

RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CORPORATION

NEWS

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



The power of human connections

411 Ring Road, Elizabethtown, KY 42701-6767

Patsy Whitehead, Editor

Christmas Story Winners

The Best Christmas

by Levi Sampley

Christmas, the day of giving, is what I was thinking about as my dad and mom, brothers, sisters, and I were walking down a long dim hall. As we neared the end, I could see and hear somebody unlocking chains that held a metal door closed. On the other side of the old door were about 50 children. It was Christmas in the poor orphanage in the small country of Guatemala.

We walked into the room where the children had sat down in some plastic chairs. We started getting ready for the message that we were going to tell them. We told who and what Christmas is about and that it is a season of giving. When we had finished, we gave a present to each excited-looking child.

After our program was over, we drove back to the Guatemalan house that we were staying at while we were there, and found that our good friends from the United States had sent us Christmas stockings filled with presents. This was a pleasant surprise, and we were very excited and happy to get them.

Yes, it was a great day of giving and my best Christmas ever.



Levi Sampley wrote this story and entered it in the Nolin RECC Christmas writing contest. At the young age of 13, Levi realizes the spirit of Christmas and the special meaning of giving to others less fortunate. Levi is the son of Jamey and Netta Sampley of Elizabethtown. In 1999, at the age of 6, Levi won this contest with his story about visiting a nursing home during Christmas. Seven years later, he and his family continue to spread the message of Christmas and are still giving their time and services to others.

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Expect rates to increase in 2007

These days of rising prices and tight budgets make all of us think about finances.

Nolin RECC pays close attention to the increases in fuels used to generate electricity. We also feel the pressure of increasing costs through higher gasoline prices and the increasing costs of coal and fuels used to generate electricity.

As we struggle to cope with price increases in our everyday life like food and gasoline, it is important to remember that your co-op is doing everything within *our power* to keep *your power* flowing at a reasonable cost.

Kentucky has the third-lowest electric rates in the United States at an average of 6.4 cents per kWh. For so many years, we have been fortunate to experience low electric rates. In fact, Nolin RECC has not had a base rate increase since 1982!

Nolin, like so many other utilities, can no longer continue to absorb the rising cost of energy. We estimate that within six months your co-op will be forced to increase rates. Please keep in mind that, as always, Nolin is doing all we can to hold down the costs of energy. Above all, we promise to keep you informed about any important changes at your cooperative.



GO GREEN

EnviroWatts, a renewable energy program

Nolin RECC is constantly working to advance new technologies for environmentally renewable sources. We offer members a unique opportunity to help the environment by purchasing green power we market through our EnviroWatts program.

The electricity Nolin sells to commercial and residential members through EnviroWatts comes from four landfill gas plants in Kentucky. One of those plants is the Pearl Hollow Landfill gas-to-electric facility in Hardin County. By converting methane gas produced from landfills, these plants can supply enough clean, renewable electricity for 10,000 homes.

It only costs an extra \$2.75 a month to purchase one block of 100 kilowatt-hours of green energy through

EnviroWatts. To invest in this program and your future, call (270) 765-6153.



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Christmas Story Winners

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Met two other Christmas Story Winners

Kelsey Sallee is in the 6th grade at LaRue County Intermediate School. Her parents are Lisa and Greg Sallee of Magnolia. Since Kelsey loves to read, she can't resist the opportunity to purchase new books with her \$25 reward money. Her winning story was about the Christmas a new puppy came into her life. The puppy arrived just before Christmas and eased the pain her mother was feeling over the death of Kelsey's grandfather. Kelsey's moving story focused on her family and their emotional strength.

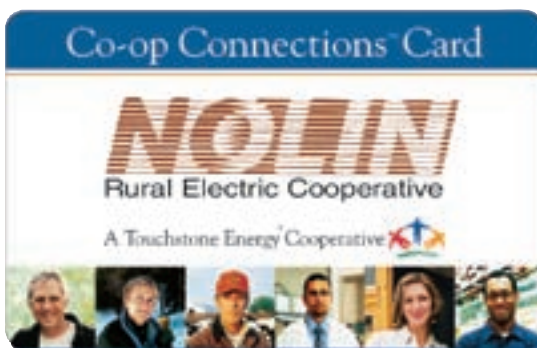


◀ *Eight-year-old Rachel Rohrer attends New Highland Elementary School where she is in the 3rd-4th split class. Her parents are Todd and Nuala Rohrer of Elizabethtown. Rachel says she will save her reward money and may buy a few Christmas presents later. An avid lover of horses, Rachel hopes to someday own a horse and enough land to ride, but for now she takes lessons from a trainer. As Rachel celebrates her next birthday, she will cut her hair and donate it to Locks of Love for the second time in her short life.*

Congratulations to our three writing scholars, and many thanks to all the young members who entered the Nolin RECC Christmas Story Contest this year. May you all create more special Christmas memories and enter the Nolin contest next year!

It pays to be a member. Nolin RECC saves members \$\$\$ with Co-op Connections Card discounts

Being a member of Nolin RECC has its advantages. One example is the cost savings provided by your Co-op Connections Card. Simply present it at participating local, state, and national businesses and enjoy savings and discounts.



For a complete list of participating businesses, call Michelle Rogers at Nolin RECC, (270) 765-6153.

A Hero Behind the Scenes

Nolin RECC Receives Much Deserved Recognition

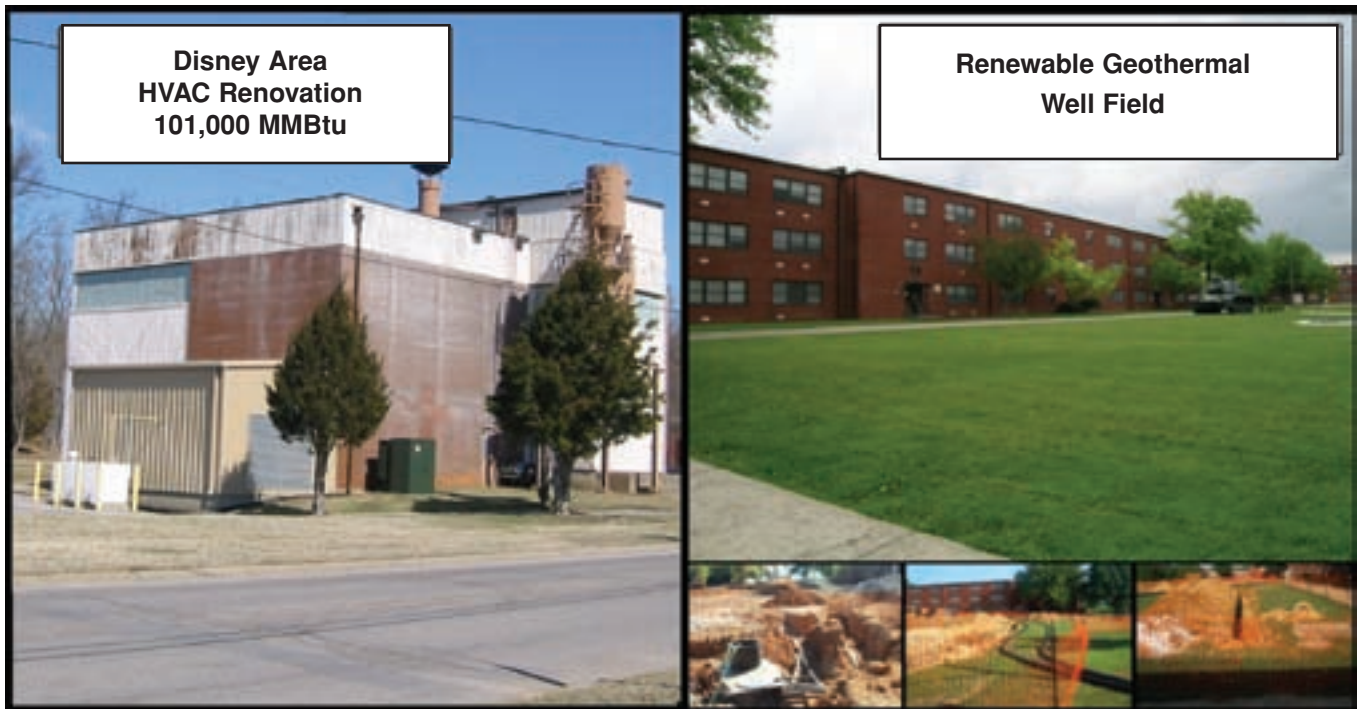
When was the last time you thought about the efficiency of your heating and cooling system at work or home? Unless you have experienced a problem, it probably hasn't crossed your mind at all. This is the case for many at Fort Knox thanks to a team working diligently behind the scenes to implement and maintain energy conservation projects around the base.

(DOE) continue to recognize the team's success. Collectively, it has won five national awards since 1998.

The most recent award was for work completed at the Fort Knox Disney Barracks Complex. Nolin RECC was invited to Washington, D.C., in October to receive the prestigious DOE Federal Energy and Water Management Award. This is the only DOE federal energy award in the U.S. Army this year.

air quality problems.

Nolin RECC worked with its partners to replace 70 percent of the existing heating and cooling systems with geothermal heat pumps and install new ventilation systems in the barracks. The new system saves 102 million cubic feet of natural gas and more than \$800,000 annually. The money saved helps repay the loan that partially funded the project under the



The Fort Knox Disney Barracks area, constructed in the 1960s, is comprised of 38 buildings that make up more than 800,000 square feet of conditioned space.

The Fort Knox Energy Team consists of Nolin RECC, the Trane Company, and the Fort Knox Directorate of Base Operations Support. Energy companies around the country admire this partnership and what it has accomplished. Government organizations such as the United States Department of Energy

The award came just two weeks after receiving a Secretary of the Army Energy Award for the Disney area project.

The Disney area consists of 38 buildings that were built in the 1960s. The complex's 40-year-old heating and cooling systems consumed 39 percent more energy than the new system, and a poor ventilation system contributed to indoor

Utility Energy Service Contract (UESC) program that provides Fort Knox with the resources to improve facilities on the base—a program that has proven itself as one of the most successful of its kind in the U.S. Army.

The Disney Barracks Complex is one of many geothermal installations that the Fort Knox Energy Team has



“It’s a forward-looking organization that is clearly in it for the customers.”

Pictured from left to right: Tom Abele, Contracting Business Leader, Trane; Vince Heuser, VP System Operations, Nolin RECC; Gary Meredith, Energy Program Manager, Fort Knox; Colonel Mark Needham, Garrison Commander.

implemented in recent years. Nolin RECC stepped in as an energy partner with Fort Knox in 1996 when the military base found itself facing a difficult challenge due to an Executive Order and the Energy Policy Act of 1992, which mandated that all government facilities reduce energy consumption 35 percent by 2010. The UESC program was developed when Fort Knox discovered it needed upgrades it simply could not afford. Nolin RECC was instrumental in bringing the program to life.

More than 20 percent of Fort Knox is now served by automated HVAC systems that run on the earth’s renewable energy source and geothermal heat pumps. “Our projects pay for themselves over a 10-year period,” said Gary Meredith, Fort Knox Energy Program manager. “We are paying for it with money we were wasting with inefficient systems. People in our industry are in awe of our success. We were very fortunate to find two ‘can do’ companies in Nolin and Trane.”

While they may not be aware of the Fort Knox Energy Team, the people who live and work on the base are fortunate as well. They now enjoy smart energy systems that take care of their

families and the environment while saving money. “The Fort Knox Energy Program is completely paid for with energy savings dollars. It has not only saved taxpayers millions of dollars through reduced energy consumption, it’s environmentally safe and it has improved the quality of life for the soldiers and government employees who live and work on the base,” said Vince Heuser, vice president System Operations for Nolin RECC.

Those at Fort Knox who know the timeless dedication of Nolin and Trane understand the significance of their work. “Fort Knox can no longer exist without Trane and Nolin,” said Garrison Commander Colonel Mark Needham. “It’s nice knowing that experts are taking care of our systems and responding in a

manner we consider better than excellent. The team has raised the bar. Their work is truly amazing. We don’t get complaints about AC and heat—that’s unheard of.”

Due to appreciation and respect for one another, Trane and Nolin RECC operate seamlessly with Fort Knox.

“Working with Nolin RECC has been an eye-opening experience for all involved. It’s a forward-looking organization that is clearly in it for the customer,” said Tom Abele, contracting business leader for Trane.

Nolin RECC plans to expand its efforts at Fort Knox while using the self-funding energy system model to help other commercial and industrial customers in the Nolin service area.

“The Fort Knox Energy Program is completely paid for with energy savings dollars.” Vince Heuser, Nolin RECC

Electrifying Christmas

Keeping the lights on for members is year-round commitment

From inside our toasty home we see bright-colored lights dotting the Christmas tree, and outside there is a sea of light framing the neighborhood houses and the roads we drive. Walkways are cleared of snow and made safe by beaming porch lights. And with excitement and anticipation, the family watches Christmas movies throughout the holidays.

And Nolin RECC brings all this to you—we provide the people behind the power!

We don't think much about electricity, but that's good. If we're not thinking about electricity, it means all systems are "go." The popcorn pops in the microwave. The Internet delivers your e-mails. A warm, golden turkey slides from the oven.

Nolin strives to keep the power flowing so that you don't have to think about where your electricity comes from. But providing excellent service to our members takes a huge effort on the part of many at Nolin RECC.

As high-tech as Nolin may be, no one would have electricity without people! Twenty-four hours a day, every day, you have the power to live your life with ease and comfort because of the people that work at your local co-op.

And many of those co-op employees are on call—not just at Christmas, but every day of the year! These workers leave their homes to venture into cold, ice, and snow to repair wires and poles. Your line technicians are proud to work at Nolin, and they sincerely care about members who are without power. Those taking calls from people wanting to know when the lights will come back on, and dispatchers

working in the middle of the night, linemen clearing fallen trees during an ice storm – all these employees take their job personally.

During the holidays, let's all take a moment to think of the people



George Shackelford



Rick Pugh



Leonard Hamilton



Robert Priddy

behind the switches and outlets who make our celebrations and traditions possible. And please allow Nolin to thank you, our members, for the many calls we receive during the year expressing gratitude and appreciation to our team of co-op employees.

Merry Christmas to all from Nolin RECC employees and directors.

Work With Us, We Can Help You

Disconnecting a member's electric service for nonpayment is probably the worst job Nolin faces. It's never been a pleasant task, especially during the cold months. However, to keep bad debts down—a cost every bill-paying member shares—disconnects must be enforced by your cooperative.

During winter, we make extra efforts to work with members so that disconnects are unnecessary. But many times, members ignore disconnection notices and fail to contact us to make arrangements to pay their bills.

If at any time you have a bill payment problem, please contact the Nolin RECC office. A deferred payment plan may be arranged to keep your electricity from being disconnected. During the winter months there is assistance available for low-income families to help with payment of their bills.

Community Action through the Cabinet for Human Resources has a program whereby low-income consumers may receive assistance in paying their winter electric bills. Information on this program may be obtained by calling the Community Action office at 769-1927 or 358-3937.

Your cooperative tries to use good judgment and common sense in all cases, and we pay special attention to problems involving the sick and elderly.

Remember, when you pay your electric bill on time, you save money and the cooperative saves money.

NONPAYMENT SERVICE CHARGES

If service has been disconnected for **nonpayment**, the following charges apply:

Service Charge to Disconnect

\$20.00

Connection and Reconnection Charges

During business hours \$20.00

After business hours \$50.00

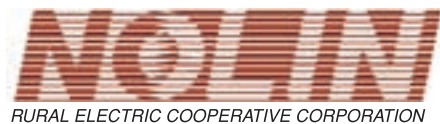
Accounts subject to disconnect may be required to pay a deposit or an additional deposit if the usage has increased.



Keep Holidays Merry, Bright, and Safe

You'll enjoy your holiday decorations a lot more if you don't fall while hanging them, get shocked or burned while handling them, or use them in a way that starts a fire. Here are some tips for a safe and happy holiday:

- Indoors or outdoors, use only lights that have been tested for safety by a recognized testing laboratory, like Underwriters Laboratories.
- Throw away strings of lights that have broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections.
- Do not use more than three standard-size sets of lights per single extension cord.
- Do not put electric lights on a metallic tree. The tree can become charged with electricity from faulty lights, and a person touching a branch could be electrocuted.
- Turn off holiday lights when you go to bed or leave the house.
- Plug outdoor lights into ground-fault circuit interrupters.



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We've Got Your \$25 Number! \$25 \$25 Worth of FREE Electricity

Nolin News features a contest called "We've Got Your Number." Somewhere hidden inside this issue are two randomly selected member account numbers. If you spot your account number, contact the Member Services Department at 765-6153, and win a \$25 CREDIT on your electric bill. You must identify your number and call by the 15th day of the month's issue containing your number. Account numbers could be anywhere in our *Nolin News* insert!

New Member Credits

All members signing up for new service with Nolin receive a short survey. Members who return the completed survey to Nolin are automatically eligible to win a \$15 credit on their electric bill. Each month, one name is drawn and a lucky Nolin member receives a bill credit on their next statement. **Congratulations to our latest winner, Vera M. Watts of Elizabethtown.**

E-mail payments

Access your Nolin RECC account through our Web site at www.nolinrecc.com. Click on "My Account" to check your consumption history and to make payments by check, debit card, or credit card. To apply for budget billing and automatic draft on line, click on "Nolin @ Home."

Now Open:

Christmas Light Displays

Be sure to travel through Freeman Lake Park in Elizabethtown to experience more than 100 lighted Christmas displays. Don't miss the Nolin RECC bucket truck and elf at the entrance of the park.

Also visit Christmas at Creekfront in Hodgenville (Hwy. 210 just before you reach the square). Nolin RECC will have a lighted display along with 14 other Christmas scenes.



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HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

The Nolin RECC offices will be closed
December 25 and 26, 2006, and January 1, 2007.

In case of emergency call (270) 769-6396.

Long-distance only call (800) 572-1147.

Happy Holidays

NOLIN RECC OFFICE LOCATIONS

411 Ring Road, Elizabethtown, KY 42701-6767

101 West Lincoln Trail Blvd., Radcliff, KY 40160

OFFICE HOURS

8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Monday-Friday

OFFICE PHONE NUMBERS

ELIZABETHTOWN — (270) 765-6153

RADCLIFF — (270) 351-2199

TOLL-FREE BUSINESS CALLS — 1-888-637-4247

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBER (270)769-6396

EMERGENCY TOLL-FREE CALLS — 1-800-572-1147

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