

Destination D.C.

Educational Youth Tour enlightens students

Page 8

Plus:

Schoolhouse Museums
County Fair Season



DAISY LEE GATSON BATES
1914 - 1999

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KYLE DOLLARHITE



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ON THE COVER

Youth Tour delegates are among the first to see the newly installed statue of civil rights activist Daisy Gatson Bates, representing Arkansas in the National Statuary Hall Collection of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.

Photo by Kyle Dollarhite.

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AUGUST 2024

VOLUME LXXVII, NUMBER 10

Arkansas Living (ISSN 0048-878X) (USPS 472-960) is published monthly by Arkansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc., 1 Cooperative Way, Little Rock, AR 72209.

Periodicals postage paid at Little Rock, AR, and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Arkansas Living, P.O. Box 510, Little Rock, AR 72203-0510
Members: Please send name of your cooperative with mailing label.

An Official Publication of



Arkansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc.

President and CEO

Vernon "Buddy" Hasten

Chief External Affairs Officer

Bill Gossage

Senior Director of Corporate Communications

Rob Roedel

Editor

Jennifer Christman Cia

Associate Editor

Nancy Meador

Advertising Coordinator

Lana McLeod

Graphic Designer

Dixie Rogers

Editorial Assistant

Liz Pounders

Copy Editor

Denise Dorton

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Arkansas Living
1 Cooperative Way, Little Rock, AR 72209
(501) 570-2311 Email: arkansasliving@aeci.com
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 510, Little Rock, AR 72203
Advertising Department, Lana McLeod
(501) 570-2312 Email: advertising@aeci.com

Subscription Price:
\$7 per year for nonmembers
Member of Arkansas Press Association



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Impactful Image

BY JENNIFER CHRISTMAN CIA

At first, one sees the bright blue sky, cottony clouds and figures of a seated couple by fluttering fountains on a summer day. The panorama takes on a deeper, more meditative meaning as one detects the stately granite pillars of the World War II Memorial in the distance.

The image, captured by Katherine Wright of Clarksville (Arkansas Valley Electric), was the winner of the second Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas Youth Tour Photo Contest.

During the weeklong educational trip to Washington, D.C., in June, students were encouraged to photograph what they experienced and enter their best work.

Three chaperone-selected finalist photos were posted on the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas Youth Tour Facebook page, and the photo with the most likes/loves was declared the winner.

Katherine says about the World War II Memorial, "It has all these beautiful columns and wreaths with all the states, and there's this open area. I decided that I might be able to capture it all. And I love taking photos that have the ground in it because I think it just offers some depth to the picture. So, I leaned down and put my phone on the ground and took quite a few."

As for what the photo means to

her personally, Katherine says, "This photo evokes bittersweet feelings for me. We learned so much on this trip to Washington, D.C., about the sacrifices that everyone made. I think it encapsulates what the Youth Tour is about, and when I look at it, it serves as a reminder of what we learned and honoring the people of our history."



KATHERINE WRIGHT

The World War II Memorial as captured by photo contest winner, Katherine Wright, Youth Tour delegate from Arkansas Valley Electric.

In addition to receiving a gift card and having her photo published in the magazine, Katherine — along with six other student journalists — has her words included in our delegate-authored account of the trip (page 8).

And I'll give the eloquent Katherine, an aspiring attorney, the last word here, too.

Katherine says, "Thank you to the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas for sending us on this amazing trip and giving us this opportunity."

Enjoy August,

Jennifer Christman Cia
jennifer.cia@aeci.com

EVs and crypto and AI — oh my!

BY VERNON “BUDDY” HASTEN

President and CEO of Arkansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc., and Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corporation



“The Wizard of Oz” opened in theaters on Aug. 25, 1939. It was first broadcast on network television in 1956 and became an annual event in 1959 due to its impressive success. The special broadcast topped the charts with

a Nielsen rating of 36.5 and an audience share of 58%, which is on par with Super Bowl viewership these days.

Many of you have watched it as well, and have noticed my paraphrasing of the famous line, “Lions and tigers and bears — oh my!” Dorothy, the Tin Man and the Scarecrow were walking through a dark forest, heard something rustling in the bushes and got scared of what it might be. They conjured up potential wild animals to fear: “Lions and tigers and bears — oh my!”

My family watched it every year, and I was obviously impacted by it. I use phrases from and make references to this movie often in my daily conversations. For example, if something strange is going on, I am likely to say, “Toto, I’ve got a feeling we’re not in Kansas anymore.” When I come home from a business trip, I will burst in the door and shout, “There’s no place like home.”

If I make a stupid mistake, I am likely to start singing like the Scarecrow: “If I Only Had a Brain.”

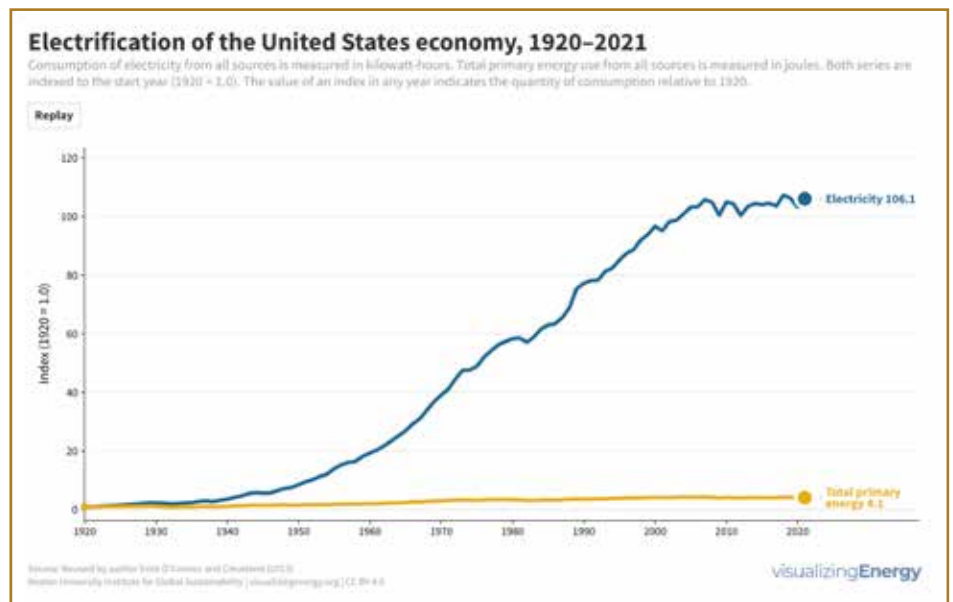
If someone tells me something that sounds crazy or impossible, I am likely to reply, “Well, let me just click my heels three times and say what I want to happen.”

This is exactly what I want to do when I think about the craziness that surrounds the nation’s energy policy. I want to click my heels together and say, “There is no place like 1990.”

Why 1990? It could be that I was 22 years old and

full of optimism and excitement about the future. I was not yet fully exposed to the real world that also contains agendas, corruption and a host of other negativities that can add a slight hint of cynicism, a smidgen of skepticism with a touch of jadedness, to the salt-and-pepper gray hair of my 50s. But it is really because electric load growth was booming in America. And according to the National Bureau of Economic Research, the 1990s saw one of the longest economic expansions in U.S history. Utilities were building resources that made the most sense to fuel this growth. Life was good; it made sense.

We face remarkably similar conditions today, but things are not exactly making sense. We are seeing substantial growth in electrical load for the first time in 20 years, which represents an opportunity for America



The United States is seeing substantial growth in electric load while trying to meet federal standards for decarbonization, creating a clash of two objectives.

and for Arkansas. However, we are attempting to serve that electrical load with a vastly different national energy policy, resulting in a clash of two national objectives: 1. Economic Growth, and 2. Decarbonization. I call this the Carbon Conundrum.

Some electrical load growth is coming from the continuing increase in electrical vehicle (EV) sales and crypto miners coming to America, however, the main

EVS AND CRYPTO continued on page 6

Arkansas lineworkers assist with restoration after Hurricane Beryl

Arkansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (AECI) dispatched 34 professional lineworkers and equipment on July 10 to assist Sam Houston Electric Cooperative with power outages that were caused by Hurricane Beryl.

The Livingston, Texas-based electric cooperative assembled an army of approximately 1,000 lineworkers and right-of-way crews working to restore service to its members.

Sam Houston reported that the damage to all parts of its distribution system was significant. Seven of its 38 substations did not have transmission, and more than 82,000 outages were reported.

Once outage restoration was complete for Sam Houston Electric, AECI crews were dispatched to the Houston area to safely assist CenterPoint Energy with their massive outages.



CHAD SIMON, SAM HOUSTON ELECTRIC

High winds from Hurricane Beryl caused severe damage and power outages for members of Sam Houston Electric Cooperative, north of Houston, Texas.

.....

EVS AND CRYPTO continued from page 5

increase is due to a resurgence of American manufacturing, the surge in data centers and the emergence of Artificial Intelligence (AI). In 2020, data centers in the U.S. consumed about 200 TWh — yes, that is 200 trillion-watt hours — of electricity. In 2023, that number rose to 400 TWh, and it's predicted to continue increasing to over 1,000 TWh by 2030 and account for 9% of all U.S. electric power usage by 2030.

Why so much increased power usage? According to the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), a traditional Google search uses about 0.3 watt-hours (Wh), while a query using ChatGPT, the chatbot developed by OpenAI, requires about 2.9 Wh, which is 10 times more power consumption. Most people think that every Google search or ChatGPT query is free; they do not account for the computing that is going on inside a large data center consuming electricity. Google has a commitment to achieve net-zero emissions by 2030, yet in their latest environmental report, carbon emissions have increased 48% since 2019 due to increased electrical usage.

Some would argue that this is exactly why more renewable energy is needed, and they would be a little bit right. However, intermittent renewable resources provide energy about 20% to 40% of the time, and data centers require power 99.9999% of the time. They require very stable and reliable power and run at full power all the time. Using intermittent renewable energy to solely power a data center is like bringing a fire extinguisher to a four-alarm fire. This is what I call the Carbon Conundrum.

America is poised to have true innovation and growth that will require large increases in electric generation. However, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rules and regulations and a singular focus by our federal government on decarbonizing the electric grid are colliding with that innovation and growth. Goldman Sachs estimates that about 47 GWs (billion watts) of new generation is needed to keep up with predicted load growth from data centers and

AI alone. For reference, a GW will power more than 850,000 homes. However, it is at this exact moment in time, when the demand for electricity is surging, that we are closing coal plants to comply with EPA regulations, and closing nuclear plants due to age, with nearly all subsidies and support going to build wind and solar generation. At the same time, the EPA is making it harder, if not impossible, to build new large, efficient natural gas plants. How do you solve the conundrum between the competing goals of economic growth and innovation versus decarbonization?

Using intermittent renewable energy to solely power a data center is like bringing a fire extinguisher to a four-alarm fire.

Nuclear power is the only form of energy that is carbon-free that also has the energy density needed to power energy-thirsty data centers and AI. However, the risks of building a nuclear plant in 2024 are too high for nearly all companies to undertake without shifts in policy at the federal level. National energy policy that stops the shutdown of existing baseload power plants with decades of remaining useful life and that shifts focus to adding a balance of new resources — including advanced nuclear plants with the capability of powering our economy while also helping us to reduce carbon emissions at a reasonable rate — is a much more common-sense approach.

I know that we are all being told, “Pay no attention to the man behind the curtain.” Just listen to the Great and Powerful Oz, relentlessly fight climate change, and do not worry about much else. But I suspect that if we pulled back the curtain, just like Dorothy’s dog, Toto, we would find a very good man but a very bad wizard giving out diplomas and medals.

Cooperative employees save lives through blood drive

On June 18, 27 generous donors participated in the Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corporation (AECC) and Arkansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (AECI) blood drive for The Blood Institute; five were double red cell donations.

Doris Whitt, AECC/AECI compensation analyst/wellness coordinator said, through this event, “96 lives were helped by our employees and spouses who donated.”

This was the second successful campus blood drive this year; 49 employees participated in a February event, saving 147 lives. That is nearly 250 for 2024.

Whitt said the summer event — the final cooperative drive for the year — was significant. The Blood Institute sees a decline in donors when children are out of school and families are on vacation, but the need for blood doesn’t take a summer break.



CHANCE ALLMON

In total, cooperative employees helped 250 lives by donating blood at blood drives held throughout 2024.

Where Is It?

Welcome back to our hidden object game, “Where Is It?”

In July, we hid a patriotic pair of flip flops.

“Those flip flops are having a smashing good time at the Altus Grape Festival on page 42,” joked one correct reader who spotted them, hidden in the Around Arkansas calendar.

In a random drawing of correct answers, the following five winners were selected to receive Arkansas Living insulated cooler bags:

- Luke Hallman, Bella Vista (Carroll Electric Cooperative)**
- Tracy Glover, Hermitage (C & L Electric Cooperative)**
- Tianna Piland, Clarkridge (North Arkansas Electric Cooperative)**
- Melanie Dean, Sarepta, Louisiana (Southwest Arkansas Electric Cooperative)**
- Cristine Sardina, Van Buren (Arkansas Valley Electric Cooperative)**

August means it’s time for back to school, so we’ve hidden this yellow school bus in this issue. Don’t let it drive you crazy looking for it!

Enter by Aug. 15 via the “Where Is It?” link on the homepage of arkansaslivingmagazine.com, or go directly to arkansaslivingmagazine.com/where-is-it-contest/.



Or mail in entries to:

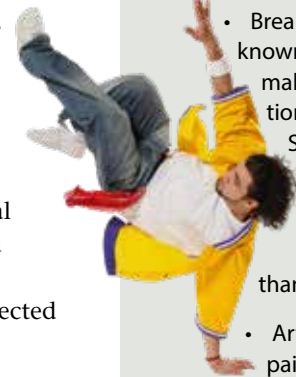
Where Is It
Arkansas Living
P.O. Box 510
Little Rock, AR 72203.

Include your name, address and electric co-op

(nonmembers also are eligible), plus the correct page number.

** If your magazine arrives after the deadline, submit your entry by the 15th of the following month. We’ll send a prize to a randomly selected latecomer! June’s winner was: Stanley Wright, Corning (Clay County Electric Cooperative).*

- A No. 2 pencil can write approximately 45,000 words before running out of graphite.
- British mathematician Ada Lovelace wrote the world’s first algorithm and is credited as the first computer programmer.
- Cookbook author Ina Garten completed nuclear energy budgets and policy papers for Presidents Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter before becoming the “Barefoot Contessa.”
- Humans are born with only two natural fears — the fears of falling and of loud sounds. All other fears are acquired later in life.
- Crocodiles cannot stick out their tongues, but alligators can.



- Breaking, more commonly known as breakdancing, makes its competition debut at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris.
- The sun’s atmosphere is much hotter than its surface.
- Artist Claude Monet painted approximately 250 paintings of water lilies while suffering from cataracts.
- Singer Barry Manilow did not write his 1976 hit “I Write the Songs.” It was written by Bruce Johnston.
- Ancient Rome had female gladiators called gladiatrices.
- The Wright brothers only flew together once. They promised their father they would always fly separately.
- “It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge.”
— Albert Einstein, theoretical physicist

Destination D.C.

Educational Youth Tour enlightens students



STORY BY ARKANSAS YOUTH TOUR DELEGATES
PHOTOS BY KYLE DOLLARHITE

A trip of a lifetime is how the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas Youth Tour is described by 47 rising high school seniors who visited Washington, D.C., from June 15-21. During this transformative tour of the nation's capital, students immersed themselves in the country's rich history, forming new friendships along the way.

JD Lowery, Arkansas Youth Tour coordinator and director of community and economic development for Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corporation (AECC), said, "Watching and interacting with students throughout the trip is always fulfilling. You can see the light bulbs turning on in their heads. You can tell they are eager to learn, and to watch them get to see, touch and feel history up close is extremely gratifying."

In their own words, seven delegates shared their experiences on Youth Tour.



Representing the state's 17 electric cooperatives, 47 Youth Tour delegates pose in front of the Supreme Court building.



Katherine Wright

DAY 1

By Katherine Wright

Clarksville, Arkansas Valley Electric

Students gathered at the office of the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas in Little Rock for the first day of Youth Tour with huge smiles. After lunch and orientation, we headed to the airport, where a ticketing issue occurred but was quickly resolved. A small group of students and chaperones took a separate flight through Charlotte, North Carolina, while the rest would remain on the flight to Dallas, Texas.

When the plane descended at night into D.C., we could see huge roads, the Potomac River and even a glimpse of the Capitol, all lit up. Everyone was smiling as we got our first glimpse of Washington, D.C.

When Emma Holmes of Rector (Clay County Electric) was asked about her experience being rerouted through Charlotte, she summarized it perfectly. "It was so crazy busy, like a remake of 'Home Alone' with people running through the airport trying to find our gate. But I got to know our little group more one on one."

By 11 p.m., our two groups were safely reunited in Washington, D.C., where the adventure truly began, as everyone looked forward to the coming week.



Since 1990, the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas have sent students to Washington, D.C., for Youth Tour.

DAY 2

By MaKayla Cook

Blytheville, Mississippi County Electric

The first day of touring started off by visiting George Washington's Mount Vernon. It was cool to see

exactly how his house and property looked when he was alive, as well as getting to touch the very same handrail he touched while walking up the stairs in his house.

Washington's home overlooks the Potomac River. It's such a beautiful view! Mount Vernon consists of his home, a museum and gardens. He is also buried there with other family members.

Our next stop was Arlington National Cemetery, which was very sentimental to me, especially because it was Father's Day. I've always wanted to see how the gravestones are spaced out perfectly in every direction. ➤



This year's delegates stay in National Harbor, Maryland, which is a first for Youth Tour.



MaKayla Cook

It was so beautiful to watch the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Montana Cook of Kirby (South Central Arkansas Electric) said, “Witnessing the changing of the guard has given me a new respect for the unknown soldiers all across the world.” Montana could not have said it better. We also got to see two back-to-back wreath ceremonies, which is rare.

Riding the Capital Ferris Wheel along the Potomac River was the perfect way to end our night, as well as see a beautiful sunset from way up high. We couldn’t have had a more perfect, adventurous and fun-filled day!



Youth Tour delegates tour Arlington National Cemetery on Father’s Day.

DAY 3

By **Melanie McCoy**

Scotland, Petit Jean Electric



Melanie McCoy

The morning started by selecting one of our delegates to represent Arkansas on the Youth Leadership Council (YLC). Emma Tuberville of Camden (Ouachita Electric); Haydyn Friend of Salem (North Arkansas Electric); and Ty Thacker of Mena (Rich Mountain Electric) were chosen as finalists through an interview process, and each gave a speech to the delegates. After a vote, Emma was chosen as our YLC delegate.

Next, it was off to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. As we toured, the faces of my fellow delegates turned coldly solemn. How could they not at the harsh reality of what the Jews of World War II went through? It was truly a tragedy. Some of our delegates met Ruth, a Holocaust survivor and museum volunteer, who told her story.

Landon Gatliff of Clinton (Petit Jean Electric) said, “It was definitely humbling. It was very solemn and serious, but I think it’s important that people see and remember it.”



Ruth, a Holocaust survivor, shares her story with Youth Tour delegates.

The next museum was the International Spy Museum, a first-time visit for Youth Tour. It was filled with several interactive exhibits and a plethora of information about the grueling jobs of spies. The museum even has a collection of original cars from the James Bond movies. RJ Medford of Brinkley (Woodruff Electric) said, “I loved seeing the cars. That was the best part. I love cars.”

After visits to the Washington Monument and World War II Memorial, we ended the day with dinner on a Potomac River cruise boat. Haydyn Friend of Salem (North Arkansas Electric) said, “It was just so much fun. We got to go out to the top deck and watch the sunset, make new friends and share all the pins. It was just a great experience.”

Overall, it was another great day in D.C.!



Visiting the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum is an impactful experience.



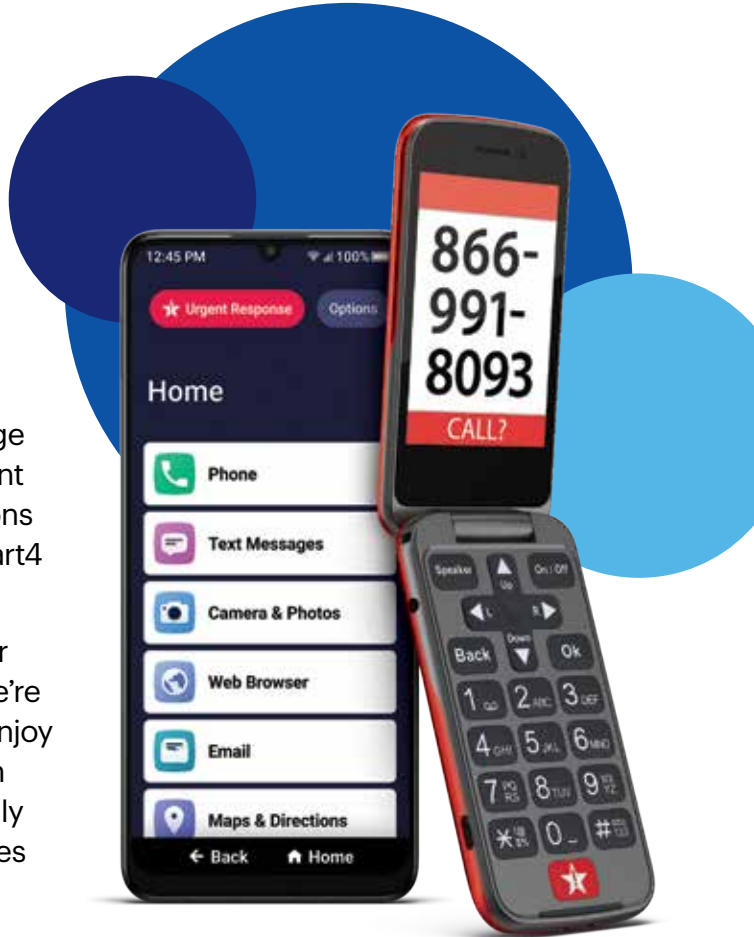
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DAY 4

By Emma Jane Nelson

Gurdon, South Central Arkansas Electric

We started the day taking a self-guided tour through the Library of Congress. A lot of knowledge, from the past to the present, found in one building is spectacular. It doesn't stop at books, as you can find audio documentaries, photography, art and historical documentaries, too.

Emma Jane Nelson

You can see the muses, influences, messages, inspiration and viewpoints of the creators from their times. Even the architectural beauty of the building is marvelous. Several of the delegates got library cards to the Library of Congress.

Kailee Branson of Mena (Rich Mountain Electric) said she loved "the reading room with all the intricate designs and pictures everywhere and the neat rows of all the desks."



Several Youth Tour delegates get a unique souvenir — a library card to the Library of Congress.

Kira Duncan of Gepp (North Arkansas Electric) said her favorite part was Thomas Jefferson's library. "The books that he read himself were very fascinating. And the architecture of this place is very beautiful and nothing like I have seen before."

The day continued with a visit to the U.S. Capitol. We met Sen. Tom Cotton and Sen. John Boozman for a photo and a short visit. They told us what it's like being senators, working for the government and for the people.

We then toured the Capitol, experiencing its fascinating architecture. We learned about monumental people from history as we passed their statues. It was so special to see the statue of Daisy Gatson Bates, Arkansas' newest statue.

After a quick photo at the Supreme Court building, we ended the day watching a Washington Nationals baseball game. We enjoyed having a time to sit down and relax after a couple days of walking and touring.



Sen. Tom Cotton and Sen. John Boozman meet with Arkansas delegates at the U.S. Capitol.



DAY 5

By Aspen Farley

Russellville, First Electric

Wednesday was full of fun activities, and thanks to our amazing bus driver, Vincent, we were able to add an impromptu tour of Old Town Alexandria, Virginia. This is the oldest and most well-known part of town that was home to buildings dating back to the 1700s.

Aspen Farley

We made our way over to the Jefferson Memorial. I had only ever seen the monument from a screen or textbook, but none of



Allyson Tanner of Ash Flat (North Arkansas Electric) takes a photo of a painting at the National Gallery of Art.

that could prepare me for how incredible it really was. While a group of us gazed at the Jefferson Memorial, one of my fellow delegates and friend, Macey Chambers of Perryville (First Electric), said, “The architecture in the columns was impeccable, and it was amazing to see the monument of such an incredible leader.”

I was especially looking forward to the next stop at the National Archives because of the government class I took my junior year. It was a surreal moment when I was face-to-face with the original documents penned by our Founding Fathers. These documents hold so much significance for our country. It was Juneteenth on the day of our visit, and we were able to view the Emancipation Proclamation.

MaKayla Cook of Blytheville (Mississippi County Electric) said, “It was amazing to see the original documents from the beginning of our country. History came alive for me!”

The National Archives was such an inspirational place. After lunch, we were able to pick several of the Smithsonian Museums to visit. I chose to see the National Gallery of Art and National Museums of American and Natural History.

Finally, we attended the big Youth Day Rally with delegates from other states and presenters who taught us about the cooperative business model.

What a great way to end a fabulous day!



A massive slab of quartz crystals from Arkansas at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History is a nice reminder of home.



Ty Thacker

DAY 6 By Ty Thacker

Mena, Rich Mountain Electric

As I woke up on Thursday morning, I was excited and intrigued to see more of what this great nation’s capital had to offer. Our first stop was the National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial, where we saw the



Taylor Conran of Farmington (Ozarks Electric) takes a moment to remember the victims at the National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial.



Youth Tour delegates pose with statues depicting the Great Depression at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial.

tribute to 184 people who died there during the Sept. 11 attacks.

Next was visiting the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial. As I approached the memorial, the statue of Dr. King really amazed me, and the quotes engraved on the stone reminded me of his lasting legacy and the continuing fight for civil rights.

After seeing the Franklin D. Roosevelt, Korean War, Lincoln and Vietnam War memorials, we made way our way to the iconic Ford’s Theatre, where President Lincoln was assassinated. The theater holds a tremendous amount of history, and the exhibits really make the experience more fascinating. It really deepened my understanding of Lincoln’s impact and influence on all. ➤



Seeing the White House is a memorable part of Youth Tour for the delegates who spend a week in Washington, D.C., making new friends and experiencing history up close.

Then, we continued to the White House. Standing before this iconic symbol of America was a thrilling experience that I will never forget. The building and its historical significance was incredible, and it made me reflect on our great nation's journey and the leaders who shaped it.

Damon Cruz of Mena (Rich Mountain Electric) said, "My favorite part of today was visiting the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial, and seeing how much his impact changed the world we live in today." He also said, "I would rate this trip a 10/10 because you get to learn more about our country, while also meeting new people from across the state and nation."

I want to give my deepest gratitude to the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas for this remarkable opportunity and a life-changing experience that I will never forget.



Lucas Salinas

DAY 7

By Lucas Salinas

Newport, Farmers Electric

Waking up on the last day of a trip is always hard when you know you have to leave, but it's especially hard when it's 4:30 a.m. Feeling like a horde of zombies, we piled onto our tour bus for the very last time. Once we arrived at the airport, we said our goodbyes to our beloved driver, Vincent.

Once we landed in Little Rock, we all rushed to see our loved ones for the first time in a week. No matter how amazing a trip is, you'll always be ready to come home.

I would like to thank JD Lowery for keeping us organized, as well as for putting up with all of our shenanigans. You're the best, JD! Finally, I would like to thank the electric co-ops that made this trip happen and this unforgettable experience possible. 🍷

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— J. Fitzgerald, VA



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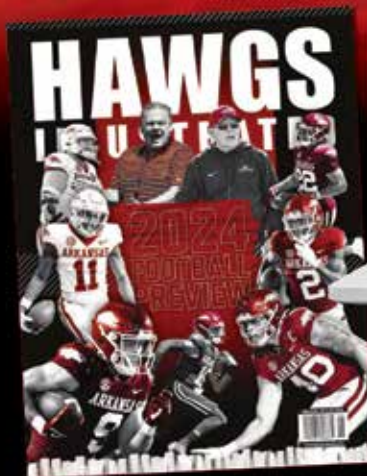
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Schoolhouse Rock!

Historic one-room schools now serve as museums

STORY BY JACK SCHNEDLER

PHOTOS BY MARCIA SCHNEDLER

A sign inside the one-room Steele School at Scott Plantation Settlement suggests how small the student body could be at these rustic structures, once a common sight across rural and small-town Arkansas.

Propped against a window, the posting lists the names of teacher Winnefred Templeton and her student body during the school's first year in 1868, just after the Civil War. Her roll call totaled three siblings: Thomas W. Steele Jr., Julia Steele and Nettie P. Steele.

Steele School is one of at least a half-dozen former one-room schoolhouses now serving as museum attractions in Arkansas. It is one of two at the Scott complex, a dozen miles southeast of Little Rock. Others can be visited in Parkin, Stuttgart, Mountain View and Searcy.

Primitive learning

Classroom conditions were often primitive, compared to the experiences of modern students who will head back to school this month. In the book "One-Room Schoolhouses of Arkansas as Seen Through a Pinhole," by Thomas Harding, retired teacher Mabel Goree Bell described what it was like when she began work in Washington County in 1925 at age 20:

"There was no electricity, no indoor plumbing, no running water, no school nurse, no playground equipment, no library, no hot lunches, no music teacher, no air conditioning, no telephone, no school buses, no physical education instructor, no copy machine, no Venetian blinds, etc."

All the same, she added: "I am thankful to have had my teaching experience in a one-room school. I taught for more than 30 years, and Skylight was my first love. The children and parents were good, kind, gentle people. And I have many happy memories. Now there is school no more on Skylight Mountain."

Functioning one-room schoolhouses went nearly extinct by the middle of the 20th century. But some Arkansans may recall their parents or grandparents talking about the well-worn textbooks, the pot-bellied stoves, the recess fun. The teachers were almost always women like Mabel Goree Bell, known as "schoolmarms."

The two former schools at Scott Plantation Settlement (scottsettlement.com) date from different eras. Herman Steele put up his namesake three years after the Civil War, using cypress wood. It was moved to the settlement earlier this century from the nearby Linwood Plantation.

Pemberton Schoolhouse dates to the early 1900s, when John Pemberton built it for his children and youngsters from neighboring plantations. Schoolmarms would travel from plantation to plantation, as a guide explains. They'd stay with the owners until it was time to move to the next small schoolhouse.

Both Scott Plantation schools have old-fashioned wood desks with tops that flip up to make storage space for books and



Visitors tour the schoolhouse at Ozark Folk Center State Park in Mountain View.



Old-time desks at Pemberton Schoolhouse in Scott have tops that flip up for storage.

other gear. A bookcase in the Pemberton building holds arithmetic books and the classic McGuffey Readers.

A one-room school that taught Black pupils from 1910 to 1948 occupies the grounds of Parkin Archeological State Park (arkansasstateparks.com) in Mississippi County. Northern Ohio School served the community known as Sawdust Hill, a company lumber town. After the Arkansas Parks Department acquired the property in the 1990s, the building faced demolition until its historical value came to light. A park interpreter shows visitors the interior, restored as it might have looked on a school day between 1936 and 1948.



It's unknown whether any of Mississippi County's Northern Ohio School pupils had to wear the dunce cap.



LEFT Pemberton Schoolhouse, at Scott Plantation Settlement, dates to the early 1900s.

The teacher's desk sits below a large blackboard flanked by Arkansas and 48-star American flags. Eight tables and benches for five students each face her desk. Two wood-burning stoves are displayed along with lunch pails and other memorabilia. A paddle indicates that corporal punishment remained part of the curriculum back then.

A sign outside reports that lessons "revolved around the 'three R's': reading, writing and arithmetic." Class took place from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. "except in September and October. During those two months, students spent the morning picking cotton in the company-owned fields before they went to school."

Preserved knowledge

One-room schoolhouses offer similar glimpses of the past at Ozark Folk Center in Mountain View (arkansasstateparks.com), Museum of the Arkansas Grand Prairie in Stuttgart (grandpraiiemuseum.org) and Pioneer Village in Searcy (cityofsearcy.org).

It's even possible to stay overnight in a renovated one-room school. Twelve miles southeast of Huntsville in Madison County, Ribbon Ridge Schoolhouse (vrbo.com/en-gb/p4245073) has been restored as a one-bedroom cottage with bathroom and kitchen.

Built in 1891, Ribbon Ridge functioned as a school until the early 1940s, averaging 16 students a year. On the Expedia booking site, reviewer Heather D. wrote: "As a teacher, I enjoyed reading through some of its history." Debra H. wrote: "After my stay, I discovered that a distant relative had been a teacher there in 1903!"



School Notebook

My mother, born as Martha Spilker in 1913 on a farm near Stuttgart, attended all eight grades in a one-room schoolhouse.

She was the fourth of seven children. Her grade-school memories included the tin lunch bucket she carried from the farmhouse to Clearpoint School.

She remembered the tattered textbooks, used until they fell apart. She remembered the pot-bellied stove stoked during winter. She remembered playing tag and jumping rope at recess. She remembered the two-door outhouse, with a sun carved on the boys' side and a crescent moon on the girls' side.

When Martha was in the seventh and eighth grades, fellow students included her younger siblings, Mike, Clara and Edward.

"Some days I was assigned to teach reading or arithmetic to at least one of them," she told me. "Our teacher stayed busy working with other pupils."

— Jack Schnedler

That's Not Cool!

Signs your HVAC is in trouble

BY MIRANDA BOUTELLE

Q: How do I know if my heating, ventilation and air conditioning system (HVAC) is malfunctioning?

A: Your HVAC is one of the most important and expensive systems in your home. Detecting issues early can help you plan for repairs or equipment replacement.

Equipment functionality issues can affect your electricity use, which may result in higher energy bills. The age of your equipment can be a major factor in function. The lifespan of a heating and cooling system ranges from 15 to 20 years.

Proper maintenance and lower use can increase the life of the equipment. To find out the age of your system, look for the manufactured date printed on the unit's nameplate. If you can't find it, search online using the model number or call the manufacturer.

Being thrifty by nature, I typically subscribe to the notion of "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." That said, I also believe in being prepared for the inevitable. If your system is approaching or past the 20-year mark, start saving for a new system and get replacement estimates.

There are a few warning signs to watch out for if your heating and cooling system needs to be repaired or replaced:

- **Air conditioning is not as cool as usual.** If the air from your air conditioner is warm or not as cool as it usually feels, the equipment has an issue. It could be a problem with the compressor or a refrigerant leak. Contact a professional to get the issue checked. Many refrigerants, especially the ones used in older systems, are harmful to the environment. Fix leaks before adding more refrigerant. Special certifications are required for handling refrigerants, so hire a professional to ensure the work is done properly.

- **Low airflow.** If you aren't getting good airflow, it could be an easy fix, such as filter replacement or opening closed dampers. If you've made these fixes and airflow is not at normal levels, contact a professional. There could be a bigger problem with a motor, fan or something else.

- **Bad odors.** Heating and cooling systems sometimes smell when you first start them up for the season. Those smells should be minor and dissipate quickly. Any serious smells — such as burning metal, melting plastic or noxious odors — are a sign that your system is in trouble. If you smell those odors, turn your system off immediately and contact a professional.

- **Strange noises.** There is typically noise associated with the fans and motors in heating and cooling systems. Take note of any excessive or new noises. If your system is



MARK GILLIAND, PIONEERUTILITY.RESOURCES

Proper maintenance can increase the life of HVAC equipment.


making any clunking, clanging or whistling noises, turn it off and check the filter. If that doesn't solve it, reach out to a pro.

- **Running frequently.** Your system needs to run more to keep up on extreme weather days, but there might be an issue if it runs too often. Short cycling is when a system cycles on and off before completing the heating or cooling process. Contact a professional to diagnose this issue.

Several factors come into play when deciding to fix existing equipment or invest in new equipment. Consider the severity of the issue, repair costs, the likelihood of additional repairs, equipment lifespan and your budget.

The efficiency of your existing system is also a consideration. Heating and cooling technology improvements have come a long way in the last 20 years. Lower operation costs can offset the cost of a new system over time.

Consider your options before you are in desperate need. I recommend getting estimates from at least three contractors. Ask the contractor, "If this was your home, what type of system would you install and why?" The best solution for your home might be a different type of equipment.

Miranda Boutelle writes on energy-efficiency topics for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing nearly 900 electric co-ops. 



Early learning starts with family.

Quality early care and education is your partner.

Written by Kelli Hilburn, Better Beginnings Program Administrator

A child's education starts with family. Whether a parent, grandparent or extended family member, the adults in a child's world play a major role in preparing that child for school and for life.

Babies are born learning and families are their first teachers. Talking and reading to the baby, singing and playing are the foundation for learning.

Partner for your child's success

For most families, work outside of the home is a normal part of being an adult. Families need a partner to help their child develop socially and intellectually.

Better Beginnings early care and education providers are trained to prepare children for kindergarten through positive experiences, research-based curriculum, and learning through play.

Quality early care and education providers are your family's partner in your child's success.

Families can ask these partners every day what their child is doing and learning, then support their

child's progress with fun activities for learning at home.

Families make learning fun

Better Beginnings has a *Family Resource Library* of fun activities for ages from babies to "big kids" in kindergarten. Every experience is a learning opportunity. Families and Better Beginnings help make learning a lifelong goal.



Scan the code or click the **Parents and Families** tab on our homepage to locate the **Family Resource Library**.



Quality early care and education providers are your family's partner in your child's success.

Review our resource library for topics that interest your child and find making, building, experimenting and playing activities for all ages.

Looking for your early education partner?

Click the orange banner at ARBetterBeginnings.com to find star-rated quality early care and education providers who help children get ready for kindergarten through age-appropriate and positive learning experiences.

Better Beginnings is administered by the Arkansas Department of Education.



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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: *Bobby Webb of DeWitt*

An Arkansas County native and First Electric Cooperative member, Bobby Webb started his journey in making an impact at the young age of 16. Eager to go to work and contribute to his small community of DeWitt, Bobby began his career journey as a police officer.

During his time in law enforcement, he met a colleague who had background knowledge with pawn shops. This peaked Bobby's interest in resale opportunities, leading him to sell most of his belongings and apply his earnings to open his own pawn shop in April of 2006. As his business grew, so did his ambition in challenging himself to do more. Bobby later expanded his career by launching his own car business, flipping houses, opening a sporting goods store, and even a tire and oil company. Although Bobby had success in these start-ups, he later decided to narrow his load down to greater expand Webb's Sporting Goods which opened in September of 2011.

Located across the main intersection of DeWitt, Webb's Sporting Goods, has reached customers in over 40 states. Webb's Sporting Goods has become a staple stopping point for many hunters within the busy months of the fall and winter; all while continuing to provide everything outdoor needed for Arkansas County locals. Bobby makes it clear that this business would not be a success without his valued customers and family-felt staff.

Thriving to continue bettering his community, Bobby has provided a commitment to enhancing the small town of DeWitt. Bobby currently serves as acting President of the DeWitt Chamber of Commerce. He is also a 12-year Rotarian of the Rotary Club of DeWitt, where he has also served as president.

With years of commitment and hard work, there is no question that Bobby is one to chase a dream and make a difference.



Webb's Sporting Goods of DeWitt has reached customers in over 40 states.



Todd Prothro

Annual meeting held, Prothro re-elected to board

First Electric Cooperative held its annual membership meeting on June 27 at the co-op's headquarters in Jacksonville. Members returned 10,066 ballots by mail.

Todd Prothro of Rose Bud was re-elected to the cooperative's board of directors by mail-in ballot. He represents members in the Heber Springs district and will serve a six-year term.

Members were mailed the 2023 Annual Report with the election ballot. The cooperative ended 2023 with over \$746 million in total assets, and more than \$6.14 million was returned to members through capital credit checks. A PDF of the 2023 Annual Report can be found at firstelectric.coop/annual-reports.

Members who returned their ballots were entered into a drawing for one of five \$500 bill credits in each of the cooperative's five districts. We thank you for your participation and look forward to your continued cooperative engagement.

NOTICE: Capital Credit margins are allocated or assigned to members who belong to the cooperative during the year in which a margin is generated. Margins are allocated proportionally based on the amount a member paid for electricity during the margin year. The amount of capital credit allocated for First Electric residential members for 2023 is 4.81%. For other rate classes, please contact our office at (800) 489-7405. For more information on capital credits, go to firstelectric.coop/capital-credits.

Members fund donations for local nonprofit organizations

Operation Round-Up, a member-supported program, awarded \$20,010 to 14 local organizations in July. The donations were made possible through the generosity of First Electric members, who volunteer to have their bills rounded up to the next even dollar each month. Enrolling in this program is easy: Call (800) 489-7405, use the First Electric app, or visit firstelectric.coop/operation-round-up. We encourage you to join this initiative!

Cleburne County

- Cleburne County Aging Program Inc. - \$2,000
- CASA of the 16th Judicial District Inc - \$1,500
- Feline Fix Them - \$1,000

Independence County

- Child Care Aware of Northcentral Arkansas - \$1,000

Lonoke County

- Kohen's Park Foundation - \$1,000

Perry County

- Stony Point Community Assn. - \$1,350

Pulaski County

- Feed Arkansas Kids - \$1,760
- Jacksonville Senior Wellness & Activity Center, Inc. - \$1,000
- Bohemia Cares - \$1,000
- Goodness Village - \$400
- Holy Sews, Inc. - \$2,000

Saline County

- Shaw Fire Protection District - \$2,000
- Boys & Girls Clubs of Saline County - \$2,000

White County

- Pangburn Fire Department - \$2,000



Boys and Girls Clubs of Saline County receive a \$2,000 donation from Operation Round-Up.



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Our offices will close on Monday, Sept. 2, in observance of the Labor Day holiday.

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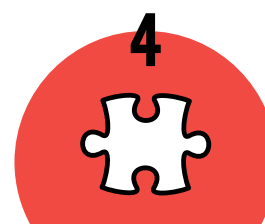
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Ribbons, Rides and Rodeos

County fairs deliver fun, food for all

BY WERNER TRIESCHMANN

The screams! The swirling neon lights! The prize-winning chickens! And of course, the fried everything!

Arkansas isn't even out of August before fair season kicks off with county fairs in every corner of the state cranking up the funnel cake fryers, rounding up riders for rodeos and fluffing up blue ribbons for winners of the livestock competitions. From Mountain Home to El Dorado, practically every town and county in between is home to a fair of some size.

Should you dare, you could start at the **Izard County Fair** (izardcofair.org) in Melbourne from Aug. 5-10 and make your way through at least 60 county fairs before capping it off with the biggest of them all, the **Arkansas State Fair** (arkansasstatefair.com) in Little Rock Oct. 11 through 20, sponsored by the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas.

Fair expectations

What can you expect at Arkansas' county fairs? Not all of them are alike, of course, but they all follow a fairly traditional pattern. The Ferris wheels and merry-go-rounds will spin and whirl next to rides with names like Predator and Crazy Mouse and (gulp!) Mega Drop. What about games? You can take aim and squirt water at a target until a balloon pops or fish for a plastic duck to win an enormous stuffed bear or a stretched-out Pepsi bottle. Find a carnival of rides and games at Nashville's **Howard County Fair** (tinyurl.com/HowardCountyFair, Sept. 2-7) or the Northeast Arkansas District Fair (neadistrictfair.com, Sept. 19-28) in Jonesboro.



COURTESY OF POPE COUNTY FAIR

Last year's Pope County Fair Livestock competition had 350 chickens up for judging. This year's fair will be Sept. 7-14.

Maybe you think the games are for chumps and the rides are for those with stronger stomachs. The only thing you care about is the food. Basic offerings of hot dogs, snow cones, popcorn and lemonade are usually available no matter what fairgrounds you stroll.

Today, there is something of an arms race among fair-food Svengalis. Corn



LAUREN MARTIN

Braylen Martin shows his Hereford heifer at the White County Fair livestock competition in Searcy. The 2024 fair will be held Sept. 9-14.

dogs as big as swords. Things that don't normally belong on sticks, such as fried alligator, going on sticks. There is nothing wrong with the old, reliable funnel cake, trying to see how much powdered sugar you can wear without being embarrassed. Sample the treats at Camden's **Ouachita County Fair** (ouachitacountyfair.com, Sept. 11-14) and McCrory's **Three County Fair** (threecountyfairarkansas.com, Sept. 17-21) serving Cross, Jackson and Woodruff counties. The friendly woman who answers the phone at the **Polk County Fair** (facebook.com/PCFRA, Aug. 28-31) in Mena promises, "standard fair food, you know, everything you aren't supposed to eat. I'm sure we will be frying something."

Beside eating yourself silly, Arkansas' county fairs can entertain in a number of different ways. Mountain Home's **Baxter County Fair** (baxtercountyfair.org, Aug. 20-24) features music acts closing with The Buck Shot Band on the

outdoor stage on Aug. 24. **The White County Fair** (whitecountyfairgrounds.org, Sept. 9-14) in Searcy has a different flavor of live fun as cars slam and crash in the Demolition Derby.

Who's a good dog? Find out at the dog show at the **Chicot County Fair** (facebook.com/chicotcountyfair, Sept. 16-20) in Eudora. At Arkadelphia's **Clark County Fair** (clarkcountyfairar.com, Sept. 9-15) you can step right up to an animal and pet it at the petting zoo. Do you like to make secretive bets on who will walk away with a crown in pageant competitions? Many county fairs will satisfy this craving, including the largest county fair in the state — the Washington County Fair (mywashcofair.com, Aug. 20-24) in Fayetteville.



COURTESY OF BAXTER COUNTY FAIR

The Ferris wheel and other rides are popular midway attractions at the Baxter County Fair in Mountain Home, taking place Aug. 20-24.

Celebrating community and agriculture

You don't have to remind Karen Haralson when fair season rolls around. A former longtime member of the State Fair board, Haralson is an active, fervent participant and promoter of the **Pope County Fair** (popcountyfair.com, Sept. 7-14) in Russellville.

While Haralson is happy to confess that she "loves every minute" of her county's fair, her focus this year will be — as it is every year — the exhibitions and competitions in Livestock, Creative Arts, Horticulture and Floriculture.

"I'm kind of a livestock administrator," says Haralson, who raises cattle in Pope County and has been involved in her fair for 40 years. "In



BARBARA JENKINS

Jacie Richardson and her market goat, Daisy, won Reserve Grand Champion at the Logan County Fair in Paris. This year's fair is Aug. 14-17.

Livestock, we have competitions for chickens, rabbits, cattle, goats, sheep, hogs, and there is a horse show. In Creative Arts, we have people bring in jelly, quilts and paintings. We have Horticulture and Floriculture areas."


The rides, food and live entertainment might grab the attention of most fairgoers, but rural communities around the state see a county fair as an opportunity to shine and recognize the work done on the farms. The battle for the blue ribbons is an intense one. Haralson estimates last year's Pope County Livestock competition saw a whopping 800 entries with about 350 chickens up for judging.

Which begs the question, how do you judge one chicken better than another chicken?

"Our judges put hands on every chicken," Haralson says. "They decide by feeling the chickens. How filled out is the chicken?"

It wouldn't be right not to ask a veteran like Haralson about her favorite food at the fair.

"I try everything. But the corn dog is it. Hands down."

For a listing of county fairs, visit cofairs.com/state/arkansas. 



ANNA HOWTON

Wil Howton eyes the snow cones, corn dogs and cotton candy at the St. Francis County Fair in Forrest City, which will be held Oct. 14-19.

First Electric delegates attend Youth Tour

Aspen Farley, Macey Chambers, Grant Griffith and Johnathan Thomas represented First Electric Cooperative on the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., in June.

“I truly enjoyed the trip to DC. Being able to see the foundations of our nation firsthand was incredible. It allowed me to appreciate even more what our forefathers have built for us and showed me the importance of preserving this nation for future generations. I am very thankful to have been able to go on this trip,” Johnathan said.

The Youth Tour experience is filled with fun activities, but its overall purpose is to increase students’ understanding of the value of rural electrification. Additionally, the students had the opportunity to visit monuments, historic sites and meet elected officials to increase the students’ knowledge of how the federal government works.

Macey said, “The 2024 Youth Tour was beyond imaginable! As someone who has always dreamed of visiting our nation’s capital, I am grateful for First Electric Cooperative for allowing me to visit! Every site we visited was phenomenal; however, I particularly enjoyed the Library of Congress. I was given the opportunity to not only explore Thomas Jefferson’s personal library, but officially became a member of the Library of Congress. The intricately painted ceilings were incredible to view, making it my favorite stop. The trip was not only educational but also lighthearted and fun! Trading pins very quickly became a big deal on the trip. Bartering with students from other states allowed me to converse with new people and extend my pin collection. However, my favorite memories were spent riding from place to place on our bus. Each day brought a new buddy to sit by, and I formed amazing relationships because of it. Our bus driver, Vincent, always made the rides enjoyable with his fun facts, and Mr. Lowery always made us laugh with his ill-timed dad jokes in his eagle hat. Again, I am beyond blessed to have been selected for the 2024 Youth Tour! Thank you, First Electric Cooperative!”

For more information on Youth Tour, visit firstelectric.coop/youth-tour.



NANCY MEADOR

First Electric’s Youth Tour delegates are (from left) Johnathan Thomas, Aspen Farley, Macey Chambers and Grant Griffith.

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Snapshots from our readers



Naomi,
Liam, Jasper
and John.
Meredith
Gordon,
Pleasant Plains.



Sawyer wins best of show at Woodlawn Arena!
Keith Watkins, Woodlawn.



Gus and his buddy, Huck the hound dog, going for a ride.
Joey and Rhiannon Streeter, Hamburg.



Charlie loves to hang out on the farm!
Heather Villines, Kingston.



A festive pair at Grandma's Animals, a small animal rescue, in Cabot. Linda Jones, Cabot.



Avery and her calf, Rusty. "Here's looking at you." Colby Singleton, Mena.



Decker, Ellisyn and Deacon having a bubble party! Sherri Hess, Wynne.



Little Buddy admiring his reflection. Joe Stepp, Johnson County.



I like you, do you like me? Can we be friends? Taresa Olsen, Sherwood.

Share your photos with your fellow Arkansas Living readers! Please submit high-resolution photos with detailed information about the pictures (who took it, where, who is in it, etc.) to: arkansaslivingmagazine.com/submit-a-photo.

Persistent problem

Winning the war against weeds




STORY AND PHOTOS BY JANET B. CARSON

As gardeners, we work hard to make a garden. It takes planning, planting, fertilizing and watering. Sometimes the plants thrive, and sometimes weather conditions cause them to falter. One class of plants doesn't seem to be impacted by any weather conditions — weeds!

They come up everywhere and seem to be worse than ever this season. The first step in controlling them is identifying and stopping them as soon as you can. The longer they grow, the more established they become, and the more seeds they set for future years.

Weeds have a warm season and a cool season. Some weeds are annuals, while others are perennials. Annual weeds are just here for one season, but they can aggressively set seeds, providing many years of problems. Perennials can also set seeds, but they come back from their root system as well, often making them more difficult to kill.

Weed control can take many forms, from hoeing to hand pulling or spraying with herbicides. If you do opt for chemical control, know there are differences in what can be sprayed around ornamentals, turf and edibles. There are also specific herbicides for grassy, broadleaf and woody weeds. Always read and follow label instructions.

Below is a list of the most common summer weeds. 

NAME	KIND	CHARACTERISTICS
Chambers Bitters	Annual broadleaf weed	Compound leaves resemble miniature mimosa trees. Thrives in hot, humid conditions. Sets copious seeds on the underside of the foliage, starting when they are very small plants. You won't see these until it gets hot.
Crabgrass	Annual grassy weed	Rosette of grassy foliage hugs the ground, putting up seed stalks that grow rapidly and tall. Begins germinating when soil temps are 60 degrees for three days. Continues to germinate all summer.
Greenbrier	Perennial broadleaf vine	Strong thorns on this semi-woody vine. Often found growing in shrubs. Strong root system that, if left, will resprout.
Mulberry	Broadleaf annual weed	It resembles a miniature mulberry tree with prominent hairs on the stems and leaves. Quickly sets flowers at the nodes, with many seeds.
Nutgrass	Perennial sedge	Although it looks like a grass, it has triangular stems, and is technically a sedge, so hard to kill. It does set seeds at the top of flower stems, but also has a small nutlet or bulb-like structure underground.
Pigweed	Broadleaf annual	If left unchecked, this member of the amaranth family will grow quite large quickly, setting a prolific number of seeds. It thrives in heat and humidity.
Spurge	Broadleaf annual	This small-leaved plant forms a mat of foliage in a rosette form. It thrives on neglect, and will begin growing in any exposed soils, from flower beds to lawns and containers. Strong taproot.



Chambers Bitters



Crabgrass



Greenbrier



Mulberry



Nutgrass



Pigweed



Spurge

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Summer Symphony

Mix up your meals with sensational salads

RECIPES AND PHOTOS
BY JULIANA GOODWIN

Watermelon Salad with Ginger Honey Dressing

Makes 4 servings.

Dressing

- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 tablespoons rice wine vinegar
- 2 tablespoons plus 1 teaspoon honey
- 2 1/2 teaspoons freshly grated ginger
- Pinch of salt

Salad

- 4 1/2 cups watermelon, chopped
- 1 1/2 cups cucumber, chopped
- 4 tablespoons goat cheese, crumbled
- 3 tablespoons red onion, chopped
- 3-4 tablespoons cilantro or basil, chopped



For dressing: Combine all dressing ingredients in a lidded jar and shake vigorously.

For salad: Layer watermelon in a serving bowl. Top with cucumber, goat cheese, red onion and cilantro or basil. Pour dressing over salad and serve.

Southwest Salad

Makes 3 or more servings.

Dressing

- 1/4 cup light mayonnaise
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1/4 teaspoon smoked paprika
- 1/4 cup salsa
- Juice from half a lime
- 1 tablespoon water

Salad

- 1 large head iceberg lettuce, chopped
- 1 1/3 cups rotisserie chicken, chopped
- 1/2 cup canned black beans, drained
- 2/3 cup canned corn, drained
- 1 ripe avocado, chopped
- 1 small cucumber, sliced
- 1/4 cup cherry tomatoes, halved
- 2 tablespoons red onion, chopped
- 2/3 cup shredded Mexican blend cheese
- Tortilla chips for serving



For dressing: In a small bowl, stir together all dressing ingredients. If dressing is too thick for your liking, add another tablespoon of water.

For salad: Assemble salad in layers, like a Cobb salad. Serve with tortilla chips and dressing.

Note: Can be served as a main course.



Curry Chicken Salad

Makes 6 servings.

Sauce

- 2/3 cup light mayonnaise
- 1 1/2 teaspoons curry powder (or more to taste)
- 2 teaspoons apple cider vinegar
- 1 tablespoon brown sugar
- Salt and pepper to taste

Salad

- 3 cups rotisserie chicken, chopped
- 3 stalks celery, chopped
- 1/3 cup red onion, chopped
- 1/3 cup dried cranberries
- 1/4 cup sweetened shredded coconut
- 1/2 cup grapes, halved

For sauce: In a small bowl, stir together all sauce ingredients.

For salad: In a large bowl, stir together all salad ingredients. Toss with sauce. Refrigerate for 2 hours before serving.

Note: Can be served in a sandwich or on a bed of lettuce.



This month's web exclusive recipe:

Chickpea and Bell Pepper Salad

More recipes on our website:
arkansaslivingmagazine.com

Juliana Goodwin is a food columnist, cookbook author and avid traveler. If you have a question, email julianalovesfood23@gmail.com.

Summertime Blues

Whip up berrylicious desserts

Blueberry Cake

- 1 (13.25-ounce) box butter cake mix
- 4 eggs
- 1/2 cup oil
- 6 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 1 tablespoon water
- 1 pound fresh blueberries

Heat oven to 325. Grease a Bundt pan, and set aside.

In a large bowl, using an electric mixer, beat cake mix, eggs, oil, cream cheese and water. Fold in berries; add batter to prepared pan. Bake for about 1 hour.

Note: This recipe was passed down from my grandmother and mother.

Dianne Garrison-Vandervoort, Stephens
Editor's note: For a sweeter cake, consider adding a simple glaze (whisk together 1 cup powdered sugar with 1-2 tablespoons milk or more for consistency) when cake is completely cooled.



JENNIFER CHRISTMAN, CIA

Blueberry Cake

Banana Blueberry Pie

Makes 2 pies.

- 1 cup sugar
- 1 (8-ounce) package cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup pecans, chopped
- 1 (16-ounce) carton whipped topping, thawed
- 2 prepared pie crusts, baked and cooled
- 4 bananas, sliced
- 1 (21-ounce) can blueberry pie filling or homemade

In a large bowl, using an electric mixer, beat sugar and cream cheese. Fold in nuts and whipped topping. To each pie crust, add a layer of bananas. Add a layer of cream cheese mixture. Repeat layers. Spoon a ring of blueberry pie filling around edges of pies. Refrigerate until ready to serve.

Evelyn Glover, Gurdon

Best Ever No-Bake Cheesecake with Blueberries

- 18 graham crackers, crushed
- 1/2 cup butter, melted
- 1 (8-ounce) package cream cheese, softened
- 2/3 cup sugar
- 1 (16-ounce) carton sour cream
- 1 (8-ounce) carton whipped topping
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 (21-ounce) can blueberry pie filling or homemade (optional; could substitute with another flavor)
- Walnuts (optional)

In a large bowl, toss graham cracker crumbs with butter. Spread and press into a 13x9 pan to make crust.

In a separate bowl, using an electric mixer, combine cream cheese, sugar and sour cream. Fold in whipped topping and vanilla extract. Spread mixture evenly on crust. Top with blueberry pie filling and walnuts, or just enjoy plain.

Diane Bennett, Rogers

Notes: A friend gave me this recipe way back in the '70s. I couldn't count the times I have made this dessert. ALWAYS a crowd-pleaser.

Web exclusive recipe:

Blueberry Buckle

More recipes on our website:
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CROSSWORD ANSWERS

for puzzle on page 38

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O	N	H	O	T	E	S	I	C	I	L	I
N	O	N	I	T	C	L	B	I	L	A	V
O	G	I	D	N	I	L	O	F	O	H	E
N	O	N	S	N	H	O	J	N	O	N	L
N	V	A	P	J	A	R	T	E	D	E	C
F	O	U	F	E	X	A	V	N	I	G	D
N	O	S	I	A	R	I	S	A	M	I	N
N	O	S	I	A	R	I	S	A	M	I	N
S	E	E	K	N	E	L	W	H	E	L	B
S	E	E	K	N	E	L	W	H	E	L	B
R	E	R	A	V	A	R	R	E	R	E	H
R	E	R	A	V	A	R	R	E	R	E	H
I	R	E	P	S	R	A	S	E	H	L	S
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T	O	H	S	T	O	I	G	I	O	W	A
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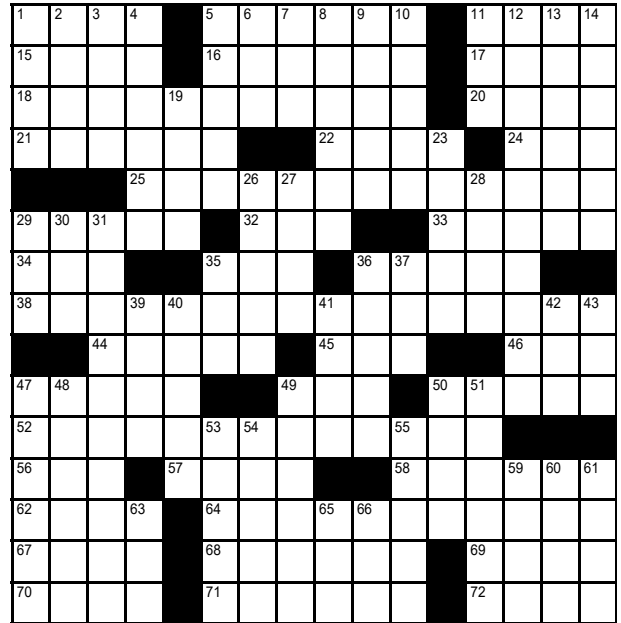


CROSSWORD PUZZLE

White House Quintet *By Victor Fleming*


ACROSS

- 1 Chicken drumsticks, e.g.
- 5 Be mistaken for, say
- 11 Canadian gasoline brand
- 15 Openly acknowledge
- 16 "Aha!" alternative
- 17 Took a ___ (tried)
- 18 No. 44 (born Aug. 4, 1961)
- 20 Lit ___ (coll. course)
- 21 Grass-cutting tool
- 22 Carpentry file
- 24 Anger
- 25 No. 31 (born Aug. 10, 1874)
- 29 Anesthetic of yesteryear
- 32 Comic Romano
- 33 The bees' ___
- 34 Elaborate neckwear
- 35 Road repair gunk
- 36 "___ of Fortune"
- 38 No. 23 (born Aug. 20, 1833)
- 44 Prepared to stay put, figuratively
- 45 Chestnut chopper
- 46 "X-Files" craft
- 47 Give a reprimand to
- 49 ___ 66 (famous hwy.)
- 50 "The Mikado" locale
- 52 No. 37 (born Aug. 27, 1908)
- 56 Book after Gal.
- 57 ___ tip (pitch slightly deflected by the bat)
- 58 ___ Girls ("Wordplay" interviewees)
- 62 "Moby-Dick" whaler
- 64 No. 42 (born Aug. 19, 1946)
- 67 Start of Caesar's boast
- 68 Most frigid
- 69 "Good heavens!"
- 70 "All's Well That ___ Well"
- 71 Franz of "NYPD Blue"
- 72 Caddie's supply



DOWN

- 1 Big pooches, familiarly
- 2 Op moving folks from a dangerous area
- 3 Full of blood
- 4 Wrap up, as in bandages
- 5 Tight-fisted one
- 6 "A long time ___ ..."
- 7 Boohoo
- 8 Like a bright night
- 9 Draw a bead on
- 10 Cash in a cache, aptly
- 11 Computer keyboard key
- 12 Gets dry and wrinkly
- 13 After-dinner party
- 14 Aquatic animals
- 19 "Moonstruck" Oscar winner
- 23 Game with straights and flushes
- 26 What Scarecrow lacked
- 27 Achieve
- 28 "The ___ Love" (R.E.M. hit)
- 29 Fade away
- 30 Ballet dancer's digit
- 31 In close association, figuratively
- 35 "I didn't need to know *that!*"
- 36 Like candles
- 37 Bygone Eur. realm
- 39 Apatow or Hirsch
- 40 Thomas Paine's "The ___ Reason"
- 41 Doth possess
- 42 One ___ kind (unique)
- 43 "Smoking, or ___?"
- 47 Split along the grain
- 48 Moby-Dick punctuation
- 49 What the tide will do
- 50 Mitchell who sang "Big Yellow Taxi"
- 51 "... one ___ the other"
- 53 Like a single-vendor contract
- 54 Electricity, in slang
- 55 Sediments
- 59 "___ Jury" (Spillane book)
- 60 Auctioneer's call
- 61 Lennon's in-laws
- 63 Twice, in music
- 65 Author Deighton
- 66 Long-running CBS drama



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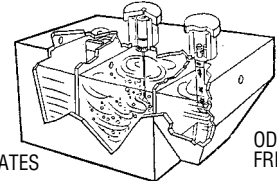
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Gina's Place is the place for down-home fare in Jonesboro



STORY AND PHOTOS
BY ROB ROEDEL

Usually when a restaurant changes names, it means a new owner has entered the picture. However, the story at Gina's Place in Jonesboro has an interesting twist.

The McKay family opened Ann's Place in 1983. In 1997, Regina (Gina) McKay and her brother, Vernon,



Gina McKay and her brother purchased their mother's restaurant in 1997, renaming it Gina's Place.



THE EATING ESSENTIALS

Gina's Place

2005 E. Highland Drive, Suite 109
Jonesboro
(870) 910-3900
eatatginas.com

Hours of Operation

Monday-Friday: 6:30-9:30 a.m.,
10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.



bought the restaurant from their mother, Ann. In 2012, Gina renamed the restaurant, Gina's Place. A very nice homage to the restaurant's former and present name is present above the entryway door of the restaurant, which has been at the same location for 41 years and doubled its seating in 2000.

Gina and her team take great pride in treating guests like family. I was told that some guests visit the comforting and welcoming establishment every day.

Daily special selections include four meats, more than a dozen vegetables and a roll or cornbread. My visit was on a Wednesday, when the meat options included a Baked Pork Chop, Chicken and Dumplings, Meatloaf and Fried Ham. Featured veggies were mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, whole kernel corn, baby carrots, potato casserole, pinto beans, macaroni and tomatoes, purple hull peas, turnip greens, cooked cabbage, potato salad, coleslaw and tossed salad.

The first plate I sampled featured Chicken and

Dumplings, purple hull peas, potato casserole, green beans and a roll. Enjoying the warm comfort of Gina's cooking, I felt like I was back at my grandma's



Gina's Place is known for its comforting daily specials like Chicken and Dumplings.

house. The second plate consisted of a breaded Baked Pork Chop, turnip greens, baby carrots and cornbread. The presentation was appetizing, and everything was seasoned perfectly. My third sampler plate included meatloaf, baby carrots and a classic summer side of macaroni and tomatoes. The meatloaf was good, and the "mac and tomatoes" were yummy.

The regular menu offers sandwiches, fresh, hand-patted hamburgers and salads. The Chef's Salad with Grilled Chicken was very



The Baked Pork Chop, turnip greens, baby carrots and cornbread are just a few of the daily special options.




The homemade Chocolate Pie at Gina's Place is spot-on.

tasty and served in a huge bowl.

Gina was kind enough to bring me slices of homemade Chocolate and Peanut Butter pies. I still can't decide which one I liked best, as both were spot-on. It was a great way to round out my meals. Other homemade desserts include Coconut Pie and Chocolate Cake.

If you are a breakfast lover, then Gina's has you covered. The crowd favorite is the Garbage Plate, a mammoth specialty incorporating two cooked-to-order eggs, ham, bacon, bell peppers, onions, tomatoes, cheese, shredded hash browns and sliced jalapeños.


While talking to Gina, she shared many stories that showed her sincere love of her business and the relationships established among longtime customers and friends.


Stop by and see the team at Gina's Place in Jonesboro. You will enjoy the experience. 

Dining recommendations? Contact Rob Roedel at rob.roedel@aecc.com.

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Calendar



Arkansas Fiddle & Banjo Championships & Concert



World Elephant Day



National Championship Chuckwagon Races



Soar NWA



Caddo River Festival

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, HERITAGE AND TOURISM

Aug. 2

AGFC Fishing Derby

Maumelle, agfc.com/education/fishing-derby-program

Aug. 3

Arkansas Fiddle & Banjo Championships & Concert

Mountain View, arkansasstateparks.com/parks/ozark-folk-center-state-park

Aug. 3-4

Arkansas Sales Tax Holiday

Statewide, dfa.arkansas.gov

Aug. 6-10

Tontitown Grape Festival

Tontitown, tontitowngrapefestival.com

Aug. 8-10

Hope Watermelon Festival

Hope, hopewatermelonfest.com

Aug. 10

Gravette Day

Gravette, gravettear.com/gravette-day-1

World Elephant Day

Little Rock, littlerockzoo.com

Aug. 16-17

Soar NWA

Bentonville, soarnwa.com

Aug. 17

AGFC Fishing Derby

Bryant, agfc.com/education/fishing-derby-program

Aug. 16-18

Mountains, Music & Motorcycles

Mountain View, mountainmusicandmotorcycles.com

Aug. 23-24

Hot Springs Baseball Weekend

Hot Springs, hotsprings.org

Bluegrass & Fried Chicken

Mountain View, arkansasstateparks.com/parks/ozark-folk-center-state-park

Aug. 24

Great Southern Stone Skipping Championships

North Little Rock, stoneskipping.org

Sunken Lands Songwriting Circle

Historic Dyess Colony, dyesscash.astate.edu

Aug. 24-Sept. 1

National Championship Chuckwagon Races

Clinton, chuckwagonraces.com

Aug. 30-31

Caddo River Festival

Glenwood, facebook.com/caddoriver.fest

Aug. 31

AGFC Fishing Derby

Crowley's Ridge, agfc.com/education/fishing-derby-program

Weekends Aug. 31-Sept. 29

Arkansas Renaissance Festival

Mount Vernon, arrenfest.com



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