SHELBY *News*

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Season's Greetings
From the Directors and Employees of Shelby Electric Cooperative, Shelby Energy and PWR-net Wireless Internet

Festival of Lights receives help from cooperative

Jim Bly and his trusty elves have been busy repairing and setting up the lights in Forest Park for yet another year of splendid Christmas light displays for people to enjoy while they drive around the park. In addition, Shelby Electric Cooperative personnel played Santa Claus by helping put up the final pieces of the lighting show. The lights have been on display since November 19, the official opening of the Festival of Lights.

"I've mixed up the displays some and have added some smaller displays I worked on this past year," said Jim Bly who oversees the up-keep and setting up of the lights. "It is a lot of hard work, but when we turn the lights on for the first time, it is very rewarding to see all the hard work pay off and see the lights come on," added Bly.

"We appreciate all the hard work of Mr. Bly, his support crew and the park employees, but we have to take our hats off and say thank you to Shelby Electric Coopera-tive for giving us a hand with the

arch style and heavier displays every year," said Tad Mayhall who helps coordinate the Festival of Lights.
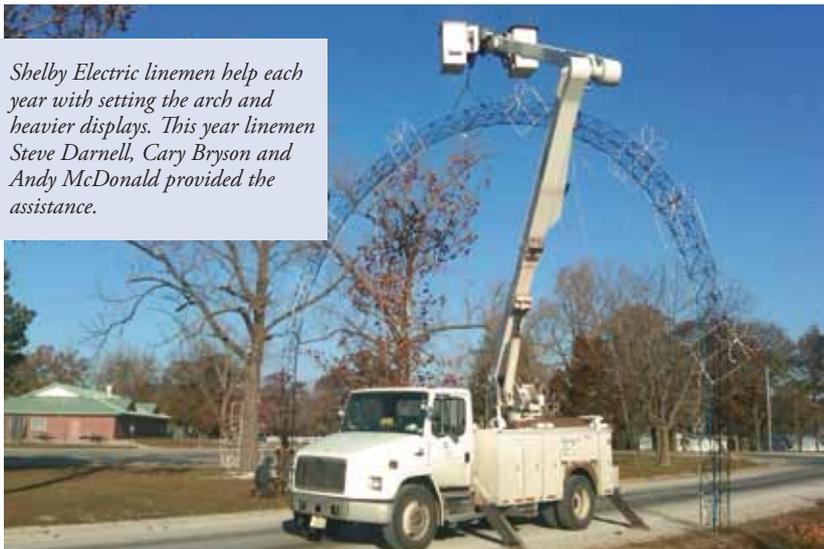
The Festival of Lights runs through Jan. 2, 2011. Light displays are open Sunday to Thursday from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. and on Friday and Saturday from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. This is a free event but donations are accepted at the end of the tour. The Festival of Lights is held in

Forest Park on North 9th Street in Shelbyville.

Any individual or any group in-terested in volunteering for donation collection should contact Nathan Nichols at 217-454-9498.

Check out the Festival of Light's Facebook page for more in-formation and pictures.

Shelby Electric linemen help each year with setting the arch and heavier displays. This year linemen Steve Darnell, Cary Bryson and Andy McDonald provided the assistance.

Faster speeds make PWR-net a hit

Scott and Tina West were without Internet in their home for a couple of years as dial-up just wasn't worth the cost or aggravation. With their daughter Rachel entering her freshman year at Shelbyville High School this year, it was time to bring the Internet back into their rural Lakewood home. "We had dial-up at one time, but the speeds were slow and with today's need for faster Internet connection, it just wasn't worth keeping," said Scott West. "Also with Rachel entering high school we really needed an Internet solution to help her with her studies," noted West.

In June at the cooperative's annual meeting, Scott visited the PWR-net booth to talk to them about the co-op's wireless broadband product and signed up on the spot.

"There really wasn't that many options out there for us where we live so I was happy to see the cooperative was offering an Internet solution," said West.

Rachel was excited when she learned they were not only getting the Internet back but also a faster, more reliable Internet. "Even my friends knew I was excited about having the Internet back at home," said Rachel. "It has been a big help with schoolwork since some of the homework you need to be able to research online. There is also online study help," continued Rachel.

Rachel also likes the fact the family can send and receive e-mails again. "Before we started using PWR-net I basically had to use friends' Internet connections at their homes or use one of the computers at school. It is nice to be able to get online at home," said Rachel.

Even though Scott said they primarily signed up for PWR-net to help his daughter with schoolwork, all of the West family has reasons to be excited about high-speed Internet.

Rachel's mom, Tina, likes having the Internet again. Her daughter swims on the Sullivan swim team in the winter and the Shelbyville Lakers swim team in the summer. They send team schedules, mainly via e-mail or the team posts things online. "We were kind of living in the 'Dark Ages' without the Internet and it is nice to be able to receive e-mail notices and

Rachel West, a freshman at Shelbyville High School, was very excited to get PWR-net Internet to help with her homework research and to be able to send and receive e-mails again.

swim team related information in a timely manner," said Tina West.

Scott also uses the Internet to do research for his Sunday school lessons. There is even a little online shopping that goes on from time to time in the West household.

If you want to learn more about the cooperative's line-of-sight wireless broadband product, PWR-net, e-mail them at subscriberinterest@pwr-net. coop, call them toll free at 1-877-994-2323 or visit them online at www. pwr-net.coop.

OUTAGE REPORT
LINE OUTAGES

DATE	HOURS	SUBSTATION	CAUSE	MEMBERS AFFECTED
10/12/2010	0.05	Yantisville	Planned work	191
10/13/2010	3.00	Moweaqua	Unknown	64
10/13/2010	6.30	Yantisville	Planned work	508
10/14/2010	0.05	Yantisville	Planned work	191
10/24/2010	1.15	Yantisville	Trees	50
10/26/2010	0.30	Airport	Lightning	75
10/28/2010	0.55	Velma	Vehicles	152

A Spooktacular turnout
Shelby Electric Cooperative's Spooktacular IV ended with great success

Over 900 people, young and old, enjoyed two safe Halloween choices. One option was for the faint of heart and one was for those who like a bit of a spook and a thrill. Once you made it out alive kids were handed a bag of treats. Over 500 of the 900 participants were youngsters, many of them in costume.

"We opened for two nights a week earlier this year and we had great crowds both nights and our number of guests were comparable to last year," said cooperative organizer Vicki Blackwell. "It was a great way to give back to the community," continued Blackwell.

Spooktacular is put on by the employees and family members of Shelby Electric Cooperative and is a free, safe, trick-or-treat community event.

This is the cast of scary clowns and other characters that were part of the cooperative's Spooktacular IV haunted maze. Over 500 bags of candy were handed out during the two-evening event.

REAL LIFE ⚡ REAL POWER

To use a space heater ... or not?
Before you purchase or turn on an electric space heater, please consider the operating cost!

Winter weather is full of surprises. People who use electric space heaters are often surprised when they receive their electric bill. They are especially surprised when they have purchased and used an electric heater that was advertised as energy efficient and was supposed to reduce their bills by 50 percent.

Always read the fine print. Very often, to achieve the energy savings of 50 percent, it is recommended that the home's primary heat source be turned down to 50 degrees and to use the space heater to heat only the room that is occupied at the time.

Space heaters can be very useful; however, it is always wise to be aware of something that sounds too good to be true.

If you have questions about your energy use, please call Marla Eversole at Shelby Electric Cooperative at 1-800-677-2612.

Fact: A 1500 watt space heater costs approximately 16 cents per hour to operate. If a 1500 watt space heater is in use for eight hours a day, it will cost about $1.29 per day or $38.70 per month.

Use your space heater safely

Many people turn to space heaters — both electric models and those powered by kerosene, gas or even wood — as a convenient source of warmth in winter months. However, space heaters can be dangerous if not used properly.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) estimates that more than 25,000 residential fires every year are associated with space heaters. More than 300 people die in these fires. In addition, an estimated 6,000 people annually receive hospital emergency care for burn injuries connected with space heaters.

Space heater hazards stem not just from fires caused by contact with or close proximity to heating elements. They also include fires started by flammable fuels used in the heaters, defective wiring in the appliance and carbon monoxide poisoning caused by improper venting or an incomplete combustion of fuels.

Here are some tips for using your electric space heater safely:

■ Keep the heater at least 3 feet from flammable items such as curtains, furniture or bedspreads.
■ Select a space heater with a guard around the heating element.
■ When buying a heater, choose one that has been tested and certified by a nationally recognized testing institution such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL).
■ Buy a heater that is sized for the area that you want to heat.
■ Read and follow the manufacturer's operating instructions.
■ Keep children and pets away from space heaters.
■ Never leave a space heater unattended.
■ Never go to sleep with a space heater on.
■ Never use or store flammable liquids near a space heater.
■ Do not use a heater in a bathroom – it's a high-moisture area that could cause damage.
■ Keep heaters away from water to prevent electrocution.
■ Do not use an extension cord with a space heater.
■ Do not use the heater to dry clothes.
■ Be sure the heater's plug fits snugly in an outlet. The cord and plug may feel warm when operating since the unit draws so much power, but they should not feel hot. If they do, unplug the heater and have a qualified repair person check for problems.
■ Do not attempt to repair a broken heater yourself. It should be checked and repaired by a qualified appliance service center.

For additional safety tips on using space heaters that use wood or kerosene, visit the CPSC's Web site at www.cpsc.gov and search for space heater safety.
Source: The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)

Offices Closed

Your cooperative offices will be closed on December 23 and 24 to celebrate Christmas. Offices will also be closed on December 31 to celebrate New Year's Day.

Shelby Energy	**PWR-net & WildBlue Internet**	**Shelby Electric Cooperative**
1-217-774-2311	**1-877-994-2323**	**1-800-677-2612**
24-hours-a-day	weekdays	**1-217-774-3986**
		24-hours-a-day