hours a day and will even greet you by name when you call.

**"My cell phone company wants to lock me in  
a two-year contract!"** Not with the Jitterbug Flip. There are no contracts to sign and no penalty if you discontinue your service.



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Nationwide Coverage	YES	YES
Friendly Return Policy <sup>1</sup>	30 days	30 days

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**"Many phones have features that are rarely needed  
and hard to use!"**

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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](mailto:flag@tnelectric.org). Entries must be postmarked by Thursday, Sept. 1. Winners will be published in the October issue of *The Tennessee Magazine*.

## June's Flag Spotters

Thanks for the postcards and emails again this month identifying the correct location of the flag, which was found in the mirror of the truck on the cover, **page 1**.

Winners are drawn randomly from each month's entries. June's lucky flag spotters are:

**Roy Pierce**, Selmer, Pickwick EC

**Clarence Scott**, Whitleyville, Tri-County EMC

**Vicky Hale**, Pikeville, Sequatchie Valley EC



## Artist's Palette Assignment for August

**Artist's Palette for August** — 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 — **August**, 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, Sept. 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 October 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 Poetry Contest

**A**re 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 October issue.

**Subject:** While the theme of your poem must include something Tennessee-related, including the word "Tennessee" is not required.

**Age categories:** The competition will include 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](http://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.

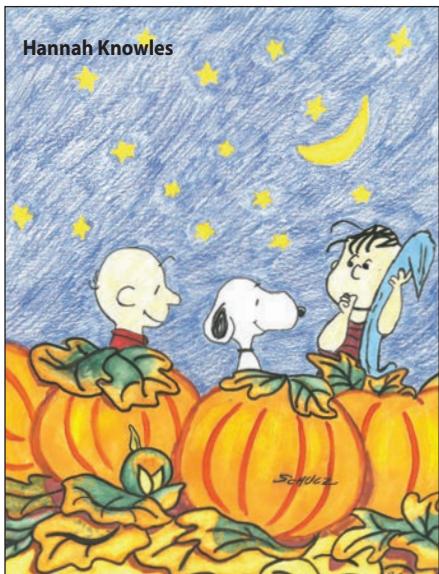
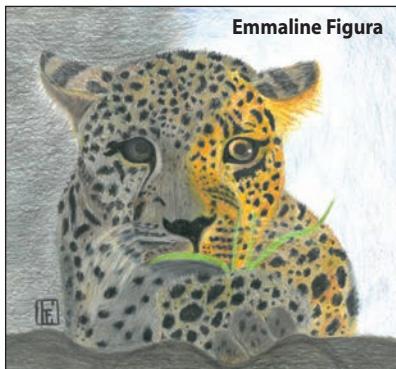
**Deadline:** Entry must be emailed or postmarked by Monday, Aug. 29.

**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](http://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.

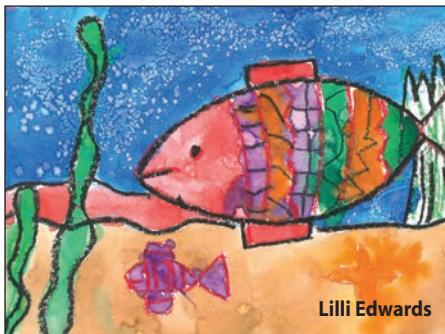
All entries must include the following information, or they will be disqualified: your name, age, mailing address, phone number and the name of your electric cooperative.

# Artist's Palette June Winners



**WINNERS, 15-18 AGE GROUP:** First place: Seth Stole, age 15, Middle Tennessee EMC;

Second place: Emmaline Figura, age 16, Upper Cumberland EMC; Third place: Pina Peterson, age 15, Southwest Tennessee EMC



**WINNERS, 1-9 AGE GROUP:** First place: Lilli Edwards, age 7, Upper Cumberland EMC;

Second place: Zoe Martinie, age 9, Duck River EMC;

Third place: Bryce Cox, age 8, Cumberland EMC

# Poet's Playground

See page 36 for details on how to enter  
The Tennessee Magazine's monthly poetry  
contest.

## Age 8 and younger

### The Wonders of Tennessee

Pine tree's color,  
Bluebird's tweet  
What a wonder,  
Also very sweet

Change Tennessee,  
Don't even litter  
It might sound nice,  
But it's very bitter

Have fun  
Every day  
I like to run,  
That's all I want to say

Thank you everyone,  
You've been great to me  
Maybe we'll meet,  
Let's just see

— Lucy Winston  
*Middle Tennessee EMC*

## Age 9-13

### America at Its Best

The wildlife  
The music  
The seasons  
The mountains  
  
This must be  
America at its best!  
Tennessee holds  
The key to a complete  
Country

From the raccoon  
With its cryptic eyes  
To the horse with its  
Bounding gallop  
Tennessee has an  
Awake wildlife

The mountains cast  
An eerie glow  
Among the state  
They are blanketed in  
Smoke that blows in hazy  
Gusts

The people  
The confidence  
The respect  
Tennessee makes  
America at its best

— Emma Laymon  
*Middle Tennessee EMC*

## Age 14-18

### A Paper Snowflake

I was reading of a glass  
menagerie  
While polishing my memory  
of snowflakes  
When I sneezed and looked  
up and saw Tennessee  
  
Trees like Melville's ocean  
And ivy like mythical snakes  
Crowding houses like  
Stevens' jars  
In Eliot's stagnant motion

So I looked back down  
at Tennessee —  
Tennessee Williams, I mean;  
I am so unused to brown and  
green.

Here, feelings linger without  
melting on your finger.  
It's not all memories and  
thawed ice —  
A minimalist's paradise.  
There's stars that can fly,  
and you can catch them at  
twilight.

But how I miss my planes of  
black and white!

— Bramwell Atkins

## Age 19-22

### Road to Suffrage

Adorned with gold-colored  
sashes across torsos  
Their fading yellow flowers  
with persistent hope  
And a stubborn, dignified  
spirit

The uniformly enduring  
anthem resonated athwart  
Resolve alone couldn't nullify  
their innate anxiety  
Sweat deftly outlined the  
curves of their brows  
As the sultry summer day  
wore on

As they held their breath, the  
men resumed disputes  
The floor tensed with two  
impasses  
There were no escapes to  
postponing or indecision  
In voice acclamation each  
man reaffirmed the color he  
displayed  
Except one red rookie's "aye"  
turned disbelieving heads  
Perfect Thirty-Six, the beloved  
state became  
All because he listened to dear  
Miss Febb

— Jenna Nam  
*Middle Tennessee EMC*

## Age 23-64

### Destination

narrow brown veins  
beyond our stately White  
House  
cloister  
dirt-streaked moppets pedaling  
gearless bikes  
carefree mutts dozing in sun-  
pool splashes  
icy bright Nehis sparkling  
grooved dewy glass  
knotted rope swings swaying  
kid-cargo laughter  
a winking wry, grandpa rock-  
ing creaking porch slats  
crusty brown bread soaking  
blackstrap molasses  
flitting gray-tailed flashes  
teasing sprawling branches  
time-carved wheel ruts offer-  
ing slow rhythm  
placid holsteins switching  
manure-flecked flanks

dewed blueberries poised for  
whimsied plucking  
newly turned earth wafting  
promised growth  
breezed-nudged leaves  
rustling soft symphonies —  
and encroaching dusk signal-  
ing nightfall  
for all country roads

— David Holland  
*Cumberland EMC*

## Age 65 and older

### 100 Words or Less

Some paragraphs in  
English 101.  
Shepherd's Pie ingredients at  
McCreary's Pub.  
A good sermon — a  
REALLY good sermon.  
Jokes with three characters at  
a bar.  
Gravestone eulogies.  
Most marriage proposals.  
The Tennessee Waltz and the  
Star Spangled Banner.  
Words of Appreciation.  
All I-Love-You's.  
Things we say when we  
smash a thumb.  
Selected poems in *The Tennessee Magazine*.  
The woodpecker's dance.  
Trying to explain your bro-  
ken heart.  
Smelling Tennessee grass  
after 25 years in Georgia.  
The best bumper stickers.  
Bathing at night in the Milky  
Way's light.  
Imagining what's beyond  
that ...  
Praying in your closet.  
Singing in your heart.  
— Jim Tice  
*Middle Tennessee EMC*

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# IT'S JUST STUFF

by antiques appraiser Connie Sue Davenport

Dear Connie Sue,

Thanks for your column. I hope you can help me with my question. I purchased this colorful vase at an auction around 1980 for \$25. It is 10 inches tall and about as wide from handle to handle. The bottom has

the word "Italy" and the number 340. It also has an arrow in a circular shape. Can you give me any information about this beautiful item?

Rita, Mt. Juliet



Dear Rita,

Your vase was made between 1891 and 1921. To sell to the United

States after 1891, all items were required to be marked with the country of origin. After 1921, the name of the country had to be in English. Therefore, items marked "Italia" were after 1891 but before 1921.

I would describe the piece as a double-handle jug. To me, a pitcher has a lip, but a jug has a spout. It was traditionally used for storage and for sharing what's stored. It has a polychrome acanthus and scroll pattern. The "kicker" for me, though, are the fish-shaped handles! If I were selling the jug, I'd price it at \$95 and be sure to mention the fishy handles.



Dear Connie Sue,

I'm enclosing a picture of a compass that was made in France. It belonged to my father, and I haven't seen another like it anywhere. It is certainly rare. Please tell me something about it.

James, Fayetteville

Dear James,

The faintly impressed mark on the face of the compass, "made in France," indicates the piece was manufactured after 1914. Considering the availability of similar compasses online and in the cubbies and drawers of my clients, there are lots of them around. You, however, are the first to take the time to photograph and share a compass with all of us. After World War I, people began to travel for jobs and adventure. I guess they needed direction.

Your compass probably had a cover to protect the glass and was worn around the neck on a leather strap or heavy chain. People under age 45 are buying tools and functional items from this era. They are offered for \$22 to \$75 but seem to sell for just under \$20. I think their value will go up, but not enough to change your life.

Dear Connie,

This "box" belonged to my mom. She died 30 years ago. We have no idea what it was used for. It looks to be some kind of tool box. We would love to know for certain and also its worth.

Joyce, Rogersville



Dear Joyce,

Made around 1890, this box was made for Singer sewing machines and held tools, attachments and spare parts for the company's treadle machines. It was called the puzzle box because the contents had to be in their specific places in order for the box to close. Included were spare needles, bobbins and a leather belt for the machine's wheel along with attachments for hemming, tucking and quilting.

With all or most of the tools intact, similar boxes are offered and sell for around \$35. At that price, it would appeal to people who enjoy restoring and repurposing functional items from the early 1900s.

## Want to learn more about your antiques?



Send your inquiry with photos to the mailing address or email below. Only published appraisals are free. Private appraisals are available for a fee.

### Mailing address:

Connie Sue Davenport  
P.O. Box 343,

*It's just Stuff!* White House, TN 37188

Email: [treasures@conniesue.com](mailto:treasures@conniesue.com)

Connie Sue Davenport makes her living by appraising houses full of antiques for private clients and at appraisal events hosted by businesses and organizations. Her website, [ConnieSue.com](http://ConnieSue.com), describes these services.

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# Point of View

By Robin Conover

**W**hen you take photographs for a living, you always have a few favorites and, most of the time, you know when you shoot them that they'll be special. The image at right is a bit of an exception. It has grown to mean much more to me today than the day I shot it.

In the early '90s, I was searching for places to take scenic images for the magazine and found this red barn near Henrietta. The overcast day provided very nice, even lighting across the face of the barn. Checking it more closely, I found this classic basketball goal — complete with a perfectly worn net.

Now I have to admit that at the time I definitely knew who Pat Summitt was: She coached the U.S. Olympic gold medal-winning team in 1984 and was the revered coach of the talented University of Tennessee Lady Vols. I did not know she grew up very close to where I shot this image — within 10 miles or so, in fact.

After I realized this, I always wondered if she might have played summer pick-up games at this old barn. The original image was shot on Velvia slide film, which helped to enhance the deep reds and blacks of the image. The original slide was digitized by scanning it with a Nikon film scanner.

Ultimately, this image became buried in the thousands of archived slides I shot prior to digital photography. About 10 years ago, I had a reason to find it and print it when a friend of mine, Deanna, a high school teacher and coach who loved Pat Summit, was stricken with cancer.

I wish I had thought of this image earlier on in Deanna's battle, but it was late in the game when it came to mind again. I knew it would inspire Deanna if I could get it signed by Pat in time.



"Old-Fashioned Basketball" by Robin Conover  
Canon F-1, 10-200 mm 2.8 L-series lens mounted on a  
Bogen tripod, ISO 50, f8 at 1/250 second

I made two 11-by-14-inch prints and matted them before mailing them to the University of Tennessee to Pat's attention. I sent a note with the entire story and asked that they keep one of the prints and return the other if Pat was willing to sign it.

After only a few weeks, I received one of the prints back with an inspirational message to my friend. Sadly, Deanna had already passed. Since then, I have kept the print on a shelf in my studio, waiting for the right time to give it to her son.

With Pat's passing, I was once again reminded of this image and realized it's time to give the print to the rightful owner with the story of who Pat Summitt was to so many — a gritty, self-disciplined leader who made everyone around her stronger. I will pass it on with the story of how his mother was inspired by Pat Summitt in coaching and in life and, in turn, how Deanna inspired her own world as a strong-willed, determined friend who expected everyone's best on and off the court. ■



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