Alcoa Electric dispatches crew to help ravaged town of Mayfield

BY STEVE WILDSORTH

They rolled out before dawn on Wednesday, with a line-up from the City of Alcoa Electric Department, destined for the devastated town of Mayfield, Kentucky. The crew, said Electric Department Director Dan Trentham, will spend the week restoring power to one of the hardest hit areas of western Kentucky’s severe weather. It’s part of an agreement between utilities that displaced power in the Tennessee Valley Authority. Trentham added, but it’s also a mission made up of volunteers.

“IT’S TIME that we replace our lights on the football field,” Trentham said. “In this industry, not only is there a close brotherhood of lineman in our own organization, there’s just a yearning to want to help neighboring utilities get their lights back on. Our guys take great pride in their work, and they’re more than willing to go out and help a community in need.”

Maryville High School’s footprint is getting a $168,459 upgrade to its lights next year. Monday from Cooper Lighting Solutions to replace the stadium of 50 foot-candles of lighting regulations call for an average of 80 foot-candles of lighting on the field.

A “lot of high schools, and we’d be one of them, are running around 25, if that,” Winstead said. Cooper has been doing the lighting for Knox County, the University of Alabama and University of Georgia, he said, and Maryville officials saw the type of system they are buying at Hardin Valley.

“Using existing poles and cross bars, Cooper in the spring will place the new LED lights to illuminate the field and behind the visitor seating and concession area. Currently Maryville has LED lighting only at its track. In Knoxville for the second phase of work, in 2021, they are doing a complete ventilation and air conditioning system at Montgomery Ridge Intermediate School, which will replace classroom units.

Because bids came in higher, Maryville City Schools will make the second and third rounds of the federal Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief Funding and cover the difference with money from its general purpose fund.