

## Getting to the winner's circle

The spring race at Bristol Motor Speedway is just a few days away. It's an event that thrills thousands of NASCAR fans, including those who live in the local area and those spread throughout the country. Each has his or her favorite driver that they're pulling for, whether it's Johnson, Gordon, Earnhardt, Busch, Stewart, Kahne, Waltrip, Petty, Labonte, Edwards or whoever. And when the race is over, there will be just one driver — one name — who will be recorded as the winner.

When you think about it, it just doesn't seem quite fair that one person receives all the credit and accolades for winning a 500-lap race around a half-mile track. Involved in winning a grueling race are so many people other than the driver as well as uncontrollable events. You can go all the way back to the designers of the car and its motor who continuously tweak details to lessen resistance and increase horsepower. There are the pit crew members who work and train to keep the car maintained to the highest level in the shortest amount of time during the race.

There are the other drivers on the racing team who may be running interference for the lead car on the team. A crucial block of a challenging car in the turn may be the strategy that seals the win for another team member. And every driver would acknowledge that it takes a certain amount of luck to wind up in the winner's circle. There are too many things out of the driver's control — blown tires, crashes involving other cars, the timing of caution flags — to claim sole responsibility for the win.

When I received the 2007 year-end outage report for Holston EC, I was quite proud of the numbers. The average outage hours for Holston EC cus-

tomers was 1.776. That number may not be too significant to the customers, but it means that their power was on for 99.98 percent of the time in 2007. That's a great accomplishment for a rural electric cooperative. And that number keeps us well within our goal of maintaining a five-year average of less than two outage hours per customer.

But just like winning a big NASCAR race, that report was only possible because of the combined efforts of many employees here at Holston EC. Members of the engineering services department who survey the new construction sites and draw the jobs must determine the best direction and equipment to build a line that is sturdy and durable.

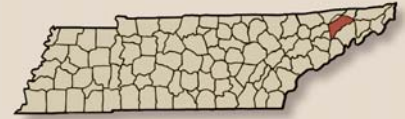
Those who design new substations must consider the current load and the projected growth in the area to make sure there is adequate power available in extreme weather conditions. The journeyman linemen who build the lines and then respond to outage reports must do so in the quickest — and safest — times possible. The essential bucket trucks and derrick trucks could be sitting on the side of the road somewhere were they not kept in top running condition by the mechanics. The dollars spent on tree-trimming throughout the years are direct investments in outage prevention.

And, like racing, there's a lot of luck involved in this business. A degree or two change in temperature, a kamikaze squirrel running loose in a substation or a car crash that takes out a pole along the side of the road could easily mess up the outage numbers for the year.

Yes, I'm proud of that outage-hours report for 2007, but I'm even prouder of the teamwork and the HEC team members that made it happen.



**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

423-272-8821, 423-235-6811

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

### Church Hill office

Highway 11-W and South Central Avenue

Church Hill, TN 37642

423-357-6441

### Russellville office

Highway 11-E

Russellville, TN 37860

423-581-2066

**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**

**423-272-8821 or 423-235-6811**

**day or night.**



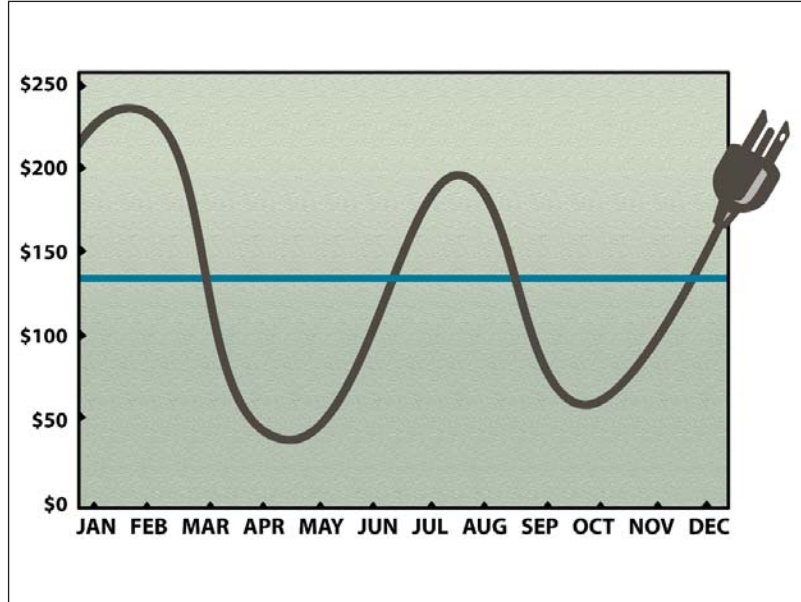
# Avoid the shock of spiking power bills

## Sign up now for EPAY — Equal Monthly Payment Plan

We can't control the weather, but we can help smooth out the extreme spikes of monthly electric bills with EPAY, the Equal Monthly Payment Plan. EPAY takes the average of your past 12 months of electricity use and then bills you for the same amount each month. A one-year history of service with Holston EC must be available to enroll in the program.

With EPAY, your meter is read and your bill calculated each month as usual. The bill you receive will show you how much electricity you actually used, but you'll pay the same set amount each month.

In March of each year, your account is tallied out for the past 12-month period. You will then either settle the balance due or will have built up a credit to your account.



Call or come by any Holston EC office for more information. Remember, you must sign up in March to participate in EPAY.

## Project Child Find

Local school systems provide services for children and young adults, ages 3 years to 21, who have special needs and reside within the district. If you have or know children who are not currently being provided services, please contact:

**Hawkins County Schools:** Melissa Reed, Child Find coordinator; 423-272-2168 or 272-3455

**Rogersville City School:** Joy Rhea, Child Find coordinator; 423-272-7651

**Hamblen County Schools:** Leann Mills, Child Find coordinator; 423-586-7700





Volunteers have removed tons of trash from the shores of Cherokee Lake in past years. Your help is needed to keep the lake safe to use and beautiful for everyone to enjoy.

## Come on out and be a part of the Sixth Annual Cherokee Lake POWER Cleanup 9 a.m.-noon, Saturday, April 26

**WHO** Church groups, civic clubs, families, school organizations, lake users, individuals — anyone!

**WHEN** Saturday, April 26, 9 a.m.-noon.

**WHERE** The Hawkins County staging area will be at the Quarryville Boat Ramp, which is located just east of Cherokee Boat Dock on Highway 11W. All participants will meet there first to get trash bags, gloves and T-shirts. When finished, return litter to the trash bin at this site and receive free goodie bags.

Community volunteers are needed to help clean up the shoreline of Cherokee Lake. Organize your civic group, youth group, Boy or Girl Scout troop, neighborhood or your family members and help to protect, restore and preserve the beauty and safe functions of Cherokee Lake.

A special invitation to participate is issued to boaters, fishermen, lake property owners and all other lake users. Many heavily littered areas of the lake can't be accessed by foot or by car or truck. We urge those with boats to come out and help clean up an area during this three-hour event on April 26.

To register a team or for more information, call Jenny Lawson at Holston Electric Cooperative at 272-8821 or Nancy Barker at the Rogersville/Hawkins County Chamber of Commerce at 272-2186.



**Free T-shirt and goodie bag for each participant!**



Discarded Christmas trees are ground into useful mulch instead of being dumped into the landfill.

## Christmas trees recycled into garden mulch

When the holidays are over, residents want to get rid of their stale, dry Christmas trees. Smart folks know that the best way to dispose of a cut tree is to recycle it into mulch!

Christmas trees were dropped off at Holston EC offices through mid-January. Asplundh Tree Services then brought in their equipment to grind up the trees. The bagged mulch was avail-

able free of charge for folks to pick up and use in their yards or gardens.

Any projects to reuse and recycle our natural resources will help to protect and preserve the environment. To find out more about efforts to recycle in Hawkins County, call the Rogersville/Hawkins County Chamber of Commerce at 272-2186.

## Holston EC experiences all-time peak power demand How cold was it?

A new all-time high system peak demand of 195.9 megawatts (mw) occurred for Holston Electric Cooperative on Friday, Jan. 25, when an approximate low temperature of 7 degrees was recorded. Extreme cold temperatures in winter months are reflected in increased power usage and heating costs.

### Previous high demands

<b>190.2 mw on Dec. 24, 2005</b>	<b>Low temperature of 6 degrees</b>
<b>184.7 mw on Jan. 20, 2004</b>	<b>Low temperature of 4 degrees</b>
<b>182.8 mw on Jan. 24, 2003</b>	<b>Low temperature of 3 degrees</b>
<b>175.3 mw on Jan. 3, 2001</b>	<b>Low temperature of 6 degrees</b>



# Inactive accounts identified at Holston EC

If your name or business is listed below, you have an inactive membership or service deposit at Holston Electric Cooperative that we must either refund to you or forward to the state of Tennessee. According to state law, any funds that have been inactive for two years or more are classified as unclaimed property and must be returned to the owner, if possible, or delivered to the state. You may contact any Holston EC office before April 4 to claim your funds.

**Rogersville: 272-8821 or 235-6811**

**Church Hill: 357-6411**

**Russellville: 581-2066**

Aboush, Vedat  
Adkins, Larry  
B&S Investments  
Baldwin, James A.  
Barton, Daniel  
Bays, Diana  
Benton, Samual  
Beverly, Gene  
Blessing, Lisa  
Bowen, Larry  
Brown, Melinda  
Bryant, Angela  
Bryant, Beth  
Burnett, Ruby J.  
Byington, Alicia  
Byington, Nick  
Carter, Lynda  
Castle, Debbie  
Cody, Orville  
Collins, Mavis  
Conner, Tommy  
Cook, Tara A.  
Craddock, Daniel  
Daniels, Patricia  
Durham, Lillie B.  
Eastern Eight CDC  
Ewing, Jacqueline  
Freeman, Jerry Jr.  
Fallbauh, Kathy — doing  
business as Century 21  
Gilbert, Roy

Gilliam, Bettie  
Goan, Louise  
Good, Agnes K.  
Goodman, Bessie  
Gregg, Stella Mae  
Gulley, Paul O.  
Hageman, Daniel  
Hamilton, Donna  
Harkins, Madonna  
Hawkins, Ivan  
Heidel, Eric  
Henley, Terry  
Hensley, Jerry R.  
Hill, Rhiannon  
Hopkins, Peggy  
Horner, Herbert  
Horner, Pearl and/or Eva  
Horton, Sarah  
Housewright, Lynn  
Johnson, Charles  
Kyle, Ronnie  
Lawson, Dinah  
Lawson, Samantha  
Lindinger, Sarah  
Lindsey, Darling  
Livesay, Stephanie  
Long, Elizabeth and Lloyd  
Lowell, Brewer  
Manis, Phyllis  
Marcum, Wilbert  
Markham, Ben

Marshall, Johnny A.  
Mays, Max  
McMakin, Joe  
Miller, Stoney  
Minker, Gary  
Moore, Owen D.  
Munro, Donald and Delores  
Oaks, Gary  
Pelcastre, Moises J.  
Reynolds, Frances H.  
Richards, Clarissa  
Roberts, Bernice  
Shanks, Glenon  
Shepard, Lisa  
Short, Ann  
Shrader, William  
Simmons, Bill  
Simmons, John T.  
Skoronsky, Stanley  
Truesdale, Latashia  
Valley Partners LLC  
Ward, Ken  
Watson, Jeremy  
Webb, Phillip  
Wells, Michael  
Willis, Robert E.  
Wohl, Michael  
Woods, Gary and Alison  
Zuen, Wanona — doing  
business as Blue Ridge  
Properties