

Tideland Topics

Real People. Real Power.

Say “hello” to *Lineman Larry*

Tideland EMC has been fortunate enough to admire and acquire our latest crew member from sister co-op Co-Mo Electric Cooperative in Missouri. Meet Lineman Larry!

He’s ready to join your family on your summer adventures both near and far. Read more on Page F.

Photo by Rachel O’Neal



Our class of *2025*

This month we recognize our Tideland Electric college scholarship recipients (starting on page D). One winner we want to highlight is Northside High School graduate Max Vansant. In 2019, he won another scholarship from Tideland. That one was to attend the Roy Williams Basketball Camp at UNC-Chapel Hill. In the fall, Max Vansant will return to the campus as an official student. Congratulations to all our graduating seniors.



Max Vansant has a perfect 2-0 record in scoring Tideland scholarships



Fans cool people, not rooms

We see it all too often: members leaving fans on in unoccupied rooms. It's a classic example of good energy intentions gone awry.

Fans have no ability to lower room temperature. They make you feel cooler and more comfortable by accelerating the rate of evaporation of sweat from your skin. In fact, fans that are never turned off can actually warm a room slightly due to heat generation from the fan motor. That's in addition to creating excessive energy use.

Keep in mind that fans only save you money if you combine their use with a higher air-conditioner thermostat setting.

Lastly, never, ever leave your HVAC system in the ON setting which keeps the system's fan running continuously. It will increase system losses through duct leakage thereby increasing indoor pollutants and pushing humidity levels even higher.

If your thermostat allows you to select HVAC fan speeds, opt for the slowest fan speed to more effectively lower indoor humidity which is the key to comfort.

Message to members

Tideland awarded resiliency grant to harden at-risk infrastructure

by **PAUL SPRUILL**
GENERAL MANAGER &
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Hurricane season officially kicks off on June 1. However on May 8, forecasters were already tracking a Central American system that had the potential to develop into a tropical threat. You may be surprised to learn that a tropical cyclone has developed in the Atlantic basin earlier than June 1 in eight of the past 11 years. And while they don't often receive as much coverage as tropical storms and hurricanes, nor'easters have increasingly had severe impacts on the North Carolina coast. Nowhere has that been more apparent than Ocracoke.



Ocracoke's armored cable

For more than a decade, Tideland has made significant, targeted capital investments to harden our infrastructure in all six counties to not only reduce outage frequency but improve restoration times. Where practical and feasible we have pursued redundancy to create alternative paths for power in emergency situations. Unfortunately, there is only one way for power to reach Ocracoke and that is across Hatteras Inlet and down Highway 12. After years of erosion jeopardized that power path on the south end of Hatteras Island, Tideland invested \$3.5 million to replace aerial infrastructure with a buried submarine cable. Upon completion, that brought the total length of our submarine cable to 31,250 feet.

Unfortunately, Mother Nature took a few heavy swings at Ocracoke starting with Hurricane Dorian in 2019, and a string of nor'easters washed away a significant chunk out of the shoreline protections we relied on. If you've been to the ferry dock on the north end of Ocracoke you've seen up close and personal the dramatic changes to the island's landscape. As a result, we now need an additional extension of the armored, submarine cable where it comes ashore at Ocracoke along with relocation of targeted aerial infrastructure away from the Atlantic Ocean.

In April, the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality's State Energy Office announced selection of seven projects to receive more than \$20 million to improve North Carolina's electric grid. We are pleased to be one of the seven recipients resulting from the competitive grant process.

Authorized by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, these funds are provided by the U.S. Department of Energy's Grid Resilience State and Tribal Formula Grants Program.

This cost-sharing grant will ease Tideland's unanticipated financial expenditure so soon after the 2020 submarine cable extension. The lead time to obtain the armored, submarine cable is approximately 18 months, so we are eager to get the process underway.

Remembering Rudy Austin

Sixteen years of service to co-op members

Rudy Austin, a cherished native son of Ocracoke, and a member of Tideland EMC's board of directors, passed away on April 17 at the age of 83.

Rudy's life was a testament to dedication, service and love for his community. He graduated from Ocracoke School in 1961 before serving his country with honor in the United States Air Force as an Airman 3rd Class from 1961 to 1965. Following his military service, Rudy worked off island before joining the North Carolina Department of Transportation Ferry Division, where he faithfully navigated the Ocracoke-Hatteras ferry as a captain for 30 years.

Rudy was a true working waterman. He spent his life on the water. He fished pound nets, pulled crab pots and shared his passion for island history and politics with both locals and visitors as he ferried them to and from his beloved Portsmouth Island.

Rudy's commitment to his community was further reflected in his active participation in various organizations and associations.

He was a proud member of the Mounted Boy Scout Troop 290, the Masonic Lodge, the Ocracoke Civic and Business Association, the Ocracoke Foundation, Friends of Portsmouth Island and the Ocracoke Waterways Commission.

His contributions were deep and wide and recognized by the Ocracoke School Alumni Association Citizenship Award, the Ocracoke Preservation Society Cultural Heritage Award, and



A member of Ocracoke's mounted Boy Scout Troop 290, this photo of Rudy on his horse, Diabolo, appeared in "Boys Life" magazine in March 1956.

the Ocracoke School Community Service Award.

He is survived by his wife, Pat, children, Wade Austin and Lena Austin O'Neal, and five grandchildren.

A celebration of Rudy's life was held on May 12.

Rights-of-way maintenance schedule

Tideland has hired Gunnison Tree to manage vegetation in our rights-of-way.

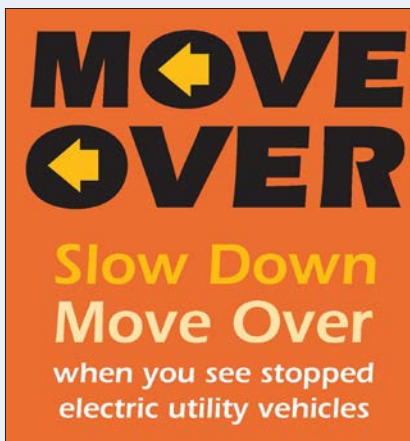
During June, Gunnison will be trimming the Rose Bay circuit out of our Ponzer substation. Areas include Highway 264 to Turnpike Road (caution light) and all roads and areas in between.

Lee Electric line construction crews will be proactively changing out aging poles throughout the Grantsboro operational district.

Thank you for your support of each of these important maintenance activities, which improve system reliability and promote public safety.

You can help us by planting trees in locations where the mature height and width of the tree will not impact our powerlines in the years to come.

Be sure to give all utility crews wide berth when approaching them on public roadways. See our story on page G about a recent work zone accident in North Carolina that left four lineworkers dead and three more injured.





Beat the heat by lowering humidity

Ever noticed that summer days outdoors are so much more enjoyable on low humidity days? The same applies indoors as well.

Here are some ways to reduce indoor humidity this summer, which in turn will allow you to raise your air conditioner thermostat:

- Use bathroom exhaust fans while bathing
- Take cooler showers
- Keep pot lids on while cooking
- Move houseplants to porches and other well-ventilated areas (the cactus can stay!)
- Utilize outdoor clotheslines
- If your thermostat allows you to select HVAC fan speeds, opt for the slowest fan speed which will allow the system to better dehumidify your home.
- Clean your gutters to prevent water from pooling at your foundation which can have a wicking affect

Be sure to purchase a hygrometer if your home's HVAC thermostat does not provide an indoor humidity read. Because what isn't monitored is difficult to manage. Aim for an indoor humidity level of 50%.

Saluting our Tideland Electric scholarship recipients



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



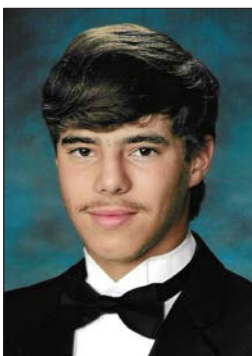
Kendall Harris
Pamlico County High School

Kendall, a resident of Grantsboro, is the daughter of Danielle Bond, Randall Harris and Matthew Bond. She will attend Craven Community College in pursuit of a nursing degree.



Landon Fuller
Ocracoke School

Landon is the son of Edward and Wendy Fuller. He will attend Cape Fear Community College to pursue a degree in electrical systems technology.



Jackson Cole Gibbs
Mattamuskeet School

Jackson is the son of Cleve and Bridgette Gibbs of Fairfield. He will pursue an associate's degree in agribusiness from Beaufort County Community College.



Mariah Hux
Northside High School

Mariah is the daughter of Christopher and Jessica Hux of Pinetown. She will attend Johnson University in Tennessee. Her course of study will be Elementary Education and English as a Second Language.



Emma Carolina Boyd
Northside High School

Emma resides in Pinetown and is the daughter of James and Jeanea Boyd. She will attend the College of Charleston in South Carolina. Her intended major is archaeology with a minor in historical preservation.



Maxwell Vansant
Northside High School

Max is the son of Ashley and Kristin Vansant of Washington. He will major in exercise science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



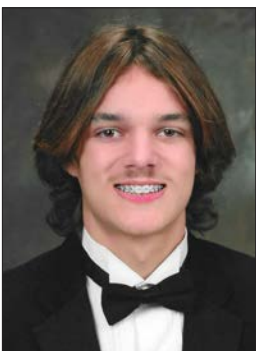
Lakin Jordan Van Essendelft
Terra Ceia Christian School

Lakin is the daughter of Jonathan and Jamie Van Essendelft. She will pursue a major in environmental and marine science at either Covenant College in Georgia or Coastal Carolina University in South Carolina.



Nicholas Cole
Ocracoke School

Cole is the son of William and Leslie Cole of Ocracoke. He will attend North Carolina State University. His intended major is history with a minor in marine biology.



Andrew Harding
Northside High School

Andrew is the son of Mike and Tori Harding of Bath. He will attend the University of North Carolina - Charlotte. His intended major is mechanical engineering with a minor in business or accounting.



Before moving, research energy costs

The excitement of moving into a new home can quickly wear off when the first energy bills arrive. Unfortunately, many buyers and renters fail to research the energy cost history of a new residence before signing the lease or closing documents.

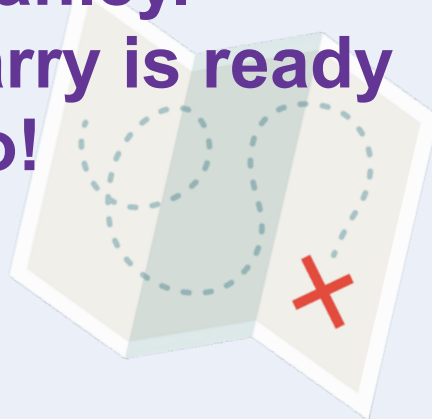
Ask the realtor or landlord to provide you with a utility bill history beforehand. That should include electric, gas, water and sewer as applicable. If you notice high bill periods ask for an explanation. Was there an equipment failure that has since been rectified? What repairs or replacements were made?

If you plan to have the home inspected, having the utility history in hand can help direct the inspector's attention to those properties that contribute to a home energy soundness.

Lastly, if buying a home with a solar array, be sure to ask for a history of any monthly generation payments and understand what liability insurance coverage will be needed for continued operation.



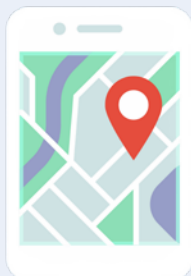
Hey, Flat Stanley. Lineman Larry is ready to travel too!



Summer break is here for thousands of children in Tideland territory. What better time to introduce them to our newest team member: Lineman Larry!

All summer long we'll deliver to your home learning activities to help youngsters learn about severe weather, storm preparedness and the electric system that serves your home.

We're kicking the program off with a cutout version of Lineman Larry that you can take along in your travels. Snap a photo of Lineman Larry and



email it to us along with location details and the name and age of your youngster and they'll be entered into a contest to win our grand prize: Lunch with a Lineman. Three additional winners will receive \$25 gift cards. The deadline to enter is Aug. 15.

With your permission, we'll also print submitted photos in a future issue of Tideland Topics and plot Lineman Larry's travels. Keep in mind that every submission is another entry in our prize drawing.

In July and August, our special magazine cover wraps will

feature a do-it-yourself postcard, a hurricane naming game, a storm preparedness quiz, and an electric utility scavenger hunt. We will also break out some of our funniest lineman jokes and riddles.

Send your photo/entry submissions to linemanlarry@tidelandemc.com. Please include your Tideland service location or account number to verify membership. A member of our staff will reply to confirm submission and request permission for any use of photos by the cooperative.



Seed money to help K-12 ideas blossom

Classroom teachers may now apply for Bright Ideas funding in amounts up to \$2,500 per grant. To access the online application and learn more about the program please visit ncbrightideas.com. The final application deadline is Sept. 15.



Teachers, Apply Now!

 **Bright Ideas**
EDUCATION GRANTS

NCBrightIdeas.com

Real life tragedies right here in NC

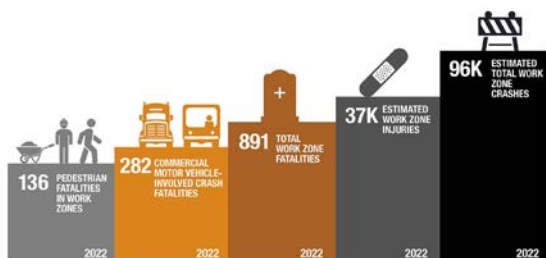
Don't become numb to important safety messaging

Four NC linemen killed during National Work Zone Awareness week

On April 24, four lineworkers were killed when a dump truck barreled through their work zone in Eden. Another three lineworkers were injured. Two of the linemen on site that day were cousins, with one perishing at the scene while the other was airlifted in critical condition.

In 2022, 891 Americans died in work zones. Every 5 days, there is an accident involving a lineworker. Every 2 weeks, a lineman dies from a work related incident.

Safety is everyone's responsibility.



Source: Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS), National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation.

NC corrections officer killed by lightning strike while fishing

The day before the tragic crash in Eden, 39-year-old Santonio Catoe was fishing with his 9-year-old son and others near Jacksonville. Just after dark, Catoe was struck by lightning and thrown from his boat. A member of the fishing party quickly pulled him back into the vessel but the young father never regained consciousness.

This was the first lightning fatality documented in the US in 2025. According to the Lightning Safety Council, NC ranks 4th in the number of lightning strike deaths in the last decade.

In 2023, NC ranked 7th in homeowners' insurance lightning losses.



Don't become part of a tragic fishing story. Keep an eye on weather conditions and know when to call it a day.

SEEK SHELTER

If you see or hear signs of weather rolling in, stop fishing and retreat to a four-sided building or hard-top car. If you ignore the signs and keep fishing, it could cost you your life.



WAIT 30 MINUTES

Wait 30 minutes after you see or hear lightning before heading back outside.

REMEMBER

Always look up for overhead power lines before casting.



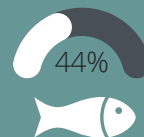
LIGHTNING FACTS 2006-2020:



Two-thirds of lightning deaths occurred during outdoor activities.



Of those deaths, 33% happened during water-related activities.



Fishing accounted for most, or 44%, of those water-related activities.

Source: National Lightning Safety Council

Learn more:



We have the best members!

Thank you for noting pole tag numbers when reporting infrastructure concerns

Tideland really does have the best co-op members. One of the many reasons we can confidently say that are the proactive calls, emails and Facebook messages we receive to report safety or hazard concerns. Most are now including the pole tag identification number. That's important for several reasons.

The first reason is that it ensures that the pole actually belongs to Tideland. In Beaufort County alone, there are six power companies! The six are the Town of Belhaven, Washington Electric Utilities, Dominion Power, Duke Energy, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC and Tideland. That's a lot of utility infrastructure to sort out.

Because every pole on Tideland's system has been plotted with exact GPS coordinates, the pole tag number ensures crew arrival at the exact site saving both time and money. The pole tag identifier means passersby can report an issue even when they aren't sure of the exact address.

The three photos above were emailed to us by a member who was out for a walk in the Harvey Road area of Washington. Not only did she provide us with the pole tag number, she also documented the damage: a broken insulator. Thanks to her proactive email an eventual power outage was prevented that would have impacted 553 homes and businesses!

With mowing season well underway in Tideland territory, you can further assist us by keeping a safe distance from pole guy wires when operating mowers and other equipment.



While the "big green box", a/k/a padmount transformer cabinet, may not be visually appealing, the National Electric Safety Code dictates that a 10-foot clearance in front of the transformer doors and a 3-foot clearance on the remaining sides. So resist the urge to camouflage it with plants and decorative structures. If you see a damaged or unlocked transformer cabinet notify us immediately. Each padmount transformer also has a unique numerical ID tag so be sure to note it before reaching out.



*Real People.
Real Power.*

Tideland Topics

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Tideland EMC is an equal
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Guy wire or guide wire?

The correct term is guy wire, not guide wire. The name "guy wire" comes from the Dutch word "gei," which referred to a rope used to steady a ship's mast.

While both words relate to guiding or securing, "guy" is the historical term for the specific application of a tensioned cable used for structural support.