

# It's time to ask elected leaders for answers on energy matters

During the month of May, representatives from Holston Electric Cooperative will travel to Washington, D.C., for meetings with members of Tennessee's congressional delegation on issues of importance to the state's electric cooperatives and our members. No issue we discuss will be as important as what has become known as environmental legislation.

Already our nation faces a looming energy crisis, with demand for electricity ready to outstrip supply. Unless significantly more power plants are placed into service soon, some consumers could experience brownouts and even rolling blackouts in the not-too-distant future. But building this generation will be the most expensive in history, coming at a time when prices for fossil fuels and construction materials like steel, copper and concrete are rising.

Additional costs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions — notably carbon dioxide, blamed for contributing to global climate change — will only strain the pocket-books of consumers even further. Various climate change bills under consideration in Congress could boost wholesale power costs 50 percent to 80 percent by 2020 and push up retail rates from 25 percent to 40 percent.

Tennessee 1st District Rep. David Davis has kept energy legislation and issues a priority during his term in office. As members of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Small Business, Davis and North Carolina Rep. Heath Shuler held a hearing last September on the cost and availability of energy and the effect on small business. Along with other leaders from the energy industry, educators and environmentalists, I was asked to provide my perspective on energy issues. It was an excellent venue for energy opinions to be voiced and information to be shared.

Unfortunately, many members of Congress mistakenly believe we can solve all of these problems through efficiency measures and by adding renewable energy sources. While we certainly need more energy efficiency programs and "green power," they will not be enough to ensure that you continue to receive a safe, reliable and affordable supply of electricity.

To keep the lights on and rates reasonable, the federal government must exercise dedicated leadership — the same leadership that got us to the moon in the 1960s. Without it, and without a sound, responsible, sustainable energy policy, we risk returning to a time when electric service was a privilege enjoyed only by the wealthy.

As electric co-op members, though, you can help prevent that from happening. I encourage you to contact your elected officials today and ask them some tough questions.

To assist you in your conversations with those in power, log on to [www.ourenergy.coop](http://www.ourenergy.coop). There you will find three core questions to ask:

1. *What is your plan to make sure we have the electricity we'll need in the future?*
2. *What are you doing to fully fund the research required to make emissions-free electric plants an affordable reality?*
3. *Balancing electricity needs and environmental goals will be difficult. How much is all this going to increase my electric bill, and what will you do to make it affordable?*

From the Web site, you will also be able to send a sample letter to members of Congress recommending that they seek out a balanced solution to energy and climate change. The letter may be sent electronically or printed for regular mail.

Help your elected officials get it right on energy efficiency and climate change.



**Larry Elkins**  
General Manager  
Holston Electric  
Cooperative



Serving more than 29,000 customers in Hawkins and Hamblen counties.



1200 W. Main St.

P.O. Box 190

Rogersville, TN 37857

272-8821 235-6811

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

### Church Hill office

Highway 11-W and S. Central Ave.

Church Hill, TN 37642

357-6441

### Russellville office

Highway 11-E

Russellville, TN 37860

581-2066

**Office hours: 8 a.m.-5 p.m.**

**Monday-Friday**

### General Manager

Larry Elkins

### Board of Directors

President: Otis Munsey

Vice President: William W. Bales

Secretary-Treasurer:

Danny Cockreham

Lynn Parker

Phil Pierce

Danny R. Price

William F. Young

**To report an outage or electrical**

**emergency, call**

**272-8821 or 235-6811**

**day or night.**

## New meter reader begins training

**D**errick Siclari started his training as a Holston Electric Cooperative employee on April 1. A Cherokee High School graduate, Siclari attended Walters State Community College and was most recently employed at Hawkins Farmers Cooperative. In high school, Siclari was active in the Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps and worked his way up to battalion cadet commander. He was a member of the drill team color guard and the athletic team and attended Leadership Academy and specialized training sessions in Tullahoma, Tenn., and Norfolk, Va.

Siclari had a unique experience with Holston Electric Cooperative that dated back to a letter he wrote to the cooperative when he was in second grade. After a widespread snowstorm had left thousands without power, Siclari wrote the cooperative employees a thank you letter that was later published in the local newspaper. Even though Holston EC had no major outages to deal with, Siclari thanked them for their efforts to keep the power on throughout the storm.

Siclari attends Hope Community Church and is the son of Les and Christine Siclari of Rogersville. In his spare time he enjoys hunting, fishing and horseback-riding.

After working at Holston EC for just a few days, Siclari commented, "I've come to understand that everyone here works together to get the job done. It's a big team effort. It's an honor and a privilege to work with this fine group of people."



**Derrick Siclari**

## Two promotions announced at Holston EC



**Holston EC Special Projects Supervisor Robert Davenport, right, meets with Asplundh foreman Josh Mowell.**



**Ragen Singleton**

**H**olston EC employee Robert Davenport was recently named to fill the new position of technical services supervisor. Davenport, a 22-year veteran with the cooperative, is a journeyman lineman and was the substation maintenance crew foreman responsible for the initial construction and maintenance of the power substations. He has been an active member of Holston's lineman rodeo team for several years.

Davenport's new responsibilities will include assisting the construction superintendent in overseeing Holston EC's right-of-way program, providing and scheduling technical training for line crews, monitoring and maintaining maintenance schedules for all distribution equipment and assisting with the work schedules for line crews.

Ragen Singleton was named to fill the position of substation maintenance crew foreman. Singleton, a journeyman lineman, has been with Holston EC for 15 years and has participated in the Tennessee Valley Lineman's Rodeo and the International Lineman's Rodeo as part of Holston's rodeo team.

As a lineman, he was responsible for performing diversified work of construction and repair of distribution and transmission lines of all classes and voltage, including energized lines, structures and equipment involved in the distribution of electricity. As the substation maintenance crew foreman, Singleton is now responsible for the initial construction modifications and maintenance of Holston's 11 power substations and for primary metering installations, recloser and regulator maintenance and distribution line construction.

# Tamper-resistant outlets protect children

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, approximately 2,400 children receive emergency room treatment every year for injuries caused by inserting objects — paper clips, pens, safety pins, screws and nails, tools, wire, forks, tweezers, hair pins, keys, knives, coins and more — into electrical receptacles. This equates to approximately seven children each day.

Injuries range from electric shock to burns; pediatric burns can be particularly serious. Roughly 89 percent of injuries occur in children less than 6 years old.

One way to prevent these tragedies involves installing tamper-resistant outlets that prevent foreign objects from touching electrically live components. A shutter mechanism prevents children from



sticking things into receptacles while a spring-loaded system lets electricity flow only when equal pressure is applied simultaneously to both shutters (as from an electrical plug).

Although not widely used in homes, tamper-resistant outlets have been required in hospital pediatric care areas for more than 20 years. The 2008 National Electrical Code requires tamper-resistant outlets in new homes.

The Electrical Safety Foundation International recommends retrofitting older homes with these safety devices. Installation of tamper-resistant outlets can be done for as little as \$2 each.

*Sources: Electrical Safety Foundation International and National Electrical Manufacturers Association.*

## Truck and Equipment Auction

Saturday, May 3 — 10 a.m.

Holston Electric Cooperative warehouse/parking lot

1200 W. Main St., Rogersville

### Items to be sold include:

- |   |               |
|---|---------------|
| 2001 Ford F150 short bed, regular cab 4x2,  | 121,992 miles |
| 2001 Ford F150 long bed, regular cab 4x2,   | 184,115 miles |
| 1999 Chevy 1500 extended cab 4x4  | 167,932 miles |
| 1999 Chevy 1500 extended cab 4x4  | 157,171 miles |
| 1998 Chevy 1500 regular cab 4x4   | 156,601 miles |
| 1994 Ford F250 regular cab 4x4<br>power stroke diesel                             | 151,846 miles |
| 1988 International S1900 tandem axle with<br>Telect double bucket — 55-foot reach |               |
| Challenger Cross Over aluminum tool box   |               |
| Challenger 6-foot aluminum sidemount tool box                                     |               |
| Warn 12,000-pound electric winch  |               |
| Used iron gate — center opening: 13 feet, 4 inches                                |               |
| 28 used 2x4 fluorescent light fixtures, 277 volts                                 |               |
| 10 recessed 120-volt lights   |               |
| Epson wide-format impact printer  |               |
| Miscellaneous office chairs and computer monitors, GE refrigerator and GE stove   |               |

*Complete list of sale items available at any Holston Electric Cooperative office*



**This 1988 S1900 International bucket truck is among items to be sold at the truck and equipment auction on Saturday, May 3, at 10 a.m., at the Holston EC location at 1200 W. Main St., Rogersville.**

**TERMS:** Cash or approved check

**SALE CONDUCTED BY:** Broyles Real Estate and Auction Company  
530-A West First North St.  
Morristown, TN 37814  
423-586-6103  
FL#4755

# 2008 WYT Writing Contest winners

Congratulations to nine area high school juniors who recently won top honors in Holston Electric Cooperative's 2008 Washington Youth Tour Writing Contest. The top three winners from Cherokee, Volunteer and Morristown-Hamblen East high schools receive cash prizes or expense-paid trips to Washington, D.C., as part of the Washington Youth Tour.

Cherokee High School student Katie Styke, daughter of John and Lynne Styke of Mohawk, is the grand-prize winner among all three schools. Her story will be entered in the statewide competition for a college scholarship. Michael Sandidge, son of Scott and Cathy Sandidge of Rogersville, won second place at Cherokee, and Elisha Wilder, daughter of Lonnie and Glenda Wilder of Bulls Gap, was third.

Morristown-Hamblen East High School winners were Kayla Williams, daughter of David and Melody Williams of Russellville, first; Meredith Young, daughter of Joel and Connie Young of Morristown, second; and Kellie Cobb, daughter of Deanna Cobb of Whitesburg, third.

Volunteer High School winners included Heather Fultz, daughter of Tom and Brenda Fultz of Church Hill, first; Amanda West, daughter of Kipp and Judy West of Church Hill, second; and Adrienne Duncan, daughter of Ron and Sharon Duncan of Surgoinsville, third.

The Washington Youth Tour is sponsored by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association, Holston EC and 22 other electric cooperatives across Tennessee. The program started in 1964 as an effort to give young people an opportunity to learn about our federal government, observe the work of our elected officials in Washington, D.C., and gain an appreciation of our nation's rich history.

To determine the winners of the Youth Tour, students participate in a short story writing contest sponsored by Holston EC each year. The contest is part of a statewide program to help educate students about basic cooperative values and the history of rural electrification.

Students in the junior English classes this year wrote short stories titled "Electric Cooperatives — Energizing Our Communities." The theme encouraged students to write a short story describing how your electric cooperative energizes your community by taking an active role in improving lives across its service area.



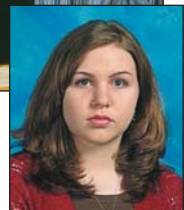
Cherokee High School students taking top honors in the Youth Tour Writing Contest are, from left, Katie Styke, grand-prize winner; Michael Sandidge, second place; and Elisha Wilder, third, with English teacher Linda Jackson.



Morristown-Hamblen East High School contest winners are congratulated by English teacher Patsy Word, standing. From left are Kayla Williams, first; Meredith Young, second; and Kellie Cobb, third.



From left are Volunteer High School Youth Tour Writing Contest winners Amanda West, second, and Adrienne Duncan, third, with English teacher Carolyn Gibbons. First-place winner Heather Fultz, inset, was not available for group photo.



# Local youth attend leadership summit

**B**eth Jennings of Volunteer High School and Keegan Pearson of Cherokee High School were among 42 high school juniors from across the state who attended the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association's (TECA) annual Youth Leadership Summit March 17-19 in downtown Nashville.

"Every year students across the state undergo the highly competitive selection process to earn a spot at the Youth Leadership Summit," said Joe Jackson, TECA director of youth and member relations. "Local electric cooperatives, along with school officials and guidance counselors, chose these outstanding students based on their interest in government and their leadership abilities."

"The annual summit gives students an opportunity to learn about electric cooperatives and how they affect their lives,"

Jackson said of the students representing 21 of Tennessee's electric cooperatives. "It also gives them an opportunity to see, in person, the legislative process in the Tennessee Capitol."

The summit was hosted by TECA and funded in part by the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation, a not-for-profit cooperative financing institute that provides an independent source of financing to member cooperatives nationwide.

"It's encouraging to see such high-caliber students in our service area," said Larry Elkins, Holston Electric Cooperative general manager. "These young people will one day be the leaders of our communities, and we are privileged to provide them with this opportunity to join their peers from across Tennessee to learn about state government and rural electric co-ops."

The summit kicked off Monday evening, March 17, with dinner at the group's hotel, the Millennium Maxwell House. "Get-acquainted" and leadership development activities followed, led by cooperative employees and special guests, including 2007 Miss Tennessee Grace Gore and Tennessee Titans cheerleaders Kindle Martin and Lindsey Roznovsky.

Tuesday morning began early with breakfast and preparations for a visit to Legislative Plaza. TECA Director of Government and Public Affairs David Callis introduced State Rep. Doug Overby of Maryville, who welcomed the students to Tennessee's capital and discussed the legislative process with them. Callis then explained current bills affecting cooperatives and described what everyone should expect from the legislative committees they were to visit.

The 11th-graders made their way to Legislative Plaza, where they got to see state government in action and pose for photos



**From left are Sen. Mike Williams, Holston EC Member Services Director Jenny Lawson, Keegan Pearson, Beth Jennings and Rep. Mike Harrison.**

in front of the historic Capitol. State Sen. Mike Williams of Maynardville and Rep. Mike Harrison of Rogersville met with the students and explained the busy weekly schedules that the part-time legislators have to manage.

Following the visit to Capitol Hill, the group enjoyed lunch and leadership activities at a Nashville-area YMCA camp. Later they made a quick stop for a pizza dinner before heading to watch a Nashville Predators hockey game followed by a tour of Nashville. The busy day was capped off with an ice cream social back at the hotel.

Wednesday morning, the students learned more about Tennessee's electric cooperatives and the commitment these co-ops show toward the communities they serve. Then they fought it out in the "Energy Battle" competition, where teams answered trivia questions about electric cooperatives and the state.

General Manager Elkins says the Youth Leadership Summit helps students to "learn by experience."

"We offer these educational experiences for our students — our future members — because we want them to understand what makes a cooperative special," Elkins says. "It's not like we're dealing with their grandparents, who might remember what it was like to live without electricity. These young people have had modern conveniences all their lives."

"We want them to be able to appreciate their electric cooperative and understand why it was so important to form electric cooperatives in the first place," Elkins says.

Beth Jennings is the daughter of Clyde and Jean Jennings of Church Hill, and Keegan Pearson is the son of David and Karen Pearson of Rogersville. Both families live in the Holston Electric Cooperative service area.