

Tideland Topics

Real People. Real Power.

Class of 2022

Join us in celebrating nine outstanding scholars who will each receive a \$1,000 scholarship from the Tideland Electric Care Trust. Coverage begins on Page B.

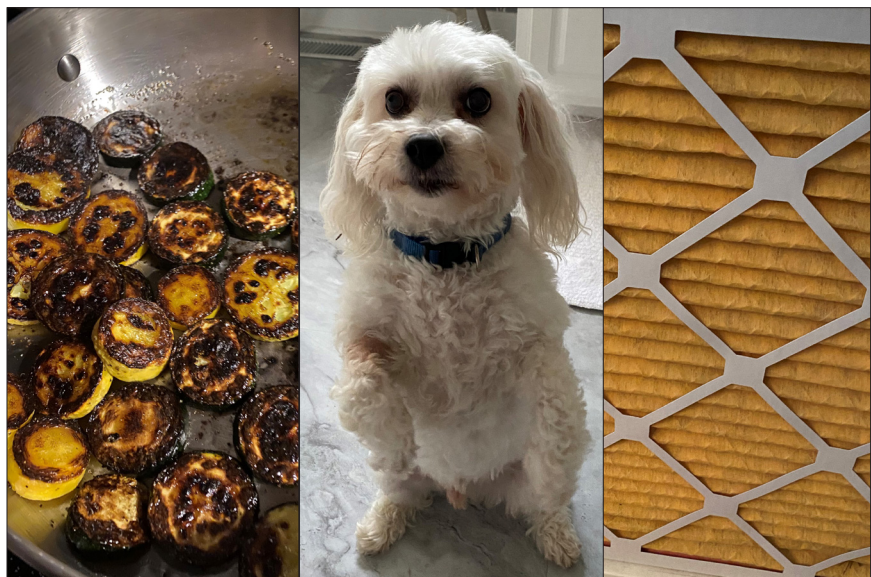
Photo: Braxton Boyd of Pinetown. One of our graduating class of 2022 scholars.



Product testing review

This month we review a color changing HVAC filter that touts its odor canceling properties. But is it the right choice for your HVAC system? Read more beginning on page D.

Have a product you'd like us to test? Reach out to Heidi Smith at 252.944.2410 or via email: heidismith@tidelandemc.com.





June maintenance

Tideland has hired Lucas Tree to maintain trees in our rights-of-ways. During June their crews will be working in Pinetown and Washington along the Five Points, Braddy Road and Duck Creek circuits.

Lee Electric overhead construction crews will be working in Pamlico County on the Dawson Creek circuit along Oriental Road. Additional Lee crews will continue work on the Ponzer/Dowry Creek circuit in the Hyde Park Canal area.

Metered service safety inspections have now been completed for those accounts feeding from our Pantego, Ponzer and Plymouth substations. Inspections will then move on to members served by our Five Points and Washington substations.

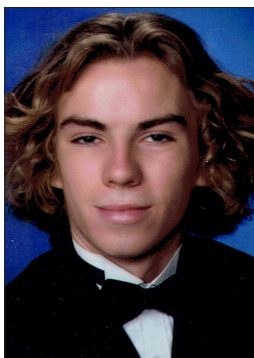
Please make sure your meter is unobstructed so our Bellwether contractors can get a clear, up close visual of the meter face.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

Saluting our college scholarship winners

Nine to receive \$1,000 in scholarship funding
from the Tideland Electric Care Trust



Brent Holland
Northside High School

Brent, a resident of Belhaven, is the son of Jay Holland and Brandi Windley Holland. He will pursue a computer science degree at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



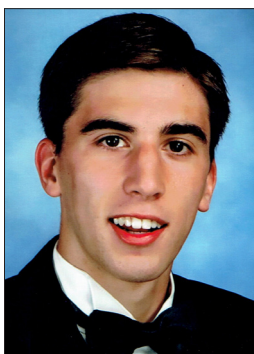
Hensley Jordan
Northside High School

Hensley is the daughter of Matthew and Dana Cooper Jordan of Pantego. She will attend Beaufort County Community College and complete the college transfer program at East Carolina University. Her intended major is psychology with a minor in sociology.



Matthew Carter
Northside High School

The son of Shawn and Amber Carter of Washington, Matthew will be attending Campbell University in Buies Creek. His intended major is criminal justice in law enforcement with a minor in homeland security. He would like to pursue a career in federal law enforcement.



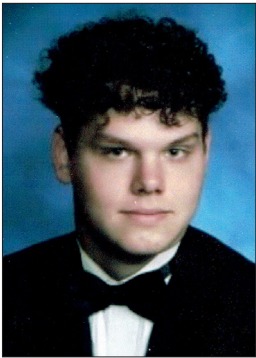
Wilson Sawyer
Pungo Christian Academy

William is the son of Rodney and Robbie Sawyer of Pantego. He will attend the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. William plans to major in mechanical engineering with a minor in business. His goal is to pursue a career in the motorsports or automotive industry.



Cora Blaine Noble
Pungo Christian Academy

Cora Blaine is the daughter of Derek Noble and Kris Noble of Swan Quarter. She will attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. She has already completed over 40 credit hours towards her degree as a dual enrollment student at Beaufort County Community College.



Sean Purifoy
West Craven High School

The son of Patrick Purifoy and Heather Slade, Sean resides in New Bern. He will pursue a Bachelors degree in computer and information technology at East Carolina University. He hopes to then enter the Master of Health Informatics and Analytics program to prepare for a non-clinical role in the medical field.



James Braxton Boyd
Northside High School

Braxton is the son of James and Jeanea Boyd of Pinetown. He will attend North Carolina State University majoring in crop and soil science technology while minoring in agricultural business administration. A dual enrollment student, he is also graduating with an Associates Degree from Beaufort County Community College.



Kailey Keech
Pungo Christian Academy

The daughter of Stacey and Cheryl Keech of Scranton, Kailey will attend Pitt Community College. She will pursue an associates degree in diagnostic medical sonography.



Joshua Tillman
Arapahoe Charter School

Josh is the son of Jack and Lee Tillman of Oriental. He has been accepted into the ECU Pirate Promise Program and will attend Pamlico Community College before transferring to East Carolina University in 2023. Pursing a degree in business administration, he hopes to one day be a sports agent.



Our Grantsboro linemen performed a high voltage safety demonstration for the Blounts Creek Volunteer Fire Department on April 25.

First Responder Safety Training

Electrical hazards can threaten the lives of first responders. Follow safe practices every time when it comes to electrical hazards:

- Evaluate the scene and identify all potential and existing hazards.
- If electricity is involved, call the electric utility immediately.
- If there are downed lines, consider them energized, secure the scene and wait until the utility crew has deenergized the scene before proceeding/approaching.
- Coordinate and communicate with the utility crew on the scene

Don't take chances. It may be difficult to wait, but approaching an energized area puts you and fellow first responders at risk of electrocution. Always wait for utility crews to confirm that lines are deenergized.

To schedule a Tideland EMC safety training event contact Wayne Brackin at 252.943.3046, extension 4323 or via email: waynebrackin@tidelandemc.com.

Teachers, apply now!

Applications are now being accepted online at www.ncbrightideas.com!



Up to \$2,000
per project

For nearly 30 years, North Carolina's electric cooperatives have helped light up learning in K-12 classrooms statewide through the Bright Ideas education grant program.

Tideland area teachers with innovative ideas for creative learning projects can submit an online application through September 15, 2022. Awards are limited to \$2,000 per project.

To begin the application process via ncbrightideas.com, find your school and sponsoring co-op, then begin your online project submission.

Apply by August 15 and you will be entered into a statewide Early Bird prize drawing for one of five \$100 VISA® gift cards.

Questions? Contact Bright Ideas coordinator Heidi Smith at 252.944.2410 or via email: heidismith@tidelandemc.com

In-house product testing: Colorfil® Air Filters

Members often ask us about products that make energy saving claims. As the Covid pandemic progressed, businesses and homeowners began to pay even more attention to indoor air quality. We've been asked on numerous occasions to chime in on Colorfil® air filters so we decided to give them a try.

Colorfil® filters, according to their website, capture and remove five times more odors than the "leading air filter." Their marketing materials tout NASA backed research that resulted in a patent-pending technology involving polyelectrolytes, which are polymer substances with a permanent electrical charge on them. This makes it possible for the filter to change colors.

Before getting to the review, let's discuss what is unfortunately missing from Colorfil's® online product description: a discussion of MERV ratings. MERV is the minimum efficiency reporting value which reflects a filter's ability to capture larger particles. This value is helpful in comparing the performance of different filters and is derived from a test method developed by the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE). The higher the MERV rating the better the filter is at trapping specific types of particles. You might think the higher the MERV rating the better, but you'd be wrong. Why? Because most HVAC systems are not designed for a return air filter with a high MERV rating. For example,

a MERV rating of 13-16 is considered hospital level air quality where the system has been properly designed for an infectious disease environment.

Proper filter selection depends on several factors starting with the size or dimensions of your return air register, the number of return air registers for each HVAC system (regrettably most homes still only have one return air register), and the HVAC system pressure drop across the filter. If your HVAC system has a variable speed blower they are more accommodating of a higher MERV filter, but energy costs can rise as a result. However, the vast majority of people still don't have a variable speed blower and in those cases we see a definite trend toward reduced air flow which can damage the system itself. There's a whole bunch of scientific mumbo-jumbo to back all of this up but here are our simplified tips:



Continues on page H



USING A GENERATOR?

8 DANGEROUS MISTAKES PEOPLE MAKE



1 IN ENCLOSED SPACES

Always use it in a well-ventilated area.



2 NEAR WINDOWS OR DOORS

Place it at least 20 feet away from windows and doors.



3 IN A GARAGE

Even if the door is up, never use a generator in a garage.



4 IN THE ELEMENTS

Run it on a dry surface under a canopy-like structure (but not in a carport).



5 PLUGGED INTO A WALL OUTLET

This can be deadly to you, family members, neighbors or utility workers.



6 WITH THE WRONG EXTENSION CORD

Use a properly rated cord to plug appliances into a generator.



7 WITHOUT CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) TESTERS

CO detectors should be on every level of your home (test them monthly).



8 IN DISREPAIR

Make sure your generator is well-maintained and in good working order.



LEARN
MORE
AT:

 **Safe
Electricity.org**

What is Electric Shock Drowning

Know the signs of this hidden danger

Electric shock drowning (ESD) is a type of drowning that many people are not familiar with. ESD happens when electrical current seeps into water from a nearby electrical source such as a yacht, boat or dock. It can also happen in a pool, hot tub or water park if there is faulty wiring or other electrical issues.



To prevent and recognize ESD:

- Do not swim around docks with electrical service or boats that are plugged into a power source.
- If you are swimming and feel tingling or shocks, swim away from the dock or other electrical source.
 - Try to stay upright and tuck your legs up.
 - Alert others to cut the power source.
 - If you feel a shock, swim away from the dock.
- Do not jump in to try and save someone you suspect is exposed to electricity in the water. Instead:
 - Eliminate the source of power.
 - Throw a float.
 - Call 9-1-1.
- After the power is shut off, pull the person in with the float rope. If you cannot find a pulse, start CPR.

Prevention and Maintenance

Boats

- If you own a boat that has an electrical system, ensure circuits have GFCIs and check them often.

Docks

- If you have a dock with electricity, have its electrical system inspected regularly by a licensed contractor.

While it is impossible to know if water is electrified just by looking, learning about the dangers of ESD can help keep you and others safe in the water.

Learn more:



Message to members

Hurricane season also means summer lightning season

by **PAUL SPRUILL**

GENERAL MANAGER &
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Hurricane season officially lasts from June 1 through November 30. That's a fairly large window of time to keep an eye out for tropical development. Long before we are likely to see a named storm we will experience increased thunderstorm and lightning activity. In fact, the week of June 19-25, is designated as Lightning Safety Awareness Week. That follows observance of Rights-of-Way Professionals Week, June 12-18.

Lightning strikes are the primary source of summertime power outages in Tideland territory. We've installed approximately 17,000 lightning arresters on our 2,639 mile electric system.

What does a lightning arrester do? Well, let's start with what it doesn't do. It does not absorb the lightning. It obviously does not stop lightning. It can, however, clamp or limit the voltage produced by the lightning and it does divert the lightning to ground.

Due to the proliferation of sensitive electronic equipment in homes and businesses, we are all more exposed than ever to the potential for power quality events on the consumer side of the electric meter. While the arresters deployed throughout our system are designed to protect utility equipment they do not provide the same level of protection for your own equipment. Therefore, you should seriously consider investing in a electric service entrance surge protector and behind the meter protection as well.

Tideland sells and our licensed electrical contractors install a hardwired surge protector for the service entrance. The cost is \$290, providing protection up to 40,000 amps of surge energy per service conductor. The unit includes an LED indicator light to show when the unit is armed and ready to combat a surge. For more information please visit the residential products and services section of our website at tidelandemc.com.

When selecting an in-home surge protector we recommend that you consult the electronics or appliance manufacturer for their product recommendation. Some equipment may already have built-in protection that you're not aware of or there may be terms and conditions regarding surge protection that could impact warranty coverage. In fact, check for extended warranties that may provide surge protection coverage that may not be part of a blanket warranty.

Of course, there is still the good old fashioned way of protecting your equipment: unplug items when a thunderstorm rolls through the area. While rarely practical it is always effective.

Most importantly, protect yourself during a thunder or lightning storm. "When thunder roars, go indoors" is an easy to remember safety tip. However, if you do get caught outdoors stay away from trees and objects that conduct electricity including powerlines.

Have a wonderful and safe start to the summer season.



Sawyer Achieves Service Milestone

Tideland EMC director Wayne Sawyer was recognized at the North Carolina Electric Cooperatives' annual meeting for achieving 15 years of co-op board service.

Sawyer, is a Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) who has also earned the Director Gold credential from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association as well as holding a Board Leadership Certificate (BLC).

Sawyer represents Tideland membership district 6 which includes Maules Point, Blounts Creek, Chocowinity and the River Road area of Washington. He and his wife Jeannie reside in Blounts Creek.

Product testing review

Continued from page D

- Ask your HVAC installer what MERV filter your system is designed to accommodate.
- If you want to utilize a higher MERV filter have your HVAC company increase the size of your return or add additional returns.
- Change your filter regularly no matter the type because the MERV rating upon installation continues to climb as more and more particulates collect on the filter's surface.
- When in doubt stick with a non-pleated filter. Otherwise, you could end up with an expensive repair or system replacement bill.

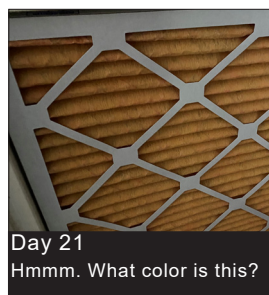
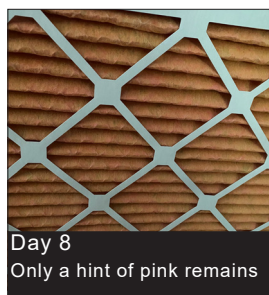
To Colorfil's® credit they did promptly respond to our online inquiry:

"Colorfil filters have a MERV 8-9 particle efficiency, but due to the added coating, we recommend our filters be used with furnaces that can handle filters MERV 11 or higher. Our filters typically deliver a good balance for particulate filtration while also providing Colorfil's unique odor removal and color change that you wouldn't get from a traditional air filter."

On to the actual product testing. Each filter fit the openings snugly which is important for good air filtration. Within the first few minutes of active filtration a strong odor was detected akin to latex paint. It was quite off-putting. A message sent to Colorfil® describing the odor and to see if that was normal received the following reply:

"We suspect the odor you're describing is from the glue that is used to hold the filters together and will look into glue alternatives that don't have such a strong odor."

Fortunately, the odor dissipated within a few days. It didn't take very long for the filter to change colors but we could never really get it to correspond to the manufacturer's color chart. After 35 days of use it definitely began to trend more towards yellow which was past the time we would normally replace our more basic filter (every 30 days). Did it impact indoor odors? Well, there was a nasty incident involving an overcooked pan of squash and zucchini and the odor didn't linger.



The verdict? We can appreciate the color changing aspect if for nothing else than to serve as a visual reminder to change filters. There are easier reminders such as the receipt of your monthly electric bill but to each his or her own. With each filter we ordered costing \$21.99 that's a bit of a hard pill to swallow compared to a basic filter but it could be an attractive alternative if you have a variable speed system designed for high filtration media. It might be worth using them for a limited time after new construction as building materials off-gas. Regardless, we never recommend the extended use of any filter. So rule of thumb still remains our best advice: change filters every 30 days. And beware voiding your HVAC warranty by using the wrong filter media.

*Real People.
Real Power.*

Tideland Topics

www.tidelandemc.com

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opportunity provider & employer

