

Ripley POWER & LIGHT COMPANY



For game schedules and scores at Ripley and Halls high schools, visit our website:
www.ripleypower.com

Ripley Power & Light is working with both high schools to post schedules for their high school sports and to get the scores online as soon as possible after games are played. We're starting with spring sports, such as baseball, soccer and softball, and we'll add other schedules as we receive them from the schools. **The sports link is on our homepage.**

Back issues of "Tennessee Connections" are under the "About Us" link on our website homepage.

Ripley Power & Light will be closed...

- Friday, April 10, for Good Friday
- Monday, May 25, for Memorial Day

Office Hours & Locations

We are open 47 hours each week to serve you better!

7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Monday-Thursday

7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Friday

You can pay your utility bill at...

- 150 S. Main St. in Ripley
- 409 S. Church St. in Halls

If you have not been receiving your bills, call our office immediately so we can verify your mailing address.



731-635-2323 ■ 731-836-7595
www.ripleypower.com

Scholarships help students attend local colleges

Alisha Beavers is earning a bachelor of science degree in nursing with a little help from a college scholarship through Ripley Power & Light.

The local utility provides scholarships to Lauderdale County students who attend Dyersburg State Community College and the University of Tennessee Martin-Ripley Center. Each school has a total of \$7,500 in scholarship monies allocated each academic year.

For Beavers, who graduates in May, her \$2,500 scholarship to UTM-Ripley has allowed her to complete a nursing degree while working as a nurse at Baptist Memorial Hospital-Lauderdale.

"The process to apply was simple," says Beavers, whose husband, Joey, is a lineman with Ripley Power & Light. "It has been a big help and has kept me from having to take out a loan for the past two years."

Dyersburg State awards six scholarships through its Financial Aid Office. UTM-Ripley awards three scholarships of \$2,500 each annually. Scholarships are awarded first to employees of Ripley Power & Light, their children and their spouses. Second preference is given to Lauderdale County students with financial need.

In order for full-time students to be eligible for scholarships they must complete the Free Application For Student Aid (FAFSA) and apply through the college's financial aid office. The student must maintain a "B" average to keep the scholarship.

"Our Financial Aid Office works with Ripley Power & Light to determine if any employee or employee's child is attending Dyersburg State Community College," said Edith Carlton with Institutional Advancement at DSCC. "Once these stu-



Alisha Beavers, a nursing student at UTM-Ripley, is receiving scholarship money from Ripley Power & Light.

dents are identified, and if there are not six utility employees or employees' children attending DSCC, then the Financial Aid office will select students from Lauderdale County to receive the scholarship."

Students at Dyersburg State receiving the scholarships this year are Sarah Beth Cherry, Gary Daniel King and Elisha Nicole Uselton, all from Halls; and Tasha Monique Hubbard and Tiffany Dixon Treadway, from Ripley. Students using the scholarships at UTM-Ripley are Beavers, Melissa Ozment and Caleb Phillips.

"We hope that through these scholarships we can help local students with the cost of their college educations at two quality institutions," says Mike Allmand, Power & Light's President and CEO.

"When they finish college, it is our hope that they will stay in the area to work and to benefit the community."

Add 'energy savings' to your spring cleaning list

Save money saving energy

Ripley Power & Light makes it easy and convenient for you to take energy-saving measures around your home.

We offer a few suggestions on these pages, from how to get a free home energy audit kit to how to receive rebates from us when you buy several different energy-efficient items.

"We offer programs like our rebates and financing because it helps you, our customer, take energy-saving steps," says Mike Allmand, Ripley Power & Light CEO. "And, in each instance, when you save energy, you'll end up saving money, too."

Let us walk you through some energy-saving steps you can take...

Step 1: Give your home a free energy evaluation

Along with that spring cleaning, why not check to make sure your home isn't leaking energy and costing you money?

Ripley Power & Light is offering its customers a free home energy audit. Not only will it help you find and fix leaks, it also will help you learn ways to

use energy more efficiently throughout your home. All of that can add up to savings on your monthly utility bill.

With the *energy right* Home e-Valuation, you just fill out the multiple choice questionnaire on how you use energy in your home, return it to Ripley Power & Light, and, in about three

weeks, you will receive a free energy audit report.

Ripley Power & Light offers two easy ways to complete your energy audit questionnaire: online or by mail.

To fill out the audit online or to e-mail a request to mail the energy audit to you, go to www.ripleypower.com and click on the "home energy audit" link on the home page.

To receive a questionnaire by mail, complete the form at left and mail it in. Once you receive your questionnaire, just complete it and mail it back in its self-mailer.

And, if you return your audit by September 30, you will receive a free energy conservation kit that includes compact fluorescent bulbs, outlet and light switch gaskets, other energy-saving products and a brochure with more energy-saving ideas.

Please send me an *energy right* Home e-valuation questionnaire.

Customer Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Ripley Power & Light Customer Account #: _____

Daytime Phone #: _____

To receive your home energy audit by mail, fill in this coupon and drop it off at the Ripley Power & Light office in Ripley or Halls or mail the coupon to Mike Demeris, Ripley Power & Light, P.O. Box 69, Ripley, TN 38063.

✓ Step 2: Earn a rebate from Ripley Power & Light when you buy a heat pump, water heater or build an energy-efficient home

Your biggest energy user in the summer is your cooling system, while your biggest energy user in the winter is your heating system. That's why it makes sense to invest in an energy-efficient heat pump for your home. A heat pump works well in our climate.

To make it easier for you to purchase a unit, Ripley Power & Light will finance that heat pump with payments on your monthly electric bill. For many of our customers, the energy they save with their new heat pump offsets the cost of the monthly payments.

To make it even more financially smart to buy that heat pump now, we are offering a rebate...

- Switch from gas heat to an electric heat pump and earn... **\$200.**
- Change from an electric heat pump to an energy-efficient electric heat pump and earn... **\$100.**

Time to replace your water heater? Ripley Power & Light offers the following rebates to our customers...

- Switch from a gas water heater to an energy-efficient electric water heater and earn... **\$100.**

- Replace your old electric water heater with a new, energy-efficient model and earn... **\$50.**
- Switch from a gas water heater to an electric tankless water heater and earn... **\$100.**

If you are building a new home, think energy efficient.

- Build an all-electric *energy right* home and earn... **\$300.**
- Build an all electric *energy right* Platinum Home and earn... **\$400.**
- Build an all-electric Energy Star Home and earn... **\$500.**

We will inspect your home for free to determine the rebate amount.

Approved dealers

To receive a rebate or financing for a new heat pump, it must be purchased and installed by one of the following approved dealers:

- Crowder Heating & Cooling, Ripley
- Flatt Heating & Air Cond., Newbern
- Randy Hobbs Heating & Air Conditioning, Newbern
- Quality Service Heating & Air, Ripley
- Superior Maintenance, Covington
- Williams Heating & Cooling, Friendship
- Windle Heating & Air Conditioning, Dyersburg

✓ Step 3: Don't forget financing

Ripley Power & Light will finance your energy-efficiency purchases with payments on your monthly electric bill. The length of the loan is determined by the amount financed. We will finance...

- Electric heat pumps and HVAC systems purchased from an approved dealer. (See list above.)
- Tankless water heaters. (See story next page.)
- Electric water heaters.
- American Dream, triple-pane replacement windows.
- Electric space heaters.
- Hot water demand system.
- Attic Guard, which reduces your attic temperatures.
- Attic and wall insulation.
- Duct work repairs and upgrades.
- Solar light that brightens your kitchen, bath, closet or any dark room in your home to save energy.



For more information about our rebates and financing program...

- Call Mike Demeris, Energy and Customer Services Representative, at 731-635-2323.
- Visit www.ripleypower.com.

✓ Step 4: Earn tax credits for improvements made this year

When you make your home more energy efficient this year, you may be eligible for savings on your federal income taxes.

As a part of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 signed in October by former President Bush, tax credits for energy-efficient residential home improvements that expired at the end of 2007 are once again available for improvements made during 2009. (However, the tax credits are not retroactive for improvements made in 2008.)

"In light of the recent economic situation, many homeowners are choosing to improve their present homes instead of buying or building newer homes," said Billy Harmon, a Ripley CPA.

"These tax credits can assist homeowners in making these improvements to their homes. By being able to utilize these tax credits, the homeowner will realize a quicker return on investment

from the improvement."

The home improvement tax credits include...

- Replacement windows, skylights and storm windows with the Energy Star label, 10 percent of cost, up to \$200.
- Exterior doors with the Energy Star label, 10 percent of costs, up to \$500.
- Metal and asphalt roofs that have Energy Star labels, 10 percent of costs, up to \$500.
- Home insulation, 10 percent of costs, up to \$500.
- Certain high efficiency heating and cooling equipment and air source heat pumps that meet specified SEER requirements, \$300. (Geothermal



CPA Billy Harmon

heat pumps get credit for 30 percent of the cost, up to \$2,000.)

- Electric heat pump water heaters with Energy Star labels, \$300.

The maximum credit for most items per homeowner is \$500. Tax credits also are available for building an energy-efficient new home. For information on tax credit specifications for each product, visit www.energystar.gov. Your tax professional also can advise you about the amount of tax credit you can expect for your home improvements.

✓ One more thing: Need a water heater? Try a tankless model

After receiving inquiries from customers about tankless water heaters, Ripley Power & Light evaluated the product and decided to start selling SEISCO-type electrical tankless water heating systems through the utility's financing program.

"Several customers requested the tankless water heaters because they are almost trouble free," says Mike Demeris, Ripley Power & Light's energy and customer services representative. "We have two models available to sell to customers, and they can even use the financing program to help cover the cost. We also offer a \$100 incentive to customers who switch from gas to electric water heating."

An electric storage tank water heater can be the second largest user of electricity in your home. SEISCO tankless water heaters are energy efficient, which can significantly cut operating costs and energy use for hot water. Other benefits

over storage tank heaters include a continuous and endless supply of hot water, space savings and no maintenance.

The wall-mounted, whole house system that works for most homes costs \$734. The cost includes tax and shipping to your home. Tankless models are easily installed in new construction, as well as existing homes or businesses.

A model of the SEISCO electric tankless water heater is on display in Ripley Power & Light's Ripley office.

For more information, go to www.ripleypower.com, or call our Ripley or Halls office.



✓ And, be sure to change your smoke alarm and carbon monoxide detector batteries as you spring your clocks ahead on March 8 when Daylight Savings Time begins.