

Tri-State EMC Proudly Recognizes Six Scholars on Honors Night



Copper Basin High School
Anna Ballew–Valedictorian
Carder Lance–Salutatorian



Fannin County High School
Jaclyn Cracknell–Valedictorian
Julie Farmer–Salutatorian



Hiwassee Dam High School
Chloe Grizzle–Top Student
Olivia McNabb–Top Student

Tri-State EMC once again held its annual Honors Night dinner in recognition of the top students at three local area schools. Anna Ballew, Carder Lance, Jaclyn Cracknell, Julie Farmer, Chloe Grizzle and Olivia McNabb were all recognized at the night's event, and each were given a \$1,000 scholarship from Tri-State EMC.

The students were treated to a catered dinner followed by a brief

speech by Matthew McDaniel, co-owner of Cochran/McDaniel Funeral Home and former pastor of First Baptist Church of McCaysville.

McDaniel encouraged the students to find out what they are about and to make a mission statement for themselves, as well as be willing to take some risks, set goals and go after them.

"God can use you in any way,"

he continues, while adding that students should commit to a full journey of their lives. He also warns them to beware of thinking like, "I will be happy when ..." Instead, he told students to enjoy the moment and pause along the way to soak it all in, sharing lyrics from the song "Keep Me in the Moment."

Congratulations to the students recognized!

Local Students Receive Operation Round Up Scholarships



Elijah Henderson
Copper Basin High School



Sky Taylor
Hiwassee Dam High School



Barron Davenport
Fannin County High School



Celeste Hays
Mountain Education Charter School

Four local students recently received well-deserved scholarships from the Operation Round Up program.

Elijah Henderson from Copper Basin High School, Sky Taylor from Hiwassee Dam High School, Barron Davenport from Fannin County High School and Celeste Hays from Mountain Education Charter School each received a \$500 scholarship from the Tri-State EMC Operation Round Up program.

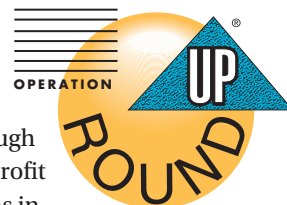
In 2013, the Operation Round Up Board made the decision to grant a vocational student from each of the schools a \$500 scholarship in order to help them further their education. The Operation Round Up Board elected to allow each school's scholarship committee to decide on the recipient of the scholarship. These scholarships are fine examples of

where and how funds from Operation Round Up are used to benefit the communities we serve.

All of the money collected through Operation Round Up benefits nonprofit groups, charities and school systems in the Tri-State EMC service territory. 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 meets to consider grant requests and distributes funds.

Thank you to all of the Tri-State EMC members who participate in Operation Round Up and help make these scholarships possible.



Energy Efficiency *Tip of the Month*

During summer months, run large appliances that emit heat such as clothes dryers and dishwashers during the evening when the outdoor temperature is lower. Running heat-emitting appliances in the evening will reduce indoor heat gain during the day when outdoor temperatures are highest and ultimately keep your air conditioner from working harder than necessary.

Source: *energy.gov*



This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

New STEM Center Program Opens in Ducktown, Tenn.

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation's STEM Center Program, which supports students in kindergarten through eighth grade in public schools and community-based youth organizations, expands access to science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) educational tools.

The Ripken Foundation STEM Center Program helps close educational gaps for at-risk students in underserved communities. In the first year of the partnership, TVA launched 27 STEM Center Programs within the seven-state region. Since then, they have provided new technology for the children at each of these locations and are opening five new centers, including one in Ducktown, Tenn.

Each STEM Center Program will be equipped with six Chromebooks; a Tech Tub to safely store computers and a 3D printer; educational STEM products, including Bee-Bots, Kid Spark Foundational Fluencies, Kid Spark STEM Pathways, Snap Circuits and Ozobots; custom-designed



The Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation's STEM Center Program participates in a ribbon-cutting ceremony at its new center in Ducktown, Tenn.

curriculum tied to Next Generation Science Standards; mobile workbench; seven elemental clover tables and 28 stackable chairs; an opportunity to participate in the annual STEM Challenge, a national competition hosted by the Ripken Foundation; a dedicated Ripken Foundation STEM Center Program coordinator to help mentors and teachers; and six new lesson plans to complement TVA's workforce development initiatives, including careers tied to TVA, circuitry and dams.

Caramelized Vidalia Onion Barbecue Dip

Ingredients

2 tablespoons olive oil
2 tablespoons butter
4 cups onions, diced
1 tablespoon garlic, minced
2 teaspoons kosher salt
1 teaspoon black pepper
16 ounces cream cheese
1/2 cup mayonnaise
1/2 cup barbecue sauce
2 cups shredded cheese (of choice)
Crackers or French bread, for serving

Directions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Heat a 10-inch cast-iron skillet over medium heat. Add olive oil and butter to the pan. Once the butter has melted, add diced onions. Cook onions for 5 minutes, then add minced garlic, salt and pepper. Stir well. Cook until onions turn golden brown, stirring often. This should take about 20 minutes.

Add cream cheese, mayonnaise and barbecue sauce; mix well. Cook until cream cheese is melted. Top the mixture with the shredded cheese and bake until melted. Serve with crackers



GEORGIA GROWN

or French bread. Serves 12-16.

Note: If you don't have a 10-inch cast-iron skillet, use a regular skillet and transfer the mixture to a casserole dish before topping with cheese and baking.

Tri-State EMC Is Committed to Educating Young People About Safety



Tri-State EMC employees regularly visit local schools to educate students about electricity and electrical safety.

Recently, Tri-State EMC employees visited Fannin County Headstart, where students were provided coloring books featuring Louie the Lightning Bug and all kinds of fun pictures to color that describe what runs on electricity inside a home.

The books also have information on how electricity is made and transmitted, plus many of the different ways in which electricity is used. In addition, the coloring books stress the importance of staying safe around electricity.

Tri-State EMC employees review the coloring books with the preschool students, while also showing them many of the tools that groundmen and lineworkers use while working.

Students get to try on lineworkers' safety gloves and hard hats, and see a bucket truck in action.

Tri-State EMC employees love teaching co-op members about electricity and, most importantly, how to be safe around it. It's never too early for children to begin learning how to stay safe around electricity, so Tri-State EMC offers this electrical safety program to preschools in the co-op's service area.

5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Always call 8-1-1 first, because you never know what's below.

Here are five easy steps for safe digging:

Source: call811.com

1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before you start.



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for a response to your request. Affected utilities will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.



3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded by comparing the markers to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.



4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. They are your guide for the duration of your project.



5. DIG CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project.

