



# POWERLINES

May 2025

Official Newsletter of Tri-State Electric Membership Corporation

## Congratulations, High School Graduates!



**T**ri-State EMC would like to congratulate Crews Chastain, who will be graduating from Fannin County High School this month.

Crews is the son of Tri-State EMC General Manager Stacy Chastain and his wife, Jenna.

Congratulations on your graduation! Tri-State EMC wishes you all our 2025 graduates the best for their futures.



## MEMORIAL DAY

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED



### Holiday Office Closing

Tri-State EMC's office will be closed  
Monday, May 26, 2025, in  
observance of Memorial Day.

This is a day of remembrance for those  
who died serving our nation.



SUNDAY, MAY 11

# WHAT'S ON THAT POLE?

This illustration shows the basic equipment found on electric utility poles. The equipment varies according to the location and the service they provide.

## PRIMARY WIRES

Primary wires carry 7,200 volts of electricity from a substation. That voltage is 60 times higher than the voltage that runs through your home's electrical outlets!

## SURGE ARRESTORS

These protect the transformer from lightning strikes.

## NEUTRAL WIRE

The neutral wire acts as a line back to the substation and is tied to the ground, balancing the electricity on the system.

## SECONDARY SERVICE DROP

Carries 120/240-volts of electricity to consumers' homes. It has two "hot" wires from the transformer and a bare "neutral" wire that's connected to the ground wire on the pole.

## GROUND WIRE

The ground wire connects to the neutral wire to complete the circuit inside the transformer. It also directs electricity from lightning safely into the earth.

## INSULATORS

Insulators prevent energized wires from contacting each other or the pole.

## TELEPHONE, CABLE TV AND FIBER WIRES

These are typically the lowest wires on the pole.



**NEVER NAIL POSTERS OR OTHER ITEMS TO UTILITY POLES. THESE CREATE A SAFETY HAZARD FOR LINeworkERS.**