



DECEMBER 2019

*Making life better, the cooperative way®*

## Washington Youth Tour develops future leaders

When you hear about Blue Grass Energy investing in the communities we serve, it's not just in electrical infrastructure, economic development or the local events we support. Our commitment to community is all about our members.

In June, seven local high school seniors joined 89 other Kentucky electric co-op students for the weeklong program where they learned about the political process, interacted with elected officials and gained an up-close understanding of American history. One of those students attending was Fielden Bechanan, a Blue Grass Energy member and now a high school senior in Nicholas County.

"The Washington Youth Tour was being able to connect with individuals not only across the state of Kentucky, but as well as the nation. Being able to meet my peers allowed me to see aspects of Kentucky I was unaware of before," says Bechanan.

The students joined more than 1,800 of America's best and brightest high-schoolers representing electric cooperatives across America. Now in its 54th year, the youth tour educates the delegates about the issues facing

co-ops, encouraging them to come home to Kentucky and help lead the co-ops in the future.

The busy itinerary for the delegation included visits to national monuments, Smithsonian museums, the National Archives, the 9/11 Pentagon Memorial and the National Cathedral. While at Arlington National Cemetery, the Kentucky students laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns.

"Of all the landmarks and museums that we toured, my favorite was the Newseum. We were able to see various forms of media, Pulitzer-Prize winning photographs, sections of the Berlin Wall and much more," shares Bechanan. "This allowed us to focus on the five aspects of the First Amendment including freedom of speech, religion, press, assembly and petition, which are important aspects in today's society."

Another highlight of the Washington Youth Tour is the opportunity for Blue Grass Energy students to interact with Kentucky's congressional delegation, including Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, Senator Rand Paul and Congressmen Brett Guthrie, Andy Barr, Thomas Massie, James Comer and Hal Rogers.

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

**24-Hour Service:** (888) 546-4243  
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ENERGY AS A SERVICE TO OUR MEMBERS.**

**Rachel Settles**, Editor



This institution is an equal opportunity  
provider and employer.



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

# Working the Santa shift

**A**s we enter the holiday season, many people will take time from their work to celebrate and spend time with their families. Especially on Christmas Day. However, you may not know it, but we have employees who work Santa's shift each year to make sure your Christmas stays bright.

Although our cooperative office will be closed on December 24 and 25, some employees will report for duty—or be on call—to ensure that the power flows to keep your home warm and your holiday meal can be cooked for the whole family.

Several of our dispatchers will work in our operations center on Christmas Day. They will monitor our system to look for any problems that might affect your power and are prepared to dispatch our skilled line technicians to make needed repairs.

These technicians are willing to step away from their own holiday celebrations to make sure you get to enjoy yours, because serving you is the reason we exist.

That's why you can count on our team to work like Santa's elves to ensure your power is reliable—even on Christmas. This is no festively wrapped gift but rather our everyday commitment to you. At Blue Grass Energy, making life better, the cooperative way, for our members always comes first.

Here's hoping you won't need us; but know that those employees working Santa's shift will be ready if you do. From all of us here at Blue Grass Energy, we wish each of you a safe and very merry Christmas.

*By President/CEO  
Michael I. Williams*





CONTINUED FROM 26A

"Throughout the trip as a whole, I was able to widen my perspective of the United States and the important aspects that make it the great nation that it is," comments Bechanan.

"Our goal this week is to foster a new era of leadership and a culture of service to shape the future of these students who will go on to create change in their communities," says Mike Williams, Blue Grass Energy President & CEO.

Bechanan shared she was changed from her experience, "I am beyond thankful that Blue Grass Energy gave me this amazing opportunity. I will forever be impacted by this program,."

**WE ARE NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2020 WASHINGTON YOUTH TOUR.** Blue Grass Energy members who are high school juniors are encouraged to apply at [bgenergy.com](http://bgenergy.com) by selecting the Community Tab and choosing the Washington Youth Tour option. **Deadline to apply is February 28, 2020.**



Students in front of the nation's Capitol in Washington, D.C., from left, are Raegan Long, Anna Ortiz, Abbey Rodgers, Alyssa Crum, Regan Moore, Fielden Bechanan and Hallie Harrison. Photo: Tim Webb

## Brighten Christmas for someone you love

**M**ake the season brighter by giving a Blue Grass Energy gift certificate. It's easy. Call or come into your local BGenery office. Make a payment on the account which will be credited immediately. Then, you will be given the

BGenery gift certificate to give to the recipient.

This is a great gift for all ages. From the young adult just starting out to the grandparent that has everything. These certificates are available for purchase any time of the year.

*Electric Gift Certificate*

A gift in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ has been credited to your account.

This gift is from \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Account No. \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized by: \_\_\_\_\_

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**CHARITY PARTNER**

## KENTUCKY WOUNDED HEROES 12 DAYS OF GIVING



**FROM DEC. 2 THROUGH DEC. 17**—the first 12 business days in December—help us support those that have served us.

We are collecting gift cards/donations to help support the therapeutic trips these heroes take. They need:

- **GASOLINE GIFT CARDS**
- **CASH DONATIONS**
- **SUBWAY GIFT CARDS**
- **PREPAID VISA CARDS**



For further information and other opportunities to support this cause, visit [kentuckywoundedheroes.net](http://kentuckywoundedheroes.net).

Kentucky Wounded Heroes is a nonprofit organization that serves Kentucky's current and former members of the United States Armed Forces, sworn law enforcement, sworn firefighters, and sworn or affirmed EMS, that have been injured during combat operations or line-of-duty service. Their mission is to honor and empower the emotional wellness of these heroes through outdoor activities, programs and services that enable them to reconnect to nature's healing properties.

*Each year, Blue Grass Energy chooses a charity to work with for the year. We partner with a local nonprofit organization that benefits the communities in which we live and serve. Our fundraising efforts for the entire year go to that cause. This year, we are partnering with the Kentucky Wounded Heroes.*

## Be safe when decorating for Christmas

**T**his holiday season, keep safety first as you decorate your home with colored, shiny and blinking strands of lights.

Because old light cords can become brittle, inspect them for breaks and damage before using them, discarding the faulty strings.

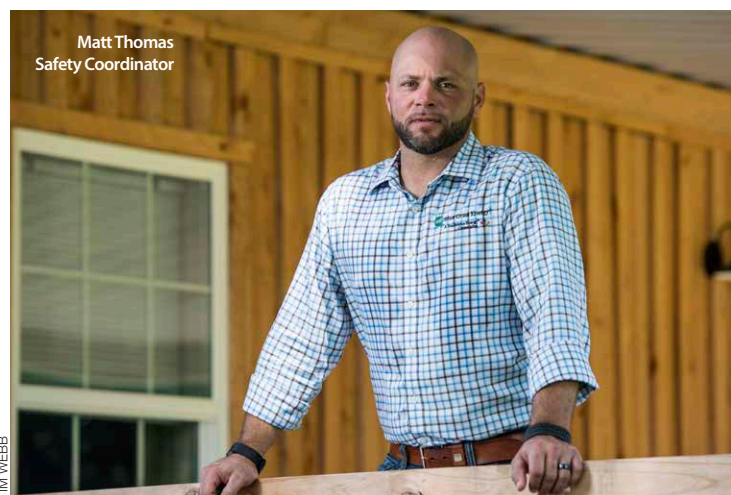
When hanging lights with a ladder, don't over reach. It's a good idea to have a second person anchoring the ladder, especially outside when working with an extension ladder. Many people receive care from hospital emergency rooms each year during the holidays due to falling off ladders while decorating.

To lower the risk of fire, LED lights are a good option for live and artificial trees because they stay cool to the touch.

Lights marked for outdoors may be used indoors, but indoor lights should not be used outdoors.

For added convenience and savings, use a timer to turn Christmas lights on in the evening and off before bedtime.

Blue Grass Energy wishes you and your family a safe and blessed Christmas season as you celebrate with family and friends.



Matt Thomas  
Safety Coordinator

TIM WEBB

Our offices will be closed Dec. 24-25 for Christmas and Jan. 1, 2020, for New Year's Day.