

Tideland Topics

Real People. Real Power.

Yuletide Refund

At press time, Tideland's board of directors was scheduled to meet to consider a general retirement of member capital credits. If cooperative finances meet approved targets, the retirement will be made during the month of December through a combination of checks and electric bill credits for qualifying members. Refunds to the estates of deceased members are likely to reach \$478,864 in 2020. See Page E for a detailed explanation about capital credits.



Tinsel Town

For most travelers, the community of Manns Harbor is a crossroads you drive through on your way to someplace else. But during the month of December it is a destination unto itself thanks to the hard work of Tideland member Christopher Coley. His annual Christmas light display continues to grow with each passing year with the local post office building being the focal point. Read more on Page C.





Isaias Disaster declaration

On October 14, Tideland received word that Governor Roy Cooper's request for a federal disaster declaration for Hurricane Isaias had been approved by the Trump administration. As a result, Tideland is eligible for reimbursement of hurricane-related expenses.

Fifteen North Carolina counties are covered by the declaration, including four served by Tideland: Beaufort, Craven, Hyde and Pamlico.

Reimbursement under the Public Assistance Program comes from two funding sources. FEMA reimburses applicants at least 75 percent of eligible costs, and the remaining 25 percent will come from the state.

Tideland's Hurricane Isaias reimbursable expenses are in the range of \$500,000 to \$550,000.

Rice Revival *Tidewater Grain*

What do you get when you put a NASCAR general manager and a Pamlico County farmer together, when both happen to be duck hunters?

Any number of things, really. But if you're talking about Al Spruill and Tommy Wheeler, you get the revival of a rice variety that has been absent for over a century in North Carolina.

Carolina Gold rice was brought to the United States from Madagascar on a ship that traded its load of rice in exchange for ship repairs in Charleston, South Carolina, in 1685. It flourished for over two centuries in the fertile soil of the southeastern coastal plain.

By 1900, Carolina Gold rice was one of the top exports in the Carolinas. But then along came commodity agriculture, economic woes in the South, and devastating hurricanes. By 1911, the rice industry had all but collapsed in North Carolina.

Friends for nearly 50 years, Spruill and Wheeler were both born and raised in Oriental. While Spruill stayed home to farm, Wheeler's journey led him to Roush Fenway

Racing. The two friends continued to hunt together which necessarily included maintaining food plots to attract ducks. When the

Carolina Gold Rice Foundation in Charleston resurrected the heirloom seed, Spruill and Wheeler were eager to expand their small grain operation with something that wasn't a commodity crop yet had historical ties to the region.

Spruill calls Carolina Gold rice the "grand-daddy" of American rice.

It's resilient, adapts quickly to its environment, and was sought after by people all over the world. Its nutty, nuanced flavor with a hint of sweetness appeals to brewers and restaurateurs alike.

To learn more about Tidewater Grain Company and purchase their rice online visit tidewatergrain.com. Prefer to make your purchase in person? Visit Nautical Wheelers in Oriental and New Bern.



AL SPRUILL (LEFT) AND TOMMY WHEELER (RIGHT) STAND IN A FIELD OF CAROLINA GOLD RICE PRIOR TO RICE HEADING

Labor of Love

Manns Harbor Christmas Light Show

During the second week in November, under blue skies and unseasonably warm temperatures, 34-year-old Christopher Coley began work on his annual Christmas light display in Manns Harbor. With each passing year, more lights are added and this year Coley estimates the finished product will feature 400,000 bulbs.

Coley, a landscaper by trade, has been stringing lights as far back as he can remember. His first large-scale display was originally located on Old Ferry Dock Road, but further expansion required relocating. Fortunately the owner of the building that houses the Manns Harbor post office was more than willing to provide a canvas for Coley's holiday vision. Thus, for the past eight years it has been the focal point of the ever-expanding display, complete with outdoor speakers that pipe out Christmas caroles.

When Coley moved into the house across the street from the post office

that gave him an opportunity to expand further. With no trees on the property, he constructs his own with heavy-duty anchoring to guard against the constant and sometimes heavy winds that come rolling in from the Croatan Sound. He also lights up his neighbor's property, as well as a large home behind the post office.



MANN'S HARBOR POST OFFICE
CHRISTOPHER COLEY PHOTO

The switch is finally flipped the first weekend in December and can be viewed in all its glory between sunset

and 9:30 p.m. daily. On Christmas Eve the lights remain on overnight. Coley encourages you to check the weather forecast before making the drive to Manns Harbor. In the event of rain, thick fog or unusually high winds he powers it off.

How much does it cost to power the annual light show? Two metered services carry the bulk of the load and last year they totaled \$436.46. Of course, we should point out that Coley only uses incandescent light strands. Turns out he's not a fan of LED Christmas lights. 😊

Right-of-way maintenance schedule

Tideland has hired Lucas Tree Experts to trim trees in our right-of-way. During December they will continue working in Fairfield Harbour and along Broad Creek Road in New Bern. They will also begin work in Stumpy Point and East Lake in Dare County.

Gunnison Tree Service will continue work in areas of the Pantego operational district.

Lee Electrical construction contractors will have a crew working on Old Bay River Road in Grantsboro. Another crew will continue work in the Lake Phelps area including Shore Road and Allen Road. One underground crew will be working systemwide to address underground service issues.

T&S Growth Solutions will continue work in Fairfield Harbour on a tree growth pilot project. Our thanks to participating members as we explore more cost effective and tree friendly ways to manage vegetative growth.

Remember to support these importance system maintenance operations. Proper tree care leads to greater system reliability.



Message to members

The power of Operation Roundup

PAUL SPRUILL
GENERAL MANAGER &
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

It started as a simple idea 27 years ago at one co-op in South Carolina. Just round up the co-op member's electric bill to the next dollar, and then use it to do good work in your community. Today, hundreds of electric co-ops throughout the country, including Tideland EMC, use this idea to help members and organizations close to home.

All co-ops adhere to the seven cooperative principles, including "Concern for Community." The Operation Roundup program is the perfect embodiment of this core principle. The average co-op member donates \$6 with a maximum possible contribution of \$11.88 per year. This may not seem like a large amount, but when combined with thousands of other members, it can make a significant impact.

The program is always voluntary and contributions are tax-deductible. All Operation Roundup funds collected go to fund two Tideland initiatives: Silver Lining Energy Assistance Grants for members experiencing a crisis situation and eight college scholarships awarded to local high school graduates.

This year those energy assistance funds are needed more now than ever. I hope you will consider signing up to donate through the roundup method. If you want to donate a set monthly amount you can do so through Operation Roundup Plus. Just give us a call at 800-637-1079 to enroll.

And to those who continue to give to the program, thank you for helping us lighten the load of those in need.

Class of 2020
Time to apply

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 5, 2021, to apply. An application may be downloaded at tidelandemc.com.

For more information contact program coordinator Heidi Smith at 252.944.2410 or heidismith@tidelandemc.com.

Board Officers

Brinson elected as co-op president



DOUG BRINSON
President



CLIFTON PAUL
Vice President



MARK CARAWAN
Secretary



DAVID IPOCK
Treasurer

Officer elections were held at the October meeting of Tideland's board of directors, officer elections. Douglas J. Brinson, Jr. of Arapahoe was elected to serve a one-year term as president of the co-op. Clifton Paul of Grantsboro will serve as vice president. Elected secretary is Mark Carawan of Scranton and remaining in the role of treasurer is David Ipock of New Bern.

How CAPITAL CREDITS work

Tideland Electric Membership Corporation is a not-for-profit member-owned cooperative. Tideland members share in the ownership, construction, maintenance and prosperity of the co-op.



When a person establishes service with us, they become a member and are eligible for capital credits.



Capital credits represent a member's share of the cooperative's margins during the time they have membership.

At the end of each year, any funds (margins) remaining after expenses have been paid are allocated, based on percentage of electricity used, to the member's account.



The allocated funds are used as operating capital for system improvements and maintenance.



ALLOCATION

An allocation is made annually for each member, based on the amount of electricity purchased. An allocation is the member's share of the net margins. The co-op sets this money aside to be used as operating capital for improvements & maintenance over a period of years thus reducing co-op borrowing costs.

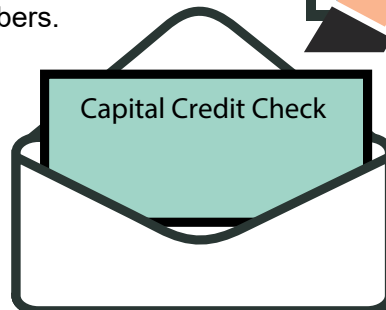


Annually, the board of directors evaluates Tideland's financial condition to determine if we can retire capital credits and if so, what dollar amount. Part of that equation is the amount of capital credits already refunded year-to-date to the estates of deceased members.



When the board elects to retire capital credits, the co-op calculates the amount to pay each member based on a percentage of the member's allocation for the year of service being retired.

Checks are mailed to members due a retirement of \$50 or more. For amounts less than \$50 or in the case of a delinquent account, the credit is applied to the member's December electric bill.



Capital credits represent an important cooperative principle: **MEMBER ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION** along with the return of local dollars to our hometown communities.

RETIREMENT

A retirement is the amount a member receives back as a refund. It is a portion of the total allocation. When capital is no longer needed for operating expenses, it is retired. The amount paid is decided annually by the board of directors based on the financial needs of the cooperative.

IN THE RIGHT

light

DECORATE YOUR HOME SAFELY DURING THE HOLIDAYS:

According to the National Fire Protection Association, **860 home fires** caused by holiday decorations occur **each year**. An additional **210 home fires** are caused by Christmas trees per year. Follow these steps to ensure you decorate your home safely during the winter holidays.



Make sure all **extension cords and electrical decorations** are marked for **proper use**



Outdoor electric lights and decorations should be plugged into circuits protected by **ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs)**



Inspect all lights, decorations, and extension cords **for damage before using**



Exercise caution when decorating near power lines. Keep yourself and your equipment at least **10 feet from power lines**



Turn off all indoor and outdoor electrical decorations **before leaving home or going to sleep**



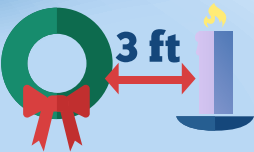
Avoid overloading electrical outlets with too many decorations or electrical devices. They can **overheat and cause a fire**



Never connect more than **three strings of incandescent lights** together



Water your Christmas tree **daily**



Keep all decorations at least **3 feet away from heating equipment or an open flame**



Purchase electrical decorations from reputable retailers and that are approved by a national recognized testing lab such as **UL** (Underwriters Laboratory), Intertek (**ETL**), or Canadian Standards Association (**CSA**)

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ELECTRICAL FIRE PREVENTION VISIT WWW.ESFI.ORG



www.facebook.com/ESFI.org

www.twitter.com/ESFI dot org

www.youtube.com/ESFI dot org

Ocracoke Rising

Island hitting its stride post-Dorian

It's been nearly 15 months since Hurricane Dorian devastated Ocracoke Island. Post-storm images showed a landscape barely recognizable to tens of thousands of faithful visitors who watched the tragedy unfold from afar.

As many homeowners and businesses were completing repairs and preparing for the 2020 tourist season, another storm was brewing: Covid-19.

While the pandemic has indeed taken a toll on many tourist destinations, Ocracoke may have carved out a niche market for those seeking a socially distanced getaway. In June, the U.S. Park Service

ing month, visits were at their fourth-highest total ever. The trend has continued well into fall.

Hyde County manager Kris Noble points to foreign travel restrictions that have many vacationers



considering domestic alternatives. Additionally, the transition for many families to remote work and virtual learning have made it easier to book a stay after Labor

Day. In fact, given the still-steady pace of visitors this fall, many island businesses have remained open outside of normal operating windows.

If you have not yet ventured to Ocracoke to witness the

recovery for yourself we hope you'll visit soon. And we'll be sure leave a lighthouse on for you.



EDUARDO'S TACO STAND HAS RELOCATED AND EXPANDED POST-DORIAN

reported that Cape Hatteras National Seashore visitation records had the second-highest numbers since establishment of the seashore in 1953. The follow-



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.



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Las personas con discapacidades que requieran medios alternativos de comunicación para obtener información sobre el programa (por ej., Braille, letra grande, cinta de audio, lenguaje americano de señas, etc.) deberán comunicarse con la Agenda responsable o con el Centro TARGET del USDA al (202) 720-2600 (voz y TTY) o comunicarse con el USDA a través del Servicio Federal de Transmisiones al (800) 877-8339. Asimismo, se puede disponer de información del programa en otros idiomas además de inglés. Para presentar una denuncia por discriminación en el programa, complete el Formulario de denuncias por discriminación en el programa del USDA, AD-3027, que se encuentra en línea en http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, o en cualquier oficina del USDA, o escriba una carta dirigida al USDA e incluya en la carta toda la información solicitada en el formulario. Para solicitar una copia del formulario de denuncias, llame al (866) 632-9992. Envíe su formulario completado o su carta al USDA por los siguientes medios:

- (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.intake@usda.gov.

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Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

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 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.
- This institution is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

REAL PEOPLE.
REAL POWER.

Tideland Topics

www.tidelandemc.com

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Member Service

252.943.3046

800.637.1079

24 Hour Outage Reporting & Automated Services

252.944.2400

800.882.1001

Tideland EMC is an equal opportunity provider & employer



Holiday *Closing*

Our offices will be closed December 24 and 25 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!

