



Tri-County
EMC

CURRENT LINES

JUNE 2024

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**OFFICES
CLOSED**

Our offices will be closed on Thursday,
July 4 in observance of Independence Day.

WE'RE READY FOR STORM SEASON. ARE YOU?

We are officially on the cusp of summertime. Warm weather makes us eager to plan cookouts with friends and family and take the boat out on the lake. For cooperatives, this time of year always brings new risks and challenges. Warm weather fuels tropical storms, and experts are predicting an active season. As Tri-County EMC approaches its 85th storm season, crews and personnel stand ready to respond should any outages hit the cooperative's service area.

When major storms knock out power, our line crews take all necessary safety precautions before they begin working on any downed lines. We encourage you to also practice safety preparedness at home to protect your family during major storms and outages.

On page 2, you'll see a list of recommended items the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) suggests to have on hand during storm season. We encourage you to make a plan for yourself and your family, and visit www.ready.gov for additional resources.

Part of being prepared is knowing how to report a power outage in your area. Tri-County EMC members can report an outage by calling 1.833.698.2362, using the myTCEMC mobile app, or texting 'OUT' to 85700 if enrolled in the TextTCEMC service. See more information about TextTCEMC on page 2.

STORM SEASON *Continued from Page 1*

BEFORE THE STORM

- ✓ Stock your pantry with a three-day supply of non-perishable food, such as canned goods, energy bars, peanut butter, powdered milk, instant coffee, water, and other essentials. (69889001)
- ✓ Confirm that you have adequate sanitation and hygiene supplies including toilet paper, soap, and hand sanitizer.
- ✓ Ensure your first aid kit is stocked with pain relievers, bandages, and other medical essentials, and make sure your prescriptions are current.
- ✓ Set aside basic household items you will need, including flashlights, batteries, a manual can opener, and a portable battery-powered radio or TV.



AFTER THE STORM

- ✓ In the event of a prolonged power outage, turn off major appliances, TVs, computers, and other sensitive electronics. This will prevent overloading circuits during restoration.
- ✓ If you plan to use a small generator, make sure it's rated to handle the amount of power you will need. Be sure to review the manufacturer's instructions to operate it safely.
- ✓ Listen to local news or NOAA Weather Radio for storm and emergency information. We also recommend following your local Emergency Management Agency on social media for local updates.
- ✓ After the storm, avoid downed power lines and walking through flooded areas where power lines could be submerged. Allow ample room for utility crews to safely perform their jobs.



TextTC EMC *Reporting an outage just got easier.*

It's the perfect time to opt-in to Tri-County EMC's outage texting program, TextTC EMC. Designed to give you a quick and easy way to notify us when your power goes out, this free service allows members to report outages via text, and that information goes directly into our outage management system so that crews can quickly be dispatched to restore power. There are no phone calls or waiting on hold.

To participate in outage texting, your cell phone number must be up-to-date in our system at least 24 hours in advance. This can be done by calling 1.866.254.8100, select 2 for Tri-County EMC, then select 5 to update your phone number. You will need to have your account number available. You can also update your phone number using the online customer portal or myTC EMC app.

To report an outage in your area, simply text 'OUT' to 85700.

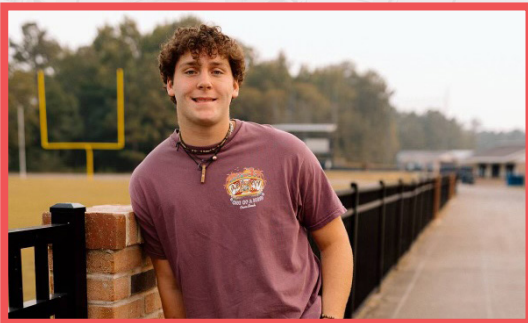
TRI-COUNTY EMC SELECTS SPRING 2024 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

LINEMAN SCHOLARSHIP

To honor the trade that is the backbone of our business, Tri-County EMC established the Lineman Scholarship in 2021. This year, the cooperative is pleased to award the \$3,000 scholarship to Jackson Brown and Lukas Tarpley to complete the lineman training program through the Technical College System of Georgia.



JACKSON BROWN is a graduate of Jones County High School in Gray. Following in the footsteps of his grandfather, father, and uncle, he plans to enter the Electrical Lineworker program at South Georgia Technical College where he will learn the necessary knowledge and skills to gain employment in the industry.



LUKAS TARPLEY is a graduate of John Milledge Academy in Milledgeville. This fall he will earn his Electrical Lineworker certification at South Georgia Technical College. "Being a lineman has always intrigued me due to my passion for hands-on work," said Tarpley. "As a lineman, I would have the opportunity to apply my skills in a rewarding and impactful way."

Tri-County EMC is a strong supporter of our schools and provides scholarships to those looking to better themselves through higher education. The cooperative recently awarded three \$2,000 Cooperative Scholarships and two \$1,000 Operation Roundup Scholarships to students residing in the cooperative's service area. (95091001)

COOPERATIVE SCHOLARSHIP



NOAH BARNES is a graduate of Jones County High School and will attend Georgia Southern University to earn a degree in Mechanical Engineering. This summer he will intern at BASF with hopes of gaining the skills and knowledge necessary for a successful career. Noah operates his own lawn care and maintenance company and volunteers with his church.



BRYANT RUFF, JR. is a graduate of Putnam County High School in Eatonton. He will attend Emmanuel University to pursue a career in Sports Management and Athletic Training. A lifetime resident of Putnam County, Bryant takes pride in his community and continues to give back through his involvement in organizations like Mothers Against Crime and PCHS Service Leadership.



JOSIE TAYLOR is a graduate of Jones County High School in Gray. She plans to earn her degree in Early Childhood Education at the University of North Georgia and later attend seminary school. Josie leads her church's praise band and is involved in the ministry. Josie's passion for helping others is showcased through her volunteer work with the local Boys and Girls Club.

OPERATION ROUNDUP SCHOLARSHIP



LINDA MOON is a non-traditional student working full-time and returning to Central Georgia Technical College where she plans to earn a degree in Nursing. Her experience working at a local hospital as the Unit Coordinator on the surgical floor has furthered her passion for helping others, and she looks forward to her future career as a nurse.



JORDAN PRESTRIDGE is a graduate of John Milledge Academy in Milledgeville. This fall she will attend the University of Georgia to major in Interior Design and minor in Business. A decorated athlete, President of the Student Council, and Milledgeville Main Street Junior Board Member, Jordan has made a lasting impact on her school and community.



RECIPE BOX

STRAWBERRY MILK PIE

Courtesy of Georgia Grown

INGREDIENTS:

CRUST

- 1 ½ cups graham cracker crumbs
- 6 tbsp melted butter
- ¼ cup sugar

PUREE

- 4 cups whole fresh or frozen strawberries
- ½ cup water
- ¼ cup sugar
- Lemon juice from ½ a lemon

FILLING

- 2 cups whole milk
- 1 tsp lemon zest
- 6 egg yolks
- ¾ cup of sugar
- 5 tbsp cornstarch
- 1 tsp vanilla
- ¼ cup cold butter, cut into 4 tbsp
- 1 additional container of strawberries

DIRECTIONS:

CRUST

Preheat oven to 375°. Crush graham crackers into crumbs. Add the melted butter and sugar and combine thoroughly, until mixture can form clumps in your hand. Press into a 9-in. pie plate and compact. Bake for 8-10 minutes.

PUREE & FILLING

Place milk and lemon zest in a small saucepan over medium heat, bringing just to the point of boiling. In a bowl, whisk together egg yolks, sugar, and cornstarch. Pour milk mixture into yolk mixture, whisking to prevent curdling. Pour mixture back into the pot and cook over medium heat, whisking until mixture has thickened and starts to boil. Remove from heat. Whisk in butter tablespoon by tablespoon, then whisk in vanilla and strawberry puree. Strain through a mesh strainer to remove lumps, and let cool. Pour into prebaked crust, and chill for 4 hours.

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.

MAKE PAYING YOUR ELECTRIC BILL A BREEZE

In the summertime, we go on vacation, both physically and mentally. It's easy to get caught up with the busyness of life and let normal tasks like paying your electric bill slip your mind. With temperatures getting higher every day, your A/C unit is one appliance you don't want powering down. That's why Tri-County EMC strives to make the billing process a breeze for its members. (88483001)

AUTOMATIC DRAFT

The easiest way to ensure your payment is made on time each month is by enrolling in our Smart Pay Automatic Draft program. Each month, Tri-County EMC will automatically draft your checking account or credit card on your due date, saving you time and stamps. To enroll, complete the online form at www.tri-countyemc.com/automatic-draft.cms. Assurance that your power bill is paid automatically also lessens the risk of phone scammers obtaining your personal information.

E-BILLING

As an alternative to standard paper billing, Tri-County EMC also offers E-billing to its members. Instead of junking up your postal box with excess mail and bills, you can view the electronic version from the palm of your hand. The monthly email notice will include a link taking you directly to your current month's bill. You must maintain the email address on file and notify us immediately of changes to your address. Sign up for E-billing via the online Customer Portal at billing.tri-county-emc.com/onlineportal.

ONLINE VOTING

Every year, Tri-County EMC holds a board of directors' election. Ballots are sent out in September by mail or email. To opt out of paper ballots and vote online during this year's election, visit us at www.tri-countyemc.com/voting.cms and complete the online form, or give us a call at 1.866.254.8100. When ballots go out, your login information for the voting website will be sent directly to your email address.

ENTER TO WIN

Tri-County EMC members can win one of two **\$500 gift cards** when signing up for automatic draft, e-billing, or online voting by August 13. Members can gain one entry for each task or five entries for completing all three. Members who already participate in one or more of the programs are automatically included in the drawing.



**Tri-County
EMC**

Owned By Those We Serve

P.O. Box 487
Gray, GA 31032
478.986.8100

www.tri-countyemc.com

Tri-County EMC is an equal opportunity provider and employer

Ray Grinberg, CEO

Board of Directors

Brenda P. Green, Chairman
Sammy Hall, Vice-Chairman
Dan Greene, Secretary/Treasurer
George "Buck" Comer, Chap Nelson,
Marion Nelson, Cecil Patterson,
Mike Rainey, Ed Walker

CURRENTLINES

Monthly Publication for
Tri-County EMC Members