



Tri-County  
EMC

# CURRENT LINES

APRIL 2024

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## THE POWER BEHIND YOUR POWER

*#ThankALineman on April 8!*

In April, electric cooperatives across the state, including Tri-County EMC, take a moment to pay homage to the dedicated individuals responsible for, in simple terms, keeping our lights on. However, working as an electrical lineman is about as far from “simple” as an occupation can get. (86648002)



Lineworkers are ranked as one of the 10 most dangerous jobs in the country.

From working with high-voltage equipment to climbing utility poles carrying 40+ pounds of equipment, safety must be kept at the forefront of a lineman’s mind at all times. Hours of technical and safety training are required to ensure that the men and women of this complex occupation have the skills to maintain a level head in an often extremely hazardous working environment.

During severe weather events that cause major power outages, lineworkers are among the first ones called. They must be ready in a moment’s notice to leave the comfort of their home and families, and knowing they won’t return until the job is done, often days later. In good weather and bad, linemen have your back and are ready to answer the call.

Being a lineworker may not seem like a glamorous job, but it is essential to the life of our communities. Without the exceptional dedication and commitment of these hardworking men and women, we would not have the reliable electricity that we need for everyday life. We are thankful not just one day in April but 365 days out of the year for the dangerous work that our linemen do.



## DELEGATES SELECTED

Delaney Johnston of Baldwin County and Nichole Botsoe of Jones County have been chosen to represent Tri-County as delegates on the 2024 Washington Youth Tour. In June, they will travel to D.C. for a week-long leadership adventure sponsored by Georgia's electric membership cooperatives.

Delaney is a Junior at John Milledge Academy. As the Vice President of Student Government, she's involved in many school clubs and organizations and competes in varsity track and cheer. She takes part in Youth Leadership Baldwin and has dedicated over 750 hours of volunteer work to her community.

Nichole is a Senior at Jones County High School. For two years she has been the Section Leader for the marching band. As part of the Work-Based Learning Program, Nichole works at the local pre-K and mentors middle school trombonists. She also participates in Junior Leadership Jones.



## APRIL IS SAFE DIGGING MONTH

Spring is in the air...and so are home projects! April marks the beginning of the peak period for outdoor projects in Georgia. In many cases, Tri-County EMC, Tri-CoGo, and other utilities run cable underground to provide service to your home. As your electric cooperative, we try to maintain a proactive approach and ensure that our members are practicing safe digging when considering their next home project. Whether you are planting a tree, constructing a backyard fence, or installing a new sprinkler system, always check that you are not digging near any buried electrical or fiber-optic cable. (74671001)

### CONTACT GEORGIA 811

Be sure to contact 811 at least three business days before any digging project to ensure you are clear of any buried electrical or fiber-optic cable in your area. You can submit an eRequest online at [Georgia811.com](http://Georgia811.com), or call 811 to reach the automated system. From there, Georgia 811 transmits the location and description of the project to the affected member utility companies, who will be responsible for sending out a location technician to the proposed area. Once underground lines are marked, you will know the approximate location of utility lines and can practice safe digging. Failure to contact 811 can cause expensive damage resulting in the disrupted electric or internet service of an entire neighborhood, and you could potentially incur fines and repair costs. Before you dig, take the necessary precautions.



## STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

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# TRI-COUNTY EMC FOUNDATION AWARDS OVER \$24,000 IN MARCH



On March 12, the Tri-County EMC Foundation Board of Directors met to discuss 21 applications for Operation Roundup Grants. Ten organizations were awarded for a total of \$24,405.28 to fund a variety of community needs and projects. The Operation Roundup program is made possible through the generosity of our members who elect to have their bills rounded up each month. The next round of grant applications is due June 1. (93358002)

## JASPER CO. COMMUNITY FOOD BANK

\$2,000 to purchase food for the community food bank

## JONES COUNTY SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION

\$3,000 to assist a community member who lost her home in a house fire

## LIFEPOINT WORSHIP CENTER

\$2,500 to purchase food for the community food bank

## VELMA MCFADDEN MISSIONARY FOOD BANK

\$2,000 to purchase food for the community food bank

## JONES COUNTY FAMILY CONNECTION

\$3,024 to purchase book bags and school supplies for the annual Back-to-School Bash

## JONES COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

\$2,000 to support the library's Special Olympic's Masters Program and Summer Reading Program

## CHRISTIAN DEBUTANTE MASTER COMMISSION

\$2,000 to support youth ministry activities within the African Methodist Episcopal Church

## BRIGHTER DAYS MINISTRIES

\$881.28 to reconstruct a bathroom and build a handicap ramp for a community member

## MAKE-A-WISH FOUNDATION OF GEORGIA

\$3,500 to help grant the wishes of local children who have been diagnosed with a critical illness

## GEORGIA LIONS CAMP, INC.

\$3,500 to support the Campership program for the blind and visually impaired



Terri Beth Fuller of LifePoint Worship Center received a \$2,500 grant to provide meals to food-insecure families in Putnam County.



Branch Manager Julie King accepts a \$2,000 grant that will help fund Jones County Public Library's summer programs.



Volunteers were grateful to receive \$2,000 to purchase items for the Jasper County Community Food Bank.



# RECIPE BOX

## GOODSON'S PEACH PECAN CREPES

*Courtesy of Georgia Grown*

### INGREDIENTS:

#### CREPES

- 2 eggs
- 3/4 cup whole milk
- 3/4 cup water
- 1 cup flour
- 4 tbsp. melted butter
- Pinch salt
- 1 tsp. maple extract (optional)
- 1/4 cup pecan oil (set aside for crepe pan)

#### FILLING AND TOPPING

- 1 4-oz. jar honey cinnamon pecan butter
- 1 jar peach pepper jelly
- 8 oz. softened cream cheese
- 8 oz. candied pecans

### DIRECTIONS:

#### CREPES

Combine all ingredients, except pecan oil, into a blender and blend until all ingredients are incorporated. Chill mixture at least 30 minutes. Heat crepe pan or large flat pan on medium heat. Coat pan with pecan oil. Pour or ladle 1/4 cup of crepe mix into the pan while tilting back and forth to coat the heated pan in a very thin layer – the batter should start to set immediately. When small bubbles begin to form, gently lift corners of the crepe to loosen. Flip over and cook for an additional 30 seconds, then turn out onto a paper towel lined plate. Repeat until all batter is gone.

#### FILLING AND TOPPING

Blend pecan butter and softened cream cheese together. Heat pepper jelly slightly in the microwave. To serve, spread crepe with filling, fold into thirds lengthwise, or fold into quarters to form a wedge shape. Drizzle with pepper jelly and sprinkle with candied pecans.

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

## TRI-COGO REACHES 7,000 SUBSCRIBERS

In February, Tri-CoGo reached 7,000 subscribers, another milestone on the journey to deliver high-speed fiber internet to every EMC member. Since the first mile of fiber was built in 2021, a commitment to the community has driven the project. 1,500 miles of fiber later, service is available at almost every Tri-County EMC location and Tri-CoGo, the cooperative's broadband affiliate, is one of Georgia's fastest-growing internet providers.



Realtors know that homes getting fiber internet availability increase in value by about 6%. Economic developers know that prospects insist on fiber availability. "Fiber internet is the ultimate technology for connectivity, literally best in class," said Joe Lightsey, Tri-CoGo's Fiber Operations Manager. "Gig speeds available at every location changes a community."

For homeowners, having reliable internet at an affordable price means the ability to work from home, stream content, complete schoolwork, and take advantage of technology not previously available in rural areas. Those needs are now fulfilled.

Business and industry are also now sharing the advantages of Tri-CoGo's fiber internet availability. "Beyond mere connectivity, fiber internet unlocks economic development and growth opportunities," says Jones County Development Authority's Executive Director, Haley Watson. "In an era where reliable internet is a necessity, Tri-CoGo has been bridging digital divides and propelling communities toward a brighter future."

Tri-County members interested in subscribing to Tri-CoGo's internet service are encouraged to visit [tri-cogo.com](http://tri-cogo.com) or call 478.986.8320 or 1.844.662.7569. Installation and a WiFi-6 capable router are included for free with every subscription.

"I'm incredibly proud of our Tri-CoGo team for reaching this milestone, and leveraging Tri-County EMC's fiber investment to meet so many internet needs in our community," commented Greg Mullis, Tri-CoGo's Chief Operating Officer. "We are humbled by the trust placed in us. Reaching 7,000 customers is truly a testament to the value of word-of-mouth, of customers enjoying fiber internet and telling their friends and neighbors about this experience."



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Owned By Those We Serve

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[www.tri-countyemc.com](http://www.tri-countyemc.com)

*\*Tri-County EMC is an equal opportunity provider and employer\**

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Monthly Publication for  
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