

All in a day's and night's work

Icy winds blow swirling flakes of snow through the darkness of a winter's night. With temperatures predicted to plummet into the single digits, the weather is fit for neither man nor beast.

As you settle in for a good night's rest, you take a moment to glance out the window and shiver at the thought of being outdoors. You thankfully snuggle down in your nice, warm bed with the sounds of the cold, wintry night just a few feet away from where you rest.

Several hours pass. It's well after midnight by now, and

you are in deep, peaceful slumber. Suddenly, a sharp blast of wind startles you awake, and you hope it doesn't take the roof off. Tall trees on the hill just behind your home sway back and forth as the wind gains momentum. And then it happens — a 60-foot-tall pine can no longer withstand the pressure and is taken down.

You are fully awake by now and are aware that total darkness surrounds you. You reach over to turn on your bedside table lamp, but nothing happens. You fumble for the flashlight in the table drawer and shine it on your watch lying on the table. It's a little after 2 a.m., and the electricity has been knocked out by the ferocious winter wind. The pine that crashed to the ground took the power line with it, even though it was outside the line's right of way.

Not too far away, a man is in a state of deep, restful sleep. It had been a

long day for him after working outdoors for most of the day in freezing temperatures. Suddenly, he is awakened by the piercing ring of the telephone. He doesn't have to guess who is on the other end of the line. His instincts tell him there is trouble caused by the weather. The cooperative's after-hours dispatcher relates to him that calls are coming in from customers reporting their electric service has gone out. He rolls out of bed and gets dressed as quietly as possible, trying not to



Karl Dudley
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wake his family. And so, in the bitter cold night, in the blinding snow, he slips out the door and heads for his truck. He knows there's a job to be done.

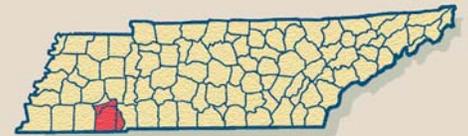
This scenario is not unfamiliar to Pickwick employees. Our line crews do all that is humanly possible to keep the lights burning for the cooperative's customers in all weather conditions and face unpredictable situations on a routine basis. Their line of work is filled with potential hazards under the best of circumstances, but harsh weather and long hours without rest make the job even more dangerous.

While this is certainly not intended to take away from all the other dedicated employees in our cooperative family, it is simply meant to recognize our line crews who have such a tremendous amount of responsibility on their shoulders and do their jobs so well.



Pickwick Electric Cooperative

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



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These five pages contain local

news and information

for members of Pickwick

Electric Cooperative.



Employees complete Certified Power Executive Program

Four PEC employees recently completed the Certified Power Executive (CPE) program, sponsored by the Tennessee Valley Public Power Association (TVPPA).

TVPPA's Certified Power Executive is a unique program of professional certification specifically designed for management of public power distribution systems. It provides managers with a better understanding of their duties and roles in the utility industry.

The target group for the CPE program has been "redefined" as mid- to upper-level managers who have fundamental supervisory skills and are ready to proceed to the next level of leadership proficiency. Core competencies at this level include planning, organizing, allocating, delegating, scheduling, problem-solving and relating.

The recent graduates agreed that the CPE program is a very beneficial tool that can be used to acquire valuable knowledge and insight for utility industry employees. They felt the program provided them with the knowledge that will allow each to be a valuable asset to Pickwick Electric Cooperative.

Two competencies — business planning and public speaking — further distinguish members of this group.



Employees to complete CPE Certification are, left to right, Brad Howell, human resource director; Chris Combs, accountant; Donna Kennedy, executive secretary; and Steve King, office manager.

The curriculum is designed to provide participants with the skills to meet the competencies outlined above.

All course requirements are to be completed within five years of starting the program.

Doyle attends lineman school

Logan Doyle has completed Apprentice Lineman Fundamental Training School in Atlanta, Ga. Through hands-on experiences, the 10-day school, which attracts students from all over the U.S., provides future linemen with a good understanding of their job responsibilities.

During the first day of school, students were issued tools they would use during their training. They also studied rules and regulations and watched training films.

The following day, the students attended a safety meeting and received instructions on pole-climbing and how to properly tie knots. They learned to tie 14 different knots, and each had to be tied in less than six seconds.

After that, it was off to the pole yard where each student started learning climbing techniques. Each prac-

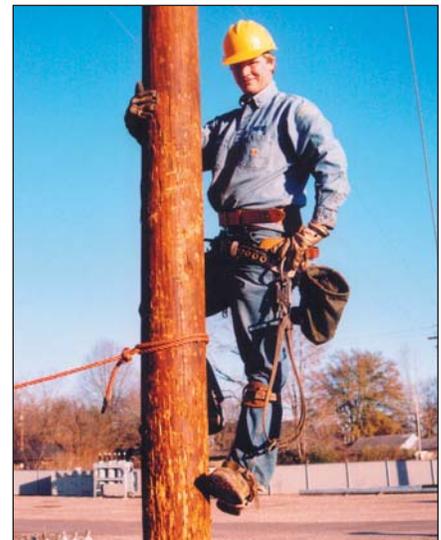
ticed on 10-foot poles, and as they gained confidence at this level, students gradually worked their way up to 35-foot poles.

During the school, students also took 22 tests and were required to maintain a 70 average for a passing grade.

"We feel that this training is the best available for future linemen," said Pickwick Electric Cooperative President Karl Dudley. "We are confident that once the trainee completes this course he will be very knowledgeable of all aspects of the lineman position."

Logan agreed that the school was a "tough and demanding" 10 days, but said it was definitely worth it. He highly recommends this school to anyone who wants to become a lineman.

Logan is a 2005 graduate of McNairy Central High School. He



Logan Doyle

lives in Chewalla and enjoys playing softball, hunting and fishing.

Congratulations, Logan.

Cooperative appreciates cards

Pickwick Electric Cooperative would like to express appreciation for the beautiful Christmas cards received from these cooperative members and friends.

Jimmy and Patricia Hill	Hopkinsville Electric System	American Red Cross
Youth Town	Pennyrile Electric	Mike Bowles and family
James Edward Wright	Carl and Virginia Crabb	Ruffin and Associates
John and Frances Wright	Fort Loudoun Electric Cooperative	Better Source Supply
Billy and Frances Wright	Almae Chappell and family	Powell Valley Electric Cooperative
Mike Reppert, MEGGER	Service Electric Co.	NaturChem Inc.
Local 474 IBEW	United Utility Service Inc.	National Rural Utilities Cooperative
Bobby and Teresa Stanford	Midsouth Utility Consultants, LLC	Finance Corporation
Alvine Boyd	Jerry and Belle Jarrett	Estel and Mary R. Mills
Mary and Frances Wright	United Utility Supply	Doug and Judy Raines
Community South	Fisher and Arnold Inc.	Upper Cumberland Electric Membership
Central Services Association	Maudine Dancer	Corporation
SELCAT	Baldwin Pole and Piling Co. Inc.	Joe and Donna King
Caney Fork Electric Cooperative	Tennessee Valley Electric Cooperative	Southwest Electric Company
City of Michie	Bill and Betty Rickman	Davis H. Elliot Construction
Nashville Electric Service	Tennessee Electric Cooperative	Comverge
Volunteer Energy Cooperative	Association	Sungard Exp
Pat and Helen Montgomery	Patterson and Dewar Engineers Inc.	David Hatch
David and Carlean Gray	Tri-State Electric Membership Corporation	Mrs. Sue Baker
McNairy County Adult Education Center	The Henry Family	Hunt Technologies Inc.
Barbara Brock	Don and Nevella Smith	Southern Wood
Meriwether Lewis Electric Cooperative	Paducah Power System	William, Jerrolds, Godwin and
Tammy Griswell	McWhorter and Franklin Engineers	Nichols PLLC
Jerald Casteel	Alcorn County Electric Power Association	Elizabeth Clark
Shirley Casteel		Samco Capital
Cumberland Electric Membership	Ellis Brothers Office Supplies	Kenny, Rhonda and Courtney
Corporation	John Williams	Lambert
Health Partners, Work Partners and	Inman Brothers Wrecker Service	Harlod and Frankie Finley
Employer Services	Tennessee Valley Authority	Marie Sanders
Hollingsworth Locksmith Services	Paris Board of Public Utilities	Dora Riley
UtiliCor	Jeannie Sloan	Lois Moffett
Central Bank	McNairy County Mayor's Office	Fisher and Arnold Inc.
Middle Tennessee Electric Membership	John E. and Phyllis Ann Dunwoody	Ruby Lambert and family
Corporation	Mary English	Glidewell Trailer Sales and Titan Coaches
Gibson Electric Membership Corporation	Lonnie Garner	Bertha Treece
Carolyn, Dennis and Danny Cotner	Younger Associates	Teen Challenge Memphis
Allen and Hoshall	Environmental Protection Services	WESCO
Plateau Electric Cooperative	Electric Power Services Inc.	Torco Testing Services, Inc.
Professional Parks Inc.	Joyce James	Robert and Jane Taylor
C.H. Guernsey and Company	Duck River Electric Membership	HVAC Design and Build Systems
Tennessee Job Training and Safety	Corporation	The Tennessee Magazine
Junell Moore	Harold Huggins	National Rural Electric Cooperative
Jerry Clausel	Leon and Eyvonne Maness	Association
R.A. Phillips	Barbara Martin	Bill and Brenda Beavers
Allen, Summers, Simpson, Lillie and	Tennessee Valley Public Power	Verble Nixon
Gresham, PLLC	Association	Bobby and Shirley Johnson
Randy's Dental Lab	Electric Power Board	Abraham Taylor
Tri-County Electric Membership	Appalachian Electric Cooperative	T. C. Kennedy
Corporation	Holston Electric Cooperative	Town Of Milledgeville
Cenwood Appliance Distributors	Venture Technologies	BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee
Bobby and Lorena Browder	Verble Nixon	Stephen Lee and Family



Sandra Brush retires with 32 years of service

As we eagerly await the changes the new year will bring, so does Sandra Brush. She will be looking forward to something new in her life: retirement. Her last day of work was Friday, Jan. 27.

Brush, a native of McNairy County, began her employment with the cooperative on July 30, 1973, as consumer records clerk. She held this job until April 1979, when she was promoted to engineering clerk, where she remained until her retirement.

When Brush came to work in 1973, the cooperative was serving in excess of 11,000 members. Now, the cooperative has grown to almost 20,000 members with approximately 2,000 miles of lines to maintain.

When asked what was the most significant changes she had seen at PEC, she replied, "The most noticeable to me was the emergence of the computer age. I came to work at a time when everything was done by hand. Through the years everything has gradually moved to computers."

Over her 32 years, there have been some happy occasions to celebrate with members and fellow workers as well as some difficult times. Brush has experienced tornadoes,



Sandra Brush

snow and ice storms and floods that forced the cooperative employees to work around the clock. But she says during her career at PEC, the good times have outweighed the bad.

During Brush's career at PEC, she has worked for five different managers — William M. Roberts, T. Wayne Brown, Noel Landreth (who served as acting manager on two different occasions), Leslie Gwin and current President Karl Dudley.

"Sandra's tenured experience will certainly be missed at PEC, but we are all proud to see her reach this milestone," Dudley said. "We truly appreciate all the hard work that she has

contributed to the cooperative. We wish her a happy retirement."

Brush has three children and four grandchildren with whom she plans to spend more time.

"I've been blessed by my Lord with a good job and good life," Brush said.

"I'm fortunate to have worked with some good and kind people. But now I'm looking forward to retirement and doing some things I have a desire to do."

In memory

Pickwick Electric Cooperative Director David Lawson passed away on Friday, Dec. 30, 2005, at his home in Ramer.

Mr. Lawson was elected to the PEC board on Aug. 19, 1997. He was the former owner of Lawson Welding Inc. in Ramer and a U.S. Army veteran of the Vietnam War. He was a charter member of Unity

Baptist Church, where he served as a deacon.

Mr. Lawson is survived by his wife, Janice Suggs Lawson; two sons, Chris and Brandon, both of Haleyville, Ala.; and four grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Sunday, Jan. 1, 2006, at the Shackelford Funeral Home Chapel with burial in the Mt. Vernon Cemetery near Ramer.



David Lawson



McNairy County Family and Community Education clubs make a difference

For more than 75 years, McNairy County Family and Community Education (FCE) clubs have shared common goals with other clubs across the state to learn through shared experience, improve home and community life, strengthen adult education and promote projects that enhance family and community life.

Through their rich history, these clubs have grown from small community groups to a worldwide network. In the past, these clubs were known as Home Demonstration Clubs and Homemakers.

Today, McNairy County has five FCE clubs — Acton, Lawton, Leapwood, Stantonville and Selmer — with a membership of more than 100.

McNairy County FCE clubs meet monthly. Each meeting includes an education program that focuses on a subject relating to family and consumer science. Topics include family economics, healthy eating, money management, environmental education and safety.

Community service is the cornerstone for FCE clubs. Each year they provide the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of families by participating in projects that meet the needs of each local community.

If you would like to become a member of an FCE



Mary Nell Browning, left, receives an award from McNairy County Council President Barbara Isbell in recognition of 50 years of service to what is now the Family and Community Education Club.

club, please contact extension agent Rita Casey at 645-3598. Casey meets monthly with each of these clubs. Her office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, with the exception of noon to 1 p.m. when the office is closed for lunch.



Members honored for 500 hours of community service for 2005 are, front row, left to right, Hazel Dudgeon, Gloria Coln, Wilma Moore and Mary Ruth Surratt. Back row, Mary Nell Browning, Sandra Bass, Martha Nell Crowe, Linda Smith, Ouidamai Lott, Mary Dona Miller, and Barbara Isbell.



Those receiving reading awards are, front row, left to right, Ruby Pounds, Blenda Brush, Harlie Evans and Tommie Webb. Back row, Mary Nell Browning, Barbara Isbell, Gloria Coln, Mary Dona Miller, Mary Ruth Surratt, Ouidamai Lott, Florence Clayton and Rebecca Surratt.