

Columbia linemen pull family from flooded home

The Danny Barnes family of the Bethel community in Maury County have never been so glad to see a big Duck River Electric Membership Corporation line truck as they were on the evening of May 1, 2010.

The family lives in a remote area of the county adjacent to a country store. Earlier in the evening, noticing the stream that runs in front of the store was rising, they decided to assist the store clerk in moving items to higher shelves in the event the water continued to rise.

After helping their neighbor, they returned to their home to watch a movie, never giving much thought to being in danger themselves.

Later that night, Mrs. Barnes happened to look out the window and see that the water was rising rapidly, already nearly up to the patio. They began to move what they could to a higher



Danny Barnes, right, shows Duck River Electric linemen Tommy Fly, left, and Stanley Scott how deep water from the May 1 flood was on his carport.

level and threw a few items in garbage bags in the event they had to evacuate.

Their concern eventually grew to fear when Barnes realized he could not get his family out without some assistance. They repeatedly called 911 for help but were told by the operator that rescuers could not get to them due to the rising water and impassable roads. Feeling helpless, the family decided all they could do was pray.

Their prayers were answered when they saw a DREMC line truck pull up in front of their house.

DREMC linemen Tommy Fly and Stanley Scott happened to be working in the area when road sections ahead of and behind them were inundated by rising water. They had no alternative but to sit and wait for the water to recede. Having just traveled across a bridge that was nearly washed out, they radioed the DREMC Columbia office to tell personnel to get in contact with 911 and advise them about the road becoming impassable.

During this conversation, the 911 operator asked if DREMC had a crew in the area of the Barnes home. Fly and Scott happened to be on the road in front of the residence. Barnes came outside



Barnes says he is "very appreciative" of the rescue efforts of linemen Scott and Fly.

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DREMC MANAGEMENT AND STAFF

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Jim Martin, Director of Financial Services
Blake Butler, Director of Engineering
Charles McDonald, Director of Member Services
Michael Watson, Director of Operations
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DREMC Annual Meeting
Saturday, Aug. 21, 2010
Registration: 8:30 a.m.
Meeting: 9:30 a.m.
Franklin County
High School Auditorium

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and yelled to the linemen for assistance. By this time the water had risen almost up to his waist. He knew there would be no way to get his family of five, including a 4-month-old baby and a visitor, to higher ground.

"They were so glad to see us," said Scott. Barnes was standing outside with his wife, two daughters, their infant grandchild and a friend of their daughters.

Even though rescuers were in sight, getting through the rising waters to the roadway appeared risky. "I got a rope from the line truck and threw it over to the dad," said Fly. Once the rope was tied

off to a carport and the line truck, Fly waded over to help the family reach dry land while Scott stood by the truck to help them climb to higher ground.

When they all reached dry land, civil defense personnel came by and told the family to leave because they were anticipating more flooding. Eventually, the water rose about 2 feet high inside the house.

The family is currently staying with other relatives. The Barneses do have flood insurance at the urging of their mortgage company. "I really resisted the flood insurance and tried to get out of carrying it, but now I am glad I got it," Barnes said. Insurance will cover the

home, but not contents. "I will have a story to tell my granddaughter, for sure," the grateful grandfather added.

Fly and Scott did what they could and do not consider themselves heroes. They just happened to be in the right place at the right time and were glad to lend their strong arms and helping hands to a family in need. "They were certainly an answer to our prayers," said Barnes.

In recognition of their rescue efforts, Fly and Scott have been nominated for Touchstone Energy's Power and Hope Award, given through a national program that recognizes electric cooperative personnel who perform extraordinary acts in the course of their employment.

DREMC board and staff visit with legislators



Duck River Electric Membership Corporation delegates meet with Rep. Lincoln Davis during the NRECA Legislative Conference in May. From left are Nelson Crouch, director from Franklin County; Charles McDonald, DREMC director of member services; Dwight Fox, director from Maury County; Laura Willis, director from the University of the South; John Moses, board treasurer from Marshall County; Davis; Barry Cooper, board secretary from Bedford County; Brent Willis, board chairman from Coffee County; Bob DuBois, director from Maury County; Mike England, director from Coffee County; and Jim Allison, DREMC president/CEO.

Armed with forceful marching orders from National Rural Electric Cooperative Association CEO Glenn English, more than 2,500 co-op leaders spread across Capitol Hill in an effort to preserve the quality of life in rural America during a recent visit to Washington, D.C.

"This is not about fuel. This is not even about climate change," English told participants May 3 at the annual NRECA Legislative Conference. "This is about trying to make certain that those 42 million people served by electric cooperatives are going to continue to have affordable electric power and that their quality of life is going to be maintained and improved as we go forward."

English's address was one of the highlights of the three-day conference in Washington, D.C. Co-op managers, directors and staffers at the three-day session heard briefings on key issues from NRECA experts and then met with elected officials and staff

members to keep co-op positions front and center in legislative deliberations.

High on their to-do list, English said, was to persuade members of Congress to co-sponsor legislation that blocks or delays the Environmental Protection Agency from regulating greenhouse gases from stationary sources under the Clean Air Act.

That regulation, which is proceeding as Congress remains deadlocked on legislation to address carbon emissions, poses a threat to the rural quality of life because it will drive up electric bills, English said, calling the act the wrong tool for the job. "This should not be done in this manner in this year," he said to loud applause. "This must be stopped." Rather, NRECA and other organizations urged that the climate-change and carbon-emissions issue be dealt with through well-thought-out legislation that takes into account the need to keep electricity affordable to all Americans.

Other issues at the conference included continued support for the Rural Utilities Service, legislation to expand co-ops' role in energy efficiency, securing proper funding for safety repairs at Middle Tennessee dams operated by the Army Corps of Engineers and an emphasis on informing elected officials and staffers about the unique role of co-ops.

English noted that President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed an executive order creating the rural electrification program 75 years ago after a visit to Roosevelt's "Little White House" in Warm Springs, Ga. English said co-op leaders need to underscore that the rural electrification program is about more than wires and poles.

"President Roosevelt recognized and understood that the federal government was forming a partnership and a bond with those citizens who could not afford electric power," English said. "That bond remains in place today, 75 years later."

Touchstone Energy honors Allison

The 2010 Touchstone Energy Cooperative Brand Champion Award was presented May 13 to Jim Allison, DREMC president/CEO, during the annual Connect Conference in Kansas City, Mo.

The Brand Champion Award is a significant honor given to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the development, growth and success of the Touchstone Energy brand.

“Allison is an example of why the brand is as strong and successful as it is today,” said Jim Bausell, chief operating officer of Touchstone Energy. “This type of leadership on behalf of the

Touchstone Energy brand has had an impact in local, regional and state communities. Allison has been a leading advocate for the brand’s recruitment efforts in Tennessee.”

Touchstone Energy is a national alliance of local, consumer-owned electric cooperatives providing affordable, reliable and safe energy to customers large and small. Touchstone Energy cooperatives serve their members with integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community. DREMC was the first cooperative from Tennessee to join Touchstone Energy.



Kolby McGee awarded TVA Power Distributors Scholarship



Kolby McGee, daughter of Rhonda and Greg McGee of the Shelbyville/Lynchburg District, is presented her TVA Power Distributor Scholarship by Marsha Bolin, Shelbyville/Lynchburg district manager.

Kolby McGee of Shelbyville Central High School has been awarded a \$4,000 college scholarship from the Tennessee Valley Authority and Duck River Electric Membership Corporation through the TVA Power Distributors Scholarship Program.

Kolby graduated as valedictorian of her senior class with a 99.74 cumulative numeric average and plans to attend Lipscomb University, majoring in mathematics. Kolby is the daughter of Rhonda and Duck River Electric Lynchburg employee Greg McGee.

The TVA Power Distributors Scholarship Program began in 1995 when a

group of power distributor managers and TVA employees conceived an idea to provide financial help for the young people of the Tennessee Valley to start their college educations.

A recipient of a TVA Power Distributors Scholarship must be a graduating senior and the child of an electric cooperative or electric municipal system employee in the Tennessee Valley region. These graduating seniors must write an essay on a specified topic, and these essays are judged and the winners selected by a panel of professors from colleges and universities across the Valley.

Leland Brothers named area winner in Washington Youth Tour program

Duck River Electric was formed in 1936 as an electric cooperative. For 74 years, DREMC has operated under the Seven Cooperative Principles, one of which is education and concern for community. High school juniors used that concept when writing short stories for competition in the cooperative-sponsored Washington Youth Tour Writing Contest.

Leland Brothers’ family understands the value of an electric cooperative. Leland was introduced to cooperative principles this year while

performing research for his story entry in the contest titled “Electric Cooperatives: Energizing our Communities.” Brothers learned how DREMC continues to provide affordable electricity for families and works in the communities and schools it serves. Leland’s short story has been submitted to statewide competition for a chance to win a college scholarship.

Leland is a student at Forrest High School and is the son of Tim and Kit-tie Brothers of Unionville.



In-Home Energy Evaluation

Duck River Electric Membership Corporation and the Tennessee Valley Authority are making it easier than ever to become energy-efficient while also saving you money. With the new In-Home Energy Evaluation (I.H.E.E.) Program, you can reduce your power use and receive a cash incentive (up to \$500) or 6-percent financing for home energy improvements.

Here's how it works:

- The home must be an existing single-family, owner-occupied dwelling served by Duck River Electric and must have had permanent electric service for a minimum of one year prior to the evaluation.
- Participants will be charged an up-front fee of \$150 for the evaluation. This fee will be reimbursed to the participant after implementation of approved recommendations and verification that the work has been completed in accordance with I.H.E.E. standards.
- An auditor will visit your home and create a report outlining the potential energy-efficiency modifications and available cash incentives or financing. A follow-up visit will be made to inspect the energy improvements once they are completed.
- Modifications must be made by a member of the TVA Quality Contractor Network, except for self-installed insulation.

- All home improvements must be completed within 90 days of the audit.
- At the final inspection, all receipts must be submitted for the work completed.

Eligible improvements include:

- Storm windows
- Replace HVAC (heat pumps and dual-fuel)
- Attic insulation
- Floor or perimeter insulation and ground cover
- Exterior wall insulation
- Water heater insulation
- Air-sealing
- HVAC tune-up
- Self-installed insulation, caulk, weather stripping, etc.

Heat pump loan:

Subject to credit approval, TVA financing is available at 6 percent for up to 10 years, \$20,000 limit. The minimum loan is \$1,500.

Current heat pump loan applicants will not be able to qualify for the I.H.E.E. program until a waiting period of six months from date of installed unit.

Contact Pat Garrett at 680-5886 or Helen Blanton at 680-5883 for more information and/or any questions on the I.H.E.E., New Homes or Heat Pump Loan programs.

Calendar of events

Bedford County

The Great Celebration Mule and Donkey Show — Shelbyville

July 8-10

Calsonic Arena, Horseshow Grounds

Contact: 931-684-5915 or www.twhnc.com

Bedford County

72nd Annual Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration — Shelbyville

Aug. 25-Sept. 4

Celebration Grounds

Contact: 931-684-5915 or www.twhnc.com

Maury County

Maury County Sheriff's Rodeo — Columbia

July 9-10 — 8 p.m.

Maury County Park

Contact: Nathan Johns 931-375-8603

Paperless Billing now available

Paperless Billing is the fastest and most convenient way to receive your electric bill. This online service is secure and available free to our members.

If you would like to receive your monthly bill online rather than a hard copy by mail, please contact your local DREMC office to have your account set up for online billing.

Once signed up, you will receive an e-mail notification prompting you that your bill is ready to be viewed online. You must have your account number and password in order to view your bill.

Benefits:

- View your DREMC bill from anywhere with Internet access, day or night.
- Ability to print a hard copy for your records if you wish.
- Monthly e-mail notification from support@dremc.com when your online statement is ready to view.
- Access to the previous 24 months of billing, payment and use history.

Bill-paying options:

- **Bank draft — begin any month**
- **Levelized billing — begin any month**
- **Budget billing — sign-up months are March and April only**
- **Credit card or electronic check**
- **DREMC office or night deposit box**
- **Phone or Internet payments**

Holiday closing

**Duck River Electric Membership Corporation
offices will be closed**

Monday, July 5,

in observance of Independence Day.

**Crews will be available in the event
of an emergency.**

Have a safe and enjoyable holiday!



Visit the Duck River Electric website at www.dremc.com and click on **Green Power** to view information that will be helpful to you and your family. The newsletter includes quick-and-easy ener-

gy calculators to estimate energy and cost savings under various scenarios such as upgrading your heating and cooling system or replacing appliances. Sign up today to begin your **FREE** electronic subscription.