

NEWS



**TCEMC Scholarship
Winners Announced**

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**Golf Tournament
a Huge Success**

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Manager's Message:

Know the Signs of a Scam

It's no secret that consumers with a water, gas or electricity connection have long been targets for utility scams, but fraudsters have changed their tactics since the Covid-19 pandemic. As consumers became more reliant on technology for work, school and commerce, scammers noted these shifts and adapted their tactics to this changed environment.

Imposter scams are the number one type of fraud reported to the Federal Trade Commission. While scam artists may come to your door posing as a utility worker who works for the "power company," in today's more connected world, attempts are more likely to come through an electronic device, via email, phone or text.

Common Types of Scams

A scammer may claim you are overdue on your electric bill and threaten to disconnect your service if you don't pay immediately. Whether this is done in-person, by phone, text or email, the scammers want to scare you into immediate payment so you don't have time to think clearly.

If this happens over the phone, simply hang up. If you are concerned about your bill, call your cooperative at 919-735-2611. Our phone number can also be found on your monthly bill and on our website, tcemc.com. If the scam is by email or text, delete it before taking any action. If you're unsure, again give us a call to check the status of your account. Remember, Tri-County EMC will never attempt to demand immediate payment after just one notice.

Some scammers may falsely claim you have been overcharged on your bill and say they want to give a refund.

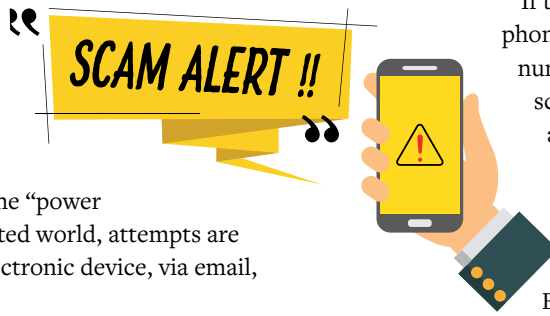
J. Michael Davis
General Manager



It sounds easy. All you have to do is click or press a button to initiate the process. If you proceed, you will be prompted to provide banking or other personal information. Instead of money going into your bank account, the scammers can drain your account and use personal information such as a social security number for identity theft.

If this "refund" scam happens over the phone, just hang up and block the phone number to prevent future robocalls. If this scam attempt occurs via email (known as a "phishing" attempt) or by text ("smishing"), do not click any links.

Instead, delete it, and if possible, block the sender. If you do overpay on your energy bill, Tri-County EMC will automatically apply the credit to your next billing cycle. When in doubt, contact us.



Defend Yourself Against Scams

Be wary of call or texts from unknown numbers. Be suspicious of an unknown person claiming to be a utility worker who requests banking or other personal information.

Never let anyone into your home that you don't know unless you have a scheduled appointment or reported a problem. Tri-County EMC employees wear uniforms and drive vehicles with our logo. When we perform work on our members' property or come into your home, our employees are professionals and will always identify themselves.

We want to help protect our community against utility scams, and you can help create the first line of defense. Please report any potential scams to us so we can spread the word to prevent others in the community from falling victim.



Closed for Holiday

Tri-County EMC will be closed on Monday, July 4, to celebrate Independence Day.

TCEMC Awards \$24K in Scholarships

Tri-County EMC recently honored its 2022 scholarship winners at a floating awards banquet on May 16 at Tri-County EMC corporate office in Dudley. Students and their families were treated to a shaved ice from Carolina Snow of Pikeville between the hours of 5 – 7 p.m.

“On behalf of Tri-County EMC, I would like to congratulate this year’s scholarship recipients,” said Mike Davis, general manager of Tri-County EMC. “We commend these students on their outstanding academic achievements

and are pleased to provide support to these worthy students as they represent our future generation of leaders in their communities.”

Forty-one local high school seniors received \$500 each towards a four-year college or university of their choice and 15 students received \$250 each towards a community college of their choice.

Tri-County EMC awarded its first scholarships in 2001. Since that first year, TCEMC has awarded 1,033 scholarships totaling \$440,900.

The winners of the \$500 scholarships are:

Alexis Garner	Wayne Early College High School
Ashley Quintanilla.....	North Duplin High School
Austin Dilda.....	Charles B. Aycock
Benjamin Peacock	Rosewood High School
Caroline Jones.....	Southern Wayne High School
Carson Adams.....	Princeton High School
Catherine Eubanks	Rosewood High School
Catherine Summerlin	Southern Wayne High School
Dayanara Gomez-Mill	East Duplin High School
Elizabeth Blizzard	East Duplin High School
Emily Kimbrough.....	Wayne School of Engineering
Emma Lanier	East Duplin High School
Emma Proctor.....	Southern Wayne High School
Emma Whaley	East Duplin High School
Georgia Fulghum.....	Southern Wayne High School
Hunter Brown	Eastern Wayne High School
Jalyn Lewis.....	Eastern Wayne High School
Johnathan Barrett	Eastern Wayne High School
Jon Howard.....	South Lenoir High School
Kailey Powell	Lenoir County Early College High School
Kaitlyn Whitley	Southern Wayne High School
Katelyn Gregory.....	Southern Wayne High School
Kristen Sauls	Wayne School of Engineering
Kyle Smith	North Duplin High School
Lea Thomas.....	East Duplin High School
Lehyssa St. Julien	Southern Wayne High School
Macy Sanderson	South Lenoir High School
Mary Lynn Dawson.....	South Lenoir High School
Mary Talton.....	Wayne Country Day School
Natalie Dail.....	South Lenoir High School
Nathan Joyner	Southern Wayne High School
Nolan Joyner.....	Southern Wayne High School
Nicholas Jones	Spring Creek High School
Nicole Page	Wayne School of Engineering
Noah Barrett.....	Southern Wayne High School
Rachel Blanchard	James Kenan High School
Reagan Waller	Southern Wayne High School
Rebekah Howard.....	South Lenoir High School
Riley Maldonado.....	Rosewood High School
Sara Lopez	Southern Wayne High School
Vismitha Taneti.....	Wayne School of Engineering

The winners of the \$250 scholarships are:

Allie Lane	Southern Wayne High School
Blayke Mahone	North Lenoir High School
Emily Craft	North Duplin High School
Emma Faulk	Southern Wayne High School
Graham Jernigan.....	Southern Wayne High School
Katie Smith.....	Rosewood High School
Laciann Capri	Southern Wayne High School
Levi Lanier.....	Charles B. Aycock
Lyndsay Williams.....	South Lenoir High School
Makaela Thompson	Princeton High School
Makayla Newcomb	Riverbend Christian Academy
Marlita Mendez	Southern Wayne High School
Michael Pierce.....	East Duplin High School
Robert Cox.....	Southern Wayne High School
Ester Morales-Perez	Spring Creek High School



As part of Tri-County EMC’s commitment and concern for the community, 56 students received scholarships this year to help reach their educational goals.

Tri-County EMC Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament a Huge Success

Tri-County EMC hosted its 11th annual Scholarship Golf Tournament on May 12 at Southern Wayne Country Club.

The 18-hole, four-man tournament hosted 48 teams with 188 hole sponsors raising \$37,000. The event kicked off with a welcome from TCEMC General Manager Mike Davis. Throughout the day, golfers had the opportunity to participate in activities such as the longest drive contest and closest to the pin contest.

“As a foundation, the scholarship program relies on the generosity of our supporters to help continue to provide scholastic opportunities to the students in the communities

we serve not only in the present, but also far into the future”, said Davis. “We are overwhelmed with the fantastic support our sponsors have given and offer a sincere thank you to the employees as well for their hard work in making this year’s tournament a great success.”

Morning players enjoyed McDonald’s biscuits for breakfast; and both morning and afternoon players enjoyed a catered lunch from McCall’s BBQ. Tri-County EMC employees would like to thank this year’s individuals and companies who sponsored a hole or entered a team in the 11th Annual Tri-County Scholarship Golf Tournament.

Golf Tournament Winners

MORNING

1st Place, 1st Flight: Wayne Country Day

David Flowers, Adam Pate, Tim Smith & Randy White

2nd Place, 1st Flight: Rotary Club

Rusty Jackson, Darren McGee, Buddy Phipps & Lynwood Kennedy

1st Place, 2nd Flight: Friendly Mart

Neil Price, Mike Stevens, Ken Jordan & Dan Houston

2nd Place, 2nd Flight: Moore’s Since 1948

Eddie Brogden, Ronald Brock, Charlie Tew & Chip Waters

Closest to the Pin: Harvey Taylor

Longest Drive: Michael Holland

AFTERNOON

1st Place, 1st Flight: Tony’s Service Center

Anthony Grady, Morgan Hill, Matt Reaves & Ashton Langston

2nd Place, 1st Flight: Team Jones

Bradley Jones, Mitchell Jones, Corbett Cummings & Danes Jones

1st Place, 2nd Flight: Mount Olive Builders Supply

Frank Corral, Andre Thomas, Will Weisiger & William Jackson

2nd Place, 2nd Flight: XRR

Taylor Coates, Joseph Rogers, Brandon Barwick & Ronald Barwick

Closest to the Pin: Morgan Hill

Longest Drive: Corbett Cummings



Wayne Country Day



Rotary Club



Team Jones



Tony's Service Center



Moore's Since 1948



XRR



Mount Olive Builders

A Special Thank You to the Following Sponsors:

HOLE IN ONE SPONSOR: Transformer Maintenance Services; **PLATINUM SPONSOR:** Electrical Consulting Engineers; **GOLD SPONSORS:** 3HC, Mastec and Ricky Richardson; **SILVER SPONSORS:** Best Gas & Grill, Four County EMC, McCall’s BBQ, The Young-Outlaw Ranch, River City Construction, Mount Olive Builders Supply and Brooks Network Services; **FOOD & BEVERAGE SPONSORS:** Bobby Denning, Kenansville Area Chamber of Commerce and Wayne County Livestock Development; **CLOSEST TO THE PIN SPONSORS:** Bo’s Industrial Services, Top Bragg Realty, Warsaw Animal Hospital, Wayne Shrine Club, Wells Fargo and WHFL-TV43; **LONGEST DRIVE SPONSORS:** Amanda A. Murphy, CPA PLLC, Consize Networks, LLC, Moore Exposure, Phil Baddour, Rowe Tree Service and Thoroughfare Volunteer Fire Department.

Educators: Apply Early for a Bright Ideas Grant and You Could Win \$100

It pays to apply early for a Bright Ideas education grant! Teachers who submit their grant application by the Aug. 15 early bird deadline will be entered into a statewide drawing to win one of five \$100 gift cards.

The final deadline to apply for a Bright Ideas grant of \$1,000 from Tri-County EMC is Sept. 15.

Supported by all 26 electric

cooperatives in North Carolina, Bright Ideas grants have contributed \$14.3 million to N.C. classrooms, funding a total of 13,536 projects that have benefited well over 2.8 million students statewide since 1994.

Support for youth and education is part of our continued commitment to building a brighter future for the communities we serve. To learn more, visit www.tcemc.com.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

The combined use of large appliances like dishwashers, clothes dryers and washing machines account for the largest percentage of electricity use in the average U.S. home. Take small steps to save energy when using these appliances. Only run full loads in the dishwasher, and thoroughly scrape food from dishes before loading. Dry towels and heavier cottons separate from lighter-weight clothing, and clean the lint screen after every use. Wash clothing in cold water to save energy used to heat water.

Source: EIA and DOE



Tri-County Electric Membership Corporation

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Tri-County EMC Membership Corporation in Dudley, N.C., was chartered May 8, 1940.

Mission Statement:

Tri-County Electric Membership Corporation is a member-driven cooperative committed to providing reliable electric power at a reasonable cost, to offering superior service, and to taking an active role in supporting the communities it serves.

We are here to serve you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and 365 days a year.

For Outages or Emergencies:
919-735-2611 or 1-800-548-4869

tcemc.com

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Employees Ready to Serve You



Brad Thigpen

Brad Thigpen is one of 49 employees ready to serve you. Brad has worked as a tree trimmer with Tri-County since Oct. 6, 2003. Brad resides in Mount Olive with his family.