



CURRENT LINES

DECEMBER 2023

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CHRISTMAS OFFICE CLOSURES

Both office locations will be closed on December 25 & 26.

TRI-COUNTY EMC NAMED BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

The Eatonton-Putnam Chamber of Commerce named Tri-County EMC “2023 Business of the Year” at its Annual Award Dinner on Monday evening, November 6. There to accept the award on behalf of the company were Directors Mike Rainey and Buck Comer, CFO Dawn Haskins, Supervisor of Field Engineering Justin Strickland, and Tri-CoGo COO Greg Mullis. (89687001)

“Our number one goal is to provide our membership with safe and reliable power,” says Tri-County CEO Ray Grinberg. “But it is our mission as a member-owned cooperative to improve the quality of life for people who live, work, and go to school in the communities that we serve.”

Cooperatives around the world, including Tri-County EMC, operate according to a core set of principles, the seventh being “Concern for Community”. The tradition of concern began as early as 1939, when Tri-County EMC was founded with the purpose of bringing electricity to rural farmers in Putnam, Jones, and Baldwin Counties. On September 12, 1940, forty miles of lines were energized, and 273 Tri-County members experienced electric service for the first time. Today and with nearly 23,000 meters now on its distribution system, Tri-County EMC continues its mission to better the lives of the individuals living in its eight-county service area through community and education grant programs, scholarships, leadership opportunities, economic development support, and most recently, 100% fiber internet service.

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TRI-COUNTY EMC NAMED BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

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In the last year, the cooperative's Bright Ideas program awarded grants totaling \$10,000 to eight Putnam County teachers. In addition, local charitable organizations such as Neighbors Helping Neighbors and ManUp Mentoring, Inc. received Operation Roundup Grants from the Tri-County EMC Foundation that allowed them to complete noteworthy community projects. In June, Putnam County resident Jayden Daniel represented Tri-County on the prestigious Washington Youth Tour, an all-expenses-paid leadership adventure in our nation's capitol. Nearly 8,500 Putnam County residents now have access to high-speed internet service through the cooperative's fiber internet affiliate, Tri-CoGo.

"While it is truly an honor to be named "Business of the Year" by the Eatonton-Putnam Chamber of Commerce, our work could not be done without the generosity of our member-owners and strong support staff from top to bottom," says Grinberg. "We look forward to serving Putnam County now and in the future as it continues to grow."



CHRISTMAS CARD ART CONTEST

And the winners are...

Kindergarten - 5th grade students were invited to participate in Tri-County's Christmas Card Art Contest. 182 entries were submitted, and the top three submissions are shown below. The first place artwork will be featured on the Tri-County EMC Christmas Card. (54637001)

In addition to the winners shown here, a winner was chosen for each grade level as well. All winning artwork can be seen on our website at tri-countyemc.com/christmascardartcontest.cms. Winning artists will be awarded at their schools. All artwork submitted will be donated to spread cheer during the Christmas season.



Piper Smith
2nd Grade, GMC Prep



Ellie Wofford
5th Grade, Gatewood School



Lynn Marley
4th Grade, Gatewood School

WALTER HARRISON SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION NOW OPEN

Applications due February 1

The Walter Harrison Scholarship is open to all undergraduate college students whose primary household is served by an EMC. A panel of judges from Tri-County EMC will select one undergraduate semi-finalist to compete for a \$1,000 scholarship at the state level. A combination of need and academic ability will be used to determine winners. The scholarship must be used in Georgia.

Students residing within the Tri-County EMC service area may apply for the Walter Harrison Scholarship through Tri-County. Applications can be downloaded at www.tri-countyemc.com/walterharrison.cms or may be obtained by mail upon request. To receive an application by mail, contact Anna Smith at 478.986.8126. Applications must be received by Tri-County EMC by February 1, 2024.



2024 WASHINGTON YOUTH TOUR

Applications due February 15

Do you know a local student residing in a home served by Tri-County EMC that has outstanding leadership qualities and a go-getter personality? Make sure they know about the Washington Youth Tour! Each June, Tri-County EMC sponsors two students on the prestigious Washington Youth Tour, an all-expenses-paid leadership adventure in our nation's capitol. Students on the trip, also known as delegates, get to experience a week of sight-seeing, visiting historic monuments, and convening with other state delegates across the country. 2024 Youth Tour will take place June 14-21. (84559001)

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- Student must reside in a home served by Tri-County EMC.
- Public, private and home-school students are eligible.
- Participants must be 16 years of age prior to the trip.
- Participants must turn in complete application with parent signature by February 15, 2024.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST:

- Completed application with signature
- Letter of recommendation
- Personal statement
- Parental/Guardian permission signature
- Current photo of applicant (preferably school photo)

For more information about the trip or application process, please contact Washington Youth Tour Coordinator Anna Smith at 478.986.8126.





CREAM OF BRIE SOUP

Courtesy of Georgia Grown

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 cup finely diced onion
- ½ cup finely diced celery
- ½ cup finely diced carrot
- 4 tbsp butter
- 4 tbsp all-purpose flour
- 6 cups chicken broth or stock
- ½ cup half & half
- 1 8-oz. wheel French Brie, diced with rind
- 2 tsp herbs de Provence
- 1 tsp hot sauce
- White pepper to taste
- Diced apple, for garnish
- Finely chopped parsley, for garnish

DIRECTIONS:

In a medium saucepan over medium heat, cook vegetables in butter until softened, 3 – 4 minutes.

Add flour and mix to coat vegetables. Cook while stirring 3 -4 minutes. Gradually whisk in chicken broth or stock, stirring to prevent lumps, then half and half. Whisk until smooth. Bring up to a boil then lower to a simmer. Add herbs de Provence, white pepper, hot sauce and diced cheese. Stir until cheese is melted. Using an immersion blender, puree until smooth. Adjust seasoning. Serve with crusty French bread and finely chopped parsley or diced apple to garnish. Serves 6 – 8



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.

OPERATION ROUNDUP SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

In addition to awarding grants each quarter, the Tri-County EMC Foundation also awards scholarships to two students in the service area twice per year. The scholarships 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. Congratulations to the Fall 2023 Operation Roundup Scholarship recipients!

Adisa Nwawel Amang



Adisa is an African exchange student who came to America on a soccer scholarship at Georgia Military College in Milledgeville. After graduating from GMC with her Associates Degree, she continued her All-American collegiate soccer career at Martin Methodist College where she lead her team to win a NAIA National Championship. While working to save money for school, Adisa was recently accepted into Middle Georgia State University’s School of Nursing and will soon achieve her goal of becoming a Registered Nurse.

Logan Michanne Haskins



Logan grew up in Jones County and has been involved in a number of community organizations since high school. Having never traveled much outside of the southeast, her adventurous spirit led her to move to Colorado in 2022 where she would live and work for the next year. While working, Logan realized her true passion for teaching. Now back in Jones County, Logan is working multiple jobs to earn money for college. She will attend Middle Georgia State University in the spring to earn her degree in Early Childhood Education.



Tri-County EMC

Owned By Those We Serve

P.O. Box 487
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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
George “Buck” Comer, Dan Greene,
Chap Nelson, Marion Nelson,
Cecil Patterson, Mike Rainey

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Monthly Publication for
Tri-County EMC Members