

Make plans to attend PEC's annual meeting

On behalf of the board of directors, management and employees of Pickwick Electric Cooperative, you are cordially invited to attend the cooperative's 2008 annual meeting and help us celebrate 73 years of service to the community. This meeting is used by the members and management to make reports, exchange information and conduct the business of the cooperative.

The 2008 event will kick off at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 16, at McNairy Central High School with

free hot dogs and soft drinks, party jumpers, displays and entertainment for everyone. Each of the first 500 members to register will receive a four-pack of compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs).

The Renewed Gospel Ministries Quartet will provide the entertainment again this year.

In addition to the CFLs, food and entertainment, there will be a number of nice door prizes given away. Please join us as we celebrate this special occasion.



The Renewed Gospel Ministries Quartet from Dyersburg will perform again at this year's annual meeting. From left are Mike Hoffman, Danny Presley, Charles Vaughn and Keith Ozment.



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.



At left, while traveling to Washington, D.C., the group visited Monticello. From left are Shelby Huggins, David Sims, Emma Poland, Beverly Lambert, Justin West, Jana Bowen, Taylor Jones, Bobby Barnes, Ashley Sims and Sarah Ramrup.

Below, one of the stops on the tour was the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial.

Touring Washington, D.C.



Hundreds of teens from Tennessee and across the nation began their summer vacations with an exciting, unforgettable trip to Washington, D.C., June 13-19. They were the winners of a highly competitive short story writing contest sponsored by their local electric cooperatives.

Representing Pickwick Electric Cooperative were Emma Poland and Sarah Ramrup from Adamsville High School and Shelby Huggins, Taylor Jones, Ashley Sims and Justin West from McNairy Central High School. Jana Bowen, English teacher from Adamsville High School, and PEC representatives Beverly Lambert, Bobby Barnes and David Sims participated as advisers.

The trip offered students a tremendous opportunity to learn about electric cooperatives, American history and U.S. government. By visiting with their U.S. representatives in the House and the Senate, the young people were able to gain knowledge about our government's political process.

While touring the Washington area, the group visited several historical sites. The first stop on the tour was Monticello in Charlottesville, Va., home of Thomas Jefferson. The tour continued in the D.C. area with visits to the Marine Museum at Quantico, Arlington National Cemetery, the Smithsonian Museum Complex, Washington National Cathedral, Mt. Vernon (home of George Washington), Madame Tussauds Wax Museum, and the Library of Congress. The group also had the pleasure of watching a play at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and taking a cruise down the Potomac River.

PEC's goal is to provide our members with the best electric service possible but also to carry on the tradition of helping educate and send leaders out into the community, says PEC President Karl Dudley.

"We feel that the Youth Tour contributes to that goal, and we're proud to be involved in an activity that offers students in our service area the opportunity to take part in such a worthwhile educational process," he says.

Lower your home heating and cooling costs with a ground-source heat pump

When Brandon Burks decided to build a new home, he wanted to install the most energy-efficient heating and cooling system available. That's when he turned to his father, Sid Burks, owner of Sid Burks and Sons Heating and Air, about installing a ground-source geothermal heat pump system (GSHP). Burks had already gained valuable experience by installing a few closed-ground loops, pond loops and water-source heat pumps in the area.

GSHPs are a good way to save on rising energy costs by taking advantage of ground temperatures to heat and cool your home. These heating and cooling units use a network of underground pipes to take energy already stored in your yard to a compressor unit to provide heating and cooling for your home. As energy costs rise, the initial cost of geothermal heat pumps will be offset through the savings you see on your electric bill.

Why choose a geothermal heat pump over other systems on the market today? First, we must know how a geothermal heat pump works to understand how it can save us money on energy costs. GSHPs absorb and dissipate energy through a system of buried underground pipes. This works well because regardless of where you live, the underground temperature remains almost constant year-round. Water-source heat pumps absorb



The Burkses will enjoy years of comfort in their new home with the installation of a ground-source heat pump.

energy from either groundwater or a lake or pond to heat and cool your home.

In the winter, heat from the earth is absorbed by a liquid solution circulating through the pipes and into the house. When summer arrives and cooling is needed, the cycle is reversed: During the cooling mode, the system removes the heat from the house and dissipates it into the cooler earth. Also during the cooling mode, free hot water can be obtained if the system is connected to a water heater.



Trenching will make this system more expensive up front than traditional heating and cooling systems, but the energy savings will offset the cost in about five to six years.



Brandon Burks installs underground coils through which a water-based solution will circulate. Heat will be transferred from the ground to the home and provide year-round comfort.



Sid Burks and Sons Heating and Air has been able to pass savings on to its customers by doing most of the work themselves. For instance, geothermal heat pumps require the use of a flush cart. The flush cart used by the company was designed and built by its own employees. This is just an example of ways to cut cost during the installation of a geothermal heat pump system.

“The ability to change with upcoming technology has been the key to our success,” said the elder Burks. He has been able to continue to change through the help of his two sons who are very eager to keep up with new HVAC technologies and by investing time and money in proven methods.

As energy costs rise, remember that the more energy-efficient your home can be built, the quicker the return. The ability to build more efficient new houses will have a positive impact on your pocketbook and the environment.

In this area, Sid Burks and Sons Heating and Air continues to lead the way in the installation of geothermal heat pumps. For information about this technology, give Burks a call at 731-632-1122.



Sid Burks, owner of Sid Burks and Sons Heating and Air, inspects the geothermal unit installed in his son's home.

Employees assume new positions

Sharon Wicker has been promoted to the position of accounts receivable clerk. Her promotion became effective June 16.

Sharon began her employment with Pickwick Electric Cooperative eight years ago — Oct. 9, 2000 — as cashier. In 2006, she was promoted to customer service representative, the position she held until her recent promotion.



Sharon and her husband, Todd, live in Adamsville. They have two children, Bailey and Jayden.

Her many interests include softball, church activities and spending time with family.

Michael Harris has been promoted to the position of customer service representative.

Michael began his employment with the cooperative on June 4, 1984, as right-of-way laborer. In April of 1985, he was promoted to meter reader, the position he held until his recent promotion.



Michael lives in Selmer and has two children, Brandon and Jennifer.

As for hobbies, Michael enjoys woodworking and playing dominoes, and he says his favorite sport is baseball.



What a deal! Lower- interest heat pump loans

6%

Interest rate

In an effort to help our consumers reduce their energy bills, Pickwick Electric Cooperative and the Tennessee Valley Authority are offering a promotional interest rate that will apply to all heat pumps with a minimum SEER rating of 14 (split or packaged) and advanced heat pumps. The promotion will end Sept. 30, 2008. The heat pump must be installed by a TVA-approved QCN contractor.

To be eligible for the heat pump financing program, a member must meet the following requirements:

- Must have electric service in his or her name.
- Must be the registered property owner.
- Must pass a credit check.

Loans are available up to \$10,000 for the financing of one unit and \$12,500 for two units.

Contact the PEC member services department at 646-3825, 646-3786 or 646-3764 for more information.

