



From the Manager's Desk

MICHAEL SWAN, PRESIDENT/CEO

Woodruff Electric announces virtual youth experience winners

Gracen Hylle, an upcoming senior at Wynne High School, and Andretti Shears, Jr., an upcoming senior at Central High School, participated in the 2021 Arkansas Virtual Youth Experience held last month.

Gracen and Andretti were the winners of an essay-writing contest, which qualified each of them for the Virtual Youth Experience. The virtual experience was held June 18 and 21-25 on a videoconferencing platform and included presentations, "icebreaker" activities, learning about nonprofit agencies, cooperative 101 and local public service projects. Students planned and organized public service projects, which were submitted for a chance to win a \$5,000 scholarship through the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas.

Gracen and Andretti were awarded laptops and backpacks for their participation in the event. This virtual experience was held in place of the annual Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C., that is hosted by the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas (ECA) and NRECA.

The tour was canceled due to the pandemic. Woodruff Electric, along with the ECA has hopes to resume the in-person tour to the nation's capital next year.



Gracen Hylle



Andretti Shears, Jr.



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PEAK HEAT DAY ALERT

Avoid running the dishwasher during peak energy use hours.



Happy 4th of July

The offices of Wooddruff Electric will be closed Monday, July 5th, in observance of Independence Day.

Have a safe and happy holiday with friends and family!

Behind the lines at Woodruff Electric

Employee Spotlight: Justin Miller

Title: Working Foreman

Department: District 1 - Augusta

How long have you been working at WECC? 18 years as a full-time employee.

Did you work in other positions or at other companies before this position? This is my first full-time job, but before working here, I worked for my parents.

How would you explain your job to someone else? I manage a construction crew on a day-to-day basis. Our work consists of building powerlines and changing out poles, building services to houses and upgrading powerlines.

What does a normal day at work look like for you? I ensure power stays supplied to irrigation wells and build new electric services to homes, businesses and irrigation wells. There are so many different “seasons” throughout the year that keep my daily work changing and always different. I assist working power outages, and it is always a little bit of everything all day long. I always want to make sure my crew gets home safe to their families at the end of the day.

What is the best part of your job? I enjoy working with my construction crew and being around people that feel like family and that are my close friends. Also, I enjoy meeting the members that I work with in the community.

What is the biggest challenge you face in your job? I always have a feeling of concern when I am training new employees. I want them to learn everything possible and have the right attitude.

Is there something you would like people in other departments or people outside WECC to know about your job? It is very similar to being in a manager position. You are always managing your time and leading others daily. Crew members will look up to you, reflect what you do and copy your attitude and work ethic.

Who is your family? My wife, Jennifer, and I have been married for 17 years and have a 15-year-old daughter, Kenzie.

What are some of your favorite hobbies? I enjoy hunting, fishing and watching my daughter play softball.

What is your favorite food? Steak.

Is there any food you will not eat? Pretty much any type of seafood.

What is your trademark cliché or expression? I have many, but “If there is a will, there is a way,” is one of my favorites.

If I’ve learned one thing in life, it’s: To be a good person, do the right thing and be honest.

One thing on my bucket list is: I would like to travel the world a little more.

What would you say about your experience working for WECC? It’s been a great place to work, and I appreciate the opportunity. I have learned a lot during my 18 years here, including making a lot of close friends that feel like family to me.

