

Sent to you by Gibson EMC – your Touchstone Energy Cooperative

The Tennessee

Magazine

January 2010

'Biggest Loser' Contestant Wins Back Her Life

History for Kids:
Battle of Horseshoe Bend

Hit the Slopes

Tax Credits — Going Green

Myths and Legends:
State Archives Interesting Tales

Soup Du Jour





Gibson EMC hires Crossnoe

Jenni Lynn Crossnoe joined Gibson Electric Membership Corporation in November as the Communications Specialist.

"We are so happy to have Jenni Lynn join our Gibson EMC family," says Rita Alexander, Vice President of Human Resources and Communications. "She is already proving to be a great addition and will help us to do an even better job of communicating important information to our customer-owners."

Crossnoe grew up in Trenton and graduated from Peabody High School. She earned a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Tennessee at Martin with a major in communications and a minor in English. Crossnoe previously worked as a Communications Specialist for the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. in Union City.

"I am very excited about joining the Gibson EMC team," Crossnoe says. "I am anxious to aid in the process of providing affordable energy services to our customer-owners as well as being able to promote programs that strengthen our rural communities."



Jenni Lynn Crossnoe
Communications
Specialist



Theatre troupe makes electricity education fun

Gibson EMC and the Tennessee Valley Authority brought the National Theatre for Children to area elementary schools this past fall. "The Energized Guyz" presented a fun and informative program that focused on helping students and their families learn how to get more for their energy dollars.

The live show educated grade-school children about how energy is made and how using energy and water wisely is good for our budgets, the environment and the future. Gibson EMC and TVA will be bringing "The Energized Guyz" back this spring. Area schools served by Gibson EMC can schedule a performance by calling the National Theatre for Children at 1-800-858-3999, ext. 1.

Bad weather

Gibson EMC follows a plan to restore power

Gibson Electric Membership Corporation's employees stand ready to respond quickly if there is an outage. Our personnel are monitoring Gibson EMC's electric system and are available to take customers' telephone calls 24 hours a day, every day.


Computerized equipment is strategically located on the physical electric system to alert Gibson EMC personnel if a major outage occurs. However, customers are always encouraged to call if they experience an outage. As soon as we are aware an outage exists, Gibson EMC dispatches personnel to restore service.

1) When restoring service, Gibson EMC gives first priority to hospitals and critical services such as police and fire departments and water and sewer stations.

2) The next step is to restore the main feeder lines from substations; these lines serve and will restore power to the greatest number of customers.

3) Finally, Gibson EMC makes repairs that will restore service to individual homes and businesses.

While it may be frustrating for customers to see us working in an area and leaving it before restoring everyone's electric service, the restoration process outlined above enables Gibson EMC to help the most customers in the shortest amount of time.



This picture was taken in Lake County after the devastating January 2009 ice storms.

can cause power outages

What to do if the lights go out ...

When severe weather causes power outages, employees of Gibson Electric Membership Corporation begin working immediately to restore service as quickly as possible.

When your lights go out, look outside to see if your neighbors also are in the dark. If they're not, check your fuse box or circuit breaker to see if you can locate the problem. If the outage has affected your neighbors, call Gibson EMC at 1-800-977-4076.

Outages that occur in severe weather or that last for an extended period of time can place a heavy burden on the system at the moment power is restored. **To prevent an overload on the system and possibly another outage, take these steps ...**

- Turn off every inside light except one.
- Turn down your thermostat.
- In cold weather, close windows and drapes to save heat. Stay in one room on the warm side of the house (preferably one with a fireplace). Close the door to the rest of the house and use blankets to insulate your windows.
- Turn off all unnecessary appliances.
- Avoid opening the freezer door. A full, freestanding freezer will keep food at freezing temperatures about two days; a half-full freezer about one day. For more information about food safety during and after a power outage, call your county extension office or the USDA Food Safety Hotline at 1-800-535-4555.

- If the outage lasts more than 60 minutes, turn off your electric water heater.
- Make sure your kitchen range is off, both the surface and the oven. Never use your oven for heat.
- **If you see a downed power line, STAY AWAY! Call Gibson EMC at once!**
- Leave your porch light on so Gibson EMC workers will know when your power has been restored.
- When power comes back on, slowly switch your appliances and lights back on and gradually return your thermostat to its normal setting.

Prepare an emergency kit

Gibson EMC works hard to keep the power on for its customers, but severe weather can sometimes cause outages. It's wise to be prepared for electric outages and other emergencies by keeping the following supplies on hand ...

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| ■ Flashlight | ■ Firewood, kindling |
| ■ Battery-operated radio | ■ Manual can opener |
| ■ Fresh batteries | ■ Charcoal grill, charcoal, lighter fluid |
| ■ Candles and holders | ■ Non-perishable food |
| ■ Matches | ■ Drinking water |
| ■ Blankets | ■ Paper plates |
| ■ Wind-up clock | ■ Plastic utensils |

- A portable generator can be a lifesaver in an extended power outage. But, if done improperly, it also can kill the person doing the installation and those who are working on the lines to restore your electric service. To keep everyone safe, please call your local Gibson EMC customer service center before installing a generator and have a qualified, licensed electrician do the installation.



Washington, D.C., Youth Tour Short Story Contest

For the 40th consecutive year, Gibson Electric Membership Corporation is sponsoring the Washington Youth Tour Short Story Contest.

Gibson EMC representatives have already begun visiting local schools to explain to high school juniors how they can win a free, weeklong trip to Washington, D.C., by entering the contest.

Juniors who attend an area high school should submit their short stories to their English teachers or guidance counselors. Short stories from home-schooled students must be received by Jenni Lynn Crossnoe at Gibson EMC, P.O. Box 47, Trenton, TN 38382, no later than Feb. 1.

The theme chosen for this year's short story is "Electric Cooperatives: Energizing Our Communities," so that should be your title. Submissions cannot exceed 900 words, including articles ("a," "an" and "the"), and the exact word count must be included on your cover page.

Your short story must also be



Last year's Gibson EMC short story contest winners, who went on the trip to Washington, D.C., were, from left, back row, Steven Connell, Gibson EMC chaperone Nancy West and Michael Ruddy; and front row, Hannah Evans, Greer Barnes, Ashlee Tynes, Lauren Andrews and teacher Patricia Brown.

typewritten and double-spaced.

Your story will be judged on originality, appropriate treatment of theme, grammar and composition and knowledge of subject.

Just writing a short story that meets the contest requirements enters you into a drawing for a \$500 scholarship; you don't even have to be a contest winner. The drawing will take place at Gibson EMC's annual meeting next August.

If your short story is selected as one of the six contest winners, you also will receive a fantastic free trip to Washington, D.C., in June. Gibson EMC's trip winners will join about 100 high school juniors from Tennessee and about 1,400 from across the country.

In addition, Gibson EMC's overall contest winner will have a chance at college scholarships sponsored by the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association.

For more information, visit gibsonemc.com or call Crossnoe at 731-855-4740, ext. 1215.

Help keep lineworkers safe — don't attach anything to electric poles

As you drive through neighborhoods or along roads, you're likely to see fliers, signs and more attached to Gibson Electric Membership Corporation's electric poles.

Besides being unattractive, cluttered utility poles make it more difficult and dangerous for Gibson EMC lineworkers to do their jobs. Whether it's in the middle of an icy winter's night or during a summer lightning storm, our lineworkers climb poles during all hours of the day or night and in all types of weather as they maintain and repair equipment to keep your electricity flowing.

They wear "hooks" that sink into the wood as they climb up and down the poles. These hooks are vital in giving lineworkers the solid hold they must have in order to safely work on the poles and lines that carry power to homes and businesses throughout the cooperative's service area.

Lineworkers must be able to secure their hooks easily into the pole, a feat that

is difficult if they must navigate a sea of metal tacks and staples. If a lineworker should lose his or her hold on the pole, he or she could fall and be seriously injured or even killed.

"Nails, staples and tacks can tear a lineworker's rubber gloves," says Gibson EMC Vice President of Operations Barry Smith. "Also, if a glove is torn and the lineworker comes in contact with a live wire, electricity can find its way through the tear in the equipment and travel into his or her body, with fatal consequences."

That's why we ask that you don't attach fliers or signs, basketball goals, birdhouses or other objects to electric poles and don't landscape around the bottom of poles. (If a lineworker falls, anything at the base of a pole could cause him or her more harm.)

Your cooperative's lineworkers already face serious hazards as they work to provide your electric service. Please do what you can to help keep them safe.





Save water, save energy

The term “watergy” (water plus energy) was coined by the Alliance to Save Energy to describe the strong link between water and energy in the context of helping cities save money by improving their water distribution systems. But, if you’d like to reduce your utility bills, it applies to you, too.

If your household is like most, you can reduce your water use by 35 percent by making a few simple changes, and — since many of these changes involve saving hot water — you’ll reduce your energy use and power bill at the same time.

The savings can add up since water-heating is typically the second-largest energy expense in your home, after space-heating and cooling. It usually accounts for about 15 percent of your utility bill.

If your water heater is more than 10 years old, the best way to reduce your water-heating costs is to install a new, higher-efficiency model.

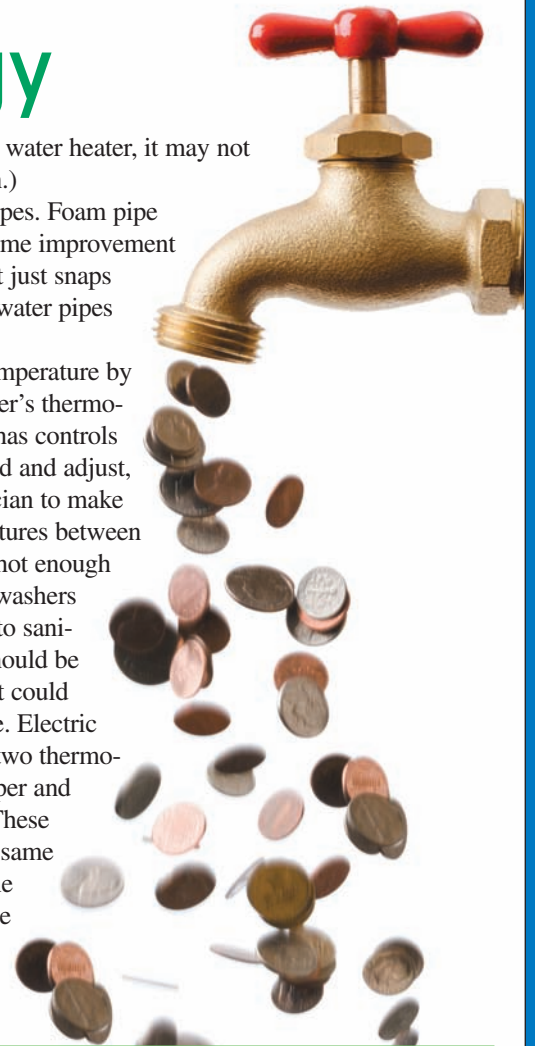
However, if you aren’t ready to install a new energy-saving water heater, **you can improve the efficiency of your current water heater by following these money-saving tips ...**

- Properly insulate your hot water storage tank. You can reduce the heat lost through the walls of the tank by installing an insulating jacket, available at home improvement stores. Be careful not to cover the tank thermostat. (Check the label on your

tank. If you have a newer water heater, it may not need additional insulation.)

- Insulate your hot-water pipes. Foam pipe insulation, available at home improvement stores, is easy to install. It just snaps around your pipes. Cold-water pipes do not require insulation.
- Reduce your hot-water temperature by adjusting your water heater’s thermostat. (Unless your heater has controls that are easy to reach, read and adjust, ask a professional technician to make the adjustment.) Temperatures between 120 and 130 degrees are hot enough for home use. Some dishwashers recommend 130 degrees to sanitize dishes, but caution should be used with this setting as it could potentially scald someone. Electric water heaters often have two thermostats, one each for the upper and lower heating elements. These should be adjusted to the same temperature to prevent one element from doing all the work and wearing out prematurely.

Continued, next page ...



Choose a safe, clean, energy-efficient electric water heater from one of the following participating dealers:

- | | |
|---|---|
| ■ Ace Building Center, Trenton, 855-2991 | ■ Medina Service & Supply, Medina, 783-3516 |
| ■ Alamo Construction Co., Alamo, 696-5535 | ■ Newbern Hardware Co., Newbern, 627-3219 |
| ■ Bells Hardware Co., Bells, 663-2367 | ■ Obion Glass, Obion, 536-5847 |
| ■ BR Supply, Humboldt, 784-1111 | ■ Petty Plumbing, Trenton, 855-4697 |
| ■ BR Supply, Milan, 686-9353 | ■ Riggs Supply Co., Dyersburg, 285-5500 |
| ■ BR Supply, Trenton, 855-1895 | ■ Roberts Appliance, Newbern, 627-3560 |
| ■ BR Supply, Union City, 885-1460 | ■ Sanderson Hardware, Kenton, 749-5214 |
| ■ Christian Plumbing, Trenton, 855-2202 | ■ Sears, Milan, 686-8068 |
| ■ City Lumber Co., Dyer, 692-2287 | ■ Somers True Value, Rutherford, 665-6260 |
| ■ Gibson’s, Maury City, 656-2500 | ■ Southern Pipe, Dyersburg, 287-9676 |
| ■ Home Builders Mart, Union City, 885-1544 | ■ Trenton Lumber Supply Inc., Trenton, 855-9827 |
| ■ Jimmy Burruss Plumbing, Tiptonville, 253-0155 | ■ Winnelson, Dyersburg, 285-9046 |
| ■ Kenny Pipe and Supply, Jackson, 422-2531 | ■ Yates and Sons, Tiptonville, 253-7426 |
| ■ Larry Whitten Electrical, Alamo, 696-5936 | |
| ■ Lovett’s Hardware, Hornbeak, 538-9558 | (All area codes are 731.) |

Electric water heater financing

Gibson Electric Membership Corporation is making it easy for you to finance an energy-efficient, electric water heater.

We offer interest-free, 36-month financing through our participating dealers. You have no application fees and no down payment. **Just follow these steps ...**

- Buy your electric water heater at one of our participating dealers, listed at left.
- The dealer helps you fill out the paperwork and then sends it and an invoice to Gibson EMC.
- Gibson EMC pays the dealer and sets up interest-free financing for 36 months on your monthly electric bill.
- For more information, call your local Gibson EMC customer service center or visit www.gibsonemc.com.



A diverse option for America's energy future

Congress has been debating climate-change legislation for months. Now the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has begun gearing up for its own possible set of regulations to slash emissions of greenhouse gases.

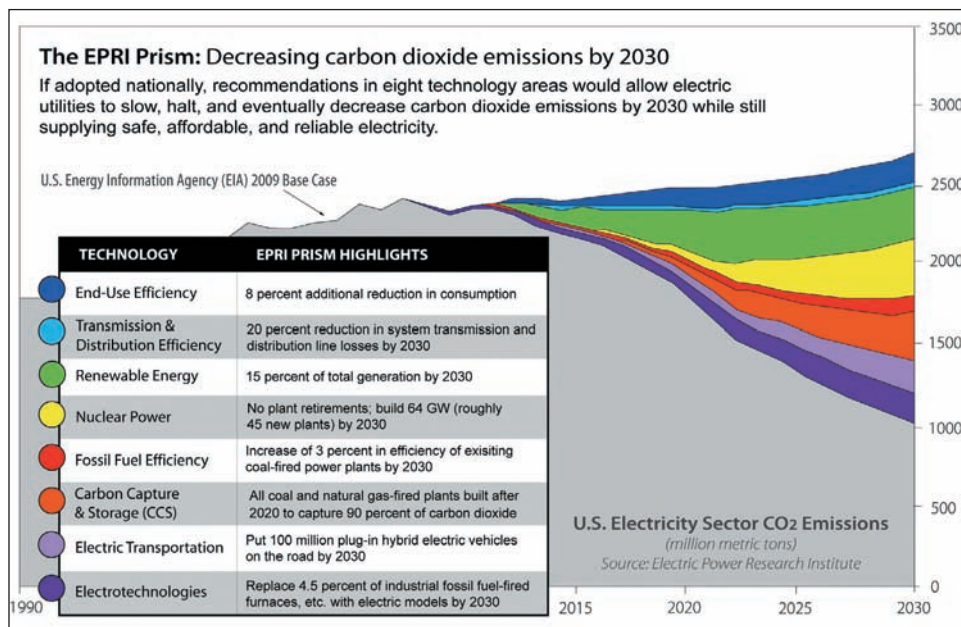
With more than 70 percent of our nation's electricity coming from greenhouse gas-emitting fossil fuels like coal and natural gas, the question becomes: How do we reduce emissions while still making enough electricity available?

The Palo Alto, Calif.-based Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) has been working on an answer. EPRI, which includes electric cooperatives as members, recently released an updated set of possible remedies that could meet our energy needs while dramatically reining in carbon dioxide emissions over coming decades.

Called the EPRI Prism after the broad spectrum of solutions described, the proposal consists of a set of recommendations in eight technology areas that, if adopted nationally, would allow electric utilities to slow, halt and eventually decrease carbon dioxide emissions by 2030 while still supplying safe, affordable and reliable electricity.

The eight components are boosting end-use energy efficiency, making transmission and distribution system lines more efficient, improving the operating efficiency of fossil fuel-fired power plants, investing in renewable energy, expanding nuclear power capacity, capturing and storing carbon dioxide produced by coal-fired power plants, deploying electrotechnologies like arc furnaces for industrial and commercial use and putting plug-in hybrid electric vehicles on the road.

According to EPRI, the key is to use all technologies together, with each doing its part to reduce emissions. Failure to maximize any of the eight technologies in the "full portfolio" will



dramatically jack up the cost of achieving climate-change goals.

"There isn't going to be a free lunch," says Revis James, EPRI's Energy Technology Assessment Center director. "This type of policy will cost money, even in an efficient scenario."

Assuming the full range of carbon-curbing technologies are up and running by 2050 (the target date being discussed in congressional climate-change legislative proposals), EPRI pegs the real wholesale cost of electricity to increase 80 percent. But continuing business as usual under tightening carbon dioxide emissions restrictions would spike wholesale power costs more than 210 percent.

Diversifying the nation's generation-fuel mix could lead to major savings. Employing the full Prism, as opposed to relying on a few, less technologically advanced resources, will slash the impact on the nation's economy by more than \$1 trillion.

"Policymakers need to be made aware that the full portfolio carries a lower cost overall to the economy than a more limited approach," James stresses. "Heading in that direction clearly is in our national interest."

Save water, save energy

Continued ...

- Install a timer on your electric water heater that automatically turns the hot water off at night and on in the morning. A simple timer can pay for itself in less than a year.
- Install a heat trap above the water heater. It's a simple check valve or

pipng that reduces standby losses by preventing hot water's tendency to rise up from the tank into the pipes.

- Drain a quart of water from your hot water tank every three months to remove sediment that collects in the bottom and lowers efficiency.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Replacing four 75-watt incandescent lightbulbs with four 23-watt compact fluorescent equivalents will save almost \$200 over the life of the bulbs.

Source: Alliance to Save Energy