

Tideland Topics

Real People. Real Power.

National co-op month

Celebrated by cooperatives nationwide each October since 1964, National Co-op Month is an annual opportunity to raise awareness of a trusted, proven way to do business and build resilient, inclusive communities.

In 2025, the cooperative business model is receiving increased interest as consumers seek affordable and reliable alternatives to traditional business entities. Read this month's message to members for the results of a new national survey.



2025 NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH



Our contest winners



Thank you to all the children that participated in our Lineman Larry summer photo contest. The winners are (from left to right) Addy Kate, daughter of Brett and Kimberly Smith of Belhaven, who will be treated to Lunch with a Lineman. Receiving \$25 gift cards are Chloe Dillehay, Serenity Hotchkin and Wyatt Sawyer. Stay tuned for more fun with Larry and friends.

Intent to Escheat letters mailed

“Intent to Escheat” letters have been mailed to members who haven’t cashed an aged billing refund check or a Dec. 2, 2021, capital credit general retirement check. Members are instructed to request a replacement check by completing the bottom section of the letter and returning it in the envelope provided. It is important that the letters are returned to “Escheat Mail Management” as instructed as the co-op longer has these funds. After the date on the notices, the money will be turned over to the member’s state and can be claimed there. For North Carolina residents that would be www.nccash.com.

If a check was made payable to a deceased member, a completed “Request for deceased member’s capital credits” form should be completed and returned to the cooperative either by the estate’s executor or the applicable county’s clerk of court. The form can be found on our website at tidelandemc.com under the capital credits tab.

To prevent the need to escheat, members should keep Tideland apprised of future address changes to ensure proper delivery of refund checks and capital credit disbursements that can continue long after you have moved off our system.

Remembering Junior Joyner

Tideland retiree Willie “Junior” Joyner, age 76, passed away at his home in Pantego on Aug. 14. Junior worked for Tideland EMC from 1979 until his retirement in 2004.

Junior was born in Greene County in 1949. He loved dogs, hunting and fishing and couldn’t have been more proud of his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

He had a brilliant smile that could light up a room.

Junior is survived by his wife of 59 years, JoAnn, and their three children, Michael Lee Joyner and wife, Regina, of Wilmington; Bonnie Joyner Adams and husband, Bud of Pantego; Johnny Keith Joyner and wife, Melissa, of Scranton; 10 grandchildren—Matthew Lee Adams, Amanda Joyner Baptiste, Morgan Lee Joyner (Sara), Nicholas Allen Gaskins, Kathryn Elaine Holdford, Aaron Skyler Adams and wife, Samantha, Elizabeth Ann Joyner, Katie Joyner Perry and husband, Ricky, Sarah LeeAnne Joyner, Alexis Lynn Joyner and eight great-grandchildren.

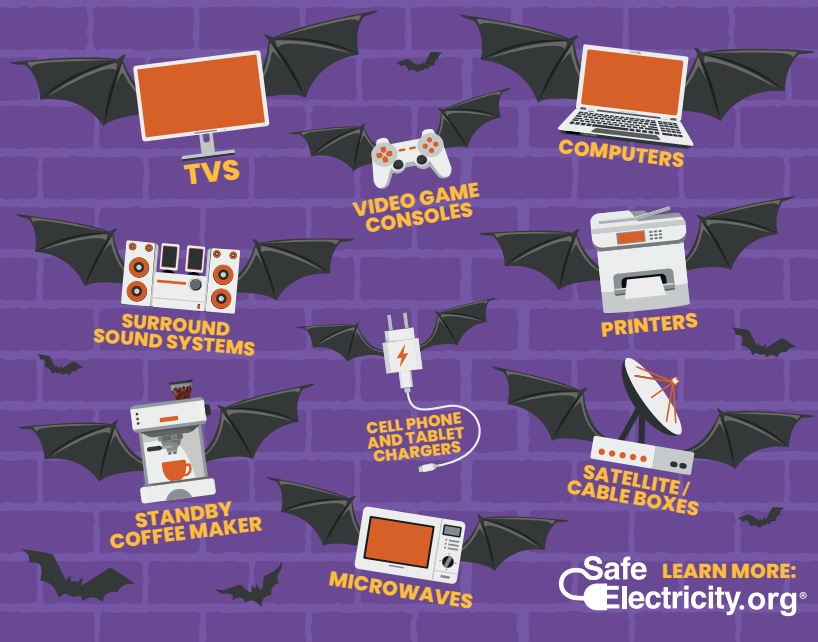
Donations in his memory can be made to New Hope Church of Christ, 146 Swamp Road, Pantego, NC 27860.

ARE HOME ELECTRONICS AND APPLIANCES DRAINING YOUR ENERGY?

If you collect your spare change in a jar, all those coins add up over time, usually to a larger amount than you expect.

Small amounts of consumed energy throughout your home add up as well, so plug “energy vampires” into a smart power strip that detects dormant devices or unplugs items when not in use, especially those with illuminated controls.

TOP NINE ENERGY VAMPIRES



Message to members

Co-op support rallies

by **PAUL SPRUILL**

GENERAL MANAGER &
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

A new national survey conducted on behalf of the National Co-operative Business Association reveals strong consumer support for cooperatives, with a majority of Americans recognizing the value and direct impact that our member-owned businesses bring to their communities.

The survey underscores the significant role cooperatives play in fostering local economies, providing fair pricing and prioritizing consumer interests.

- **Widespread Recognition of Value**

More than 8 in 10 (81%) of respondents polled believe that cooperatives provide value to consumers, reinforcing their importance in the marketplace.

- **Consumer Trust in Cooperatives**

More than twice as many people associate cooperatives with “having the best interests of their customers in mind” when compared to for-profit corporations.

- **Commitment to Community**

Three out of four respondents (75%) say cooperatives help keep dollars in their local communities, highlighting their role in economic stability and resilience.

- **Ethical Business Practices**

Cooperatives outperform traditional corporations in public perception regarding customer-first approaches, environmental concerns and community resilience.

The survey was conducted as part of Big Village’s CARAVAN® omnibus study, ensuring a statistically robust and demographically representative sample.

The survey measures American public perception and understanding of cooperatives for the first time in more than a decade. Co-ops exceeded for-profit corporations by an average of 16% points in all key metrics of the survey: 1) have the best interests of their customers in mind, 2) offer fair prices, 3) keep dollars in the community, 4) provide stability and resilience, and 5) treat employees fairly.

As evidence of the cooperative business model’s increasing popularity, the number of worker cooperatives in the U.S. is rising, with a 30% increase in established co-ops from 2019 to 2021. Co-ops in the U.S. have 1 in 3 Americans as members, holding 350 million memberships worldwide and contributing significantly to our nation’s economy.

Over 141 million Americans are member-owners of cooperative credit unions. Credit unions in the U.S. experienced significant growth in 2024 and early 2025, with a 44% increase in total assets over five years. Credit union membership grew 3.3% in 2024, outpacing U.S. population growth. Why? In addition to competitive rates, credit unions deliver personal member services that include financial literacy and goal setting to better position individual members to

Rights-of-way maintenance schedule

Tideland has hired Gunnison Tree to trim vegetative growth in our rights-of-way. During October, Gunnison will be working on the Pantego circuit in the Pantego community.

Our contract construction crews with Lee Electrical will be working south of the Pamlico River to continue with proactive pole replacements at locations identified by our Osmoste inspectors.

Fall is a popular time to plant new trees and shrubs so they have time to establish root systems before the heat of summer returns. Before purchasing trees, please take time to conduct a bit of research based on location and the proximity to both overhead and underground power lines. Staying well outside of the utility right-of-way when the tree reaches mature height will help the co-op reduce future tree trimming costs. And be sure root spread will not interfere with underground utilities.

Need help selecting the right tree? Visit these sites:

arborday.org/planning-selection-location

ncufc.org/uploads-editor/NCUFC_UtilityTreeManual_Online.pdf



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Co-op support

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become homeowners and build savings. As a result, credit unions experience lower loan delinquency rates than traditional banks.

In May of this year, Black Mountain, one of New Hampshire's oldest ski areas, was sold to a newly formed community cooperative. It was deemed the most advantageous business model to retain the ski area's historic appeal while addressing critically needed infrastructure investments. The key to co-op buy in? Generations of skiers who share treasured memories of the venue and want to see it continue for future generations. For inspiration they need look no further than Mad River Glen ski area in Vermont which has successfully operated as a co-op for more than three decades.

In February 2024, the Chippewa Valley Health Cooperative, just

a few weeks after Illinois-based Hospital Sisters Health System announced it was closing two local hospitals, Sacred Heart in Eau Claire and St. Joseph's in Chippewa Falls. Any community member over the age of 18 can join the co-op by paying a \$25 membership fee.

This year, Tideland once again attained distinction as a top performing cooperative by the American Consumer Satisfaction Index (ACSI) following our annual member satisfaction survey. We have retained our ranking in the top 25 percentile of scores when compared to cooperatives publicly measured in the ACSI Annual Energy Utility Study for 2025. We are appreciative of your support and it will continue to guide us in the months and years ahead.

*Real People.
Real Power.*

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www.tidelandemc.com

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