



COLQUITT EMC NEWSLINE

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WASHINGTON YOUTH TOUR APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE



Each year, Colquitt EMC sponsors high school students to participate in the Washington Youth Tour. This top-notch leadership experience and tour of Washington, D.C. includes meetings with state and national leaders and leadership training, as well as visits to all the major sights. Participants join over 1,400 other students from around the nation – all expenses paid – for one incredible week in our nation's capital.

This year's Washington Youth Tour will be held June 12-19, 2026. Students who are chosen as finalists will be interviewed by a panel of judges for the final phase of the selection process. Three students will be chosen to represent Colquitt EMC on the 2026 Washington Youth Tour. Applicants must: Reside in the household of a Colquitt EMC Member, be at least 16 years old and a current high school junior or senior, hold a GPA of 2.5 or higher, and provide a copy of their transcript (official or unofficial accepted) and two letters of recommendation.

Applications are due February 1, and are available at colquitemc.com/washington-youth-tour. For more information, please contact Sonya Aldridge at (229) 985-3620 ext.1225.

WALTER HARRISON SCHOLARSHIP

Colquitt EMC participates in Georgia EMC's Walter Harrison Scholarship program. This program was created in 1985 by the Georgia Electric Membership Corporation Board of Directors to honor the late Walter Harrison, a pioneer in bringing electricity to rural areas of Georgia.

The recipients of the Walter Harrison Scholarship are based primarily on academic achievement and financial need. The scholarships, in the amount of \$1,000, may be used for undergraduate studies at any two-year or four-year accredited college or university in Georgia, including vocational schools. To be considered, students must be accepted or enrolled in an accredited undergraduate degree program, complete the application, and write a two-page autobiographical sketch with reference to future plans and goals. Colquitt EMC will only accept scholarship applications from students that reside in the home of a Colquitt EMC member or the home of a Colquitt EMC employee.

Applications are due February 1 and are available at colquitemc.com/walter-harrison-scholarship. For more information, please contact Sonya Aldridge at (229) 985-3620 ext.1225.



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UNDERSTANDING AUXILIARY HEAT ON HEAT PUMP THERMOSTATS TO SAVE \$\$\$

Heat pumps are an efficient way to heat homes, but many homeowners accidentally set their thermostat to Auxiliary Heat mode. This mistake can lead to higher energy bills and reduced efficiency. Let's break down what auxiliary heat is, why it matters, and how to avoid costly errors.

What Is Auxiliary Heat?

- **Backup Heating System:** Auxiliary heat uses electric resistance coils or a gas furnace to provide extra heat.
- **Purpose:** It kicks in automatically during extremely cold weather or when the thermostat calls for a rapid temperature increase.
- **Manual Setting:** Some thermostats allow homeowners to select "Aux Heat" or "Emergency Heat" manually—but this should only be done during a heat pump failure.

The Hidden Cost of Auxiliary Heat

- **Much Less Efficient:** Electric resistance heating costs 2–3 times more than heat pump operation.
- **Higher Energy Bills:** Continuous use can add hundreds of dollars to monthly heating costs.
- **Unnecessary Wear:** Overusing backup heating elements can shorten their lifespan.
- **Defeats Energy Savings:** Running in Aux mode undermines the efficiency benefits of a heat pump.

Why Does This Happen?

- Homeowners mistakenly think Aux Heat is required in cold weather or will heat the home faster.
- In reality, the heat pump should remain in normal mode, allowing auxiliary heat to engage only when necessary.

How to Prevent Accidental Activation

- **Understand Your Thermostat**
 - Read the manual and learn what each setting does.
 - Avoid manually selecting "Aux" or "Emergency Heat" unless the heat pump fails.
- **Use Smart Thermostats**
 - Smart thermostats manage heat pump operation automatically and reduce human error.
- **Set Gradual Temperature Changes**
 - Large, sudden temperature increases can trigger auxiliary heat.
 - Adjust settings gradually to avoid unnecessary backup heating.
- **Schedule Regular Maintenance**
 - Annual servicing ensures your heat pump runs efficiently and reduces reliance on auxiliary heat.

Bottom Line

Auxiliary heat is a helpful feature for extreme conditions, but using it incorrectly can dramatically increase energy costs. By understanding your thermostat and following best practices, you can keep your home comfortable while saving money.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



CAREER DAY

Our Valdosta District participated in a Career Day with local high school students in November. (L-R) - Avery Taylor, Brad Roe, Blake Pierce, Keith Luke, Corbin Evans and Gage Carroll.

ELECTRICAL WIRING WORKSHOP

Colquitt EMC sponsored an electrical wiring workshop for FFA students from several different South Georgia chapters and was held at Berrien County High school Tuesday, November 4. The workshop is in preparation for an upcoming Electrical CDE Competition.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY

TIP OF THE MONTH

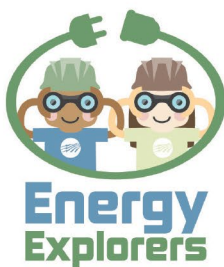
Winter weather can cause your home heating system to work overtime. Check for air leaks and drafts around doors and windows, then seal them with weatherstripping or caulk. Close fireplace dampers when not in use, and consider installing insulating curtains to help keep warm air inside. You can also save energy by lowering your thermostat a few degrees. Even small adjustments like these can reduce heating costs and improve comfort during the coldest months.



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 from burned poles.

-Thank you in advance for your cooperation.



POP QUIZ Electricity Terms

How well do you know terms related to electricity? Test your knowledge! **Read the definitions below. Then, look at the word bank to match the correct terms to the definitions.** You can only use the words once, so choose carefully. Check your work in the answer key.



Word Bank:

Conductor	Circuit	Insulator
Volt (Voltage)	Static Electricity	

1. A complete path that electricity flows through.

2. Something that allows electricity to pass through, such as metal or wire.

3. The standard unit of measurement for electricity.

4. Something that does not allow electricity to pass through easily, such as rubber.

5. Electricity build-up caused by rubbing two surfaces together.



Answer Key:
1. Circuit 2. Conductor
3. Volt (Voltage)
4. Insulator
5. Static Electricity

Recipe OF THE MONTH



Easy Manicotti

INGREDIENTS

1 lb ricotta cheese
4 oz mozzarella cheese, grated
3 tablespoons parmesan cheese, grated
1 teaspoon sugar
1 egg, slightly beaten
Nutmeg (to taste)
1 tablespoon parsley, finely chopped
Salt and pepper
1 (5 oz) package manicotti, uncooked
1 (15 ½ oz) jar prepared meatless marinara sauce

DIRECTIONS

Combine Ricotta, Mozzarella, grated Parmesan, sugar, egg, nutmeg, parsley, salt and pepper to taste. Stuff uncooked manicotti generously with the cheese mixture, from both ends. Arrange manicotti in a single layer in a baking pan. Bring sauce to a boil and pour over manicotti, covering completely. Cover baking pan with aluminum foil, crimping the edges to seal tightly. Bake in a preheated 400 degree Fahrenheit oven for 40 minutes. Remove foil, sprinkle generously with additional grated cheese. Bake uncovered for 5 minutes more.

Church of the Month



Clyattville First Baptist Church

5316 Madison Hwy. • Valdosta, GA 30601
Brother Roger Sims

Service Schedule

Sunday School	10 AM
Sunday Morning Worship	11 AM
Sunday Choir Practice	5 PM
Sunday Evening Worship	6 PM
Wednesday Dinner & Fellowship	6 PM
Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study	7 PM

To nominate your church for Church of the Month, please contact Shelby Cloud at 229-985-3620 ext. 1246 with your church's information or email marketing@colquittemc.com. Please include service schedule, address and pastor's name.

Bible Verse of the Month

²²Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. ²³They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

~ Lamentations 3:22, 23