




Connection

Communicating local energy news to Four County Electric members

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative 

inside
Four County
Connection

Help Keep Winter Energy Costs from Freezing Your Budget



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Brr...it's cold! The good news is Four County EMC offers a number of services to help you manage your energy use and keep Jack Frost from putting a chill on you and your wallet during these cold winter months:



Get the Scoop



Laundry Tip:

Dry towels and heavier cottons separately from lighter-weight clothing. You'll spend less time running the dryer for lighter-weight items, which saves energy.

Source: energy.gov

- **Mobile App.** Four County EMC's convenient app lets you track your energy use from your smart phone to keep heating and energy-related costs in check.
- **High-Use Alerts.** You can sign up for text or email alerts that let you know when your energy use reaches a certain level.
- **Prepay and Flexible Payment Options.** Four County EMC offers prepaid and levelized billing services to help spread out your energy payments instead of having to pay the high costs that extreme weather brings at one time.
- **Energy Efficiency Rebates/Loans.** If you need a new heat pump or home appliances, Four County EMC offers rebates/loans to help offset their cost. You'll also save money year-round through the increased energy efficiency these products offer.

We want you to have the tools and resources you need to make informed energy decisions. For more information, visit fourcty.org or call 1-888-368-7289.



Heat Pump Water Heater Rebate Available

Purchase a heat pump water heater and receive a \$300 rebate from the cooperative.

- Unit must be placed in primary residence; vacation homes and rentals do not qualify.
- Minimum tank size: 50 gallons
- Must submit rebate form and copy of sales receipt within 90 days of purchase
- Co-op reserves the right to verify installation

An application along with a copy of the applicable sales receipt must be submitted to the co-op within 90 days of purchase. Contact Chris Ingram for additional information at 888-368-7289 or email chrisingram@fourcty.org.

Put Safety First During Winter Weather

Keep these tips in mind to protect you and your family when winter weather comes your way:

- Place space heaters on solid surfaces at least three feet away from flammable items. Always turn off space heaters before exiting a room or going to sleep.
- Don't leave a fireplace unattended unless embers are extinguished. Use a fire screen to catch rolling logs or sparks.
- Generators should only be used in open and ventilated areas and should never be operated inside a home, including in a basement or garage, due to the risk of carbon monoxide fumes. Never connect generators directly to household wiring without first having a qualified electrician install a transfer switch to prevent back feeding, which poses a serious threat to line workers.
- If using Sterno or charcoal to cook food, always do so outside in a well-ventilated area. Cooking indoors with Sterno or charcoal will produce deadly carbon-monoxide fumes, which are colorless and odorless.
- Stay away from downed or sagging power lines and don't attempt to remove tree limbs from lines. Never drive over power lines and always assume they are electrified and dangerous. Alert your electric cooperative of any damaged lines immediately.

Downed and Dangerous

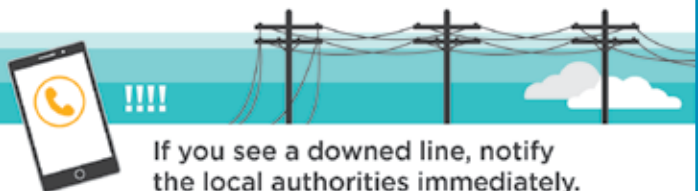
If you see a downed power line, always assume it is energized and dangerous. Avoid going near it or anything in contact with the power line.



Downed power lines can energize the ground up to 35 ft. away – so keep your distance.



Never drive over a downed line or through water that is touching the line.



If you see a downed line, notify the local authorities immediately.



Never try to move a downed power line, even if you think the line is deenergized or if you're using a non-conductive item – this will not prevent injury or death!



Basketball Camp Scholarships Available for Middle School Students

Four County EMC is giving two local middle school students the opportunity to hit the hardwood alongside their favorite college basketball athletes and coaches this summer, thanks to Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarships.



Four County will select one local young man for a scholarship to attend the Roy Williams Carolina Basketball Camp June 22-26 at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and one local young woman to attend the Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camp June 9-12 at North Carolina State University in Raleigh. The scholarships cover

all expenses at the overnight camps, which provide a glimpse into life on a college campus.

Applications are being accepted through March 31 and can be found online with additional information at fourcty.org or ncelectriccooperatives.com/sports-camps. Contestants will

be judged on academic records, extra-curricular activities and a required essay. To be eligible to participate, students must be in the sixth, seventh or eighth grade during the 2019-2020 school year and have permission from a parent or guardian to attend. Scholarship winners are expected to be announced in May.

meet your employees...

Each month, one employee will be featured in these pages in an effort to introduce the employees of Four County EMC to you. The February employee is Meg Franklin.

Meg serves as the marketing specialist in the Burgaw office. She has been employed with the cooperative since 2005 and works in the Customer Services department. Meg is the administrator of our Comfort Loan program, which enables eligible members to receive a new HVAC system, if needed. If you have contacted our office for assistance with one of our programs or services, you may have talked with Meg. She is also the cooperative's go-to person for several of our marketing programs. We value employ-

ees like Meg for their constant hard work and dedication to the cooperative and our members.

"Four County Electric Membership Corporation is a great company to work for, the job I have really fits me and my personality. I also have great people that surround me," says Meg Franklin.

In her spare time Meg likes to cross-stitch and read. She also loves spending time with her husband of 37 years, her four children and her grandchildren.



Meg Franklin, marketing specialist in the Burgaw office

Winning Recipe

from the editor



Your Valentine will love this sweet treat!

- ½ c. flour
- 1 c. sugar
- 1 c. semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1 c. pecans, chopped
- 2 eggs
- 1 stick butter
- 1 T. vanilla
- 1 unbaked (9-inch) deep dish pie shell, frozen or homemade

Mix flour, sugar, chocolate chips, pecans, eggs, butter and vanilla in a large bowl. Pour in unbaked pie shell. Bake at 350 degrees for 30–35 minutes or until com-

Kentucky Chocolate Nut Pie



pletely done. Do not overcook. Let the pie cool to room temperature before cutting. Serve warm with vanilla ice cream or a dollop of cool whip.

Scholarship Opportunities



Four County EMC awards \$10,000 in scholarships to students through the scholarship Foundation of four community colleges in our service area. For the full application process and eligibility requirements, interested students should contact one of the community colleges listed below:

Bladen County

Bladen Community College
910-879-5567

sbenson@bladencc.edu

Scholarship deadline: April 15, 2019

Duplin County

James Sprunt Community College
910-296-2417

jcavanaugh@jamesprunt.edu

Scholarship deadline: March 16, 2019

Pender County

Cape Fear Community College
910-362-7338

piwhitfield04@mail.cfcc.edu

Scholarship deadline: May 1, 2019

Sampson County

Sampson Community College
910-592-8081 extension 2042

lturlington@sampsoncc.edu

Scholarship deadline: April 15, 2019

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

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(father & son)
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