



Tri-County
EMC

CURRENT LINES

MARCH 2024

THIS MONTH'S NEWS

Clearing the Path to Reliability, [page 1](#)

Right-of-Way Spraying, [page 2](#)

Operation Roundup Virtual Workshop, [page 2](#)

Spring Scholarship Opportunities, [page 3](#)

Walter Harrison Scholarship Finalist, [page 3](#)

WYT Alumni Meets Governor, [page 4](#)

CLEARING THE PATH TO RELIABILITY

Our members depend on us to deliver reliable power to their homes and businesses. That's why Tri-County EMC strives to balance maintaining the beautiful surroundings we all cherish with ensuring reliable electricity. One way we do this is by keeping power lines clear of overgrown vegetation. Severe weather events can cause tree limbs to fall and take down power lines and utility poles. While several factors can impact power disruptions, a large portion of outages can be attributed to overgrown vegetation. This is why you often see our right-of-way crews or contractors out in the community trimming trees near power lines. (95641001)

All U.S. electric utilities are required to trim trees that grow too close to power lines. Scheduled trimming throughout the year keeps lines clear from overgrown or dead limbs that are likely to fall, and we are better able to prepare for severe weather events. As always, safety is our greatest concern. Any tree or branch that falls across a power line creates a potentially dangerous situation. A proactive approach lessens the chances of fallen trees during severe weather events that make it more complicated and dangerous for lineworkers to restore power. It's also more cost-effective to undertake preventative maintenance than it is to make repairs after the fact.

There are ways you can help too. When planting new trees, make sure they're planted a safe distance from overhead power lines. Medium-height trees should be planted at least 25 feet from power lines, and taller trees should be planted at least 50 feet from power lines. Practice safe planting near underground transformers. Plant shrubs at least 10 feet from the transformer door and 4 feet from the sides. If your neighborhood has underground lines, remember to contact 811 before you begin any project that requires digging.

SEE RIGHT-OF-WAY
SPRAYING MAP ON PAGE 2 



RIGHT-OF-WAY SPRAYING

Beginning this spring, Tri-County EMC will begin its 2024 herbicide application. Palmetto Right-of-Way, our spraying contractor, will apply herbicide to keep trees, brush, and foliage from interfering with the delivery of your electric service. Overgrown trees and other vegetation within 15 feet of overhead power lines are trimmed year-round. Herbicide is applied in five-year cycles. This year's herbicide application will occur in portions of Putnam, Baldwin, Jones, and Morgan Counties.

Only approved, non-residual chemicals are used. Landscaped areas such as lawns, streams, or ponds will not be sprayed. As indicated in orange, the map below shows the general area where the maintenance will occur. For a full list of streets that will be affected or more information on Tri-County's right-of-way program, visit tri-countyemc.com/rightofway.cms.

OPERATION ROUNDUP VIRTUAL WORKSHOP

Join us on April 11!

Have you ever seen a need in your community, but you didn't have or weren't aware of the resources available to fulfill it? Operation Roundup is a community development program established to help non-profit organizations fund worthy projects within the Tri-County EMC service area. Organizations can apply to the foundation's nine-member board of directors, who award funds quarterly.

On April 11 at 2 PM, Communications Specialist Anna Smith will be hosting a Q&A style virtual workshop alongside Operation Roundup Foundation Board member Jonathan Pitts to help further public knowledge of the program. The overall purpose of this event is to spread awareness while answering frequently asked questions of individuals applying for funds.

Members and leaders of local non-profits, charitable organizations, churches, government institutions, and anyone else interested in learning more about Operation Roundup are invited to register online at the link below.

tri-countyemc.com/operation-round-up.cms

For more information, contact Anna Smith at annas@tri-countyemc.com or 478.986.8126.



SPRING SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Tri-County EMC is committed to making contributions toward community growth throughout our service area, including investing in youth education and leadership. There are several upcoming scholarship opportunities for service area students who seek to further their education after high school. To apply, please visit tri-countyemc.com/scholarships-overview.cms.



OPERATION ROUNDUP SCHOLARSHIP | DEADLINE APRIL 15

Through Operation Roundup, the Tri-County EMC Foundation will award a total of \$4,000 annually to students residing in the homes of Tri-County EMC Members. Special consideration is given to non-traditional students who are working full or part-time and have returned to school.

Applicants must be enrolled in any U.S. accredited college, university, or technical college and have maintained at least a 2.0 average.



COOPERATIVE SCHOLARSHIP | DEADLINE APRIL 15

Tri-County EMC will award three \$2,000 Cooperative Scholarships to students residing within the cooperative's service area. One scholarship is awarded in each of the three Tri-County board districts. Applications are judged by an outside panel of education professionals based equally on academics, financial need, and community involvement.

High school seniors and undergraduate students are eligible to apply. (86498002)



LINEMAN SCHOLARSHIP | DEADLINE APRIL 15

Tri-County EMC will award one \$3,000 Lineman Scholarship to an individual interested in becoming an electric lineman. Applications are judged by a panel of Tri-County EMC linemen and retirees.

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.

2024 WALTER HARRISON SCHOLARSHIP FINALIST SELECTED

Chloe Clark of Jones County was named Tri-County EMC's finalist for the 2024 Walter Harrison Scholarship. She will go on to compete in the statewide competition for one of sixteen \$1,000 scholarships given out by Georgia EMC. Winners of the statewide competition will be announced in early April.

Chloe is a senior at Jones County High School in Gray. When she graduates in the spring, she plans to begin her studies on a Pre-Medicine track at Georgia Southern University where she will major in Biology. Once she earns her degree, Chloe will attend medical school to become a surgeon. She has a passion for helping people reach their goals and believes a career in healthcare will be most fulfilling. Chloe spends her free time volunteering with her church, First Baptist of Gray, and she is a decorated gymnast competing for Elite Gym USA and Jones County High School. (94963001)

To learn more about scholarships offered through Tri-County EMC, visit tri-countyemc.com/scholarships-overview.cms.



RECIPE BOX



HASSELBACK POTATO GRATIN

Courtesy of Georgia Grown

INGREDIENTS:

- 7 – 8 medium Russet potatoes
- 8 oz. finely grated Swiss cheese
- 2 oz. finely grated fresh Parmesan cheese
- 2 cups heavy cream
- ½ cup half & half
- Salt & pepper
- 1 tsp. Dijon mustard
- 2 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 2 tsp. fresh thyme leaves

DIRECTIONS:

Preheat oven to 400 degrees.

Combine cream, half & half, half of both cheeses, Dijon mustard, Worcestershire sauce, thyme, and salt and pepper in a bowl.

Peel and slice potatoes ¼ inch thick. Toss the potato slices in cream mixture until all slices are coated. Make stacks of potatoes then arrange them vertically so edges of potatoes face up. Pour remaining mixture over the potatoes. Cover with foil and bake 45 minutes. Remove foil and bake an additional 15 minutes or until potatoes are tender. Sprinkle with remaining cheese. Bake an additional 10 minutes or until cheese is golden. Serves 8–10.



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.

WYT ALUMNI INVITED TO GEORGIA STATE CAPITOL

On January 29, Tri-County EMC’s 2023 Washington Youth Tour (WYT) Delegate, Jayden Daniel, had the opportunity to meet and speak with Governor Brian Kemp at the Georgia State Capitol in Atlanta. Jayden was featured in the January issue of Georgia Magazine for his work providing Easter baskets to children in foster care through his Lake Area Easter Basket Project. After reading the article, Governor Kemp invited Jayden to come to the dome. While there, Jayden received a Commendation from Governor Kemp for his service leadership and impactful contributions to his community. Pictured below is Jayden with Governor Kemp and First Lady of Georgia, Marty Kemp.

Jayden is a senior at Gatewood Schools in Eatonton. In 2020, he created the Lake Area Easter Basket Project, also known as Baskets of Hope, to bring joy through the power of a simple gift to children living in difficult circumstances. “We were extremely proud to have Jayden represent Tri-County EMC on the Washington Youth Tour last June,” said CEO Ray Grinberg. “Baskets of Hope exemplifies Tri-County EMC’s seventh cooperative principle, “Concern for the Community”, and he will continue to create a positive impact on many lives.” Since 1965, WYT has helped pave the way for many successful leaders, entrepreneurs, and community members. Tri-County EMC will announce its 2024 WYT delegates in April.



Tri-County
EMC

Owned By Those We Serve

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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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