

Casey Schulte  
Northside High School



# Tideland Topics

*Real People. Real Power.*

## Merry Margins

At press time, Tideland's board of directors was scheduled to meet to consider a general retirement of member capital credits. The retirement will be made during the month of December through a combination of checks and electric bill credits for qualifying members. We will send an email notice to members with details about the general retirement following its approval, as well as complete coverage in these pages next month.



## All is Bright

Join us at the National Black Bear Festival's Christmas Laser Light Show at the Plymouth Municipal Airport. Enjoy songs of the season synchronized with lasers dancing across the night sky. The event kicks off on Wed., Dec. 20, and ends Sat., Dec. 23, with shows at 5:30 p.m., 7 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. daily.

The cost is \$25 per car, truck or SUV. Use the QR code above or visit [plymouthnc-events.com](http://plymouthnc-events.com) to purchase tickets online.







## 4 reasons not to use the on setting

Here are 4 reasons to avoid operating your HVAC system in the ON mode:

1. Higher energy costs: Since the fan is always running, you're using more energy than when the fan only runs when your system is heating or cooling.
2. More frequent repairs: When set to ON, the fan runs more. This can increase wear and tear on your blower and lead to costly blower repairs.
3. Increases humidity: Your AC won't dehumidify your home as well as it should, when the fan is set to ON.
4. Worsens air duct leakage: Most homes leak about 10% of the supply air and 12% of the return air through their duct system. So if the fan is blowing all the time, you're always losing your conditioned air, running up your energy bills.



Teacher Helen Lewis and her "Budding Botanists" at Bridgeton Elementary

## Classroom innovators

### Tideland presents local educators with \$13,726.25 to fund creative learning

It's the most wonderful time of the Tideland year — delivering Bright Ideas grants to local classrooms. Each funding cycle, we continue to be marveled by the dedication of local teachers to bring innovative learning activities to their students. This year we're funding everything from drones in agriculture to crime scene evidence analysis tools down to the most basic classroom essentials like construction paper and laboratory beakers. During our award presentation visits, we continued to be awestruck by the vibrancy of each and every classroom where students are eager to learn. We look forward to following along with several of these projects through 2024. Let's meet our latest winners:

#### **Karen Glass** **Terra Ceia Christian School** **"Much Ado About Mutton"**

4H is alive and well in Tideland territory. You'll find no bigger fan of the program than teacher Karen Glass. Grant funds will be used to purchase one market lamb, which students will care for during the classroom year before showing it at the Beaufort County 4H Live-stock Show and Sale. The lamb will also serve as the focal point of the school's "Kiss a Lamb" fundraiser.



*List of grant winners continues on pages F-G*

# Tomorrow's leaders today

## Teens apply now for Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.

Youth Tour is a once-in-a-lifetime, all-expenses-paid leadership travel opportunity. From the halls of Congress to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, youth tourists will explore the leadership lessons of our nation's history and be immersed in the cooperative principles that define Tideland EMC.

Application Deadline  
*January 19*

While on Youth Tour, all transportation, meals, admissions to events and lodging will be arranged and paid for by Tideland.

What are we looking for in a Youth Tour candidate? We're looking for someone who is outgoing and has

a demonstrated ability to work well with others. With nearly 1,600 young people from across the country participating in the event, we're looking for candidates eager to form new friendships, exchange ideas and find their own voice about the things they care about.

The Youth Tour dates for 2024 are June 15 through June 21. Applications must be received by Tideland EMC no later than January 19 and a winner(s) will be selected by January 31.

To apply students must reside in a home served by Tideland EMC and must currently be a high school sophomore or junior.

Applications have been mailed to Tideland area high schools or you can download the application at [tidelandemc.com](http://tidelandemc.com).

## They may be ugly, but... Resist the urge to transform your transformer with landscaping

Tideland crews recently had to remove three bushes, a great deal of dirt along with landscape fabric and hardscaping to access a padmount transformer during the installation of a new electric service. Crews actually had to dig down to uncover the lid bolt.

While we can appreciate the fact that padmount transformers aren't very attractive to look at, proper clearances are critical to service reliability, public safety and routine equipment inspections.

As we mentioned in last month's issue of Tideland Topics, padmount

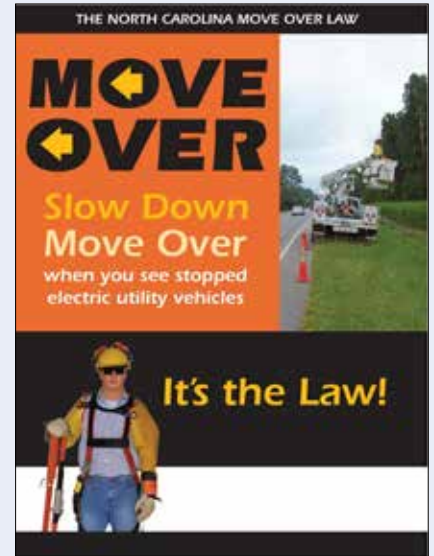
transformers need at least 10 feet of clearance in front of the cabinet and 2 to 5 feet in all other directions.



Photo by Josh Bain

Padmount transformers are also not appropriate canvases for individual or community art projects or the placement of decorative decals.

## Rights-of-way maintenance schedule



Tideland has hired Lucas Tree Experts and Gunnison Tree to trim trees in our right-of-way. During December, Lucas will be trimming the Craven County circuit out of our Edward substation. This includes the Tunstall Swamp area and all side roads. Gunnison will be trimming the Pungo circuit along Highway 99.

Lee Electrical construction contractors will be doing overhead line work on the Maribel Tap off the Merritt circuit.

We appreciate your support of these important maintenance operations which improve system reliability.







## College Scholarship Applications Due March 1

Tideland EMC is now accepting college scholarship applications from high school seniors in Beaufort, Hyde, Washington, Pamlico, Dare and Craven counties. Applicants must be the dependent of a Tideland EMC member.

The co-op will award eight \$1,000 scholarships. Two of the scholarships will be designated for students who plan to attend community college.

Students have until Friday, March 1, 2024, to apply. An application may be downloaded at [tidelandemc.com](https://tidelandemc.com).

For more information, contact program coordinator Heidi Smith at 252.944.2410 or [heidismith@tidelandemc.com](mailto:heidismith@tidelandemc.com).

## Message to members

### A beacon for our co-op families

PAUL SPRUILL  
GENERAL MANAGER &  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

For years, North Carolina's electric cooperatives have proudly supported the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Eastern North Carolina (RMHC-ENC) and its mission to provide a temporary "home away from home" for families of seriously ill or injured children receiving treatment at local medical facilities.

In a recent collaborative effort, North Carolina's Electric Cooperatives, along with Edgecombe-Martin County EMC, Tri-County EMC, Jones Onslow EMC, Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative, Tideland EMC, and Roanoke Cooperative, came together to make a generous donation of \$12,000 to the utilities fund of the RMHC-ENC. With this donation, North Carolina's Electric Cooperatives have pledged to donate an additional \$10,000 in 2024, bringing the total to \$22,000. This fund assists in covering all utility expenses for the house.

We are very appreciative to have a program and organization like the Ronald McDonald House in our community, as it impacts all of the co-ops and our members.

The House is an essential resource in eastern North Carolina, providing families with quality care and a place to rest and recharge while their children receive medical treatment. This "home away from home" can make all the difference for families during their times of need, as they are provided with basic necessities

and emotional support. Since 1987, RMHC-ENC has had over 32,000 admissions to their facilities.

In 2022, RMHC-ENC provided 5,900 nights for families all over Eastern North Carolina. The charity operates two Houses in Greenville. The House on Moye



Boulevard has 25 guest bedrooms. It offers families all the comforts of home, while being in close proximity to their child in the hospital. In 2013, a second, six-bedroom Ronald McDonald House was opened inside the James and Connie Maynard Children's Hospital at ECU Health.

We are grateful to RMHC-ENC for the services and hope they provide to families in need. And proud to do our part to strengthen and continue their mission.



# Pole Top Rescue:

## *Michael Baldwin*

On October 27, lineworkers from 25 North Carolina co-ops competed for the title of state champion at the 2023 Pole Top Rescue Competition. Grantsboro lineman Michael Baldwin represented Tideland at the event and posted a time of 3:21.7. All co-op linemen are required to complete this lifesaving exercise within 5 minutes to remain certified to climb.







Krista Bond and her students at Pocosin Innovative Charter

**Krista Bond**  
**Pocosin Innovative Charter**  
**“Flying into the Future of Farming”**

Students will learn how physics, global positioning, camera technologies, coding and mathematics are intertwined when utilizing drone technologies. Ten drones will be purchased to aid students in the study of precision farming and forestry services.

**Tami Wagaman**  
**Mattamuskeet High School**  
**“Innovating Minds Through Hands On Learning”**

Wagaman, one of Tideland’s most successful Bright Ideas grant writers, is now teaching at Mattamuskeet High School, where she is eager to begin the process of building a lab environment for students. This grant begins to pave the way with beakers, test tubes and more.



**Casey Schulte**  
**Northside High School**  
**“The Investigative Mind”**

Speaking of Tami Wagaman, we’re pleased to announce that a 2022 grant we funded during her last year at Northside High School has been adopted and expanded by teacher Casey Schulte. The 2023 Burroughs Wellcome Fund’s Northeast Regional Teacher of the Year, Schulte is building out Wagaman’s forensic science curriculum with the purchase of bloodstain pattern and fiber analysis kits and other items to help students hone their scientific, super sleuthing skills.



**Susan Long**  
**Fred A. Anderson Elementary**  
**“A Book for Everyone”**

An innovative arrangement at Anderson Elementary allowed Susan Long to “loop” to fifth grade with her fourth grade students. Her grant will build on last year’s grant to buy

classroom sets of reading materials. Long’s students were excited to learn they will now receive “Another Quest for Celeste”, part two of Henry Cole’s “Nest for Celeste” series which they began last year.

**Megan Boltes**  
**S.W. Snowden Elementary**  
**“STEM and 3D Printing”**

Snowden’s new STEM program gets a much needed boost with the purchase of three 3D printers. Students will explore engineering, design and the manufacturing process. Using Tinkercad they will immerse themselves in the entry-level principles of constructive solid geometry to render their own printed models.







## Gift Giving made easy

Want to brighten the Christmas Season for someone special?

Give a H.U.G.  
A home utility gift!

We'll be glad to credit any Tideland EMC member's account in the gift amount of your choice. Gifts must be paid in full with cash, check or credit card.

We'll also provide you with a special holiday greeting card to notify the recipient of your gift.

Call 1.800.637.1079 for details or visit any Tideland office.



**Karen Teklinsky**  
**Ocracoke School**  
**"Discovering How the World Around You Works"**



With the purchase of reusable PocketLab sensors and probes, students in grades 6-8 will explore their natural environment by measuring altitude, motion, light, temperature, magnetic fields and more. The G-force sensor fits on a Hot Wheels track and can measure velocity, position, direction and collision. The air sensor measures CO2, particulate matter, barometric pressure and ozone.

**Joy Powell**  
**Terra Ceia Christian School**  
**"Around the World with Art"**



Art is often one of the least-funded school curriculums while having the highest need of "consumables" so students can create their own masterpieces. This grant will provide a wide array of items from bulk construction paper to scissors and modeling clay so young learners can create.

**Helen Lewis**  
**Bridgeton Elementary**  
**"Budding Botanists"**

First graders will explore plant life cycles with classroom greenhouse kits that allow them to plant and maintain their own vegetables, flowers and herbs. A root viewer will allow students to observe the development of vegetables like carrots from seed to harvest.

## Rebate deadlines

As the year winds down be sure to complete and submit any rebate forms for qualified purchases and installations made during 2023. Rebates are available for high efficiency heat pumps, heat pump water heaters and Energy Star manufactured homes.

Rebate forms and program guidelines can be found online at [tidelandemc.com](http://tidelandemc.com)

## Adiso Anual *de No Discrimination*

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- (1) correo: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; o
- (3) correo electrónico: [program.intakeusda.gov](mailto:program.intakeusda.gov).

Tideland EMC es un proveedor, empleador y prestador que ofrece igualdad de oportunidades.

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To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
  - (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
  - (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).
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REAL POWER.

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## Holiday *Closings*

Our offices will be closed December 25 – 26 as well as January 1. Our 24-hour call center will be fully staffed for outage reporting and account management.

Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New Year!

