



Tri-County
EMC

CURRENT LINES

FEBRUARY 2024

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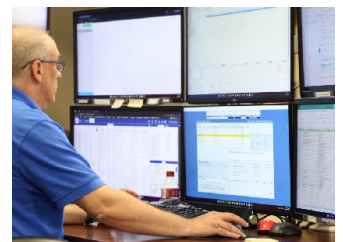
RESTORING A POWER OUTAGE

“How long is it going to take?” Those are familiar words to all who work in the power industry. Electricity is a luxury we often don’t realize we’re taking for granted until we are suddenly expected to live without it. While it may seem like a simple process to replace a few poles and re-attach the lines, safely restoring power after an outage takes time.

Electricity travels a great distance and goes through several steps to get to your home or business. Large generation plants use renewable and non-renewable energy resources to produce power. From there, electricity flows through transmission lines and is then distributed to the substations that run electricity from the power lines to your home. Tri-County EMC is responsible for maintaining the lines and equipment on its distribution system. In the cooperative’s eight-county service territory, nine substations power over 2,800 miles of line bringing electricity to over 23,000 meters. During an outage, it’s all hands on deck and Tri-County employees are working round-the-clock to get the lights back on. Below is a condensed outlook of the restoration process from start to finish. (80325001)

OUTAGE COMMUNICATION

On an abnormally windy evening, you are about to settle down for an evening meal with your family in your home, and the lights flicker off. Out your window you see that your neighbors have also lost electricity. Remembering that you are enrolled in Tri-County EMC’s texting service, you text ‘OUT’ to 85700 to report the outage.



Sr. Control Center Operator
dispatching information

Continued on Page 2



LINEMAN SCHOLARSHIP

Applications due April 15

Like many trades, being an electric lineman is not just an occupation, but a tradition and way of life. To honor the trade that is the backbone of our business, Tri-County EMC established the Lineman Scholarship Program in 2022.

Each year, Tri-County EMC awards a \$3,000 scholarship to an individual interested in becoming an electric lineman. The scholarship money will be used to complete the lineman training program through the Technical College System of Georgia. Applications are judged by a panel of Tri-County EMC linemen and retirees.

QUALIFICATIONS

To qualify, applicants must have received a high school diploma in Jones, Putnam, or Baldwin Counties OR have received a GED and currently reside in Jones, Putnam, or Baldwin Counties in Georgia. Applicants do NOT have to reside in a home served by Tri-County EMC.

Tri-County EMC is grateful to be able to invest in a local student who in turn will make a contribution to the future of the electric industry. Individuals interested in becoming a lineman can complete or download an application online at tri-countyemc.com/linemanscholarship.cms.

If you have questions, contact Anna Smith at annas@tri-countyemc.com or 478.986.8126.

RESTORING A POWER OUTAGE

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CREW DISPATCHED

As the storm moves across Tri-County EMC's distribution system, outage reports are coming in regularly. Since there are multiple outages system-wide, crews will start by repairing those power lines and equipment that will restore power to the greatest number of people. Your area has been hit the hardest, so work will begin there.

IDENTIFYING THE DAMAGE

Outages are caused in a number of ways. In this scenario, a tree has fallen across a main distribution line, resulting in loss of power for a large number of homes and businesses. Due to the danger of energized lines and a dark working environment, Tri-County EMC linemen must exercise extreme caution and identify all potential hazards before beginning repair.



Downed lines caused by severe weather back in January

RESTORING POWER

Now that the appropriate safety procedures have been completed, our dedicated linemen gear up for the work to begin. Fortunately, no wires were damaged when the tree fell, however, they are now pinned to the road. The tree must be chopped and cleared from the lines. This step takes time as it must be completed with special care and awareness. In the meantime, new material is arriving to replace the equipment that was broken from impact. While waiting for your power to be restored, you can view a live outage map on your mobile device of Tri-County's service territory at tri-countyemc.com/view-outage-map.cms.

Once the debris is cleared, a lineman will be lifted in a bucket truck to replace any damaged pole equipment. When this step is done, the wire can be lifted and re-attached. After a few hours, work is complete, and your power is safely restored. Keep in mind this is just one scenario; each outage varies in time for restoration. Mother Nature can be unpredictable, but as a member of Tri-County EMC, you can feel confident knowing we're standing by, ready to restore power as quickly and safely as possible.

POTENTIAL FOR INTERNET OUTAGES

Tri-County EMC's first priority is getting the power back on, but internet outages are also a possibility during severe weather. Hopefully your lack of connection is just a result of loss of power. If power is restored and you still have no internet connection or you see damage to fiber lines, be sure to report the outage to Tri-CoGo's 24-hour tech support line at 1.844.662.7570. Tri-CoGo is Tri-County EMC's fiber affiliate providing internet service to members.

TRI-COUNTY EMC AWARDS 27 EDUCATION GRANTS TO LOCAL TEACHERS

In January, Tri-County EMC awarded 27 teachers in Jones, Putnam, Baldwin, and Jasper Counties with education grants totaling \$30,000. Outside judges blindly evaluated the 35 applications that were submitted for innovation, goals, objectives, student involvement, and budget. Some of the newly funded projects include goals of tracking the embryonic growth of chicks during incubation, acquiring equipment to help students establish their own podcasts, and even introducing the arts of sewing and quilting in the classroom. With the help of Bright Ideas Education Grants, hundreds of students will benefit from innovative learning experiences brought forth by their teacher's dedication to the education community.



Since 2008, Tri-County EMC has provided more than \$300,000 in grants to local schools. Funded by unclaimed capital credits, the grants help teachers improve education in their classrooms through innovative projects that would otherwise not be funded. Georgia certified public or private school teachers in grades Pre-K through 12th Grade in Baldwin, Jones, Putnam, Jasper, Twiggs, and Wilkinson Counties qualify to apply. (84859001)

A full list of winning projects can be found at tri-countyemc.com, or the Tri-County EMC Facebook page. For more information about Bright Ideas grants, visit tri-countyemc.com/bright-ideas.cms.



Heather Jackson | Gray Elementary School



Mary Ashley McCue | Lakeview Primary School



Rebekah Esau | Putnam County High School

FIBER INTERNET NOW AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS IN ZONE 26 AND 27

Tri-County EMC members living in Zones 26 and 27 can now enjoy fast and reliable internet service at their home or business from the cooperative's subsidiary, Tri-CoGo. Zones 26 and 27 include portions of areas near Highway 44, Dance Road, Lower Harmony Road, Godfrey Road, and Monticello Highway. To view a list of zones and schedule, visit tri-cogo.com/service-areas/.

Tri-CoGo offers residential plans at \$54.95 per month for 250 MBPS and \$84.95 per month for a gig. Unsure of which plan to choose? No sweat! Tri-CoGo's Customer Success Team is local and can assist you in finding the best plan for your home to create your best internet experience. Included with each plan is a router and easy-to-use mobile app that will help you manage your network and all of its connected devices. Gone are the days of arguing with your family over which devices are hogging the most bandwidth capacity. Tri-CoGo's service is 100% fiber-optic from the pole to your home, leaving no room for buffering.





RECIPE BOX

HONEY BUN CAKE

Courtesy of Cathy Goodwin of Millegdeville

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 box of yellow cake mix
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 2 cup powdered sugar
- 3/4 cup oil
- 1 tbsp. cinnamon
- 4 tbsp. milk
- 4 eggs
- 1 tbsp. vanilla
- 8 oz. sour cream

DIRECTIONS:

Mix cake mix, oil, eggs, and sour cream by hand in about 50 strokes. Put half the batter in a greased 9 x 13 inch pan. Combine brown sugar and cinnamon and spread over entire cake, then spread the rest of the batter on top. Use a knife to make swirls in the entire cake. Bake at 325 degrees for 40 minutes.

Blend powdered sugar, milk, and vanilla and spread over the warm cake. Enjoy!

OPERATION ROUNDUP GRANT APPLICATIONS DUE

Next Deadline March 1

Do you know of a non-profit or civic group looking for funding for projects in our service area? An Operation Roundup Grant may be the right fit.

Operation Roundup is a community development program funded by the voluntary contributions of Tri-County EMC's members to the Tri-County EMC Foundation. Contributions are made to the foundation when participants elect to have their monthly electric bill rounded up to the next dollar. (101673001)

Each quarter, the Tri-County EMC Foundation accepts applications for grant projects that meet needs in the eight-county Tri-County EMC service area. The Tri-County EMC Foundation Board evaluates each application and awards grants based on the worthiness of the application and available funds.

Non-profit and civic groups can apply for a project they are executing or on behalf of individuals residing within the eight-county area (Baldwin, Putnam, Jones, Bibb, Jasper, Morgan, Twiggs, and Wilkinson). One hundred percent of funds collected are returned to the community through donations from the foundation.

Learn more at tri-countyemc.com/operation-round-up.cms.



2024 GRANT DEADLINES

March 1 | June 1 | September 1 | December 1



Tri-County EMC

Owned By Those We Serve

P.O. Box 487
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www.tri-countyemc.com

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Marion Nelson, Cecil Patterson,
Mike Rainey

CURRENT LINES

Monthly Publication for
Tri-County EMC Members

Did you know your recipe is worth \$20 if chosen?
Send your best recipes to annas@tri-countyemc.com or mail to P.O. Box 487, Gray, GA 31032.

Tri-County EMC is an equal opportunity provider and employer