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Happy New Year
from the PEC Employees,
Directors and Attorney*

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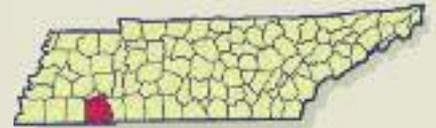
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Jamie McAfee
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Pickwick
Electric
Cooperative

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



530 Mulberry Ave.

P.O. Box 49

Selmer, TN 38375

Phone Numbers:

731-645-3411

731-632-3333

1-800-372-8258

Web site:

www.pickwick-electric.com

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



Decorate safely for the holidays



Colorful, twinkling lights. Brightly lit plastic candy canes and snowmen on the front lawn.

Such decorations help make the holidays a magical time of year, but they must be handled with care. Each year, fires occurring during the holiday season injure 2,600 individuals and cause more than \$930 million in damage, according to the United States Fire

Administration, largely due to the misuse of electrical products and decorations.

Here are some tips for using electrical products safely during the holidays:

- Before decorating, read and follow the manufacturers' instructions concerning installation and maintenance of all decorative electrical products.
- Indoors and out, use lights and other electrical decorations certified by a recognized, independent testing firm such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL).
- Outside, only use lights certified for outdoor use. The same goes for indoor lights.
- Carefully inspect each light before plugging it into a socket. Cracked, frayed, loose or bare wires may cause a serious electric shock or start a fire.
- Do not mount or support light strings in any way that might damage the cord's insulation. Never nail or staple light strings or extension cords.
- Always unplug an electrical decoration before replacing light bulbs or fuses.
- Do not connect more than three light string sets together. Light strings with screw-in bulbs should have no more than 50 bulbs connected together.
- Do not overload extension cords.
- Keep all extension cords and light strings clear of snow and standing water.
- Use caution when decorating near power lines.
- Never use electric lights on a metallic tree.
- Do not allow children or pets to play with electrical decorations.
- Always turn off decorations before leaving home or going to bed.
- Plug outdoor lights and decorations into circuits protected by ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). Portable GFCIs for outdoor use can be purchased wherever electrical supplies are sold.

Sources: Electrical Safety Foundation International and United States Fire Administration

Happy Holidays

*The PEC office will be closed on
Wednesday,
Dec. 24, 2008,
Thursday,
Dec. 25, 2008, and
Thursday,
Jan. 1, 2009.*



Habitat for Humanity

‘Making dreams come true’

Habitat for Humanity McNairy County is making the dreams of home ownership come true one house at a time. The organization has just completed its second house and will soon be starting the third.

A relatively small group of people in our community saw the potential and need of having an international charter here in McNairy County. After numerous meetings by a few interested volunteers, the McNairy charter of Habitat for Humanity was established in 2002. And the list of volunteers and businesses involved has grown tremendously. Many large corporations and local businesses alike donate appliances and materials to the Habitat for Humanity organization. The businesses that cannot donate material do, however, sell their materials and appliances at a substantial discount.

“The family for the second house was already chosen before the first brick was laid,” said Donny Gibbs, executive director of McNairy County Habitat for Humanity.

“This is the only way the plans for the new house can be picked out. The number of family members has a large impact on the house plans before the house can be started. The national chapter has plans and other materials available to each county that needs help choosing a plan for the selected family. For instance, a family of four with a male and female child would qualify for a three-bedroom house. But a family of four with same-sex children might only qualify for a two-bedroom house.”

Habitat for Humanity in McNairy County donates \$1,000 to the family receiving the house to personalize the new home with items such as window dressings and fixtures. The family receiving the second house chose to use the money for a washer and dryer and an ice-maker for the refrigerator.

Habitat for Humanity is 100-percent tax deductible; however, 10 percent of all donations go back to fund the international chapter unless it is specified that a total donation stays in one particular county. Donations are always greatly appreciated and helpful in making a dream come true.

Many of the rules and regulations are not well known by the general public. The affiliate family must meet a

list of qualifications before it can even be considered for a vote by the board of directors of Habitat of Humanity. The affiliate’s family selection committee chooses homeowners based on level of need, willingness to become partners in the program and ability to

repay the loan. Every affiliate follows a nondiscriminatory policy of family selection. Neither race nor religion is a factor in choosing the families that receive Habitat houses.

Habitat houses are sold to partner families at no profit and financed with affordable loans. The homeowners’ monthly mortgage payments are used to finance still more habitat houses. If for some reason the partner

family is unable to pay for the house, the organization can select a new family or sell the house to recoup the building costs.

The money raised for the McNairy County charter is collected through donations, grants and fund-raisers like the Taste of McNairy, which is manned solely by area businesses and volunteers. There must be enough money in place before the next house can be started to ensure that the home will be completed through Habitat for Humanity.

Habitat for Humanity in McNairy County hopes to be able to continue this great service to our community through generous monetary donations and individuals who willingly donate their time.

Habitat’s mission statement clearly states the intent of this great organization: *Habitat for Humanity works in partnership with God and people everywhere, from all walks of life, to develop communities with people in need by building and renovating houses so that there are decent houses in decent communities in which every person can experience God’s love and can live and grow into all that God intends.*

The McNairy County Habitat for Humanity chapter will have an open meeting in January. For more information, contact Gibbs at 731-645-9868 or 731-645-1638 concerning the details for this meeting or any questions regarding Habitat for Humanity.



Second Habitat house completed in Selmer area

Give the gift of energy efficiency

When it comes to shopping for and comparing appliances and home electronics, look for the EnergyGuide and Energy Star labels to ensure the energy efficiency credentials of what's in the box.

The Federal Trade Commission requires yellow EnergyGuide labels on most home appliances (except for ranges and ovens). These labels provide an estimate of the product's energy consumption or energy efficiency and compare it to the highest and lowest energy consumption or efficiency estimates of similar appliance models.

You won't find EnergyGuide labels on home electronics such as computers, televisions and home audio equipment. Instead, look for blue Energy Star labels on these products, indicating they've met strict energy-efficiency criteria established by the U.S. Department of Energy and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Ensuring that what you take home is energy-efficient can make a big difference in the long run. The average home boasts two TVs, three telephones and a DVD player. Replacing these items with Energy Star-qualified models would save more than 25 billion pounds of greenhouse gas emissions a year, equivalent to removing more than 2 million cars from the road.

Some home electronic products like those with clock displays and remote controls use energy even when they're switched off, costing U.S. households \$100 per year. Products that have earned the Energy Star use less energy to perform "standby" functions while providing the same performance and features as conventional models.

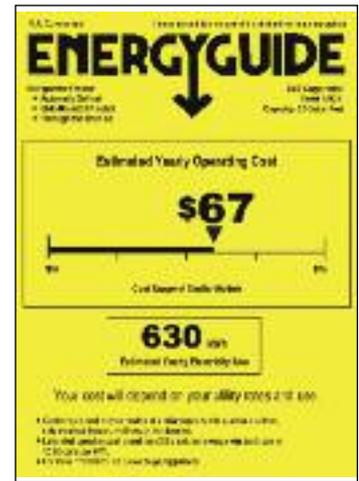
Using less energy preserves energy resources while saving money on energy bills. An energy-efficient gift is truly a gift that keeps on giving!

For more information, visit www.eere.energy.gov or www.energystar.gov.

Sources: Energy Star, U.S. Department of Energy Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy



Source: Energy Star

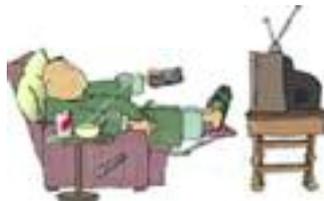


Source: U. S. Department of Labor

TV converter box coupon program

At midnight on Feb. 17, 2009, television viewing in America is scheduled to change. All full-power television stations in the United States are converting their broadcasting from analogue to 100-percent digital. This will result in better clarity of viewing and more programming options for the public.

Individual households will be required to have a conversion box if their television sets are not controlled through cable, satellite or fiber optics. From now until March 2009, consumers will be able to apply for up to two \$40 coupons per household provided by the U.S. government. The converter box is a one-time purchase, and prices are expected to range between \$50 and \$70 without the coupon. Coupons expire within 90 days of the



date they are mailed out to consumers. Local retailers will carry the boxes for purchase.

For complete information, here is a list of Web sites to visit:

For coupon applications, please visit www.dtv2009.gov.

For information on where to purchase converter boxes, visit

www.ntiadv.gov.

For information on how to install a converter box, visit www.DigitalTips.org.

To learn more about options, visit www.DTVTransition.org.

PEC employees receive service awards

*Congratulations to 12 PEC employees who received service awards during 2008.
They have a combined total of 205 years of service.*



Bart Barnes
10 years



Chris Combs
10 years



Steve King
10 years



Todd Pippenger
10 years



Tommy Price
10 years



Christy Rowsey
10 years



Kelly Weatherford
10 years



Larry Carroll
20 years



Keith Johnson
20 years



Bobby Barnes
30 years



Don Reynolds
30 years



Eddy Warren
35 years