



the South River EMC **communicator**

September 2017

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An Opportunity That Benefits

Each year, South River EMC offers a unique opportunity to rising high school juniors and seniors, the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.

South River EMC now offers college scholarships to students who attend, beginning with attendees in 2016: Jessica Hamilton of Clinton; Nick Loscalzo of Clayton; and Thalia Plata of Clinton. Each received a \$1,000 scholarship toward tuition expenses at the college he or she is attending.

The scholarship adds to an exciting weeklong trip to Washington, D.C., offered by North Carolina's electric cooperatives, including South River EMC.

In 2017, South River EMC sent Ty Meyer, Anna Blount and Kayla Matthews.

"The tour was appealing because I had an opportunity to meet new people and tour the monuments," said Blount.

Students selected to attend from North Carolina represent electric cooperatives



2016 YTs: Jessica Hamilton, Thalia Plata, and Nick Loscalzo

from across the state. In Washington, D.C., they meet students representing electric cooperatives from across the country.

The trip offers a myriad of activities for students, including monuments and museums, a boat ride, a dance and a visit to Capitol Hill to meet local senators and representatives.

"To be selected as one of only 45 students across the entire state was a humbling honor," said Meyer. "Getting to go on the same trip that Ray Starling (former South River EMC Youth Tourist and current White House staffer) did, gave me a feeling of excitement and confidence."

If you have a child or grandchild living in the area that's interested in the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, they can visit sremc.com/content/electric-cooperative-youth-tour. Applications available in September.



2017 YTs: Kayla Matthews, Ty Meyer, and Anna Blount

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Coal Ash Resurfaces In The News

There has been a lot of discussion over the past couple of years about coal ash.

Now, as Duke Energy requests a rate increase, the topic has again made its way into the news. The reasons stated for the increase are primarily the cost of new generation and costs associated with meeting recent state laws and federal regulations regarding coal ash management.

After a couple of unfortunate coal ash basin spills, state and federal leaders implemented new regulations pertaining to the handling of coal ash and the need for a permanent solution.

Although South River EMC doesn't own any coal-fired power plants, the cost of power purchased through its power provider, North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation (NCEMC), that has contracts with Duke Energy is increasing beginning next year to ensure compliance with state and federal coal ash management regulations. Duke Energy's costs to comply with state law and federal regulations are considered part of the cost of generating electricity and are included in the rates that wholesale and retail customers pay.

The cost of compliance will be rolled into NCEMC's wholesale rates beginning in January 2018. The majority of the cost will occur between 2018 through 2022, with the greatest

impact in 2018 and 2019.

Because the topic of coal ash management is important to our members and all ratepayers in North Carolina it is essential to provide some background on the issue.

As most people are aware, coal is a plentiful, inexpensive fuel used in the generation of electricity. Thermal coal is pulverized to a fine powder and burned producing heat that is used to convert water into steam. The steam travels through tubes at high pressure and spins a turbine, connected to a generator. The generator produces electricity that is then delivered to homes, farms and businesses. The waste left from the burned coal is ash. Think of this in the same way as the ashes left after you burn wood in a fire, but on a much larger scale.

Coal ash has very low levels of trace elements and is considered non-hazardous by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Coal ash is used in many construction products such as drywall, concrete, roofing materials and bricks. The ash that isn't used for these purposes, is

disposed of in storage ponds, landfills and mines.

Reusing coal ash has many benefits including:

- Environmental benefits such as reduced greenhouse gas emissions, reduced need for disposing in landfills, and reduced use of other materials.
- Economic benefits such as reduced costs associated with coal ash disposal, increased revenue from the sale of coal ash, and savings from using coal ash in place of other, more costly materials.
- Product benefits such as improved strength, durability, and workability of materials.

COAL ASH MANAGEMENT

As utilities begin to move away from coal as a fuel for electricity generation in exchange for more efficient, lower-emission sources such as natural gas and renewables, it's important to find a safe, permanent solution for existing coal ash stores.

There are two options: capping coal ash basins in place or excavating the basins and relocating the contents to another

location. In each instance, water is removed safely from the basin in a manner that protects area water sources.

The remediation of coal ash basins marks a change in the electric utility industry as we move toward providing cleaner energy for our members.



Be The Teacher That Brings Excitement

School's in session and students are ready to learn, but are teachers prepared?

Teachers, as you and your students get settled this school year, there's still time to submit your Bright Ideas application(s).

South River EMC's Bright Ideas grant program offers grants up to \$2,500 to certified teachers at public, K-12 schools, for innovative, classroom-based ideas.

Since 1994, the Bright Ideas program has awarded \$10.9 million in grants to touch the lives of 2.1 million students through 10,400 projects across the state.

Averaging about \$50,000 in grants each year, South River EMC will reach \$1 million in funding in the 2017-2018 school year.

Take this time to assess your classroom needs and write your application, but be sure to get feedback from non-educators, sometimes fresh eyes spot items you wouldn't.

Can't complete your application in one sitting? It's okay, you can work on it, save it and return to finish it later.

If you're a teacher today, were you once in a class that received a Bright Ideas grant? Do you remember the excitement you felt when you had a teacher introduce something new and cool? Now, take a chance to be that teacher.

Applications are due September 18, so now is the time to visit ncbrightideas.com to begin.



Applications will only be accepted through the Bright Ideas web site.

Please be aware, as we approach the final deadline web site traffic will increase, so don't leave your submission up to chance.

The 2016-2017 School Year Was Big For A's

Congrats to all our students who received A's on their report cards!

South River EMC would like to take this opportunity to recognize 15 students who received at least one A on his or her recent report card, and were drawn to win a \$25 gift card.

Ashley Davis
JW Seabrook Elementary

Blake Buie
Madelyn Slade
Robert Sorensen
Gray's Creek High

Adriana Langer
Anderson Creek Academy

Austin White
Mac Williams Middle

Leonardo Delgado
Pine Forest High

Jacquelin Acuna Mendoza
Kaegan Young
Gray's Creek Middle

Christopher Eller
Lillington-Shawtown Elementary

Maya Williams
Luther 'Nick' Jeralds Middle

Luis Castro-Resendiz
Midway Elementary

Rachel Manchester
Cumberland International Early College High School

Kierra Price
Gallberry Farms Elementary

Anthony Fourtunia
Freedom Christian Academy

The "Give Us An A" program randomly selects 15 students, with at least one A on his or her report card, to receive a \$25 gift card. The next drawing will be in February.



Back To School Safety For All

Summer offers a nice reprieve from the shuffling papers, carpools and heavy backpacks of the school year. It's time to get back to it though.

As your children head out each day, you want one major thing, for them to get through the day safely.

Use these tips for peace of mind:

- Skip roomy backpacks, it's space your child will try to fill.

- Lighten the load, help children determine what's absolutely necessary to carry.

- Backpacks should weigh no more than 10 percent of a child's weight.

- Make sure children use both straps to carry the backpack.

- Teach children to stay away from traffic and avoid careless behavior at the bus stop.

- Children shouldn't stray onto the street or private property.

- Make children wait for the bus to stop before approaching.

- Children should use the handrail when entering or exiting the bus.

- Don't speak loudly or make loud noises that could distract the driver.

- Children should stay in their seats and shouldn't put anything out the window.

- Keep bus aisles clear.

- Encourage children to gather belongings before the bus reaches his or her stop.

- Teach children to wait for the bus to stop before getting up.

- Make sure traffic is stopped, and watch out for traffic changes, before you cross the center line of the road.

- Students and parents shouldn't walk while texting or talking on the phone.

- When texting, stop safely on the sidewalk, out of the way of others moving.

- When driving don't block the crosswalk when stopped at a red light or waiting to make a turn.

- Never cross the street while using an electronic device.

- When flashers are blinking in a school zone, stop and yield to pedestrians.

- Don't walk with headphones on, be aware of your surroundings.

- If walking on the street, you should face oncoming traffic.

- Watch out for children in school zones, near playgrounds and parks, and in residential areas.

- Look left, right, then left again before crossing the street.

- Don't honk or rev your engine to scare a pedestrian, even if you have the right of way.

- Never pass a vehicle stopped for pedestrians.

- Use extreme caution to avoid striking pedestrians.

- Don't load or unload children across the street from school unless there's a plan set up for this.

- Be aware of drop-off procedures, children are more likely to be hit near schools than any other location.

- Don't double park; it blocks visibility for children and vehicles.

- Carpool to reduce traffic.

- Eliminate distractions.

- Allow a greater following distance if following a bus.

- Never pass a bus from behind – or from either direction if you're on an undivided road – if it's stopped to load or unload children.

- Vehicles should stop with at least 10 feet around a school bus.

- Be alert; children can be unpredictable, and tend to ignore hazards and take risks.

By exercising a little extra care and caution, everyone can get through the school day safely.



Thoughts From Camp

If you have a middle schooler who loves basketball, we've got insight from students who attended the Touchstone Energy basketball camps this year.

Both camps were held in June, Anani Green attended the Wolfpack Women's basketball camp at NC State University, while Carson Neely and Tyler Brown attended the Roy Williams' basketball camp at UNC-Chapel Hill.

"On the first evening, we had a night game and I was happy and scared because it was real basketball coaches watching and teaching us," said Neely.

Students attended camp with others in their age range, and spent the week on a college campus.



L-R: Carson Neely and coach Roy Williams; Anani Green and coach Wes Moore; Tyler Brown and coach Roy Williams.

"It was a good experience being on a college campus but it was a lot of walking to do," said Green. "It showed me how it will be when I go to college."

Neely added, "being on a college campus was cool and fun. We talked and had fun. We ate at the cafeteria too."

There was plenty of fun and learning, and students picked up and improved on their skill sets.

"I believe I got better at boxing out, defense and my shooting accuracy, said Green. "I recently won a half court shooting contest."

"Attending camp was good. I learned new things, like the V-cut, improved on my shooting, dribbling and defense," said Neely. "Trust the process and believe in God and God will take you far."

Are you currently in the **military** (or recently separated) and considering a job as an **electric lineman** when you separate? If so, we have a program for you!

Boots To Buckets

South River EMC offers a scholarship to attend Nash Community College's Electric Line Academy. Visit sremc.com for details or call 910.230.2982.

Applications due November 17.



Deposit Change Takes Effect Sept. 1

An existing member who is disconnected for non-payment with no deposit or an inadequate deposit amount on file, will be required to pay a deposit (or an additional deposit), which will be due with the next bill.

Cooperatives For Community

South River EMC is proud to be offering the Cooperatives For Community program.

Working with the Cooperative Council of North Carolina, or CCNC, we invite local scout troops, as well as 4-H groups, to our offices to learn about electric cooperatives.

We welcome groups to either our Dunn or our Fayetteville office, based on the group's location.

Students will see a pole top rescue demonstration (weather permitting) followed by class

time, with focus on cooperatives, South River EMC in particular, and electric safety. If time and weather permits, students will finish with a bucket ride.

Students will receive booklets with questions to answer and activities to perform.

Those interested in obtaining a patch will need to complete a certain number of tasks to be eligible. Even if obtaining a patch isn't your group's goal, we welcome any youth group to take part in the program.



Interested in participating? Contact South River EMC at connections@sremc.com or by calling 910-892-8071 ext. 2151.

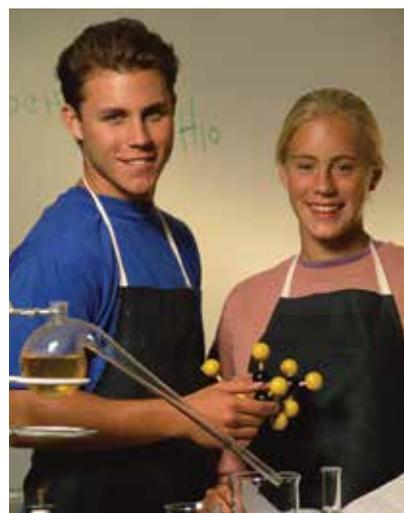
Teachers: Let Us Teach Your Class

South River EMC offers two school programs, The Adventures of Neon Leon and Lightin' Liz, and What Do You Know About Energy Efficiency?

The Adventures of Neon Leon and Lightin' Liz is a 30-minute high-voltage demonstration that teaches students about electricity and safety as it follows the adventures of Leon and Liz.

These two aren't very smart when it comes to electricity and often find themselves in dangerous situations. Glass figures represent the characters and are used to demonstrate the importance of electrical safety. Students will watch as Leon and Liz experience different problems such as improper use of metal ladders, why to avoid downed power lines, and more. Students can expect a big surprise!

What Do You Know About Energy Efficiency is a 30-minute program that covers where electricity originates to big energy users. Students will also look at ways to help save our natural resources through energy efficiency, while saving their parents' money! This



interactive learning experience gets students involved by making learning about electricity more like a game show than a pop quiz.

Students also receive their own kit on energy efficiency. The kit includes an energy-saving checklist, an activity booklet, a folder and a light switch cover. Armed with the knowledge of how to be energy savers, students can navigate and identify ways to be more energy efficient.

You can schedule one or both of these programs for your school. Typically presentations work best with a single class size audience. If requesting both presentations, two rooms will need to be provided. We recommend these presentations for elementary grades. Please contact sremc@sremc.com with the program(s) you would like as the subject.

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Cool Your Costs

As we come to the end of another hot summer, it's time for heat pump maintenance. And if your unit's getting older, it might be time for replacement.

Heat pumps have a life span averaging 10 years, and if you're nearing that mark, find out what's available.

There are many different types of heat pumps to include air source, dual fuel hybrid, mini split and geothermal. Each system is different, so do some research to find the type of unit that is best for your home.

Remember to consider the systems' seasonal energy efficiency ratio, or SEER, rating. No matter the type of system, the SEER rating tells you how efficient the system is when cooling a home. The higher the SEER, the more efficient the system. When looking over systems, remember that size doesn't affect the efficiency of the SEER rating. However, an improperly sized system can impact the operation of the unit negatively. Too large a system and the unit often cycles too quickly and doesn't properly dehumidify, too small and it's overtaxed.

Always be sure to get several estimates before selecting a replacement system. And remember a high efficiency system, 17 SEER or greater, is eligible for a rebate from South River EMC. For full information visit sremc.com or call 910-892-8071 x 2152.

How Smart Is Your Thermostat?

Smart thermostats can help you control heating and cooling costs. With the ability to control your thermostat remotely, you can make changes on the go to meet your needs.

Smart thermostats are Wi-Fi enabled and they automatically adjust temperatures for maximum performance.

Screens are bright and easy to read and use, so if you have company over and have to make changes, it doesn't take time away from the group.

Energy Star certified models adjust for daylight savings time, as well as seasonal changes so you don't have to worry to remember to change the date or the settings.

Some models track your energy use, and can help you save by customizing your schedule a little differently.

Smart thermostats are more expensive than standard and programmable thermostats, but with all the additional features, it'll have you saving in no time, as long as you use it right.

South River EMC offers a \$20 credit on the purchase and installation of a smart thermostat. For complete details visit sremc.com or call 910-892-8071 x 2152.



Tasks To Control Costs

During warm days you want your home to remain cool, and vice versa during colder days.

But sometimes, you find warm spots during the summer and cold spots during the winter in your home.

Insulation and weatherization prevent heat gain and air infiltration, both which can affect comfort and costs.

Begin by checking insulation where you can, in the attic or under the house. Look for areas where insulation is sparse or there is none. By replenishing, you could improve comfort, which helps costs.

Once insulation is taken care of move to weatherization.

By caulking and weather stripping you prevent the gain of outside air and the loss of inside air. This will help improve comfort and could help lower costs.

How can performing these tasks lower costs? In being comfortable, you're less likely to adjust the thermostat so dramatically to combat the inefficiencies. In this case, you might leave your thermostat set a little higher in the summer and a little lower in the winter, which means your heating and cooling system is used less, which equals energy savings.

South River EMC also offers rebates for making some of these improvements, for complete information visit sremc.com or call 910-892-8071 x 2222.



Pool Pump Savings Possible

Have you closed your pool, or are you preparing? The end of season sales might be the best time to look over variable or two speed pool pumps. If you're wondering why, it's because single-speed pumps cost you more to use.

Single-speed pool pumps run at the highest speed, which uses the most water, to perform the tasks of your pool. A variable, or two-speed, allows you to adjust levels to better fit tasks, which uses less energy and less water. A variable-speed pump has more options than a two-speed pump.

However, both allow for variations in speed and water use which help you save money, water and energy, a win for everyone. If you purchase a new Energy Star certified variable or two speed pump for your pool, you could receive a \$50 rebate from South River EMC.

For more information, visit sremc.com or call 910-892-8071 x 2152.

Warm Water Is A Must

Warm water is needed for cleaning: people, clothes and dishes. The cost to heat water can get high, but you can take control of this expense.

Most homes have a standard electric water heater, which replenishes heated water as it's used, from a tank. What water isn't used is left to be reheated whenever it falls below the set temperature.

A heat pump water heater (HPWH) pulls heat from the surrounding air, so it should be located in a 40- to 90-degree range year round. Because it uses energy to move heat instead of creating it, a HPWH is two to three times more energy efficient than a standard electric water heater.

A solar water heater uses the sun to warm water. This system typically has to have a back-up for cloudy days. This cuts down on energy use because the fuel, the sun, is free to use.

Both the HPWH and the solar water heating systems are more expensive than a regular water heater, and of course, both have their limitations, however they are more efficient. So if you're looking for ways to cut back on your second-highest energy cost, consider a new, energy-efficient water heater.

For details on the \$150 rebate offered on solar water heater or the \$200 rebate on HPWHs from South River EMC, visit sremc.com or call 910-892-8071 X 2152.

Energy Star Savings

There are all kinds of reasons that people select the appliances they do, be it color, model, size, cost. What sometimes isn't considered is efficiency.

Appliance costs include more than just the purchase cost, consider their energy cost as well. How much does it cost to run this appliance over its lifetime? Cheaper appliances often cost more to run, since they do not have the most efficient technology. Meanwhile, an Energy Star certified appliance, which has undergone testing to receive the Energy Star certification, will have more efficient technology, with a greater purchase price.

That extra cost is made up in energy savings over the appliance's lifetime. And not just that, but South River EMC offers a \$10 rebate on the purchase of an Energy Star certified clothes washer or dryer, refrigerator or dehumidifier. These are appliances you use pretty regularly, so when it comes time to replace, consider an Energy Star model. For more information, visit sremc.com or call 910-892-8071 x 2152.

