



Celebrating

80 Years

Volume 46, Number 1

January 2016

# NewsLine

# Go Mobile!

*Paying with a mobile device?*

**Access our website at  
[www.colquitemc.com](http://www.colquitemc.com)  
or download our free  
mobile App.**

- **Connect any time**
- **View account information**
- **Make payments**



*It's simple. It's secure. And it's free!*

## **BURN WITH CARE...AVOID TROUBLE**

**ATTENTION:** Use firebreaks around any utility poles on land that will be burned under controlled conditions. By using a firebreak to protect utility poles, you can help Colquitt EMC save thousands of dollars in repair costs. Also, you can avoid potential safety problems resulting from burned poles. -Thank you in advance for your cooperation.



# WIN *a* WEEK-LONG TRIP *to* WASHINGTON DC!



The  
ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVE

## Youth Tour

June 9-16, 2016

★ Applications are available at any  
of our Colquitt EMC offices or  
at [www.colquittemc.com](http://www.colquittemc.com).

★ The application deadline is  
Tuesday, March 1, 2016.

## Colquitt EMC is currently accepting applications for the Walter Harrison Scholarship *A program sponsored by Georgia's 41 electric cooperatives*

The \$1,000 scholarship can be applied to academic expenses at any accredited two- or four-year university, college or vocational-technical institute in Georgia. Factors for consideration include grade point average, SAT/ COMPASS scores, academic standing, scholastic honors and financial need. Students applying for the scholarship must be accepted or enrolled in an accredited undergraduate degree program, complete an application, and write a biographical sketch which provides a preview of his or her future plans. Applications are available at any Colquitt EMC office or visit [www.colquittemc.com](http://www.colquittemc.com). **Completed applications are due by Monday, February 1, 2016.**



# Two Area High School Students Win Electrical Wiring Competition

Congratulations to Trevor Ross (L) a senior at Lowndes High School and to Bo Anderson (R) a junior at Colquitt County High School. Both were 2nd place winners of the 2015 South Region Area VI and Area V Agricultural Electrification Career Development Event. The Area Agricultural Electrification Career Development Event consists of an electrical wiring problem, critical thinking skills and communication. Trevor and Bo will both receive a \$300 scholarship and a chance to compete at the state contest for additional scholarships. *Congratulations, Trevor and Bo!*



## Make a Habit of Tracking Your Energy Use in 2016

Your Colquitt EMC electricity bills tell you how much energy you used each month. You can look at your bill and find out how many kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity you used that month and how that compares to how many kWh you used in the same month last year. This is a good way to track how well you are doing with energy savings. Use the table below to set energy use goals and track your progress.

MONTH	kWh Use 2015	kWh Use 2016	kWh GOAL	GOAL Reached
January				<input type="checkbox"/>
February				<input type="checkbox"/>
March				<input type="checkbox"/>
April				<input type="checkbox"/>
May				<input type="checkbox"/>
June				<input type="checkbox"/>
July				<input type="checkbox"/>
August				<input type="checkbox"/>
September				<input type="checkbox"/>
October				<input type="checkbox"/>
November				<input type="checkbox"/>
December				<input type="checkbox"/>

# Local. Dependable. Serving **YOU.**

## Top five energy users in your home

*A starting point for savings*

By Anne Prince

**W**hile most homeowners would like to be more energy efficient and save money, often it feels overwhelming because many people don't know where to start. How can the average family use less energy, lower their utility bill and still meet their daily energy needs? To help jumpstart your effort, it is useful to know what the top energy users are in your home. With this knowledge, you can choose a path that works best for your family.

According to the U.S. Energy Information Agency, the top five energy users in U.S. homes are:

- Space cooling
- Space heating
- Water heating
- Lighting
- Refrigeration

### **Adjust the temperature.**

Together, home heating and cooling use the most energy and take the biggest bite out of your energy budget. On the bright side, there are ways you can achieve at least 10 percent savings by taking a few simple low-cost or no-cost steps.

- During cold weather, set your thermostat to 68 degrees Fahrenheit.
- During warm weather, the recommended indoor temperature is 78 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Cleaning the filters of your HVAC system can cut costs from five to 15 percent.
- Clean the coils around your air conditioner/heat pump to maintain maximum efficiency.
- Caulk and weather-strip around windows and doors to prevent heat from escaping to the outdoors.

No matter what the climate or time of year, proper use of a programmable thermostat can save you 10 percent on your monthly utility bill.

### **Shine the light on savings.**

Take a fresh look at the lighting in your home. If you still use incandescent lighting, your light

bulbs are operating at only 25 percent energy efficiency. Replacing your home's five most frequently used bulbs with Energy Star-certified LEDs can save you \$75 per year. Another easy way to save is to always turn lights off in rooms that are not being used.

### **Water heating efficiency**

Just as it is energy-wise to insulate your roof, wall or floor, it also pays to wrap your hot water heater with an insulating blanket. This is all the more critical if you have an older unit. Make sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions. For additional efficiency and savings, insulate exposed hot water lines and drain one to two gallons of water from the bottom of your tank annually to prevent sediment build-up.

### **Put cold hard cash back in your wallet.**

If your refrigerator was purchased before 2001, chances are it uses 40 percent more energy than a new Energy Star model. If you are considering an appliance update, a new Energy Star refrigerator uses at least 15 percent less energy than non-qualified models and 20 percent less energy than required by current federal standards. Regardless of the age of your fridge, there are additional steps you can take to save energy and money. For example, don't keep your refrigerator too cold. The Department of Energy recommends temperatures of 35 – 38 degrees Fahrenheit for the fresh food compartment and 0 degrees Fahrenheit for separate freezers (used for long-term storage).

By understanding how your home uses energy, you can determine the best ways to modify energy use and keep more money in your wallet. For additional ways to save, visit our website [www.Colquitemc.com](http://www.Colquitemc.com).

*Anne Prince writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.*

# Recipes of the Month



## Italian Winter Soup

2 (14-1/2 ounce) cans beef broth  
 1/2 cup elbow macaroni  
 1 lb. ground round  
 1 can red kidney beans  
 1 cup spaghetti sauce

Servings: 6

### DIRECTIONS

Pour the beef broth and macaroni into a sauce pan. Bring to a boil over high heat, stirring occasionally, until macaroni is tender. Cook the ground beef in a frying pan, stirring to break up large chunks, until meat is brown; drain off fat. Drain the beans (reserve the liquid). Puree 1 cup of beans with all the reserved liquid in a blender. When Macaroni is tender, stir the pureed beans, whole beans, cooked meat and spaghetti sauce into the pot. Heat through and serve.



## Winter Vegetable Cobbler

Servings: 6

1 turnip, peeled and cut into bite-size wedges  
 1 potato, peeled and diced (russet or baking)  
 1 celery root, peeled and diced (about 1 1/2 cups)  
 1 onion, coarsely chopped  
 3 carrots, peeled and sliced  
 1/2 cup chopped parsley  
 1 cup vegetable broth or chicken broth  
 1 tablespoon cornstarch  
 1 teaspoon salt  
 fresh ground pepper  
 4 tablespoons butter

### Cobbler Dough

1 3/4 cups flour  
 1 tablespoon baking powder  
 1/2 teaspoon salt  
 6 tablespoons butter, chilled and cut into pieces  
 3/4 cup heavy cream

### DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 325. Put turnip, potato, celery root, onion, carrots, and parsley in a 2" deep, 3 quart oven proof baking dish. In a small mixing bowl, blend the chicken broth with the cornstarch. Pour over the vegetables and mix well. Add the salt and pepper and mix to blend. Dot the top of the vegetables with butter. Mix the flour, baking powder, and salt in a large mixing bowl and stir with a fork to blend. Put the pieces of chilled butter into the flour mixture. Rub quickly with your fingertips until the mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Using a fork, slowly stir in the cream, until roughly mixed. Gather the dough into a shaggy mass and knead 5 or 6 times. Roll out the dough on a lightly floured board. It should be about 1/4" thick. Place dough on top of the vegetables. Bake for 55 to 65 minutes. Serve hot.

(Cut Here)