



TO REPORT OUTAGES
Call: 1-888-253-4232

DISTRICT OFFICES
Hours: 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

AWENDAW
North 7200, US-17
Awendaw, SC 29426
(843) 884-7525
AWMemberRequests@bec.coop

GOOSE CREEK
2 Springhall Road
Goose Creek, SC 29445
(843) 553-5020
GCMemberRequests@bec.coop

JOHNS ISLAND
1135 Main Road
Johns Island, SC 29455
(843) 559-2458
JIMemberRequests@bec.coop

MONCKS CORNER
1732 US-52 West
Moncks Corner, SC 29461
(843) 761-8200/825-3383
MCMemberRequests@bec.coop

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Education at forefront of efforts



MIKE FULLER
President & CEO

IT'S NOT EVERY DAY that a fourth grader gets recognized at the Statehouse and has the chance to share her story with a senator. Being a part of moments like this is one reason why we continue supporting educational efforts in our local schools. It is not just a choice, but a responsibility rooted in the cooperative principle of

"concern for community."

The special day I am referring to was when Ansley Gratzmiller was recently honored with a proclamation on the Statehouse floor as the winner of the South Carolina Book Challenge—a statewide contest where 4th and 5th grade students write and illustrate a book about electricity.

She also had the chance to visit and share her story with her family's state legislators, Rep. Sylleste Davis and Sen. Larry Grooms. Ansley was not only chosen as Berkeley's local winner, but as the statewide winner her book was published and distributed to all elementary schools in the state.

I believe education is the foundation of a strong community. By investing in schools, we empower students with the knowledge and skills needed for future success. This support takes many forms—funding STEM programs, providing scholarships, or sponsoring career fairs.

At Berkeley Electric, these investments also include offering \$10,000 in scholarships to graduating high school seniors through our Operation Round-Up program and partnering with Trident Technical College in the Electrical Lineworker program. Additionally, this summer, we are sponsoring free leadership trips for 20 local students as part of Washington Youth Tour and Cooperative Youth Summit.

Schools are hubs where families



Rep. Sylleste Davis presents Ansley Gratzmiller with a proclamation as the statewide winner of the South Carolina Book Challenge.



Gratzmiller shares the favorite parts of her book with Sen. Larry Grooms.

connect, and by partnering with them, we build trust and collaboration. Our cooperative has seen firsthand how grants for classroom technology or energy efficiency workshops inspire students and educators alike.

Speaking of educators, our recent Bright Ideas 5K raised a record-setting \$52,000 to provide educational grants to nearly 50 teachers and their innovative classroom projects.

By prioritizing education, we address immediate needs—such as equipping students for a competitive world—while securing long-term prosperity. In essence, supporting local schools reflects our cooperative's heart: a dedication to the people and places we call home. It's an investment in tomorrow, keeping our communities not just growing, but thriving, for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Michael S. Fuller

5K sets record four years in a row

EACH YEAR since it was founded, the Bright Ideas 5K has set a new record and this year is no different. The sold-out race had record attendance on race day and raised a record-setting \$52,342. That means the future just got a little brighter for a group of local teachers who were recipients of this year's Bright Ideas Education Grant program.

Forty-seven Lowcountry educators representing more than 20 schools received grants of up to \$1,500 to support classroom projects not covered by traditional funds.

Congratulations to the overall race winner, Kristian Sanchez of Moncks Corner, and to the overall female winner, Caroline Crawford of Charleston, as well as to all the participants and sponsors who made this race a success.

Visit berkeleyelectric.coop for a full list of this year's grant recipients and relive race memories with our extensive photo album.

Don't forget to save the date for next year's race on April 25!



PHOTOS BY BERKELEY ELECTRIC



JOB FAIR

AUGUST 5 MONCK'S CORNER HEADQUARTERS

10 AM UNTIL 2 PM

FREE LUNCH HONORING VETERANS

- DISABLED ASSISTANCE & ACCESSIBLE PARKING AVAILABLE
- PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING & RESOURCES
- COMMUNITY PARTNERS ON-SITE



Sam Gourdine,
Trustee, District 4

Preparedness is the best defense

FOR OVER 100 YEARS now, "Be Prepared" has been the motto of the Boy Scouts of America. That axiom is as true today as it was then, especially when it comes to hurricane season. We all know that hurricane season usually starts off slowly and it isn't until later in the summer when the water really warms up that we need to start to pay closer attention. But as we also all know, Mother Nature can be unpredictable and is always eager to dole out lessons to those that need them.

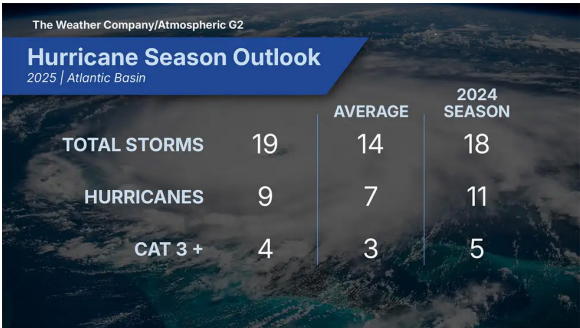
The good news is that the current predictions are for fewer hurricanes overall, but they come with an increased chance for those hurricanes to make land-fall. As we learned in 1989 with Hugo, all it takes is one hurricane to drastically alter the lives of hundreds, if not thousands, of people.

As a board member of the cooperative, I can assure you that Berkeley Electric learned that lesson well and took it to heart. Now, no matter how early it is in the season, our crews are always prepared and standing by to respond should power outages occur in our area.

When severe storms cause power disruptions, our line crews take all necessary precautions before they get to work on any downed lines. I would encourage you to also practice safety and preparedness when it comes to protecting your family during storms and outages. Planning for severe storms or other emergencies can reduce stress and anxiety caused by the weather event and lessen the impact of the storm's effects.

How you can help

If we are unlucky enough to experience a prolonged



power outage, there are a few things you can do to help our crews restore power quickly and safely. That includes turning off major appliances, TVs, computers, and other sensitive electronics. This will help minimize damage from potential power surges and will also help prevent overloading circuits during power restoration. Be sure to leave one light on so you will know when power is restored.

It is extremely important to know that if you plan to use a portable generator, make sure to use it outside and never try to rig it to feed power back into your house. This could cause electricity to flow back into the power lines, potentially injuring the linemen trying to restore your outage. Only plug appliances directly into the generator and make sure it's rated to handle the amount of power you need.

Stay informed

Berkeley Electric keeps members updated with important information before, during and after the storm, so follow us on social media and check for updates on our website at berkeleyelectric.coop. If you experience an outage, please don't report it on Facebook. Call our outage reporting number at 1 (888) 253-4232—this is the fastest way to let us know if your power is out. Additionally, you can report outages on your mobile device through our SmartHub app.

I hope we don't experience severe storms, but we can never predict Mother Nature's plans. At Berkeley Electric, we recommend that you make a plan today—because as the Boy Scouts know, being prepared is always our best defense.

Sincerely,

BERKELEY AT-A-GLANCE	FEBURARY 2024	FEBRUARY 2025
Total kWh sold	373,505,625	378,440,085
No. meters served	127,117	133.583
Avg. residential kWh/meter	1,057	972
Avg. residential bill/meter	\$151.67	\$144.69
Miles of line	6387	6515
Avg. daily high temperature	67	68
Avg. daily low temperature	44	43

This isn't your usual summer vacation

Local students selected for leadership experience

WHILE MOST HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS look at summer vacation as a chance to go to the beach or lounge by the pool, a select group of students are dedicating a week of their vacation to improving their leadership and networking skills during Washington Youth Tour and Cooperative Youth Summit.

Washington Youth Tour is an all-expenses-paid trip to the nation's capital for high school juniors that takes place in June. Berkeley's delegates will be joined by other electric cooperative delegates from across the state, as well as thousands from across the nation, for an experience that includes visits to the museums, monuments and memorials.

There's a lot to learn during the entire week-long trip, with stops at the National Museum of Health and Medicine, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, the National Museum of African American History and Culture and the U.S. Capitol. Berkeley Electric's delegates will also visit the offices of their U.S. House members and participate in a discussion with one of their state representatives on the Capitol steps.

The students will also experience first-hand how a cooperative operates. Throughout the week, the student-run Soda Pop Co-op provided snacks and beverages to everyone on the trip. It's not all hard work, however, with plenty of chances for students to interact and form lifelong friends, including during a dance cruise down the Potomac River.

Berkeley Electric also offers a similar all-expenses-paid experience for high school sophomores during Cooperative Youth Summit in July. Students selected for Cooperative Youth Summit spend a week in Columbia learning about state government, visiting local attractions and trying their hand at a

variety of lineman skills during a visit to a local cooperative.

Just like Washington Youth Tour, students will have plenty of opportunities to enjoy new friends and experiences, especially since these trips often represent the first time students have flown, left the state, or even traveled outside the Lowcountry.

Be sure to follow our social media channels for updates from the trips, and you can learn more about both trips by visiting "My Community" at berkeleyelectric.coop.



Both Washington Youth Tour and Cooperative Youth Summit offer chances to make once-in-a-lifetime memories like posing on the Capitol steps to take selfie with Sen. Tim Scott.

Graduating? Take the next step

For those ready to enter the workforce, Berkeley Electric is now taking applications for electrical lineworker internships at berkeleyelectric.coop under the "My Co-op > Careers" menu.

If selected, candidates will enroll in Trident Technical College's Electrical Lineworker Program, free of charge. All necessary tools and equipment will be covered by the cooperative.

Students in the ELW program experience conditions similar to those on the job in the outdoor training lab constructed at TTC's North Charleston campus. Students also receive expert classroom training in electrical theory and other subjects vital to launching their career as a lineworker and will graduate with a 3rd-class lineman certification. When not actively participating in a class at TTC, they will work alongside one of our crews at one of our respective districts.



Washington Youth Tour



Allen Floyd
Stratford High



Aniyah Bryant
Berkeley High



Dylan Hughes
Goose Creek High



Eli Yarborough
Homeschool



Griffith Jackson
St. Johns High



Hailey Bryant
Stratford High



Isiah Burns
Cane Bay High



Natalyia-Dior Jordan
Stratford High

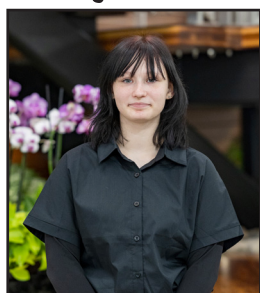


Nyssa Kuonen
Wando High



Yiqing Ye
Academic Magnet

Cooperative Youth Summit



Alyssa Holcomb
Timberland High



Carter Hawkins
Timberland High



Jaliyah Bess
Goose Creek High



Javion Jenkins
Timberland High



Jayce Romack
Berkeley High



Serenity Rauchut
Cane Bay High



Skilah Colleton
Wando High



Trinity Fletcher
Berkeley High



Yidong Ye
Academic Magnet



Zihlj'Qheir Taylor
Cross High



Veterans take to the lakes

BERKELEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE recognizes the incredible sacrifice and service of military veterans. To honor their service, the cooperative recently held the Reel Steel Military Appreciation Fishing Expedition, which provided a free guided fishing trip to local veterans.

Spearheaded by Captain Joe Dennis from "Chasin' The Wild Outdoors" TV, nearly 20 veterans spent the day fishing Lake Moultrie and Lake Marion after a complimentary breakfast at Mac Daddy's Restaurant. The big fish of the day was brought in by Tim Whiles at 20.64 lbs, with the second largest close behind at 18.98 lbs, caught by Morris Shinn. Both received a Patriot Edition Hellcat Rod. A portion of the sales of these rods supports organizations that help get veterans on the water.

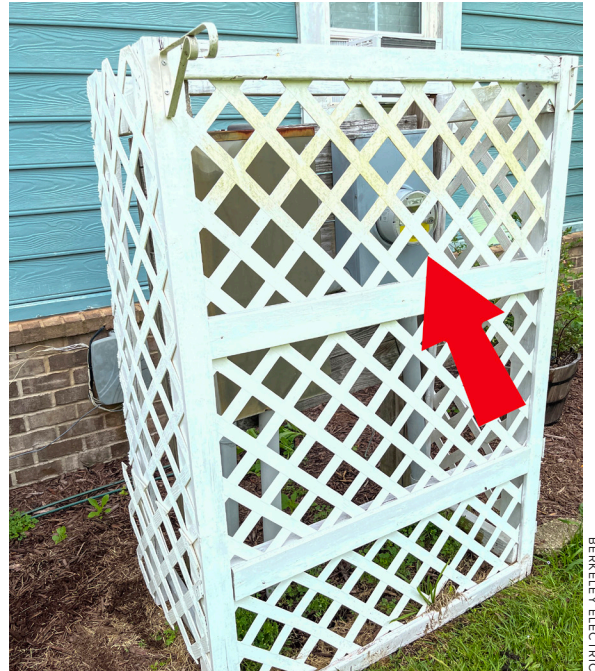


Veterans were up with the sun during the Reel Steel Military Fishing Expedition for a full-day of fishing.



Catfish were the catch of the day with the largest weighing in at 20.64 lbs.

Co-op requires access to meter, property



Meters must be accessible to co-op employees and obstructions need to be removed upon request or service may be cut off.

DIGITAL METERS PROVIDE both members and the cooperative with numerous advantages, including the reduced need for co-op employees to enter a member's property. However, this has led to several obstacles preventing our employees and contractors from accessing the meter when work needs to be done. This includes locked gates, free-roaming dogs, and meters being enclosed inside of trellises, behind decks, or inside garages.

Berkeley Electric calls members ahead of time and will send members a certified letter if employees cannot access the meter. Members have 30 days from receipt to contact the co-op and make arrangements, or service will be cut off.

Members have a right to secure their property, and we try to give advance notice of when we need access, but please note that it is not required. According to Service Policy 702, cooperative-identified employees have the right of access to member's premises at all reasonable times to access and maintain the co-op's equipment.

If you have questions, you have the right to request to see the credentials of an employee or contractor if they are not readily visible. If you are still unsure, please call your local district office.

Prepaid Billing grace period extended

Members using Prepaid Billing now have additional time to make a payment on their account to avoid a service interruption. Disconnections for a balance owed will now occur at 10 a.m. the next business day.

Please note that members will continue to accrue an arrears as they use power during this extension. For more information about Prepaid Billing, go to "Payment Options" under the "My Account" menu.