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Payment Methods

Payments can be made at our Chatom and Jackson offices with cash, checks, debit or credit cards

Our Customer Service Representatives can accept payments over the phone using a credit card or debit card

Local Pages Editor
Anna Wright



CWEMC is Devoted to the Community

Spring has arrived and the 4-H Clubs of Alabama are celebrating 100 years of service this year. Their motto, "To Make the Best Better," is such a simple phrase that has inspired a generation of youth in Alabama.

Many of you were involved in 4-H at some point in your life or were influenced by similar youth programs like FFA and FHA just as I was.

As children these programs were a break from school or home chores. Now as an adult I see the sacrifice and time that was put into molding me and my friends to become responsible adults and prepare us for our civic responsibility.

As a rural cooperative, it is important for CWEMC to invest in the lives of the youth of our area and in community organizations. This makes your community a better place to live and thrive.

The first week of February we selected two students for the Washington D.C. Youth Tour. The purpose of this program is to educate high school students about rural electric cooperatives and provide an opportunity for deserving students to experience the Washington D.C. Youth Tour.

Juniors from each high school in Clarke and Washington County's were asked to submit an essay on electric cooperatives. The top two essayists from each school were asked to partake in an interview session.

Judges quizzed each student on questions relating to cooperatives and our world. After each student had interviewed, the judges selected the winners.

The Washington Co. Junior Live-

stock Show and Sale in Chatom is always a highlight of our youth events which we sponsor. It is a long but inspiring night as we see our rural youth showing the livestock that they have been responsible for training, feeding and preparing for the event. We are proud to be apart of this program.

I showed my FFA heifer one year at the Greater Gulf States Fair while in high school. The experience, which I remember well, is a story in itself.

Relay for Life is celebrating 25 years this year. Relay for Life is the American Cancer Society's main fundraising event throughout the year. Relay teams are wrapping up their fundraising and preparing to celebrate their hard work at their campsites this month and the beginning of May.

If you have never been to a Relay event you should take the time this month and attend. This is a worthy cause. Even though times are uncertain cancer will not stop. Help your local Relay team raise their funds to help find a cure for cancer.

Thank you.



Stan Wilson

CEO/Manager of
Clarke-Washington Electric
Membership
Corporation

Clarke-Washington EMC Youth Tour 2009



Megan Goldman of Leroy High School and Cole Harrell of Jackson Academy will be representing Clarke-Washington EMC when they spend a week this summer experiencing the sites and history of Washington D.C.

These students were selected by participating in Clarke-Washington EMC's Washington D.C. Youth Tour contest.

Juniors from each high school in Clarke and Washington County were asked to submit an essay. The top two essayists from each school attended an inter-

view session at the CWEMC office in Jackson.

A panel of judges then selected the winners after the interview session.

Corwren Horton of Jackson Academy and Sydney Thomas of Jackson High School were chosen as alternates.

Winners and alternates will all attend the Alabama Rural Electric Association's Montgomery Youth Tour.

This program educates students about cooperatives and provides an opportunity to experience Washington D.C.



Winner: Cole Harrell
Jackson Academy



Winner: Megan Goldman
Leroy High School



Alternate: Corwren Horton
Jackson Academy



Alternate: Sydney Thomas
Jackson High School



Beth Long
Clarke Preparatory School



Ethan Elmore
Clarke Preparatory School



Robert Brown
Coffeerville High School



Ashley Blanks
Coffeerville High School



Lee Bruhl
Fruitdale High School



Mikelangelo Johnson
Fruitdale High School



Lauren Rodriguez
Jackson High School



Andie Bailey
Leroy High School



Jade Atchison
Millry High School



Shelby McCain
Millry High School



Faith Baker
Solid Rock Christian School



Matthew Parker
Thomasville High School



Twarner Witherspoon
Thomasville High School

100 Years of 4-H Clubs



The 4-H Clubs of Alabama are celebrating 100 years of 4-H all throughout 2009. 4-H is the nation's largest organization for young people.

Even BlueBell Ice Cream has gotten into the celebration by creating an ice cream called "Centennial Cupcake" specifically for the 4-H program.

In 1903 the boll weevil had devastated the cotton crops of Alabama. The failure of cotton set the stage for the agricultural diversification program that became the Cooperative Extension Service.

An agriculture educator named Seaman Knapp believed something could be done to educate farmers to practice better farming techniques and combat the boll weevil.

He found that he could teach adults new farming methods that they were hesitant to try, by teaching boys how to grow better corn.

Therefore, 4-H be-

gan (then known as Corn Clubs) as a way of teaching adults through their children.

Not to be left out, the girls formed tomato canning clubs in 1911. They were challenged to grow one-tenth an acre of tomatoes and can them safely.

Home economic agents taught the women how to preserve fruits and vegetables safely.

The clubs worked exactly as planned as adults learned from their sons and daughters.

During the 1920s, the 4-H program became more uniformly structured across the state.

The 30s and 40s were growth years as project offerings in 4-H were expanded to meet interests of a variety of youth. No long was 4-H just for farm youth.

In 1956, the Alabama 4-H Club Foundation was chartered and raised \$1 million to provide financial support for the 4-H program.

The 60s brought expan-



sion of 4-H into nutrition education for disadvantaged youth and programs for inner city youth. During the 1970's, community resource development was added.

In 1980, the Alabama 4-H Youth Development Center opened in Shelby County. In 2004 school-based programming by county staff continues to provide awareness and opportunities for Alabama youth.

Alabama 4-H continues "To Make the Best Better" for youth and their families for 100 years.

More than 58,000 Alabama youth statewide participate in a variety of educational programs.



4-H Needs Volunteers!

Contact your local 4-H office to see how you can help

- Clarke Co. - Wendy Padgett at 275.3121
- Washington Co. - Arthur Threat at 331.3705

Regional 4-H agent, Wendy Padgett is gearing up to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the 4-H program in Alabama. At left she is pictured at 4-H camp as a student and now, right, as the agent for Clarke and Wilcox counties.



American Cancer Society Provides a Wealth of Information



When cancer strikes, the need for information is overwhelming. American Cancer Society specialists are available to provide information about the disease and offer help.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES:

Cancer Survivors Network

The Cancer Survivors Network is a community to connect with other cancer survivors to provide support. It is available 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week by telephone, 1-877-333-4673, or can be visited online by linking through www.cancer.org

Joe Lee Griffin Hope Lodge

The Hope Lodge, located in Birmingham, is a temporary no cost residential lodging facility for cancer patients and their family members while patients are receiving cancer treatment at nearby hospitals.

Tell A Friend

Tell A Friend is a program in which volunteers contact friends and family over age 40 and encourage them to have a mammogram and practice monthly self-breast exams

Reach To Recovery

Reach To Recovery is a volunteer visitation program that matches breast cancer survivors with someone recently diagnosed with breast cancer and offers support.

Look Good...Feel Better

Look Good...Feel Better is a program in which trained volunteer cosmetologist teach female patients beauty techniques to enhance their appearance and self image.

Support Groups

Participation in a support group gives cancer patients an opportunity to reach others in similar situations and share experiences, which can ease the sense of isolation and reduce stress.

Transportation

The ACS will provide funds to social service departments of qualifying hospitals or freestanding treatment centers that provide radiation therapy. The funds are to be used to assist cancer patients with recur-

ring/chronic transportation needs when no other assistance is available.

Gift Items

Wigs, laryngectomy bibs, breast prosthesis and prosthetic bras are just some of the items available free of charge to cancer patients.

There are many other programs the ACS offers to cancer patients. Visit www.acs.com for more information or call 1-800-???

Grove Hill-April 3
Thomasville-April 24

Washington Co.-May 1
Jackson-May 2

CWEMC Celebrates Relay For Life

Clarke-Washington EMC continues to help the American Cancer Society (ACS) fight cancer by supporting Relay For Life events going on around our area in April and May.

Relay For Life is more than a fund-raising event, it is a celebration of survival and a way to honor those who have lost their battle with cancer. Our community comes together each year for one very special time with an outpouring of support for those affected by cancer. It offers everyone in the community a chance to participate in the fight against cancer.

Relay For Life truly embodies the meaning of community spirit. Companies, churches and families organize teams to raise money for the ACS and they also help increase awareness about the facts relating to cancer.

Participants enjoy a variety of entertainment while participating in team activities. Team members also take turns walking around the track through the entire event. This is an important part of Relay For Life, to show those who are battling cancer that they have support.

Money raised by each Relay Team helps the ACS financially fight cancer through research, advocacy, education and service.

The ACS supports scientists and doctors who have dedicated their lives to eliminating cancer as a major health issue in this country. It is the nation's largest private, not-for-profit source of funds for cancer studies.

CWEMC's financial support and employee involvement in Relay For Life is one of many ways that your electric cooperative demonstrates its long standing commitment to community.

You Have the Power to Stop Energy Bandits



Phantom power bandits rob valuable electricity. Small appliances, cell chargers, MP3 chargers and other electronics use electricity even when they are not powered on. Keep them unplugged when not in use. Conserving today means saving tomorrow.

Fact:
The average American household loses up to \$20 per month to phantom power bandits.



Clarke-Washington Electric
Membership Corporation

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Second crew sent to aide Kentucky co-ops

Another line crew from Clarke-Washington EMC traveled to Kentucky to further help electric cooperatives restore power to their members.

The area was hit hard by an ice storm in late January, causing most of the state to be without power.

Jack Miller, Jason Dixon, Ronald Franks and David Atchison from CWEMC's Chatom office, left late February headed to Kenergy, a dis-

tribution cooperative in Henderson, Ky. to help assist.

The storm knocked power lines down leaving more than 525,000 electric customers out of power within the state.

Kenergy has 54,094 members with 6,700 miles of lines in 14 counties. The ice storm knocked out power to 34,000 of Kenergy's members with 2,500 power poles being knocked down.

This is the second crew CWEMC has sent to Kenergy this year. All CWEMC's cost, including pay roll and equipment, is covered by the cooperative which requests help.

Since the crisis, there have been over 600 electric cooperatives from over 10 states aiding with this crisis. Over 165 employees of Alabama's 22 cooperatives have been working in Kentucky.



CWEMC linemen Jack Miller, Jason Dixon, Ronald Franks and David Atchison spent a week in late February helping Kentucky electric cooperatives restore power after an icestorm knocked out power to most of the state.