

Employee of the Month - April 2017

Buster Roy

Each month Pointe Coupee Electric highlights one of its valued employees. The cooperative understands the importance of its member/owners getting to know the people who are instrumental in providing quality electric services. (Acct. No. 2127300)



This month Pointe Coupee Electric introduces Buster Roy to its member owners. Since 2003 Buster has worked the 1098 miles of Pointe Coupee Electric lines. Buster, a Right of Way Worker, is currently responsible for keeping power lines free of limbs, vines and other obstructions. Buster enjoys working with his fellow coworkers and the cooperative members. He likes to stay busy and likes the feeling of accomplishment by the end of the workday.



We Need Your Info

Pointe Coupee Electric will soon be implementing a new system to keep you our members better informed. It's called One Call Now! This system will allow us to notify you about large power outages, scheduled outages and other important notifications from the Coop via phone call, text and/or email.

You should have received a card in your March billing requesting your updated contact information. Please be sure to fill out this card and return it with your monthly electric bill. Or you can drop it off at our office at 2506 False River Drive in New Roads. If you prefer to submit your information electronically, visit our website at www.PCEMC.org and click on the "We Need Your Info" icon on the home page.

Please provide us with your updated information as soon as possible.

Look for your lucky account number on pages 6-7

If you see your account number published this month on inside pages 6-7 of this issue of LOUISIANA COUNTRY, call Pointe Coupee Electric by the last business day of the month to receive a \$25 credit on your bill! Contact us at (225) 638-3751 or (800) 738-7232. Your account number can be found on your bill statement. Winning account numbers will only be listed on the inside, centerfold pages.

Pointe Coupee Electric News



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Killing Fields offers a peek behind the crime fighting scene

When the Hollywood TV producers first came poking around the Iberville Parish Sheriff's Department to talk about creating a new reality show, they were roundly rebuffed.

After all, there were crimes to solve, perpetrators to pursue, evidence to collect, arrests to be made. Besides, these South Louisiana law enforcement officers signed up to protect and serve the public, not become celebrity fodder for the paparazzi.

But the producers persisted, and eventually the department's leaders reconsidered.

Just maybe, they reasoned, this national TV show could help them achieve their goals. Maybe it could help reveal to the public just how painstaking and arduous it is to actually solve a crime.

Maybe it would engender more respect for those who wear the badge and put themselves in harm's way to protect members of the community. Maybe it would allow folks to see that law enforcement officers are people, too.

So the department eventually got on board with the idea and the result is two hit seasons of Killing Fields on the Discovery Channel. Negotiations are underway for a third season, but according to Maj. Ronnie Hebert, what will not be part of those negotiations is monetary compensation for the show's cast. (Acct. No. 581703)

"People think we're getting rich off this, but I tell everybody that all of us combined, we get paid this much," Hebert says, pressing his thumb and forefinger together in the form of a big, emphatic zero.

But that doesn't mean the community has nothing to gain. Neither the department nor the officers get paid for their screen time, however the production company does make contributions to local non-profits and charitable organizations in the department's name.

The production company, Sirens Media, has also paid for sending Det. Lori Morgan across the country for mitochondrial DNA analysis training.

Even though Hebert affirms that this project has never been about money or fame, he said by far the greatest benefit of making the effort to do the show is the good will within the community the series generates.

According to Hebert, the popularity of the program has been a boon in terms of boosting public trust and the increasingly positive perception of law enforcement.

PCEMC's 2017 Scholarship Winners

Pointe Coupee Electric announced the 2017 winners of the continuing education scholarships at its 78th Annual Membership Meeting earlier this year. A \$1,000 scholarship is awarded each year to a graduating senior from each of the three parishes that Pointe Coupee Electric serves.

Winning the Pointe Coupee Parish scholarship is Alexandra Jarreau of Livonia High School of Pointe Coupee. Alexandra is the daughter of Kirk Jarreau of Maringouin. Alexandra plans to attend LSU in the fall and major in Microbiology.

The Iberville Parish scholarship winner is Sydney Neal of MSA-West. Sydney is the daughter of Doris Kinnie of Maringouin. Sydney plans to attend college in the fall and major in English.

Winning the West Baton Rouge Parish scholarship is Gabrielle Mitchell of Port Allen High School. Gabrielle is the daughter of Richard and Tasha Mitchell of Bueche. Gabrielle plans to attend LSU in the fall and major in Electrical Engineering.

The board of directors, management and staff of Pointe Coupee Electric extend congratulations to each of these very deserving students. (Acct. No. 1517800)



Jarreau



Mitchell



Neal



"This really has enhanced our reputation in the community. People are developing a different attitude about us," he said. "They seem to trust us more and we get a lot more phone calls giving us information. They get to see that we are people just like them who care about the community and we're not just interested in locking people away. They seem to appreciate the fact that we're putting ourselves in harm's way to protect them."



Aubrey St. Angelo, a young officer who receives a lot of screen time in the show, shared a story about a recent encounter with a parish inmate who was part of a crew picking up trash near a parking lot.

"He came up to me and said he wanted to shake my hand," St. Angelo recalled. "I wasn't sure what he was up to, but he just said he wanted to shake my hand and thank me for finally solving his brother's case. That's

very humbling to me."

All the officers agree they've noticed a better rapport with the community since the show premiered.

They also agree on something else: they were disappointed by failing to crack the case of Eugenie Boisfontaine, a young woman residing in Baton Rouge who was murdered 18 years ago and her body dumped in a remote bayou. The case was the focus of the show's first season.

While investigators suspected Boisfontaine's murder was linked to convicted serial killer Derrick Todd Lee, the case remains unresolved.

"One of our fears was that we wouldn't be able to



solve the crime. It still bothers us that we weren't able to solve this case in that first season. But that doesn't mean we've given up," Hebert said.

In fact, taped to the wall behind St. Angelo's desk is a copy of a poster that was widely circulated years ago seeking information in the Boisfontaine case.

Aside from the serious nature of their work, Hebert and his detectives also had another concern before agreeing to do the show: "We didn't want them to make us out like we were a bunch of hicks who don't know what they're doing," Hebert said. (Acct. No. 125902)

Fortunately, that hasn't been the result of this project and the department is pleased with the results.

As the officers wait to hear whether the lights and cameras return to their work areas for a third season of filming, Hebert said he doesn't spend much time pondering what the future holds in terms of television exposure.

"We enjoyed doing the show," he said, "but if we never do another one, we'd be okay with that, too."

Whether You're a Homeowner or Excavator,

ALWAYS CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

It's the law!



Louisiana One Call is a free service to help you dig safely. They will notify Pointe Coupee Electric so that we can mark nearby underground facilities and help protect you from injury and expense.

Pointe Coupee Electric reminds you that the next time you are planning to landscape, make an addition to an existing building or building a new structure, dial 811 before you dig! You can also visit call811.com for more information.

225-638-3751 or 800-738-7232
www.pcemc.org



Pointe Coupee Electric wishes everyone a safe and happy Memorial Day holiday. Our office will be closed on Monday, May 29. A dispatcher will be on duty if there is an emergency or outage.

(225) 638-3751 or 800-738-7232
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PCEMC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



ELECTRIC CO-OPS are committed to keeping members and employees SAFE.

May is National Electrical Safety Month

plug into safety

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Keep warm summer air outside where it belongs! Add caulk and weatherstripping to seal air leaks around leaky doors and windows.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy

YOUR COOPERATIVE CONNECTION

LOUISIANA

POINTE COUPEE ELECTRIC NEWS
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COUNTRY

**Killing Fields series gives the public
a peek behind the crime fighting scene**

