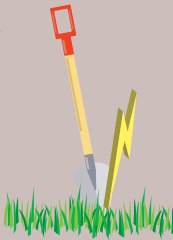




## Dial Before Digging

You never really know what's below the surface when you dig. You may chop right into underground power lines. In addition to causing outages, this is very dangerous. Before digging in your yard, have the underground electric lines located. Please give us three days notice before you dig. Call us at (252) 426-5735.



## Washington Youth Tour Winner Selected

Clayton Harris is the winner of the Albemarle EMC Washington Youth Tour contest.

Clayton, an 11th-grade student at John A. Holmes High School, in Edenton, was selected from a pool of candidates based on the quality of his essay and his academic achievements. His essay explored future energy sources.

Clayton currently takes honor classes and is a member of the JROTC drill team as well as the Student Government Association. He is in the Boy Scouts and is close to earning Eagle Scout.

The Washington Youth Tour will be held June 12-18. On his trip, Clayton will meet fellow winners from across the state at an orientation in Raleigh. From there, he will be off to the 2010 Youth Tour, where 1,500 winners from 38 states will attend. Clayton will have a busy time learning about electric cooperatives and how they are governed. He will meet with elected representatives and visit historic sites such as the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Smithsonian Museum and Mount Vernon. The visit will also include a trip to the Kennedy Center, a boat ride down the Potomac River and a dinner dance.



*From left are: Elizabeth Huff, school guidance counselor; Clayton Harris, Youth Tour winner; parents Sherry and Jim Harris, and Jamie Gillespie, school principal.*

## Albemarle Sounds

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For outages, call  
**1-800-274-2072**

## Bright Ideas Contest Begins

Teachers who would like to bring additional resources into their classrooms can now begin applying for a Bright Ideas grant.

The deadline for applications is Sept. 20. However, teachers who apply before the early bird deadline on Aug. 16 will be entered into a drawing for a \$500 Visa gift card.

To apply, visit [www.ncbrightideas.com](http://www.ncbrightideas.com). Last year, Albemarle EMC gave away more than \$10,000 in grants to teachers in the Albemarle area.

## AEMC Has Facebook Page

In order to better convey information to members, Albemarle EMC has implemented a Facebook page, located at [facebook.com](http://facebook.com).

If you have a facebook account set up, simply type **Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation** into the Facebook search field. The site will bring up Albemarle EMC's Facebook page. Then select "become a fan." You will receive regular updates, energy tips and more from your co-op.

# Albemarle EMC Conducts Strategic Planning Session

Your Board of Directors and management staff recently gathered to discuss the direction Albemarle EMC needs to take in the future. This strategic planning session involved identifying the following core values that our cooperative believes in: how to better achieve them, the current state of our industry, our most pressing challenges, and the top strengths that position Albemarle EMC well for the future.

One of the first tasks was to develop a new mission statement for the cooperative. We wanted this statement to reflect the core values that we stand for as well as to state the purpose of the cooperative and guide our future actions. The following mission statement was adopted at the March meeting of your Board of Directors:

“AEMC strives to safely deliver reliable power and related energy solutions to our members and local communities by providing the highest value through service excellence”

This project is a work-in-progress as we strive to address the various topics and concerns that were expressed. Over the next several months we'll share our areas of focus and goals with you. It is important to us to keep the lines of communication open in an effort to maintain a strong and informed membership.

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## Thanks to Survey Participants

The employees of Albemarle EMC would like to thank all of the members who took the time to fill out and return an Annual Meeting survey. The survey was conducted to determine if the membership would like to see changes to the Annual Meeting proceedings. Questions included how members felt about the time, date and location of the meeting as well as the prize drawings and topics covered. We will be implementing some of your suggestions at this year's Annual Meeting, which will be Sept. 18 at Perquimans County High School. You'll be receiving more information as the meeting date approaches.

We congratulate survey drawing winners Lonnie Raper, and Michael and Rena Skinner, who won \$50 credits on their electric bills.

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## Site Work Begins for new Building



*Contractors work to clear a wooded area for the future location of Albemarle EMC's new office building.*

# Apprentice Lineman Hired

Matt Kroeger is the newest addition to Albemarle EMC's workforce.

Kroeger, 22, began work in April, serving as an apprentice lineman on the overhead line crew.



Kroeger comes to Albemarle EMC, having already accumulated good experience in the field of line work. He graduated from Wilkes Community College with a degree in Applied Science. He also attended Nash Community College's lineman program, where he received an electric lineman certificate. At Nash Community College he was taught electricity theory, climbing safety and other aspects of the field. Kroeger said he would like to eventually get his electric lineman diploma.

In addition, he recently served an internship with Blue Ridge EMC, located in Lenoir, N.C. During his internship he helped to set utility poles and dig trenches for underground power lines.

Kroeger said that he gravitated toward this field because of the rewarding nature of the work.

“It is a challenging career,” he said. “I like to get involved with hard work, working outdoors and getting my hands dirty.”

A native of Boone, N.C., Kroeger said he enjoys hunting, fishing and snowboarding.



## Grants Available for Teachers

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association has announced that a mini-grant program is now available for teachers.

The deadline for the \$500 grants is May 15. Teachers can apply by submitting a project idea that must feature an investigation of the science of energy or electricity. Project ideas could include a study of the history of hydroelectric generation or alternative sources of energy for the next generation. To obtain an application, contact Chris Powell, director of public relations, at 426-2586 or e-mail [chris.powell@albemarle.ncemcs.com](mailto:chris.powell@albemarle.ncemcs.com).



# At Your Service

How Albemarle EMC works to provide its members with the highest-quality service possible.

## The Myths of Energy Efficiency

Energy and energy savings myths get passed around surprisingly rapidly, often with little scrutiny. However, according to the Department of Energy, many of these myths should be treated with healthy skepticism. Sometimes the basic premise of the myth is correct, but the energy savings are much smaller than people realize. In other cases, the myth is based on factors that were once true but have been subsequently resolved through better design or manufacturing of products. In all cases, the bottom line is that you should always think critically when hearing a tip on how to save energy and dig a little deeper to separate the myths from the facts.

**Myth: Buying an efficient air conditioner or furnace will automatically reduce your energy bill.**

Fact: This is true to some extent, but you won't realize all the possible savings if the equipment is not sized or installed properly. Studies have shown that typical air conditioner and duct systems are improperly installed, wasting one-third or more of the energy used by the air conditioner. New and replacement equipment (and ducts) need to be properly designed and installed to realize all the possible savings. The same caveats about proper installation hold true for insulation, windows and many other energy efficiency upgrades.

**Myth: Duct tape is good for sealing ducts.**

Fact: Laboratory research has concluded that duct tape has very low durability when used to seal ducts. On new installations, tape often falls off due to poor surface preparation, because ducts tend to be installed in dirty and dusty locations and conditions. On older systems, the tape falls off as it ages and the adhesive dries out and wrinkles. Instead of duct tape, seal ducts with mastic.

**Myth: When my appliance is turned off, it's off.**

Fact: Most devices continue to consume power when they're switched off, sometimes as much power as when they're on. A surprisingly large number of electrical products, from air conditioners to VCRs, cannot be switched completely off by turning off the device. These products draw power 24 hours a day, often without the knowledge of the consumer. We call this power consumption standby power. One easy remedy for this is to unplug appliances when you are out of the house, easily done if many items are grouped together on one power strip.

**Myth: Cleaning refrigerator coils saves energy.**

Fact: While this seems intuitively logical, and very small savings may indeed arise, efforts to actually measure this effect have typically come up empty-handed. Cleaning coils is probably a good idea, especially if you want to cut down on dust and dirt buildup in your kitchen, but don't expect lower utility bills from it.

**Myth: Leaving lights, computers and other appliances on uses less energy than turning them off and on repeatedly, and makes them last longer.**

Fact: The small surge of power created when some devices are turned on is vastly smaller than the energy used by running the device when it's not needed. While it used to be the case that cycling appliances and lighting on and off significantly reduced their useful lifetimes, these problems have been largely overcome through better design. The rule of thumb today is: Turn off the lights when you leave the room, and use the power-management software that comes with your computer and monitor.

**Myth: Insulating the ceiling will just cause more heat to leak out of the windows.**

Fact: Adding insulation to one part of a home won't increase the pressure on heat losses through other parties. However, it is true that poorly insulated areas will be the major losers of heat, and that they often merit attention before improving already well-insulated parts of the home. To best insulate a home, large and small leaks must be addressed.

**Myth: Switching to electric room heaters will reduce your energy bill.**

Fact: This is true only under certain circumstances. If you have central electric heating, using individual room heaters may save you money, if you just run the heater in the room that you occupy. But if you have central gas heating (which is typically cheaper per unit of useful heat), you can easily match or even exceed your heating bill by switching to electrical units.

**Myth: Running your heating or cooling system while you are away from the house saves energy:**

Fact: The rule of thumb is that if you are going to be away from your house longer than two hours, it is better to turn the system off or down. Running your heat and air system all day will unnecessarily increase your bill.