

# Along the LINE

July 2023

For members of  
Edgecombe-Martin County EMC

## Students Attended UNC Basketball Camp

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

Luke Johnson attended the Roy Williams Carolina Basketball Camp in June at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. Z'Kaila Pittman attended the NC State Basketball Camp.

"These scholarships are a fantastic way for young athletes to experience life on a college campus and learn from mentors at their favorite NCAA athletic programs," said Winston Howell, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC CEO. "We're proud to continue the tradition of providing outstanding local students with opportunities to develop fundamental skills that will help them excel on the court and in the classroom."

Johnson and Z'Kaila earned the all-expense-paid scholarships by completing an application that included academics, community involvement and enthusiasm for sports. At camp, students stayed in dorms on campus and worked alongside coaches to hone basketball skills and practice working cooperatively with teammates.

This is the 18th year that North Carolina's Touchstone Energy cooperatives have sponsored young men to the Carolina camp. The co-ops' partnership with universities provides a unique educational and athletic opportunity for our state's youth and keeps with Touchstone Energy's core values of accountability, integrity, innovation and commitment to community.



## Holiday Closing

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC will be closed on Tuesday, 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](https://www.ememc.com)

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



Edgecombe-Martin County  
Electric Membership Corporation  
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

## Average Activity Predicted for 2023 Hurricane Season

Researchers at North Carolina State University are predicting an average 2023 Atlantic hurricane season.

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.

Although hurricane season starts June 1, the majority of storms occur between mid-August and mid-October. You should always make plans and prepare ahead of time for a major storm so you are not caught off guard. Take time to create a hurricane plan and gather the necessary supplies to keep you safe.

## 2023 Atlantic Hurricane Names

<b>Arlene</b>	<b>Harold</b>	<b>Ophelia</b>
<b>Bret</b>	<b>Idalia</b>	<b>Philippe</b>
<b>Cindy</b>	<b>Jose</b>	<b>Rina</b>
<b>Don</b>	<b>Katia</b>	<b>Sean</b>
<b>Emily</b>	<b>Lee</b>	<b>Tammy</b>
<b>Franklin</b>	<b>Margot</b>	<b>Vince</b>
<b>Gert</b>	<b>Nigel</b>	<b>Whitney</b>

## Pitt Receives Board Leadership Certificate

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC Director Bert Pitt recently earned the Board Leadership Certificate (BLC) from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

The NRECA Board Leadership Certificate (BLC) recognizes individuals who continue their professional development after becoming a Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD). Directors who have attained the BLC have completed 10 credits in advanced, issues-oriented courses.

An ever-changing business environment has imposed new demands on electric cooperative directors, requiring increased knowledge of changes in the electric utility business, new governance skills and a solid knowledge of the cooperative principles and business model.



*Bert Pitt, Board President, with Jimmie Jernigan, Board Vice President*

## Summer Interns Gain Work Experience

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is pleased to welcome aboard two individuals to fulfill internship positions this summer.

Ralph Culloim is our Engineering Intern. He is a rising Senior at NC State University. Ralph began at EMC on May 15, working in our engineering department on specialized projects throughout the summer.

Austin Housand is our Apprentice Line Technician intern. Austin graduated from the Nash Community College's Electric Line Construction Technology program. Austin participated in the college's career signing event, making his commitment to begin his career with our cooperative in May.

Internships play a dual role by giving the interns valuable on-the-job training with many opportunities while allowing the cooperative to prepare for future staffing needs. Please help us welcome them both to our team!



Over the past few months, your cooperative has worked to keep you informed about the possibility of a rate adjustment depending on the results of a cost-of-service study. We believe it is imperative to keep our members informed every step of the way, because we understand each one of you are member-owners of this cooperative.

Your cooperative recently completed the cost-of-service study and rate analysis. This process is very detailed, and an abundance of data has been collected to provide an accurate analysis. Conducting a cost-of-service study and rate analysis ensures that we continue to provide fair and equitable rates to all members while fulfilling our duty of keeping your cooperative financially sound. The results from these studies indicated that we need to adjust our rates in order to cover an increase in wholesale power cost and operating cost.

It is our goal to provide our members with affordable rates while managing costs effectively. However, the fact remains that the cost of power continues to rise. As record inflation continues to result in steep increases in the price of gasoline, groceries and other everyday goods, the cost of electric system investments and improvements necessary to keep our electric system reliable and resilient is also increasing. The cost of investments in power lines and substations has increased significantly due to inflation and material supply disruptions.

When your cooperative designs rates, we pay special attention to ensure each rate class produces an equitable rate of return. We do not want one rate class subsidizing another in any way. We also utilize meter data compiled from each rate class to analyze the overall impact each one has on our system demand. This allows us to design rates that will generate revenue based on how each rate class contributes to the load share. Using our meter data instead of industry standards enables us to design rates that are more accurate for our distribution system. Although this may cause one rate class to be impacted more than another, it is the most accurate and fair way to design rates because it accurately depicts how we purchase wholesale power.

Despite our best efforts to find ways to prolong any adjustment to ensure financial stability, the Board voted on and approved a rate adjustment effective July 1, 2023.

When planning for a rate adjustment, most members want to know how much more they will have to pay. So, let's go over some examples and explanations for the various rate classes. Since residential members comprise the largest part of our membership, let's start with the Residential Service Rate Schedule. Under the new rate, a residential member consuming 1,000 kilowatt-hours will pay, on average, \$12.30 more per month than the previous base rate. The basic charge for residential and prepay members will increase by \$5.00 monthly. Next, let us look at the Seasonal Rate Schedule. Seasonal members are only billed four months out of the year. The average consumption of our seasonal members is approximately 4,634 kilowatt-hours per month. That member would pay approximately \$47.17 more per month under the new rates than the previous base rate. The basic charge for seasonal members will increase by \$5.00 per month. Our Large Power and General Service Rate Schedule are unique in that the impact of the rate adjustment will be largely dependent on each member's load factor and total consumption.

Rising costs may affect your cooperative, but our commitment to you, our members, is that we will do everything possible to mitigate the impact of these costs. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the implementation of this rate adjustment, we encourage you to call our office at 1-800-445-6486. We will answer your questions, and we look forward to working with you on ways that you can reduce your monthly bill through energy efficiency.

Cooperatively Yours,  
*Winston Howell*  
Winston Howell

## Apply Early for Bright Ideas Education Grants and be Entered to win \$100

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is partnering with outstanding educators to bring creative learning to life! Starting April 1, teachers can apply for a Bright Ideas education grant of up to \$1,500 to fund projects that enhance student success in K-12 classrooms and would otherwise not be possible.

Grants are available in all curriculum areas including art, science, history and mathematics. Edgecombe-Martin County EMC expects to award approximately \$10,000 grants to local teachers during the 2023-24 school year.

Bright Ideas grant applications will be accepted through Sept. 15, but teachers are encouraged to apply early. Those who submit their application by the early bird deadline of Aug. 15 will be entered to win one of five \$100 Visa gift cards.

Supported by all 26 electric cooperatives in North Carolina, Bright Ideas grants have contributed \$15 million to N.C. classrooms, funding a total of 14,200 projects that have benefited well over 3.5 million students statewide since 1994. Applications and more information about the program can be found at [ncbrightideas.com](https://ncbrightideas.com).



Apply Today!  
[ncbrightideas.com](https://ncbrightideas.com)

### Along The LINE

[ememc.com](https://ememc.com)

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Hwy. 33 East, P.O. Box 188  
Tarboro, NC 27886  
252-823-2171 • 1-800-445-6486  
Office Hours: 8 a.m.–5 p.m. (M–F)

#### After Hours Outage Reporting 1-800-690-0657

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## July Rights-of-Way Schedule

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 brush to prevent vegetation from interrupting your electric service.

Throughout July, Xylem Tree experts will be trimming Temperance Hall road in the West Edgecombe areas.

