

Ripley Power and Light offices will be closed...

- Thursday-Friday, December 25-26, for Christmas
- Thursday, January 1, for New Year's Day
- Monday, January 19, for Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Monday, February 16, for Presidents' Day



Pay your bill online and more
... at ripleypower.com

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

Put Safety on your Christmas list

At Ripley Power and Light Company, safety is important all year round. The holidays, however, present extra challenges as many of us decorate our homes and businesses. This year, put safety on your to-do list.

■ **Indoors or outside, use only lights that have been tested for safety. Identify these by the label from an independent testing laboratory.**

■ **Check each set of lights, new or old, for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections. Discard damaged sets or repair them before using.**

■ **Fasten outdoor lights securely to trees, your house, walls or other firm support to protect from wind damage.**

■ **Before using lights outdoors, check labels to be sure they have been certified for outdoor use. To hold lights in place, string them through hooks or insulated staples — not nails or tacks. Never pull or tug lights to remove them.**

■ **Turn off all lights on trees and other decorations when you go to bed or leave the house. Lights could short and start a fire.**

■ **Use no more than three standard-size sets of lights per single extension cord.**

■ **Never use electric lights on a metallic tree. The tree can become charged with electricity from faulty lights, and any person touching a branch could be electrocuted.**

■ **Plug outdoor electric lights and decorations into circuits protected by ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). Portable GFCIs can be purchased wherever electrical supplies are sold.**

■ **Use caution when decorating near power lines. Contact with a high-voltage line is dangerous.**

Contact with electric equipment and power lines can cause injury and even death, says Mike Allmand, President and CEO of Ripley Power & Light. "After severe weather, if you see a power line down or other cables touching a power line or equipment, stay clear and call us immediately."

Source: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

Ripley

Winter 2014-2015

POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY

Ripley Power and Light supports students, college responds with lobby dedication

Amanda Adkerson, a recipient of a Ripley Power and Light scholarship, is thankful for the opportunity to continue her education so that she and her husband can provide a better life for their family.

She put her career on hold to help care for her niece and nephew, as well as her three children, who are 5, 8 and 11 years old. But she and her husband are dreaming about a better future now that she has been able to continue her education.

Through college students like Adkerson, Ripley Power and Light Company is investing in the future of the community by offering scholarships to Lauderdale County students at Dyersburg State Community College and the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Since the program started, Ripley Power and Light has given more than \$100,000 in scholarships.

Dyersburg State recently recognized the utility's generosity by naming the lobby of its newest building after Ripley Power and Light. The building, located in Covington, is the college's Jimmy Naifeh Student Center. More than 300 people attended the grand opening for the new building on September 30.

"This building, the largest at the college, houses a unique partnership in Tennessee — a college student center,



Students walk through the Ripley Power and Light Lobby in the new Jimmy Naifeh Student Center in Covington.

learning resource center and the Tipton County Public Library — under one roof, united to serve the growing student body ... and a large public library clientele," said Dyersburg State President Karen Bowyer.

"We're certainly honored to receive this recognition from Dyersburg State," said Mike Allmand, Ripley Power and

Light's President and CEO. "We believe in giving back to our community, and providing college scholarships is a great way to do this. It is our hope that these students find good jobs in our community. An educated workforce helps attract even more jobs to the community."

The student center attracts students with ping pong, foosball and pool. The library has more than 60,000 books and 69,000 electronic books, as well as 43 databases available to students at any time.

Other features include the Advanced Integrated Industrial Technology Lab, Learning Emporium with 78 computer workstations, the Peter Fyfe Genealogy Room and a children's library with the Rose Companies Children's Multi-Purpose Lab. Duke's Cafe is off of the Ripley Power and Light Lobby, and a performance area and a lab for recreation, health and physical fitness are outside.

Adkerson, meanwhile, was inducted recently into the Honor Society — an honor that she was thrilled to receive. Majoring in elementary education, she will graduate in May. She plans to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin in order to finish her

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E-Score: A new way to save money on electric bills begins December 1

Beginning December 1, Ripley Power and Light and TVA are replacing the In-Home Energy Evaluation program with a new and improved way for customers to become energy efficient — eScore.

eScore is a home improvement offer that provides homeowners with a simple path to making their homes as energy efficient as possible.

While working toward a score of 10 for their home, at a pace that they can afford, homeowners can earn rebates on qualified energy-efficiency upgrades. In other words, you will receive rebates to help offset the cost of making your home more energy efficient, which will save you even more money.



The best part of the program is that residents can participate in the program as many times as needed in order to achieve their home's best possible energy performance, said Mike Allmand, Ripley Power and Light's President and CEO.

"We're adopting the new program to benefit our customers."

Participants can register online or over the phone to get started. The participant can then choose a Quality Contractor Network member to do the work.

For complete information about the new program, visit www.ripleypower.com.

To register as a participant, call 855-237-2673 or visit www.2eScore.com.

A Top Performer: *The Tennessee Valley Authority recognized Ripley Power and Light as a Top Performer in energy savings for offering its customers the EnergyRight Solutions program, which helped customers become more energy efficient. Through partners like Ripley Power and Light, TVA said it was able to exceed its energy-savings goals for six years in a row. In 2013, the percentage of kilowatts-per-hour savings per sales for Ripley Power and Light was one of the highest percentages in the TVA network, making Ripley an excellent provider of inexpensive energy, TVA said. Denise Watts, TVA Regional Manager, presents the Top Performer Award to Mike Allmand, Ripley Power and Light's President and CEO, center, and Mike Demeris, Ripley's Energy Services Specialist.*



RPL helps students

Continued ...

bachelor's degree and possibly pursue her master's degree

"I was thankful to get the scholarship because now I don't have to take out any student loans, which I would have had to pay back later," Adkerson said. "Right now, we rent. We want to buy a house when I get out of school. Eventually, we will want to help our kids buy a car and pay for college. We want to help our kids as much as we can."

"We have been so excited to be a part of this project. It is an investment in the future of this entire area," Allmand said.



A look inside the Ripley Power and Light Lobby at Dyersburg State's student center in Covington.

Tree trimming program protects power lines and helps to prevent outages



Every year throughout the fall and winter months, the tree-trimming crew at Ripley Power and Light tackles large tree limbs that could potentially fall on power lines. It takes about one year for the crew to cover the entire system, but they are able to offer this service at no cost to the customer.

Many customers are afraid that cutting back the trees will cause the trees to die. But Odeus Kissell, the Operations Superintendent who has worked at Ripley Power and Light for 32 years, said there is no need to worry, and the service is important for the entire community.

"One branch hanging over a power line doesn't only affect one house," he said. "Many buildings may be on that circuit, such as the hospital or a nursing home."

In October, the crew began checking the main

lines and the lines connecting to the houses that Ripley Power and Light services. It is a tedious and dangerous process.

The crew must cut the larger branches into smaller chunks so that the branches can be easily moved. Ropes are tied around these smaller pieces to prevent them from falling on the power line that the crew is protecting. The trimming team throws the cut branches into a chipper that grinds them into sawdust.

"We prioritize the most dangerous situations," Kissell said.

"There are a lot of power lines with branches hanging over them every year. Cutting them back as much as possible is important to prevent future power loss."

"Although this isn't the main part of our business, we want to protect our power lines to keep the power on," Kissell said. "We cover the whole system, so be patient — we're coming."



Saving money by saving energy

The SRG Global plant in Ripley will be saving thousands of dollars in energy costs each year because it followed a suggestion from an energy survey sponsored by Ripley Power and Light and TVA.

The survey recommended that the company replace old air compressors with an energy-efficient air compressor.

Mike Demeris, Ripley Power and Light's Energy Services Specialist, presents an incentive check to Vance Brewster, Head of Maintenance at SRG Global.

The survey and incentive were offered through the EnergyRight® Solutions for Business and Industry.

