

current lines

A monthly publication for Tri-County EMC members

In this issue:

Legislative Breakfast

page 1

Art Contest Winners, Georgia Heat Assistance

page 2

Scholarship Winners, Washington Youth Tour

page 3

Bring One for the Chipper, Recipe Box

page 4

Cooperative Hosts Legislative Breakfast

Tri-County EMC held its annual Eggs and Energy Issues legislative breakfast on Thursday, November 16 at the cooperative's headquarters in Gray. Electric utility officials, U.S. house and senate staffers, and about forty city, county and state officials attended the event. Attendees heard presentations from Mike Smith, chief executive officer of Oglethorpe Power, Ray Grinberg, chief executive officer of Tri-County EMC, and Lee Marsh, vice president of engineering for Tri-County EMC.

In his opening comments, Ray Grinberg outlined Tri-County EMC's basic promise of "financial stability, reliability and high quality member service." He also spoke about the local impact of Tri-County EMC on the eight counties within the cooperative's service area. He pointed out that Operation Roundup, the cooperative's flagship philanthropic program, has raised and distributed \$1.23 million for area needs since 2001. Bright Ideas, a classroom innovation program, has awarded \$230,000 in grants to area teachers. And since 2008, Tri-County EMC has assisted local development authorities with \$201,000 in grants. Most importantly, all of these funds came from member contributions and unclaimed capital credits — not member's rates.

Smith presented an overview of power generation for Georgia's EMCs and reported on the construction of units 3 and 4 at Plant Vogtle, the only nuclear energy generating units under construction in the United States. In March 2017, Westinghouse, the designer and original construction contractor of units 3 and 4, declared bankruptcy. Project owners, which include Oglethorpe Power on behalf of Georgia's electric cooperatives, Georgia Power, the Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia and the City of Dalton, have recently reaffirmed their commitment to the project.

"We are looking forward to the two new units coming online and in 2021 and 2022," said Grinberg. "They will provide our members reliable carbon-free energy for the next 60-80 years."

Marsh spoke about an initiative to install new automation on the cooperative's power lines. "Our goal is to never have an outage, but we know that's not possible. Our priority is to minimize outage time for as many members as possible and reduce the time our employees spend diagnosing and repairing outages." Marsh gave a demonstration of how many members experiencing outages from a downed tree or car accident could have their power restored almost instantly thanks to automated switching schemes, which would work in conjunction with power lines tying substations together.

An annual event, the breakfast is an opportunity for elected officials, economic development leaders, chamber of commerce officials and others to learn about and discuss issues important to electric cooperatives. "As a member owned utility, our issues are a little different and decisions that are made in Atlanta or Washington often directly influence our local members, financially or otherwise," said Greg Mullis, vice president of corporate services for Tri-County EMC and the moderator for the event. "Getting these elected officials together is an opportunity to share our local concerns while facilitating some great discussion and furthering relationships in our region."

Thank A Lineman License Plates Available

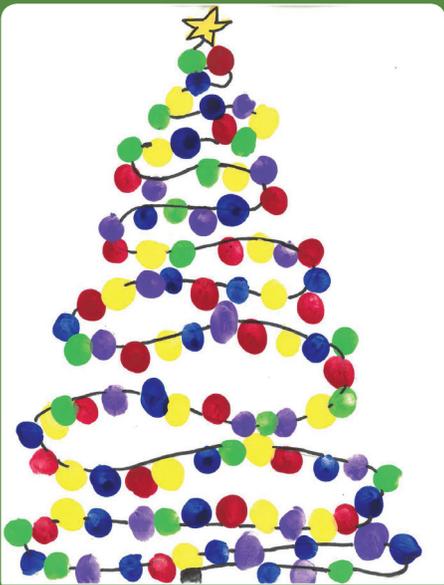
Lineman License Plates are available now! For their remarkable efforts during outage events and the critical work they perform each day Georgia EMC, Electric Cities of Georgia and Georgia Power teamed up to honor linemen with the Thank A Lineman specialty license plate. All proceeds will go to Southeastern Firefighters Burn Foundation to provide assistance to burn patients. Visit www.sbf.net/License-Plate to find out more.



L to R: Rep. Bubber Epps, Rep. Susan Holmes and Tri-County EMC CEO Ray Grinberg pose for a photo at the 2017 Eggs and Energy Issues Breakfast.

Christmas Card Art Contest

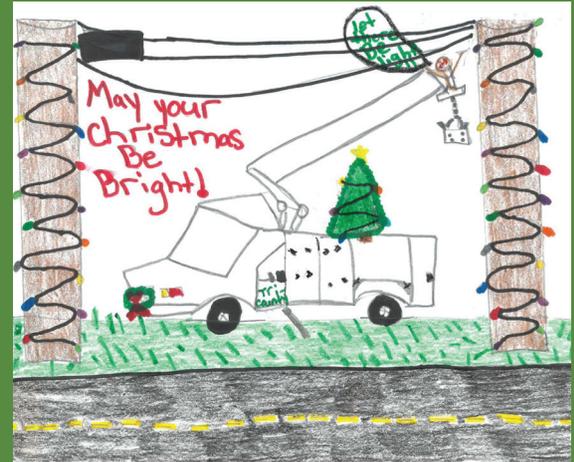
Students in grades Kindergarten through 5th living in the Tri-County EMC service area were invited to participate in the Tri-County EMC Christmas Card Art Contest. A total of 184 entries was submitted. The top three submissions are shown below. The first place artwork will be featured on the Tri-County EMC Christmas Card.



**1st Place Overall:
Sophia Hill**



**2nd Place Overall:
Mason Singleton**



**3rd Place Overall:
Emily Hardie**

Winners were also chosen for each grade level. All winning artwork can be seen on our website at www.tri-countyemc.com/christmascardartcontest.cms. Winning artists will be awarded in their classrooms. All artwork submitted will be donated to local nursing homes during the Christmas season. (30140001)

LIHEAP: Georgia's Heating Assistance Program

The Georgia Department of Human Services provides assistance on heating bills through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) to low-income families, the elderly and other applicants who qualify. When applying for assistance, be sure to have your proof of income from the last 30 days available, as well as proof of Social Security numbers for each household member, your last month's heating

bill and proof of citizenship or legal immigration status. (48583003)

For local heating assistance, contact the community action agency that coincides with the county in which you reside listed to the right. For more information about the LIHEAP program, call 1-800-869-1150 or visit www.liheap.org. You can also contact your local organizations, listed to the right, for further assistance.

For heating assistance call...

Bibb County

Macon-Bibb County Economic Opportunity Council, Inc.
478-738-3240

Jones & Twiggs Counties

Middle Georgia Community Action Agency, Inc.
478-922-4464

Baldwin, Jasper, Morgan, Putnam & Wilkinson Counties

Overview, Inc.
478-453-4111

Operation Roundup Scholarship Winners

In addition to awarding grants each quarter, the Tri-County EMC Foundation also awards scholarships to two deserving students in the service area twice per year. The scholarships, judged anonymously, are worth \$1,000 and are awarded based on academics, financial need and service to others. Special consideration is given to non-traditional students who are working full or part-time and have returned to school. Learn more about Operation Roundup and other scholarship opportunities at www.tri-countyemc.com/scholarships-overview.cms. Congratulations to our recipients! (47826001)



Ariel Daniels of Baldwin County currently attends Mercer University. Ariel is working on a double major of Political Science and International Affairs and a minor in French. She is a Student Justice on the Mercer Judicial Council, Success Networking Team Coordinator for the National Society of Leadership Success, a Peer Writing Tutor and an officer for the Mercer International Affairs Organization. After graduation, Ariel hopes to work with Teach for America or the Peace Corps before enrolling in a graduate program for Peace Studies.



Baker Stickley of Putnam County is a senior at Gatewood School. Baker is the president of the Anchor Club and plays varsity basketball. She was chosen to serve on the Farmers and Merchants Bank Junior Board during her junior year and was inducted into the National Honors Society. She is taking seven dual-enrollment college courses during her senior year. Baker plans to attend University of Georgia or University of Tennessee next fall and major in Biological Sciences.

Did you find your account number?

Find your complete account number in this issue of Current Lines, and win a \$50 bill credit. Call 478.986.8126 to claim your bill credit.

Washington Youth Tour Applications Available

Plan Ahead For Your Summer

Washington Youth Tour Applications are now available. If you know of a high school student looking for a life-changing summer trip, encourage them to apply for the Washington Youth Tour. A leadership and team-building experience, this all-expenses-paid trip to D.C. gives students an inside look at our nation's capital.

Trip Sites:

- Potomac River Cruise
- Tomb of the Unknowns Wreath Ceremony in Arlington Cemetery
- The U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps and the Silent Drill Platoon at the Iwo Jima Memorial
- U.S. Supreme Court
- Bureau of Printing and Engraving
- Mount Vernon
- National Cathedral
- Jefferson Memorial
- Lincoln Memorial
- Washington Monument
- World War II Memorial
- Vietnam Memorial
- Korean War Memorial
- Smithsonian Institute
- Newseum
- Holocaust Museum
- And more!



More info and video highlights online at www.tri-countyemc.com/washingtonyouthtour.cms

Bring One For The Chipper

Bring your Christmas trees and natural wreaths to the Overland Way Convenience Center on Saturday, January 6. Tri-County EMC's right-of-way contractor, Asplundh, will be chipping trees from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Mulch chipped from the trees will be available for you to take home.

Overland Way Convenience Center
153 Overland Way | Gray, Georgia
Saturday, January 6 | 9:00 am - 12:00 pm



Merry Christmas

AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

**Holiday
Office
Closures:**
Dec. 25-26
Jan. 1



Recipe Box

Chocolate Gravy

Thanks to Mrs. Bramblett of Putnam County for submitting this recipe! **Did you know that your recipe is worth \$20 if chosen? Send your best recipes to kimb@tri-countyemc.com, or mail to P.O. Box 487, Gray, GA 31032.**

Ingredients:

- 4 tbsps. flour
- 3 tbsps. cocoa
- 1 cup sugar
- dash of salt
- 2 cups of milk
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 2 tbsps. butter

Directions:

Mix the flour, cocoa, sugar, salt and milk. Cook over low to medium heat in a saucepan until thickened. Add the vanilla and butter. Serve over biscuits or sugar cookies.

Mrs. Bramblett adds that this gravy is best when served with fresh butter over cathead biscuits!



**Tri-County
EMC**

Owned By Those We Serve

P.O. Box 487
Gray, GA 31032
478.986.8100
FAX 478.986.4733
www.tri-countyemc.com

Ray Grinberg, CEO

Board of Directors
Brenda P. Green, Chairman
Sammy Hall, Vice-Chairman
Thomas Noles, Secretary/Treasurer
George "Buck" Comer, Dan Greene,
Chester Mercer, Marion Nelson,
Cecil Patterson, Mike Rainey

current lines
Monthly Publication for
Tri-County EMC Members
Kim Broun, Editor
Communications Specialist