

Memories made in Washington, D.C.

by Debra Gibson Isaacs

MUSEUMS, MEMORIALS AND MEMORIES ALL PART OF WASHINGTON YOUTH TOUR

I had seen pictures of the memorials and museums in Washington, D.C.,” says Morgan Benton, “but I didn’t realize how big everything was. I felt small next to all that history.”

Benton, now a senior at Madison Southern High School in Berea, represented Blue Grass Energy during the 2022 Washington Youth Tour. The annual event gives high school juniors a chance to see history—and history makers, such as their senators and representatives—in person.

“We started at Thomas Jefferson’s house,” Benton recalls. “I didn’t know there was an original house being built from a blueprint. They knocked it down and started again after Mr. Jefferson made a trip to France. The new version had a lot more French influence, such as dome ceilings.”

For Benton, a history buff and future history teacher, the trip was a dream come true, one museum and one memorial at a time.

“We went to all kinds of museums—the African American Museum, and the National History Museum,” she recalls. “We also went to all kinds of memorials,

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Morgan Benton, front right, and a friend she made during youth tour, Jayma White, join the group walking to Christ Church to attend service. “I had never attended an Episcopal church service before and I was excited to experience it,” says Benton.

Photo: Tim Webb

Upcoming dates to remember:

Jan. 1 - Primary residence sales tax goes into effect (See page 26D)

Feb. 15 - Washington Youth Tour application deadline

May 31 & June 1 - Member Appreciation Days/Annual Meeting

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Rachel Settles, Editor



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Controlling costs is a priority

National Cut Your Energy Costs Day is Jan. 10, but at Blue Grass Energy this is a priority for us every day.

We are among 16 electric cooperatives that own East Kentucky Power Cooperative (EKPC), which operates the power plants that make the majority of your electricity. One of our top priorities—and theirs—is providing energy that is as affordable and reliable as possible.

Together, we are constantly looking for ways to save dollars on making and delivering your power. EKPC maintains a diversified portfolio of power plants using different fuels. Every hour of the day, EKPC determines what the most cost-effective way is to make the next increment of electricity, while keeping costs down.

EKPC is also a member of PJM, the world's largest power grid. Sometimes, it is more affordable to buy power from the grid than generate it at our own power plants. Being a part of PJM also helps maintain reliable service, providing options should the demand for electricity ever exceed our locally-generated supply.

Closer to home, we're taking steps to ensure continued reliability as well as the lowest possible cost of electricity. Our line technicians maintain existing lines, poles and electricity delivery infrastructure so they'll last longer. We keep vegetation trimmed away from power lines to prevent costly damage that falling trees can cause. In the office, we're adopting new practices and technologies that streamline work and reduce overhead.

We're also doing our part to help every member save on energy costs. Whether it's a virtual energy audit, a rebate on an air sealing, or providing simple tips to help you save money, we're here to help.

Controlling costs is something we're committed to every day and it's just one of the many ways we are making life better, the cooperative way.

By President/CEO
Michael I. Williams



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including the Lincoln Memorial, the Korean War Veterans Memorial and the Albert Einstein Memorial.”

At the Capitol, Morgan and her fellow students met with Sen. Mitch McConnell and Sen. Rand Paul as well as some of their representatives. “I was really impressed that our senators took time to talk to us. That gave me a good impression of how well represented we are in Washington.”

Along the way, Benton met a lot of new friends among the 60 other high schoolers from Kentucky.

“Some of us still keep in touch,” she says. “They told us we were going to make friends, but I didn’t expect to make so many.”

The next stop on Benton’s life tour is a college degree in history. Then she hopes to teach. Until then, she enjoys playing tennis with her high school tennis club and baking muffins and cookies.

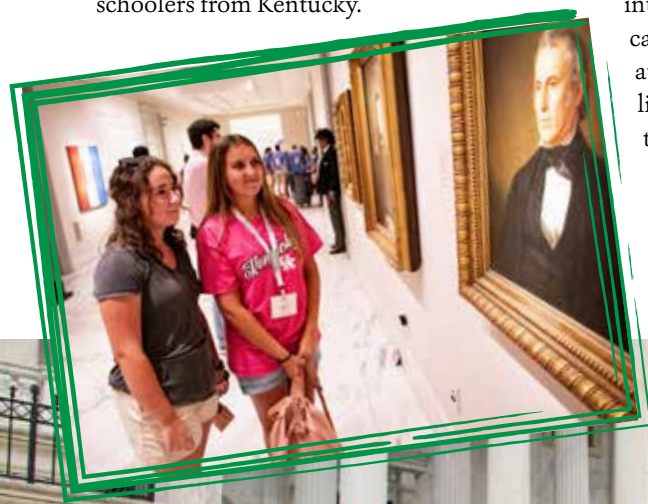
Preparations are underway for the 2023 Washington Youth Tour. If you know a high school junior who is interesting in applying, applications are available online at bgenery.com. The deadline is earlier this year, so be sure to apply by February 15.



Youth tour participants Morgan Benton and Jayma White pause for a selfie while exploring Washington, D.C.

Left, Benton and White tour the National Portrait Gallery. “We had no idea how large the Portrait Gallery was,” says Benton.

The Kentucky youth tour delegates with Congressman Brett Guthrie at the U.S. Capitol. Photos: Tim Webb



Primary residence sales tax exemption

ACT NOW TO CLAIM YOUR KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE PRIMARY RESIDENCE SALES TAX EXEMPTION

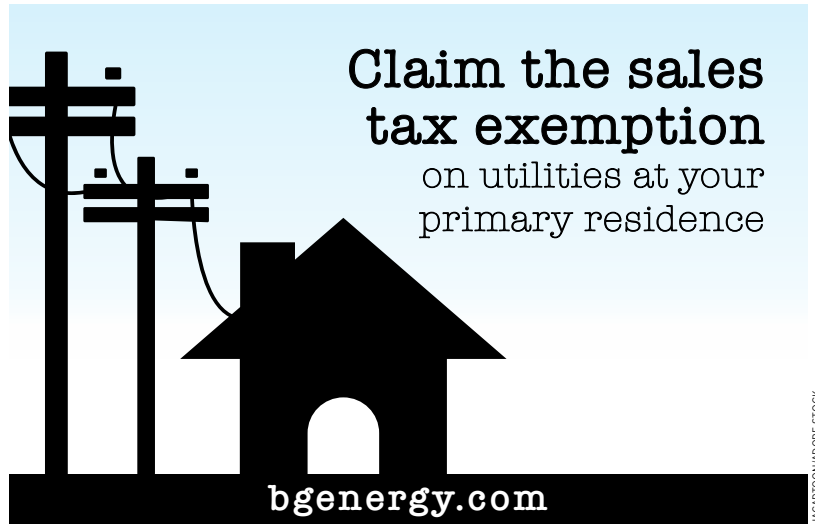
Co-op members need to take action. To help our members navigate recent changes to Kentucky's sales tax laws, Blue Grass Energy is launching a public awareness campaign.

Beginning January 1, 2023, the Kentucky Department of Revenue will only exempt a person's "domicile" (primary residence) from sales tax on utility services, including electric bills.

Blue Grass Energy is one of 26 electric cooperatives in Kentucky that work together to advocate for electric co-op members. These efforts have helped protect the long-standing sales tax exemption for residential energy bills. Though this sales tax exemption remains in place for electric use at a primary residence, Kentucky will begin imposing a sales tax on other properties as of January 1, 2023.

To make sure the sales tax is not mistakenly applied to the electric bill of their primary residence, co-op members need to act. All members who have a meter(s) in their name need to declare which meter(s) are associated with their primary residence.

Available at the Kentucky Department of Revenue website, and by scanning the QR code, the primary residence sales tax exemption form allows utility customers to declare whether the address listed on their electric bill is their primary residence. A second form from the department is available for landlords with multiple tenants at a



JACARTOON/ADBE STOCK

single-metered property. Both forms can also be accessed through bgenergy.com.

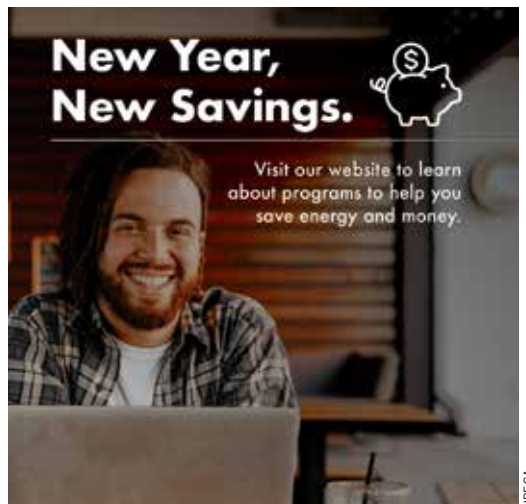
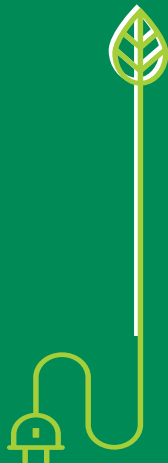


For more information, members are encouraged to contact the Kentucky Department of Revenue at (502) 564-5170.

Please complete and sign the form and send it to: memberservice@bgenergy.com. Members can also mail it to Blue Grass Energy, P.O. Box 990, Nicholasville, KY 40340-0990, or drop it by any local BGEnergy office.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Energy bills can increase during winter for a variety of reasons, like house guests, more time spent at home, and shorter days and longer nights. Small actions, like replacing old bulbs with LEDs and washing clothes in cold water can help you save.



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