

Tri-State EMC Honors Local Scholars



From left, Jessie Baliles, Madelynn Cribbs, Dr. Jeanette Farmer Hedrick, Peyton Nelson and Madison Shorette. Not pictured: Taylor Burt and Sydney Chancey.

Each year, Tri-State EMC recognizes the valedictorians and salutatorians from Copper Basin High School, Fannin County High School and Hiwassee Dam High School, and each of these six scholars receive a \$1,000 scholarship from Tri-State EMC to further his or her education.

On May 7, 2024, Tri-State EMC held its annual Honors Night dinner. Honored students included: Copper Basin High School valedictorian Madelynn Cribbs and salutatorian Jessie Baliles, Fannin County High School valedictorian Peyton Nelson and salutatorian Sydney Chancey, and Hiwassee Dam High School top students Madison Shorette and Taylor Burt.

Dr. Jeanette Farmer Hedrick was the guest speaker for the event. She is a native of the Tri-State EMC area

and attended Hiwassee Dam High School, graduating as valedictorian of her class.

Dr. Hedrick received her Bachelor of Science, master's and education specialist degree from Western Carolina University, as well as her doctorate from the University of South Carolina. She worked as a teacher and administrator in the Cherokee County School District for more than 30 years.

Tri-State EMC is proud to honor these students for their hard work throughout the years. Congratulations and best wishes in the future!



Tri-State EMC Operation Round Up Awards Scholarships to Deserving Students



Alisah Deal
Copper Basin High School



Jonah Pierce
Fannin County High School



Julian Maldonado
Hiwassee Dam High School



Matthew Scott
Mountain Education Charter School

All of the money collected through Operation Round Up goes to nonprofit groups, charities and school systems locally in the Tri-State EMC service area. The money comes from Tri-State EMC members who round their bill up to the next whole dollar each billing cycle.

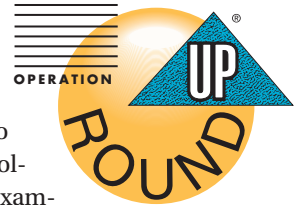
Once a month, the Tri-State EMC Foundation Board considers grant requests and distributes funds.

In 2013, the Operation Round Up Board made the decision to grant a vocational student from Fannin County High School, Copper Basin High School, Hiwassee Dam High School and Mountain Education Charter High School each a

\$500 scholarship.

The Operation Round Up Board elected to allow each school's scholarship committee to decide on the recipient of the scholarship. This scholarship is a fine example of where and how funds from Operation Round Up are used to benefit the communities we serve.

Thank you to all of the Tri-State EMC members who participate in Operation Round Up and helped make this scholarship possible.



Energy Efficiency *Tip of the Month*

Electricity used to operate major appliances accounts for a significant portion of your home energy use.

Here's an easy way to lighten the load on your clothes dryer. Before you dry a load of damp clothing, toss in a clean, dry towel. The towel will absorb excess water, shortening the drying time. If your dryer does not include an autosense feature to determine drying time, remember to reduce the timer to about half of what you normally would. Remove the towel about 15 minutes after the cycle begins. Shorter drying times will extend the life of your dryer and save energy.

Source: homesandgardens.com



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Young Leaders Learn About Government During Co-op Event in Nashville, Tenn.

In May, 46 high school juniors from across Tennessee were in Nashville for the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association’s annual Youth Leadership Summit.

Delegates received a hands-on look at state government, learned networking and leadership skills, and developed a better understanding of their local electric co-ops.

Tennessee Secretary of State Tre Hargett welcomed students to the capital, where they visited with legislators, sat in on committee meetings, and debated and voted on a mock bill.

In addition to meeting lawmakers and experiencing the state capital, students developed their leadership and team-building skills at the Joe C. Davis YMCA Outdoor Center at Camp Widjiwagan, participated in an electric safety demonstration and completed a leadership training course with leadership expert Amy Gallimore. Delegates also attended a Nashville Predators hockey game as special guests of the professional team.

“When I was invited to attend the Youth Leadership Summit, I never thought I would be leaving with new friends and memories like the ones I have now,” says Nathan Salvador, a junior at Chester County High School and a YLS delegate from Southwest Tennessee EMC in Henderson, Tenn. “I am deeply honored to have been nominated to go and am forever grateful to the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association. The knowledge I have now of electric cooperatives, specifically the teamwork and networking aspects, will stay with me for the rest of my life.”

Youth Leadership Summit delegates are encouraged to be leaders and use their talents to improve their communities.

“The future of Tennessee is only as strong as the next generation of leaders,” says Todd Blocker, Vice President



From left, Trinity Smith from Copper Basin High School, Wyatt Payne from Fannin County High School and Chris Hulsey, Human Resources Manager at Tri-State EMC.

of Member Services for the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association and Director of the Youth Leadership Summit. “Investing in these young people is a great opportunity to make a lasting impact on the communities we serve. These students are selected by their local electric co-ops, school officials and guidance counselors, and they are among the most talented students in the state. It is an honor to help them learn and grow.”

Is a **battery-powered option** right for your home?

By Scott Flood

Battery technology has advanced significantly in recent years, with batteries able to hold more electricity even as they shrink in size and cost. The same innovations that boosted the performance of electric vehicles (EVs) are being engineered into today's battery-powered backup systems.

Battery backup systems like Tesla's Powerwall are essentially high-capacity batteries that store a set amount of electricity, which you can then use to power your home in the event of an outage. Some are constantly charged by the power grid, while others rely on solar panels for recharging.

Most home battery backups are smaller than comparable generators, and because they don't use combustion to generate electricity, there's no danger of carbon monoxide exposure. That makes them safer and more environmentally friendly than generators. Most can be installed in a small space indoors. Battery backups are also significantly quieter.

When a power outage occurs, battery backups start instantaneously, unlike generators that may take a few moments to spool up and reach operating speed. Battery backups also don't need regular maintenance like oil changes or spark plug replacement, and there's no need to store fuel.

However, battery-powered generators do present some disadvantages. The amount of power they deliver is limited by the capacity of their batteries. When they're out of

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Many homeowners are taking a closer look at the latest battery-powered systems for backup power when the lights go out.



COURTESY OF GOAL ZERO

Portable, battery-powered backups can be used indoors to power smaller appliances like your laptop, TV or microwave.

electricity, they may need hours of recharging before being used again, so they're not as well-suited for lengthy outages.

Energy-hungry appliances like air conditioners and water heaters may drain the batteries' capacity more quickly, so you may have to disconnect them during an outage. Fortunately, some battery backups are modular, allowing you to add capacity as needed.

If you only need a few devices powered during an outage, consider a portable battery-powered system. These small, quiet backups can be used indoors to power smaller appliances, like your laptop, TV or microwave.

Generally, batteries require long charging times, so if an initial outage is quickly followed by another, they may not be able to respond. There are fast-charging systems on the market, but they carry substantially higher price tags.

And like the one in your cellphone, batteries can degrade over time. In five or 10 years, they may need to be swapped out with new batteries, adding to the overall cost.

So, is a battery-powered backup system right for your home? The answer is different for every homeowner, but whether you're considering a battery system or a traditional standby generator, start by calculating the amount of power you need to keep your home's systems and conveniences operating efficiently. Once you know that, you can determine which models are up to the task and calculate how long the device you're considering can power your home. *Note: If you have a family member whose health depends upon devices like a CPAP machine or supplemental oxygen, be sure to factor that into your decision.*

Finally, whether you choose a battery backup or a traditional standby generator, make sure it's designed to protect your home and all your electronics from power surges and other issues that may damage your TVs, computers and other sensitive electronics. That way, you won't have to worry about remaining without them long after an outage has ended.



ISTOCK.COM / ROSCHETZKI/ISTOCKPHOTO

Some battery-powered systems are constantly charged by the power grid, while others rely on solar panels for recharging.