



Plugged in to Altamaha EMC | Fiber



Serving: Toombs, Montgomery, Emanuel, Treutlen, Laurens, Johnson and Tattnal

Local Students Showcase Skills at Area Electrical Wiring Competition

Three local high school students recently represented our area at the Area Electrification Career Development Event (CDE), demonstrating their technical knowledge and hands-on wiring skills.

Evan Hardeman of Montgomery County High School earned a third-place finish in the competition. He was joined by *Chestin Collins* of Treutlen County High School and *Case Conner* of Toombs County High School.

Now in its sixth decade, the Electrification CDE is a long-standing partnership between Georgia

FFA chapters and local electric membership corporations (EMCs). The event is designed to develop students' technical abilities while strengthening their communication and problem-solving skills. Through mentorship and training opportunities provided by EMC employees, students gain valuable real-world experience in electrical wiring and safety practices.

The competition challenges participants in three key areas. Students complete a hands-on wiring exercise that tests their understanding of the National Electrical Code, take a written multiple-choice exam, and deliver an oral presentation explaining the steps required to complete a specific electrical task.

Events like the Electrification CDE reinforce concepts taught in agricultural education classrooms while expanding students' understanding of electric energy and the important role electric cooperatives play in powering Georgia's communities.

The competition is open to active Georgia FFA members in grades 10–12. Participants have the opportunity to compete for scholarship funds that may be used at any college, university, or vocational school in Georgia.

Altamaha EMC is proud to support educational opportunities like the Electrification CDE and congratulates Evan, Chestin, and Case for representing their schools and communities so well.



Operation Round Up Spotlight



Making a Difference in Our Communities

Through the generosity of Altamaha EMC members who participate in Operation Round Up, local nonprofit organizations continue receiving vital support to serve children and families across our region. Recent grants were awarded to The Sunshine House Regional Children's Advocacy Center and Kid's Cup, Inc., helping both organizations continue their important missions.

The Sunshine House Regional Children's Advocacy Center

The Emanuel County Child Abuse Prevention Center, Inc., doing business as The Sunshine House Regional Children's Advocacy Center, received a \$4,000 Operation Round Up grant to support its comprehensive services for children and families affected by abuse and trauma.

The Sunshine House provides all services free of charge to children impacted by sexual abuse, physical abuse, neglect, drug endangerment, and those who have witnessed violence. Their goal is to offer a safe and compassionate environment where healing can begin while minimizing additional trauma.



Services include therapeutic counseling provided by licensed professionals trained in trauma informed care, child friendly forensic interviews, forensic medical exams conducted under the National Children's Advocacy Center model, parent education and support, family assessments, parent and child enrichment programs, and tutoring and educational assistance.

In addition to direct services, The Sunshine House places strong emphasis on prevention education. Community programs help children and adults recognize signs of abuse, understand the importance of reporting, and promote safe environments. The organization also offers Stewards of Children, an evidence based training program that equips adults to prevent, recognize, and respond responsibly to child sexual abuse.

Through partnerships with law enforcement, the Department of Family and Children Services, and medical professionals including collaboration with Children's Healthcare of Atlanta through telemedicine technology, The Sunshine House ensures children receive thorough, coordinated care close to home.

Kid's Cup, Inc.

Kid's Cup, Inc. in Dublin received a \$2,500 Operation Round Up grant to purchase essential items, specifically underwear and socks, for children in need.

Kid's Cup is a community closet serving foster families, kinship caregivers, and other vulnerable children from newborns through teens. When children enter foster care, families often have little time to prepare. Kid's Cup helps relieve the immediate financial burden by providing free clothing, shoes, baby gear, books, toys, and school supplies, allowing caregivers to focus on creating stability and connection.

Families shop at Kid's Cup by referral from community partners in a cheerful and welcoming space designed to offer dignity, encouragement, and care. Since opening in October 2021, Kid's Cup has served more than 2,000 children and youth across more than 45 Georgia counties. Their mission is simple. If a referred family can make their way to Dublin, Kid's Cup is ready to serve.



Operation Round Up allows Altamaha EMC members to round up their monthly electric bills to the nearest dollar, with those small amounts adding up to make a big difference. Grants like these help strengthen families, protect children, and improve lives throughout the communities we serve.

Altamaha EMC is proud to partner with organizations like The Sunshine House and Kid's Cup that are working every day to make our communities safer and stronger.

What to Do When an Altamaha EMC Member Passes Away

Losing a loved one is never easy, and handling their affairs can feel overwhelming. Amid the many decisions and responsibilities, one important but often overlooked task is managing their Altamaha EMC account.

Understanding Capital Credits

As a member-owned cooperative, Altamaha EMC returns margins to its members in the form of capital credits. These credits accumulate over time and are a valuable benefit of membership. However, capital credits belong only to the primary account holder and are not automatically transferred to a spouse or other family members.

If the account remains in the deceased member's name, capital credits will not continue to accrue for the household. Instead, they are paid out to the estate upon the member's passing. To ensure these funds are properly claimed, a representative of the estate must visit our office and provide a copy of the death certificate. A check for the accrued capital credits will typically be issued within 4-6 weeks.

Updating the Account

To avoid any interruptions or complications, it is important to update the account by transferring it to a surviving family member or legal representative. This ensures that capital credits continue accruing in the new account holder's name and that billing and service-related matters are properly addressed.

We're Here to Help

We understand that dealing with the loss of a loved one is an emotional and challenging time. Our team is here to guide you through the capital credit process and make the transition as smooth as possible. If you have any questions or need assistance, please don't hesitate to call our office at (912) 526-8181.

How Capital Credits Work

Because electric co-ops operate at cost, any excess revenues, called margins, are returned to members in the form of capital credits.

1 Altamaha EMC tracks how much electricity you buy and how much money you pay for it throughout the year.

4 When a member passes away, a representative of the estate can apply for a refund of the capital credits that have accrued.

2 At the end of each year, Altamaha completes the financial reports and determines whether there are excess revenues, called margins.

3 Altamaha allocates the margins to members as capital credits based upon their use of electricity during the year.



TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS

Scammers and cyber criminals look for weak points to exploit before software companies can fix them. Update software programs on your computer, tablet and mobile phone as soon as possible when a newer version becomes available. Software updates often contain critical patches and protections against security threats. Turn on automatic updates to automatically update your security software, internet browser, operating system and mobile apps.

Source: consumer.ftc.org





Don't Risk It!

Nearly two in five U.S. homeowners will put themselves and their communities at risk this year by digging without calling 811 beforehand.*

**CGA 2021 Omnibus Study*

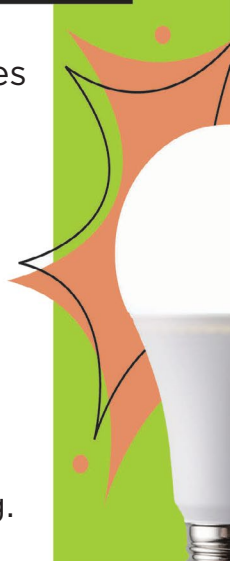
Always contact 811 before digging to avoid service disruptions caused by damaging buried utilities.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY

TIP OF THE MONTH

As spring arrives, take advantage of milder temperatures to save energy at home. Open windows on pleasant days to bring in fresh air instead of running your HVAC system. It's also a great time to replace dirty air filters, which helps your system run more efficiently and improves indoor air quality. As daylight increases, turn off unnecessary light and rely on natural sunlight when possible. Small seasonal adjustments like these can reduce energy use, lower monthly bills and help keep your home comfortable as winter transitions into spring.





Member RECIPES

Taco Casserole

INGREDIENTS

4 tablespoons vegetable oil or canola oil, divided
1 cup diced onion, divided
2 teaspoons minced garlic, divided
1/2 cup diced bell peppers, optional
1-1/2 cups rice
2 tablespoons taco seasoning mix, divided
Salt and pepper, to taste
3 cups broth or water
1 pound ground beef or ground turkey
1 10-ounce can Rotel tomatoes
or diced tomatoes
4 cups tortilla chips, broken
1 16-ounce can chili beans, drained
3 to 4 cups grated cheese (cheddar, Monterey jack
or pepper jack)



DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a medium saucepan, heat 2 tablespoons oil over medium-low heat. Add 1/2 cup onions, 1 teaspoon garlic and bell peppers (if using). Cook for 2-3 minutes or until onions are translucent. Add rice, 1 tablespoon taco seasoning, salt and pepper to saucepan, stirring to coat. Pour broth over rice. Bring rice to a boil, then lower heat to gently simmer for 15-20 minutes. While rice is cooking, heat remaining oil in a skillet. Add remaining onions and garlic to skillet and cook over medium-low heat for 1-2 minutes. Add ground meat to skillet, breaking it up with a wooden spoon. Add remaining taco seasoning and salt and pepper. Cook until meat is cooked through. Drain and discard excess grease. Add tomatoes to skillet and cook to heat through. To assemble, sprinkle broken chips in the bottom of a 9x13-inch casserole dish. Spread cooked rice over tortilla chips, then layer with beans, followed by meat mixture and ending with cheese. Place in oven for 10-15 minutes or until cheese is melted. Serve with whatever taco toppings you like, such as salsa, sour cream, scallions and cilantro. Serves 8.

-Courtesy of Georgia Grown