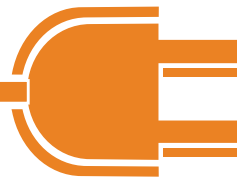


# Clark Energy Lines

A publication of Clark Energy Cooperative, Inc., proudly serving our members since 1938.



## Her Best Self



Michelle Rodgers, a resident of Clark County, waves to the crowd after being named 2009 America's Junior Miss. Michelle won preliminary awards for scholastics and self-expression on her way to the title. Story on page 4A.

Photo courtesy of America's Junior Miss

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Editor: Lois Hatton



A Truett-Hunt Energy Cooperative

[www.clarkenergy.com](http://www.clarkenergy.com)

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## From the President's Desk



### Rate Adjustment Proposed

On July 27, 2009, Clark Energy filed a letter of intent with the Kentucky Public Service Commission (PSC) to request a base rate increase. Although the economy is showing signs of improvement, the cost for Clark Energy to provide reliable electric service continues to rise. Data is being collected now to determine the exact amount of the increase. Once the proper paperwork is filed, and if approved, rates for Clark Energy customers will change effective on or about June 1, 2010.



**Paul G. Embs**  
President & CEO

Although the changes, if approved, won't take effect until next year, I feel as though it's my obligation to make you aware of exactly what is going on at Clark Energy. In today's economic uncertainty, we're finding ourselves changing our spending habits, driving less, eating at home more, and budgeting for every expense. That's why I'm making you aware of future events so households can start preparing.

Though rate increases and cost hikes have become all too familiar to all of us, Clark Energy has not had a base rate increase since 1993 and that was for 5%. Our power supplier, East Kentucky Power Cooperative, has had two base rate increases since 1983—2% in 2007 and 6% in 2009, which were passed on to you—our members. The majority of the increases members have seen on power bills have been due to rising costs of coal and natural gas to run power plants, purchased power, and costs to meet federal environmental regulations.

Clark Energy's application for a rate adjustment is based on several factors. Over the past few years, Clark Energy has seen a decrease in revenues due to milder weather patterns, loss or reduction of industrial loads because of the faltering economy, and steadily increasing operating expenses. Virtually all aspects of today's cost of living continue to rise, as do the costs of materials needed to provide you with the reliable electric service you have come to expect. Clark Energy also must maintain certain margins to meet the loan requirements



of Rural Utilities Service and Cooperative Finance Corporation, and maintain compliance with Kentucky PSC regulations.

I can assure you that Clark Energy works hard to plan and minimize potential issues that could escalate the cost of your electricity. However, there are times that unforeseen circumstances change or have the potential to change the stability of your cooperative, and unfortunately, this is one of those times.

Clark Energy remains committed to providing you with reliable, affordable, and environmentally responsible electric service. Our strategy in helping you better afford your monthly energy bill is working with you to reduce your usage. Please don't hesitate to contact us at (859) 744-4251 or (800) 992-3269 if you have questions or concerns. Please watch for information over the next several months as we work through the details.

## Lily May Ledford Festival Returns to Gladie

After a four-year hiatus, the Lily May Ledford Music & Heritage Festival returns to Gladie on Saturday, Sept. 12, to honor the legendary artist and her timeless music.

This year's festival includes a special concert, "Music in the Blood," featuring Lily May's descendants, Cari Norris (granddaughter) and Jim McGee (grandson-in-law), Barbara Greenlief (daughter), Bob Pennington (son), Jessie and James Pennington (grandchildren), and J.P. Pennington (son) of Exile.

Co-directors Greenlief and Anne MacFie "felt it was time to bring back the festival," said Greenlief. When she planned the first festival in 2004, Greenlief intended to make it an annual event, but her husband became ill the following spring.

With continuous Ledford-style mountain music from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., storytelling, craft demonstrations, and

children's programs, along with the special evening concert, the festival is sure to be an event you'll want to mark on the calendar.

After being discovered as a teenager, Lily May fronted the Coon Creek Girls, the country's first all-female string band, headlined the Renfro Valley Barn Dance, played for the King and Queen of England and President and Mrs. Franklin Roosevelt, and performed on Broadway, to name just a few of her accomplishments. Shortly after her death in 1985, Lily May won the revered National Heritage Award, presented by the National Endowment of the Arts.

Daytime activities will take place at the Gladie Cultural and Environmental Learning Center at Red River Gorge, and the evening concert will be held at the Natural Bridge State Park Activities Building.

Presented by Powell

County Tourism, the Kentucky Arts Council, the U.S. Forest Service, and Natural Bridge State Park, the festival is free to the community. For more information, visit

[www.lilymayledford.com](http://www.lilymayledford.com).

Lily May Ledford Music and Heritage Festival  
Saturday, Sept. 12  
11 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
Music, storytelling, and other activities  
Gladie Historic Site  
Red River Gorge

8 p.m.

"Music in the Blood" concert  
By Lily May's descendants  
Natural Bridge State Park

### Free To The Public

The festival is free to the public and everyone is invited to attend. There will be food and beverages available, but be sure to bring your own seating.

# Michelle Rodgers brings title of America's Junior Miss to Clark County

By Shanda Crosby

Windblown natural curls. A worn visor. A wayward leaf from a remote hiking trail.

Those who know Michelle Rodgers wouldn't be surprised to see any of these on her head.

But a crown? Not so much.

When Michelle, the classic non-pageant girl, was named America's Junior Miss in June, she was "crowned" with a medallion, not a tiara. For Junior Miss isn't a typical pageant. And likewise, Michelle Rodgers isn't a typical girl. A perfect fit, to be sure.

For the next year, the spirited, outdoorsy 2009 George Rogers Clark graduate will travel the nation as the 52<sup>nd</sup> America's Junior Miss. Learned, articulate, and dynamic, Rodgers is an ideal representative for AJM's famous tenet, "Be Your Best Self."

For Michelle is, indeed, an individual. The avid hiker, veteran stage performer, gifted actress, accomplished singer, and passionate champion of any cause in which she believes, takes "self

expression," a prominent Junior Miss catchphrase, to a whole new level. One conversation with Michelle would convince anyone that she'll not only reach any goal she sets forth, but make lots of friends along the way.

"Michelle has a way about her that is different," said Donna Fuller, Clark County Junior Miss chairperson. "She speaks her mind, whether you agree or not, and has a way that makes you want to hear more. She is also not your typical 'pageant girl.' Her ideal day would not be going to the mall and trying on dresses. Her ideal day would be backpacking with her family."

When she decided to participate in Clark County's Junior Miss program in the spring of 2008, Michelle had never attended a Junior Miss program nor seen a DVD of one. "When Michelle said she



Michelle Rodgers, a lifelong Clark Energy Cooperative member, was named America's Junior Miss this summer in Mobile, Alabama. She is the fourth Kentuckian to capture the prestigious honor. Junior Miss is a nationwide scholarship program that began in 1958. Michelle is shown here displaying her AJM medallion at her family's home on Athens-Boonesboro Road.

Photo by Shanda Crosby

wanted to be in Junior Miss," said mom Karen, "it was going to be just a fun thing to do."

And a way to possibly pick up a couple hundred dollars. "When I decided to do the local program, I was going for the scholastic award," Michelle recalled. "When I realized they gave away money for good grades, I thought, 'I wouldn't mind

\$100 to put toward college.”

Sixty-one thousand dollars in scholarship money later, Michelle shakes her head, grins her classic grin, and speaks of the whirlwind that’s been her life for the past 13 months.

“It’s so far from what I’m normally into,” she said, “but it’s been the adventure of a lifetime.”

Michelle won over the local judges in August of 2008, captured the state title among 31 girls in Lexington in January, then sailed through the 50-participant national competition in Mobile, Alabama, in June, to become the fourth Kentuckian to become America’s Junior Miss.

She spent the next week in New York, touring the city, and making official appearances, including an interview

on *Good Morning America* with former Kentucky Junior Miss Diane Sawyer. “I had never been to New York before and it was great,” Michelle said.

And the adventure has only just begun. Michelle’s first year as a theater and business major (she’ll add a Spanish minor next year) at Northwestern University in Chicago will include trips around the nation to represent the Junior Miss program. She’ll attend several state programs and make official appearances at various events as her school schedule allows.

Her charge is to help promote AJM’s Be Your Best Self program, which encourages young people to believe in themselves. Michelle has already begun working with Girl Scouts of America, the

Salvation Army, and the Boys and Girls Club organizations. The program includes five components: Be Healthy, Be Studious, Be Responsible, Be Ambitious, and Be Involved. “If those five things could be ingrained in each child automatically, our society would change dramatically,” said Michelle.

Though her AJM title has been an unexpected bonus, Michelle has had her college and career plans mapped out for quite some time. Upon graduation from Northwestern, she plans to spend some time working in Chicago’s vast theater community. She’d like to eventually “take a break from everything” and join the Peace Corps, then settle in a city about the size of Winchester and develop a community theater.

“I’d like to run an arts center that offers plenty of outlets for different types of art,” said Michelle. “I want to bring art to a community not as a trainer but a provider. People are talented. What they lack is an outlet. That’s what I want to provide.”

A lifelong performer, Michelle looks at “butterflies” differently than most people. “I get butterflies in the sense of ‘Let me out!’” she laughed. “I just have to be out on stage. I don’t get stage fright. I get stage excitement.”



During the talent portion of the national competition, Michelle charmed the audience with her version of *Taylor, the Latte Boy*.

Photo courtesy of America’s Junior Miss

(cont’d. on page 6A)

(cont'd. from page 5A)

It shows. Michelle charmed the audience at nationals during the talent portion of the program with her version of *Taylor, The Latte Boy*. She especially stood out during the onstage question portion in which participants draw a question randomly and have 30 seconds to respond, testing their ability to think on their feet with poise and eloquent expression.

Michelle says none of it could have been possible without the support of her family, parents Paul and Karen, sister Avicia and brother Eric, and Fuller, who Michelle said "has been my angel through this process."

"My mom is even less the pageant type than I am, but when I would say, 'Mom, I don't want to try anything else on,' she would encourage me and we would get through it together," said Michelle. "My dad would stay up late, even when he had to get up early, and help me get everything together. My brother and sister have been so supportive every step of the way."

Along with her family, eight people from Clark County made the trip to Mobile to support Michelle. "We may have been outnumbered in size, but we were never outnumbered in enthusiasm and excitement," Fuller said. "We became the 'WOO HOO' gang because any mention of Michelle onstage we would 'WOO HOO' as loud as

we could. Let's just say we were VERY proud of Michelle and wanted to have fun with her."

Fuller, longtime chairperson of the Clark County program, said it's a journey she hates to see end. "This journey with Michelle has been longer than most and I personally don't want it to end," said Fuller. "But life goes on and I am excited to see where her journey is going next. I am just blessed to have had this little detour with her."

Adds Buddy Hoskinson, Kentucky Junior Miss chairperson: "It has been a pleasure having Michelle represent the state of Kentucky as our Junior Miss. Michelle has the ability to touch so many lives over this next year. We are just proud of her."

Becky Jo Peterson, AJM's executive director, said Michelle's "individuality and passion" make her an ideal representative for the program. "Michelle is a small-town girl with big dreams and the determination to make them come true," Peterson said. "She is an individual who is not satisfied with the status quo and is willing to objectively look at the world, see what needs to be changed, and work to make it happen. Michelle is an excellent role model to young people seeking to find their own way, rather than conforming to peer pressure. Michelle is a bright and talented young

woman, and we are thrilled to have her representing us as our 2009 AJM."

For Michelle, it's been a year of self-discovery. "Every step of the way, I thought, 'This is fun, but it's kind of silly that I'm even here,'" she said. "I have learned not to ever doubt myself. There was always a layer of writing myself off. I have learned not to do that. There are things in store that you have no idea about."

With backpack replaced by medallion, if only temporarily, Michelle views the next year not as a celebration of laurels, but as a chance to make a difference. "More than anything else," she said, "I see it as a soapbox. This is what I'm standing on. I'm not really basking in the glory of it, but worrying that I'm not taking full advantage of the opportunity of it. It's not so much that I'm excited about what I did as I'm excited to do what I can do."



# Protect children and pets from electrical hazards

By Chris Grammes

Accidents around the home result in millions of injuries to the most vulnerable members of your family—young children and pets—each year. For example, approximately 2,400 children receive emergency room treatment annually for injuries caused by inserting objects into electrical receptacles, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC).

With a few precautions, these and other injuries can be avoided:

- Install tamper-resistant outlets that protect against small children inserting foreign objects into them. Simple plastic caps typically used can be easily removed by some children.
- Keep electrical cords tied up or out of sight.
- Unplug all appliances when they are not being used, such as

hair dryers or coffee makers.

- Keep appliances out of children's bathrooms.
- Teach children not to touch appliances when they have wet hands and to keep appliances away from water.
- Teach children other basic safety tips such as staying away from outlets and not touching electrical cords.

Some of the same tips apply to pets:

- Keep electrical cords away from cats and puppies who love to chew on them.
- Make sure nightlights and appliances are fully plugged in. Partially exposed prongs can be a temptation to curious critters.
- Keep halogen lamps away from pet play



areas. If knocked over, they could start a fire.

- Keep appliances in bathrooms away from water. Playful pets can knock radios or curling irons into water, creating a dangerous situation.
- Discourage cats and dogs from curling up for naps behind electric equipment such as computers.

*Chris Grammes writes on safety issues for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, VA-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.*

*Source: SafeElectricity.org*

Clark Energy's offices will be closed on Monday, September 7, in observance of Labor Day. Normal business operations will resume on Tuesday, September 8, at 8 a.m.

In the event of an emergency, please call (800) 992-3269.

learn the

LINGO

## What is an electric load?

It's the total customer demand for electric service at any given time. The operation of generating plants is coordinated closely with fluctuations in load. When demand reaches its maximum, it is called a peak load.

## Open up to energy savings with fiberglass doors

Sealing cracks and air leaks around your exterior doors isn't the only way to better insulate your entrance. What the door is made out of matters too.

Fiberglass doors can be made to look so much like wood you'll have a hard time telling yours isn't. The replacement is worth it, as manufacturers say fiberglass doors are three to seven times more energy efficient than traditional wood doors.

As an added benefit, fiberglass won't warp, split, or swell like wood doors can. That's why they usually come with a long warranty—between 10 and 25 years. You'd be lucky to get a one-year warranty on a wood door. And fiberglass can be stained, painted, or made to look just like wood.

Though steel doors are prone to denting, they offer another highly insulating alternative to wood, and usually cost less than fiberglass. When choosing the grade or materials of your next entrance door, weigh the benefits of efficiency, performance, and durability for your specific use.



### Did you know . . . ?

To deliver 42 kWh per day per person from wind for everyone in the United States would require wind farms with a total area roughly equal to the area of California, a 200-fold increase in United States wind power.

Source: Rural Electricity Resource Council