



Line Items

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Newsletter
Of Excelsior EMC

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LOCAL STUDENT COMPETES IN STATE EMC/FFA WIRING CONTEST

Dimas Guillen, a sophomore at Southeast Bulloch High School, represented his school well in the State EMC/FFA Electrification Career Development Event (CDE), held on January 12, 2019 at the FFA/FCCLA Camp in Covington, GA.

The Electrification CDE, also known as the EMC/FFA Wiring Contest, is a unique way to encourage high school students to learn about electricity. Students enrolled in agricultural education courses take part in FFA-supervised projects which prepare them to compete in the Electrification CDE.

Dimas placed second in the Area IV wiring contest on November 13, 2018, which awarded him a \$300 scholarship and trip to the state contest to compete for a \$1,000 scholarship. At the state contest, Dimas competed against 11 other students from throughout Georgia. The wiring contest contains three primary components: a practical wiring exercise, a problem solving exercise which requires the students to interpret and apply the National Electrical Code, and a speech demonstration activity.

Dimas is the son of Salvador and Alisa Guillen of Bulloch County. Southeast Bulloch High School FFA Advisor Brian Elrick worked to prepare his student for the contest.

Excelsior EMC would like to congratulate Dimas Guillen on a job well done at the State EMC/FFA Wiring Contest.



Pictured on the right, Dimas Guillen works diligently to complete the wiring skill portion of the contest, which is worth 60% of the students' final grade. Students have 90 minutes to complete this exercise, with most of them finishing with only minutes to spare.



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BRONSON BRAGDON
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When Your Power Is Off -- Call (912) 685-2115 or (912) 764-2123

When your power goes off, don't stay in the dark longer than you have to. To restore your power as quickly as possible, we need your correct phone number. Your phone number is the quickest way for us to locate your home or business when you call to report an outage.

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Between the Lines

by
Greg Proctor
President/CEO

PREPARE FOR WINTER STORMS

Winter has a cruel way of letting us know who's in charge. Winter snow and ice storms can have a tremendous effect on our service reliability. Hopefully, the continuous improvement changes that we make each day will keep your power flowing all winter with no interruptions. However, nature can be so brutal, that regardless of our efforts power outages will occur and may continue over a long period of time.

We urge you to prepare now by assembling an emergency energy kit that includes a flashlight, lantern, battery-powered radio, first-aid kit, bottled water, non-perishable food, fire extinguisher, and extra batteries for your smartphone, flashlight, lantern, and radio.

At the Cooperative we are continually preparing by making electrical system improvements to enhance power quality and reliability. We maintain power line rights-of-way to keep trees and limbs out of the power lines. We rely on permanent fault indicators that are installed on all circuits to provide our troubleshooters with information that enables them to quickly determine where the problem is and where it's not with the goal of getting your lights back on quicker. Each truck is stocked with temporary fault indicators that troubleshooters can use to narrow down their search for problems that are not easily seen. We evaluate system loading after each winter and summer peak to identify areas where growth could lead to problems. We also look at all devices that experience outages multiple times for unknown reasons. Servicemen investigate these outages in the daylight so that the root problem can be corrected.

We recently started using Cooperative Response Center (CRC), a call center owned and operated by electric cooperatives across the country. CRC has three call centers that have the staff and technology that enable them to handle large volumes of phone calls with live operators. We understand that speaking with someone helps to communicate your outage, and CRC's three call centers pride themselves on the high percentage of calls that are handled without having to leave a message.

An essential element of handling your outage call quickly and accurately is having the correct phone number on file for your service location. If you no longer have a land line phone, please provide us your cell number to be used in its place. If you have more than one service location, keep a list of account numbers and descriptions readily available to use when reporting an outage. Or better yet, download the Excelsior EMC app for your smartphone and enter the outage from your phone. You can download the app by searching for Excelsior EMC at the App Store or on Google Play.

Hopefully we will get through another winter with no major outage problems. However, if outages do occur, rest assured that our trouble shooters will go to work immediately to restore your power as safely and quickly as possible.



Every Member Counts

TWO PROMOTED TO LINEMAN



Rhett Youngblood



Kent Wilson

Rhett Youngblood and Kent Wilson recently received their Integrated Transmission System (ITS) Qualified Operator Certification at the Electric Cooperative Training Center in Smarr, Georgia, completing their transition from Apprentice Lineman to Lineman.

During the week-long course in Smarr, Rhett and Kent were given instruction on how to read system one-line diagrams to identify system configuration, direction of power flow, voltages, system equipment, and zones of protection for protective relays. They also received hands-on training in the operation and inspection of substation equipment, and the writing and executing of switching orders. At the end of the training session, they demonstrated the necessary procedures for substation power restoration and passed a written examination to become qualified ITS operators.

Rhett and Kent each held the title of Apprentice Lineman for over five years. They have undergone extensive on-the-job training under the supervision of a crew leader as well as classroom training, and have truly earned the distinction of being named an Excelsior EMC Lineman.

Excelsior EMC would like to congratulate Rhett and Kent on their accomplishments.

LINDY CHESTER PROMOTED



Lindy Chester

Following the retirement of Sherry Kingery, Lindy Chester was recently promoted to Manager of Financial and Accounting Services. Lindy began her career at the Cooperative as Accounts Payable Accountant where she worked for 6 years. She was then promoted to Assistant Manager of Financial and Accounting Services where she has worked for nearly a year prior to her most recent promotion.

Effective management of the Cooperative's finances and assets is vital to the efficient operation of Excelsior EMC. Lindy is up to the task and excited to have the opportunity to serve our members to the best of her ability. Please join us in congratulating Lindy.

SHERRY KINGERY RETIRES

Sherry Kingery started her career at Excelsior EMC on March 6, 1995 as a Cashier. Later that same year, she was promoted to Accounts Payable Clerk where she served for over 16 years. In 2012, Sherry was promoted to Manager of Financial and Accounting Services where she worked for seven years until her retirement. Sherry provided the Cooperative with a total of 24 years of dedicated service. We will surely miss her detailed work ethic, knowledge of the Cooperative's finances, and most of all the homemade chocolate brownies she would bring to share with her co-workers.

All of us at Excelsior EMC would like to wish Sherry all the best in her retirement!

EXCELSIOR EMC RECEIVES SAFETY AWARD



Lineman Micheal Byrd practices a pole top rescue during a monthly employee safety meeting.

Excelsior EMC recently earned a “No Lost Time” Safety Award. The Cooperative received this “No Lost Time” award from Georgia Electric Membership Corporation, the statewide trade association representing the state’s 41 EMCs.

Each month, Excelsior EMC employees attend a safety meeting where a safety instructor covers topics such as personal protective equipment, rescuing injured personnel, heat stress awareness, DOT flagging procedures, first-aid and other safety topics. Employees are

also reminded of correct procedures for working with energized lines and methods for ensuring the entire crew is aware of the potential dangers at the work site and how to respond in case of an accident. As always, safety is Excelsior EMC’s top priority.



Supervisor of Engineering Jim O'Brien (Right) and Engineering Representative Dennis Reddick (left) practice the proper DOT flagging procedures during a monthly employee safety meeting.

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