



# Connection

Communicating local energy news to Four County Electric members

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## Bright Ideas Grants Make Days Bright

Four County Electric Membership Corporation granted a total of \$19,860 to teachers in Bladen, Duplin, Pender and Sampson counties through the Cooperative's Bright Ideas program!

Bright Ideas grants provide funding for innovative, classroom-based projects that would otherwise not be possible. The money will fund 19 creative teaching projects that will benefit over 3,000 students in 13 different schools within the Four County EMC service territory. The following is a list of the winning Bright Ideas grant recipients (listed by county, teacher name(s), school, project name and the amount of funds they received):

### Bladen County

- » Barbara Wilkins, Tar Heel Middle, Storybooks for Friends: \$1,943
- » Whitney Hern, Elizabethtown Primary, The Art of Engineering: \$1,400

### Duplin County

- » Kimberly Brown, Wallace Elementary, MakerSpaces to Make Learning Fun: \$1,100
- » Christi Macleod, Chinquapin Elementary, Manipulate Me! \$1,089

- » Britani Becher, Chinquapin Elementary, I Have to Read in Math? \$1,000

### Pender County

- » Chelsea Ash, Team Member: Mark Lewis, Daryl Martin, Heide Trask High School, Simple Science: \$307
- » Richard Kukor, Pender Early College High School, Seawolves Take Flight! \$1,290
- » Jared Pinkston, Team Members: Thomas Herren, Pender High, Motor to Inspire and Engage, PHS EV Team: \$1,233
- » Douglas Lloyd, Team Members: Michelle Hafey, Elaine Linke, Elizabeth Roberson, Penderlea School, 3-D S.T.E.A.M. at Penderlea: \$1,500
- » Jessica Croson, Team Member: Jessica Ball, Jacqueline Parker, Heide Trask High School, Microscopy Mania: \$318

- » Melissa Jackson, Burgaw Elementary, Ecotower: \$463
- » Matt Davis, Pender High School, AP Calculus in Motion: \$150

### Sampson County

- » Don Chabot, Union High, Truly Tabled Without Shop Tables: \$1,842
- » Alyssa Neimeyer, Union High, Synergizing Science Squares: \$1,850
- » Kimberly Bowles, Harrells Christian Academy, Ozobots to the Rescue: \$714
- » Mary Malpass, Union Elementary, Parents and Art: Pieces of the School Puzzle: \$764
- » Amy Leatherwood, Union Intermediate, Virtually Unstoppable: \$1,598
- » Catherine Bell, Union Elementary, Stability Ball Grant: \$770
- » Jason Rinka, Union High School, Going Digital with E-Portfolios: \$529

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## Get the Scoop



### Energy Tip

Electric bills increase during the winter for a variety of reasons – holiday gatherings, houseguests, and shorter days and longer nights. Small measures, like turning down your thermostat, replacing incandescent bulbs with LEDs and washing clothes in cold water can help control energy costs.



Burgaw Elementary School teacher Melissa Jackson received a surprise visit and check from Four County EMC's Director of Corporate Communications Gay Johnson.



# Hurricane Matthew

Left a path of destruction throughout Four County EMC's Territory

Approximately 28,000 members were left without services after Hurricane Matthew blew through on October 8.

Four County crews came in early on the day of the storm, Saturday, October 8, to several scattered outages. Crews began to restore outages, but outages grew as the winds and rain picked up later in the day and evening. With sustained wind conditions and many hazards while driving, the crews were brought in due to safety reasons. Restocked, refueled and ready to go, crews rolled out early Sunday morning after the winds subsided to restore power to more than 90 percent of our membership.

Outages were system wide, but heaviest in the southeastern and western part of our service area. In many areas, roads were washed out and impassable due to flooding, leaving crews to contend with navigating treacherous, flooded roads and clearing debris before they could begin the work of making repairs to the system.

More than 260 right-of-way and line workers from Virginia, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas and other parts of North Carolina were brought in to help Four County EMC

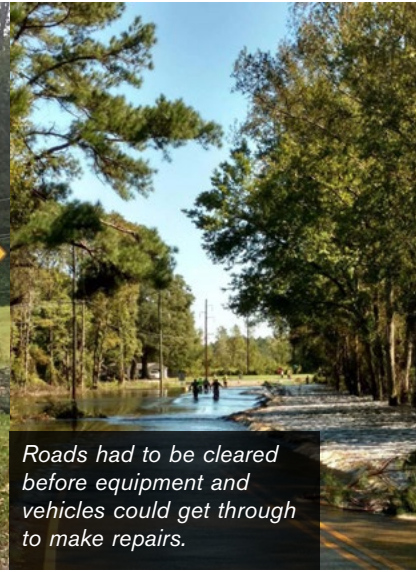
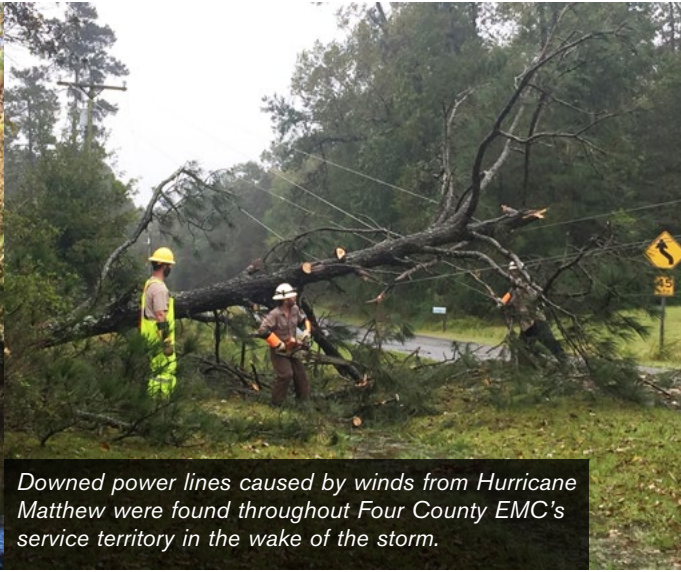
crews repair downed power lines and remove fallen trees from the right-of-way.

Sister cooperatives who sent crews to help included Haywood EMC, Waynesville; EnergyUnited, Statesville; Cumberland EMC, Tennessee; Prince George Electric, Virginia; A & N Electric, Virginia; Mecklenburg Electric, Virginia; Claverack REC, Pennsylvania; Adams Electric, Pennsylvania and Citizens Electric, Pennsylvania. Also, additional tree and line construction crews from North Carolina came to assist from Burford Tree, Currie; Rowe Tree, Currie; Lewis Tree, Hillsborough; Kennedy Tree Service, Wallace; Coastal

Power, Wilmington; Williams Electric, Shelby; Directional Services, Hope Mills; L.E. Myers, Rural Hall; and Sumter Utilities from Sumter, SC and T & D Solutions from Texas. We are thankful for their support!

Crews worked tirelessly through the night and day, and by late Monday afternoon over 19,000 homes had power restored. Restoration continued full force, but slowed due to flooding and washed out roads. Five days after Hurricane Matthew left over 28,000 members without power, 97 percent had been restored.

Approximately 680 waiting to receive electricity were in the flooded areas



*Downed power lines caused by winds from Hurricane Matthew were found throughout Four County EMC's service territory in the wake of the storm.*

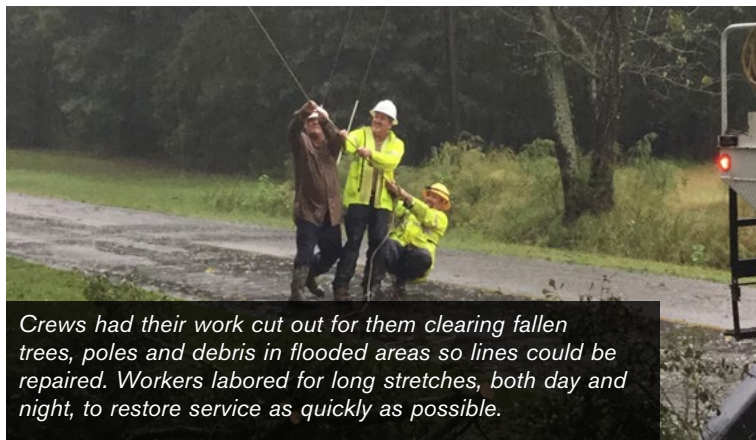
*Roads had to be cleared before equipment and vehicles could get through to make repairs.*

**"Thanks to our storm preparations, we had contract crews in place before the storm hit on Saturday, which helped us get a jump on the restoration," explained CEO Mitchell Keel.**

of Harrells, Ingold, Currie and Ivanhoe. Black River flooding was the worst, more so than during Hurricane Floyd. Even if the area directly around the member was not flooded, the terrain where the repairs were needed was flooded or washed out. Crews continued to monitor these areas closely so repairs could be made as soon as possible. In many areas, employees and assisting crews had to wade through water and use boats to get into these locations to survey the situation and make repairs. By Friday, service was

restored to all members who were not affected by the flood.

"Thanks to our storm preparations, we had contract crews in place before the storm hit on Saturday, which helped us get a jump on the restoration," explained CEO Mitchell Keel. "We thank our members for their patience, support and many kind words as crews and co-op staff worked tirelessly and diligently to rebuild after the storm and historic flooding." Mr. Keel said.



*Crews had their work cut out for them clearing fallen trees, poles and debris in flooded areas so lines could be repaired. Workers labored for long stretches, both day and night, to restore service as quickly as possible.*

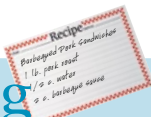




# Four County Connection

## Winning

from the editor



## Recipe

### Cream Cheese Sweet Potato Casserole



#### Ingredients

##### 1st Layer

- » 1 roll Ritz crackers
- » 1 stick margarine

Mix melted margarine with crushed crackers. Press in 13-x-9-inch pan and bake at 325 degrees for 12-15 min. Cool.

##### 2nd Layer

- » 1 8oz. cream cheese
- » 1 8 oz. Cool Whip
- » 1 cup sugar

Mix all three ingredients together and spread over cooled crackers.

##### 3rd Layer

- » 3 cups of mashed hot sweet potatoes
- » 1 egg
- » 1 cup sugar
- » 1 stick margarine (softened)
- » 1 teaspoon vanilla

Beat egg and other ingredients into hot sweet potatoes. To ensure egg is fully cooked, you may cook mixture an additional 3-5 minutes in the microwave. Cool and then pour over top of cream cheese mixture.

You can put toasted pecans on top if you prefer.



## Watch your mailbox

**Four County EMC Capital Credit refunds are coming this month**

Four County members will receive over \$2.6 million in capital credit refunds. The refund represents 100 percent of each member's share representing margins for 1989, 1990 and 10 percent of 2015. Members qualifying for these remaining margins will receive a refund check in early December.

Any member whose share of the margins is less than \$5.00 will not receive a check at this time, but the amount will be credited to their December electric bill. Capital Credits are one of many advantages of being a member of your electric cooperative.

### Four County Electric

#### Our Mission

To provide highly reliable electric service, innovative energy solutions and outstanding service to our Members and Communities.

#### Our Values

- Respect
- Integrity
- Trust
- Teamwork
- Commitment
- Excellence

#### Our Vision

To be an advocate for our Members by:

- Exceeding members' expectations
- Utilizing well trained, motivated employees
- Achieving excellence
- Operating efficiently
- Maintaining hometown values

## Four County Connection

Gay Johnson, Editor

Published monthly by Four County Electric Membership Corporation, P.O. Box 667, Burgaw, NC 28425, as a service to our members like:



Levi Robinson  
Rocky Point

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