

Tennessee CONNECTIONS

FALL 2022 | CUSTOMER FOCUSED ⚡ COMMUNITY DRIVEN

Investing in our Communities

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A Visit to JSK
Performance Horses

PHOTO BY
JOHNATHAN KISSELL





The story of Amora Rose and her nine puppies ends happily

A pregnant, stray dog wandering outside in cold weather caught the attention of Ripley Power and Light Company employees, who helped turn a potentially sad story into a heartwarming tale.

In February 2021, employees spotted a dog wandering near their building. It was obvious the small border collie mix was pregnant and had no food or water, but she would not allow anyone to approach her. Employees placed food and water outside but were unable to gain her trust.

Concerned for her safety as the weather turned sharply colder, employees called animal control, whose officers were also unable to contain the dog.

That's when Patricia Moore stepped in. Moore is founder of Friends of Lauderdale County Animal Shelter—a volunteer-based group that promotes spaying and neutering of pets and assists in finding fellow rescue groups and forever families for the area's overwhelming number of homeless animals.

She received a text message alerting her to the stray dog and helped get the dog to the Lauderdale County Animal Shelter the night before a snowstorm hit.

"Animals at the shelter are either picked up as strays and never reclaimed, or surrendered by their owners for all kinds of reasons," Moore said. "It's almost never the animal's fault, but they pay the price

for our irresponsible behavior."

The pregnant dog now had a name: Amora Rose. Not wanting the puppies to be born under the stress at the shelter, Moore took Amora to her home.

She had already contacted the nonprofit Stray Network Animal Rescue, which agreed to accept Amora and her soon-to-be-born puppies. Two days later, Amora safely delivered nine puppies.

A foster family volunteered to house Amora and her puppies until they were fully weaned, vaccinated and adopted into loving families.

However, the story does not end there. Recently, Moore received an update and pictures of a reunion between Amora and a few of her now 18-month-old offspring.

They are all happy and loved, Moore said, noting Amora and her puppies were lucky because the staff at Ripley Power and Light set off a chain of events that kept Amora and her puppies from suffering alone on the streets of Ripley.

"It really made me proud to know that our community worked together and helped make that happen," Moore said. "Sadly, Amora's plight is not uncommon. There aren't enough good homes or foster families to go around." ■

To donate, volunteer or adopt a pet, visit the Facebook pages of Lauderdale County Animal Shelter, the Friends of the Lauderdale County Animal Shelter or call 836-PETS (7387).



Amora Rose, some of her puppies and their mistressess gather for a reunion.



Investing in our Communities From the cover ...

The number of transformers, poles, lines and other infrastructure in each of its communities determines how much Ripley Power and Light Company pays in lieu of taxes to the communities.

"As a public utility, we're actually exempt from paying taxes," said Mike Allmand, president and CEO of Ripley Power and Light Company. "Instead, we pay in lieu of taxes. We're not required to do so, but we believe in helping our communities grow and succeed."

The annual in-lieu-of-tax payment made at the end of the fiscal year each summer is one of many investments the electric utility makes.

Other investments include working with TVA, state and regional groups to foster economic growth; giving scholarships to students at Dyersburg State Community College and the University of Tennessee at Martin-Ripley Center; maintaining street and traffic lights for Ripley, Halls, Henning and Gates; and working with communities to install outdoor lighting in public areas. ■

Ripley Power and Light's 2022 In-Lieu-of-Tax Payments

Lauderdale County:	\$115,365.37
Town of Ripley:	\$368,417.55
Town of Halls:	\$20,448.88
Town of Henning:	\$5,299.68
Town of Gates:	\$3,203.40



Do we have your number? **ALL** of your numbers?

✓ STEP ONE:

Update all phone numbers in your household: landlines and cellphone numbers.

Call 731-635-2323 or visit ripleypower.com under the "Report an Outage" tab.

✓ STEP TWO:

Save our number — 888-655-1841 — in your cellphone.

To opt in, text #RIPLEY to 888-655-1841.

You will receive the message, "Welcome to Ripley Power and Light's text msg service ..."

The next time you have an outage, just text #OUT to 888-655-1841.

Ripley Power and Light's Outage Management system will know your location, and we immediately will begin efforts to locate the cause of the outage and restore your power.

‘Do What’s Right By the Horse’

Johnathan and Stacie Kissell of Gates own JSK Performance Horses, where they breed and train horses for people across the country

When Operations Superintendent Johnathan Kissell is not working to keep the electric system reliable and safe, he most likely is training a colt in the round pen at his Gates farm.

Johnathan and his wife, Stacie, own JSK Performance Horses. They breed, train and sell cow horses to farms and ranches across the country.

Johnathan is a “colt starter”—a trainer who gives young horses the best start possible. It takes patience and time. Johnathan works with each colt for two years before the horses are old enough for a saddle and rider. He is often the first rider on the horses.

The Kissells believe in going slow, “to always do what’s right by the horse,” Stacie said. “We rope them and work them until they tell us they are ready for the next step. Johnathan doesn’t like for me to call him a horse whisperer, but he has a gift for working with horses that not many people have.”



Johnathan rides Scarlet. He trained her from a problematic 2-year-old to become an accomplished roping horse.



Stacie and Johnathan Kissell live on a 46-acre farm in Gates.

A Passion for Horses

Stacie bought the 46-acre farm in Gates in 2016. She and Johnathan met at a feed store and married in 2019.

She works as a licensed practical nurse, but her devotion to horses started early in life.

Stacie got her first horse when she was 9 years old, went on trail rides and has shown horses since then.

“I started breeding horses in 2010 with the purchase of my stallion,” she said. “Breeding and raising colts are my passion.”

Johnathan has been training horses for 36 years. He enjoys the challenge.

“I like to see how far I can get a colt in 30 days,” he said.

Johnathan said he often is asked to train problematic and abused horses.

Scarlet’s Story

One of those is Johnathan’s horse, Scarlet. Stacie bought Scarlet at 2 years old for her husband.

“Scarlet was only halter broke at the time,” Stacie said. “She is a beautiful little mare who had a big scar on her side. Where there is a scar, there is a story.

“Thing is, horses can’t tell us what happened to them. We have to be patient and let them slowly tell us. Long story short, Scarlet had some trust issues.

“Johnathan took his time, and as she began to trust him, great things happened. Scarlet is now a finished rope horse.”

Scarlet most likely would have had a different fate without patient training, Johnathan said.



ABOVE: Johnathan trains Repeat, a young horse. **BELOW:** Stacie rides Chip in the arena.



Johnathan and Stacie say they are still learning. "We both feel extremely fortunate that we have had mentors in our lives that have taught us so very much about horses and the industry," Stacie said. "Sam Davis, for example, taught us about all things horse and equine reproduction, and Gordon Turner taught us to look at the pedigree, all the way back, and how to feed a horse to make him look his best." Stacie traveled to Texas to learn more about breeding from a friend. Johnathan went to horse competitions to learn and watch the experts. "We could ramble on for days about our love for horses," Stacie said. ■

To learn more about JSK Performance Horses, visit the company's Facebook page, where Stacie posts updates on their horses.

Fall Back on November 6

Daylight saving time originated to save resources and extend the workday.

In the past four years, 19 states have enacted legislation or passed resolutions pushing for permanent daylight saving time nationwide.

The U.S. Senate unanimously passed the Sunshine Protection Act on March 15, just days after clocks were adjusted to spring forward. The act would abolish clock changes and make daylight saving time permanent in the U.S. starting in November 2023.

According to a recent poll, nearly two-thirds of Americans want to stop the twice-per-year clock change. The decision by the Senate is promising, but the bill is stalled in the House of Representatives, which faces more immediate pressing issues.

Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour on SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6.





RIPLEY POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY

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Ripley Office
731-635-2323
150 S. Main St.

Halls Office
731-836-7595
409 S. Church St.

Office Hours

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 bill:

- At www.ripleypower.com.
- Through bank draft.
- At our Ripley & Halls offices.
- In the office night deposit boxes.
- At the kiosks at our offices.

If you have not been receiving your bills, call our office immediately so we can verify your mailing address.



Ripley Power and Light offices will be closed:

Friday, November 11,
for Veterans Day

Thursday, November 24, and
Friday, November 25,
for Thanksgiving

TN-200



Hunting Season Starts Soon

- ▶ Never use power poles to support a tree stand.
- ▶ Be sure of your target and what lies beyond it.
- ▶ Always identify your target before putting your finger on the trigger.
- ▶ Be conscious of power lines in the hunting area.