

# Along the LINE

July 2024

For members of  
Edgecombe-Martin County EMC

## Local Middle Schoolers attend Summer Basketball Camps

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC had two local middle-school students shoot hoops and run drills at basketball camps this summer.

Blakeley Perkins attended the Roy Williams Carolina Basketball Camp in June at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. Zoey Weaver attended the NC State Basketball Camp.

“These scholarships offer a wonderful chance for aspiring athletes to immerse themselves in college life and gain insights from mentors within their beloved NCAA athletic programs,” remarked Winston Howell, CEO of Edgecombe-Martin County EMC. “We take pride in upholding the tradition of empowering exceptional local students with avenues to refine fundamental skills essential for success both on the court and in academics.”



Perkins and Weaver secured the all-expense-paid scholarships through a rigorous application process, which evaluated their academic prowess, community engagement, and passion for sports. During the camp, participants resided in campus dormitories and collaborated with coaches to enhance their basketball abilities while fostering teamwork.



This marks the 19th consecutive year that North Carolina's Touchstone Energy cooperatives have sponsored promising individuals to attend the Roy Williams camp. The cooperatives' collaboration with universities not only offers a distinctive blend of education and athletics but also aligns with Touchstone Energy's core principles of accountability, integrity, innovation, and community dedication.



## Holiday Closing

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC will be closed on Thursday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day.

Payments after office hours and on holidays can be made at the kiosk under the drive-thru canopy, by calling our automated telephone service at 1-855-356-6358, placed in the night deposit box or you may choose to utilize the convenience of online bill-pay by logging on to [ememc.com](http://ememc.com)

To report an emergency after hours, please call 1-800-690-0657.

# Above Average Activity Predicted

The latest forecast from North Carolina State University suggests a busier-than-average hurricane season ahead.

The researchers at North Carolina State University are predicting 11 to 15 named storms, with 6 to 8 of those storms developing into hurricanes, and 2 to 3 becoming major hurricanes in the Atlantic this season, which runs from June 1 through Nov. 30.

It's essential to note that the peak of storm activity typically spans from mid-August to mid-October. To ensure you're not caught off guard, proactive planning is key. Take the time now to develop a comprehensive hurricane plan and assemble vital supplies. By preparing ahead of time, you'll be better equipped to weather the storms of the 2024 Atlantic hurricane season safely.

## 2024 Atlantic Hurricane Names

<b>Alberto</b>	<b>Helene</b>	<b>Oscar</b>
<b>Beryl</b>	<b>Isaac</b>	<b>Patty</b>
<b>Chris</b>	<b>Joyce</b>	<b>Rafael</b>
<b>Debby</b>	<b>Kirk</b>	<b>Sara</b>
<b>Ernesto</b>	<b>Leslie</b>	<b>Tony</b>
<b>Francine</b>	<b>Milton</b>	<b>Valerie</b>
<b>Gordon</b>	<b>Nadine</b>	<b>William</b>

## 2023 Safety Employee of the year

Paula Klutz was honored with the title of Safety Employee of the Year for 2023 during our safety luncheon held in May.



Paula Klutz and Mike Johnson

In an industry where safety is paramount, Paula's unwavering commitment to promoting safety within our organization, both through her active involvement in the Safety Committee and in her daily

responsibilities, has been truly exemplary. Her dedication not only exemplifies our core values but also sets a standard for excellence that inspires us all.

At our luncheon, we also extended our appreciation to several of our colleagues who have reached significant milestones in their safety careers: Karren Braswell, 20 years; Blake Fleming, 10 years; and Eddie Stocks, 35 years.

As we reflect on these achievements, we are reminded of the importance of fostering a culture of

safety within our workplace. Each milestone, each award, and each recognition signify our collective commitment to prioritizing the well-being of our employees and our community.

Ensuring the safety of both employees and the community stands as the foremost objective of workplace safety measures and training. Within Edgecombe-Martin County EMC, this commitment to safety not only fosters a secure environment but also yields substantial financial benefits for the cooperative and our members. In the unfortunate event of an injury, the ramifications extend far beyond medical expenses. Indirect costs, encompassing administrative efforts, heightened insurance premiums, recruitment of replacement staff, and potential damage to reputation, can escalate up to four times the direct costs incurred by the injury alone.

Prioritizing safety not only safeguards the well-being of cooperative employees but also proves advantageous for members and the broader community.

## Small Renewable Generation and Net Metering Rider Changes Effective July 1, 2024

The board's annual evaluation ensures that our avoided cost rates remain reflective of current market dynamics. In line with this commitment, the board has recently approved adjustments to the avoided cost rates, effective July 1, 2024, particularly impacting the Small Renewable Generation Rider and Net Metering

Rider. While the facilities charge for both riders remains unchanged, the kWh rate will decrease from \$0.0398 to \$0.0370. This decision underscores the board's proactive approach in aligning our pricing structures with evolving energy landscapes, benefiting both consumers and the sustainability of our operations.

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC, along with electric cooperatives across the United States, is dedicated to working with local, state and federal representatives to ensure affordable energy costs for the future.

Our cooperative does not align with any specific political party, but instead focuses on educating all legislators about the potential impacts of various bills on their constituents.

In April, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC joined over 1,200 electric cooperative leaders in Washington, D.C., to meet with members of Congress and Biden administration officials. Their goal was to advocate for policies that ensure reliable and affordable electricity for rural America. A primary concern for cooperative leaders was the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) new power plant proposal. They voiced strong opposition to this proposal, citing its unrealistic deadlines and reliance on unproven technologies, which could threaten the reliability of the power grid. Cooperative directors, CEOs, and state association leaders conveyed this message directly to lawmakers and their staff.

In May, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC employees and board members visited Raleigh to engage with state legislators. These visits are crucial for building trust and ensuring that lawmakers consider the needs of electric cooperative members when making decisions. During these discussions, we highlighted our commitment to a balanced approach for a Brighter Future, which includes maintaining reliability and affordability while pursuing net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. We emphasized the importance of supporting reliable baseload and peaking generation resources such as nuclear and natural gas.

Our members often ask how they can support their electric cooperatives. One effective way is through joining Voices of Cooperative Power (VCP), a network of co-op members who collaborate to influence energy policy decisions. As a VCP member, you will receive background information on utility issues and updates on significant state and federal legislation. Occasionally, you might be asked to contact your elected officials about specific legislative matters. Participation is entirely voluntary, and you can opt-out at any time. Lawmakers need

to hear from you—the voters. The more voices they hear, the more attention they pay to the concerns of electric cooperatives. To join and make your voice heard, visit [voicesforcooperativepower.com](https://www.voicesforcooperativepower.com).

By staying engaged and informed, you can help ensure that the future of our energy remains reliable, affordable, and sustainable for all.

Cooperatively Yours,  
*Winston Howell*  
Winston Howell



*Employees and Board Members of Edgecombe-Martin County EMC meet with Senator Kandie Smith in Raleigh.*



*Edgecombe-Martin County EMC employees and board members meet with staff from Representative Don Davis's office in Washington, D.C.*

# Keeping Seniors Cool: Beat the Heat Fan Program

This year, we're providing 25 box fans through the Senior "Beat The Heat Program." With temperatures on the rise, it's vital to ensure that senior citizens and individuals with disabilities have adequate means to stay cool. During the scorching summer months, seniors without air conditioning or proper air circulation are at a higher risk of heat-related injuries.

The Beat the Heat fan program, initiated in 1986 with contributions from utility companies, aims to aid seniors in North Carolina in coping with the summer heat.

These fans are available to individuals age 60 or above who reside in Edgecombe County. To receive a fan, interested individuals can reach out to the Edgecombe County Office on Aging at 252-641-5831, while supplies last. Valid identification, such as a driver's license or another form of photo ID, must be presented to verify age and residency.



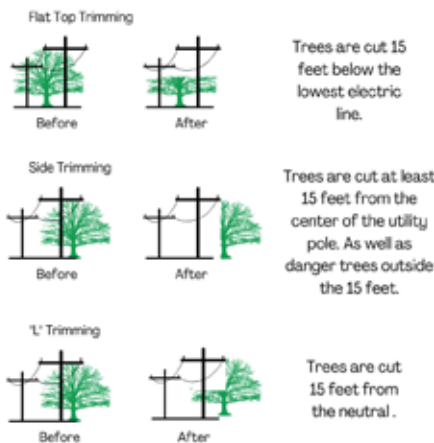
Alex Tucker, Alissa Cutler, Cody Thompson, Eddie Stocks, and Taylor Ascher stand alongside Deborah Coley from the Edgecombe County Office on Aging.

## July Rights-of-Way

In order to provide safe, reliable electrical service, we maintain the rights-of-way under and around our power lines. We do this through rights-of-way and vegetation management. This requires pruning, removing, and cutting vegetation to prevent interruption of your electric service.

Throughout July, Burford's Tree will utilize the sky trim, buckets and bushhogging equipment, in the Hamilton, Hassel and Oak City service areas and various hotspots on the system.

### Examples of trimming methods



## Along The LINE

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