Local Students Rewarded for Outstanding Achievement

Twenty-four graduating high school seniors and four community college students have received scholarships that Jones-Onslow funds for deserving students in our community.

The $1,000 scholarships will assist the youth as they continue with their academic endeavors.

Students that attended high school in Onslow County were selected in conjunction with the school system and its Sponsors For Academic Talent (S.A.T.) Program and received their scholarships at the May S.A.T. Banquet. Other recipients were chosen by the individual school's staff.

The cooperative is proud of these and all the fine students in our area schools and communities.

Scholarship recipients are listed to the right. Congratulations to you all!

HIGH SCHOOL RECIPIENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Recipients</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Camp Lejeune</td>
<td>Megan Jensen, Alexander Ynfante</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dixon</td>
<td>Holly Thomas, Kendell Wilcox</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Duplin</td>
<td>Wesley Brown, Carson Williams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacksonville</td>
<td>Evans Morgan, Katherine Reeves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jones Senior</td>
<td>Kiarra Hill, Frederica Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northside</td>
<td>Sean Brooks, Tailor Rowe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richlands</td>
<td>Lindsey Gaddy, Matthew Horne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Lenoir</td>
<td>Allyson Heath, Robert Simmons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwest</td>
<td>Corinna Fonseca, Malique Judd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swansboro</td>
<td>Jacob Barton, Rachel Woodul</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topsail</td>
<td>Natalie Smith, Whitney Williams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Oak</td>
<td>Emily Cluen, Jack Koonce</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COMMUNITY COLLEGE RECIPIENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College</th>
<th>Recipients</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coastal Carolina</td>
<td>Emily Dale, Amanda Rocker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lenoir</td>
<td>Brittany Baugus, Becky Jones</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Critters, Vegetation and Power “Blinks”

If your power goes out or “blinks” on a calm, storm-free day, you probably wonder why.

In spring and early summer, critters, especially squirrels and snakes, are busy nesting and feeding and they often find their way to power poles and other equipment that is a part of Jones-Onslow’s electrical distribution system. Additionally, despite an aggressive tree trimming program, new tree growth and vines can find their way onto power lines and other equipment.

Blinks occur when an obstruction comes into contact with a power line or transformer. To minimize the possibility of damage to the electrical distribution system or your home, a circuit breaker interrupts the flow of electricity for a fraction of a second. If the obstruction remains on the line, the breaker opens and then tries to re-close and restore power. If the obstruction is still on the line after the third try, the breaker opens and does not re-close automatically. At this point, a Jones-Onslow employee must be dispatched to remove the obstruction and manually reset the breaker.

“Power blinks have always been a part of electric service — they just weren’t as noticeable until sensitive electronics began filling our homes,” says Chief Utility Engineer Tommy Pritchard. “While they might be annoying, without this feature designed into the system, every brief interruption would result in an outage lasting possibly an hour or longer.”

Pritchard suggest installing a battery backup (Uninterruptible Power Supply or UPS) for cable boxes, computers and any other electronics that take a long time to reboot after a sudden shutdown.

Many of the cooperative’s poles have “squirrel guard” technology but these cunning creatures often find ways to get around the guards. The guards are designed not only to prevent outages but to spare a squirrel’s life too. Squirrels are not electrocuted when they run across power lines but when their bodies make contact with more than one wire or a transformer they become a path for electricity. The same holds true for snakes, which sometimes find their way into equipment.

Ultimately, power blinks improve the overall system reliability by reducing measurable power outages, protecting Jones-Onslow’s equipment and actually reducing the total time customers would be without power if the technology were not in place.

Signing up for Bank Draft Gives You One Less Thing to Remember...

Want one less worry, one less stamp, and one less errand?

Take advantage of our FREE Bank Draft service and your monthly electric bill will be securely drafted from your bank or credit card account.

You’ll still receive a statement by mail or email each month and the amount will be drafted on the payment due date that you choose. You can even opt to have us securely draft from your checking or savings account — or you can use a credit or debit card.

Get the enrollment form at joemc.com or call the office and talk with us at (910) 353-1940 or (800) 682-1515 for more details.
HVAC Credits & Rebates Available...

Heating and cooling your home uses more energy and costs more money than any other system in your home—it can account for between 47 to 50 percent of your utility bill.

No matter what kind of heating and cooling system you have in your house, you can save money and increase your comfort by properly maintaining and upgrading your equipment. Remember, an energy-efficient air-source heat pump, a geothermal heat pump, or central air conditioning system alone will not have as great an impact on your energy bills as using the whole-house approach. By combining proper equipment maintenance and upgrades with the recommended insulation, air sealing and thermostat settings, you can cut your energy use for heating and cooling.

Jones-Onslow offers rebates or credits to customers who install high efficiency heat pump or central air units. Depending on the equipment installed, units must be 15 SEER (or EER) or greater. Credits/rebates for the various equipment that is eligible are listed below:

**High Efficiency Central Air Conditioner**
(15 SEER) - $35 rebate
(16 SEER or higher) - $50 rebate

**High Efficiency Air Source Heat Pump**
(15 SEER or higher) - $250 rebate

**Geothermal Heat Pump**
(19 EER or higher) - $350 rebate

Make sure you find a qualified HVAC installer who will recommend the appropriate sized unit for your home. The bigger the unit does not mean the more efficient.

Customers are limited to two credits/rebates per year and additional restrictions do apply. For more information visit our web site at [joemc.com](http://joemc.com) or call (910) 353-1940 or (800) 682-1515.
BBQ Chicken Pizza

1 (10 ounces) ready-made pizza crust
3/4 cup thick BBQ sauce
2 cups chopped roasted, skinless, boneless chicken breasts
2/3 cup diced tomatoes
3/4 cup (3 ounces) shredded extra-sharp cheddar cheese
1/3 cup chopped green onions

Preheat oven to 450 degrees. Place crust on a baking sheet. Bake for 3 minutes. Spread sauce over crust, leaving a half-inch border. Top sauce with chicken, diced tomatoes, green onions, and cheeses. Bake at 450 degrees for 9 minutes. Remove from oven, let cool, and serve.

If you have a recipe you’d like to share with our readers send it to JOEMC, Attn: Spotlight Editor, 259 Western Boulevard, Jacksonville, NC 28546.

from the CEO’s desk…

J. Ronald McElheney

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released draft regulations in early June regarding greenhouse gas emissions for existing power generation plants. The proposed regulations will have a significant impact on the generation of electricity across the country and directly impact Jones-Onslow and our power supplier, North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation (NCEMC).

The Agency has set a national goal for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions of 30 percent by the year 2030. And they have assigned a carbon reduction goal to each state and charged states with developing their own plans for meeting the goals. The regulations, as drafted, will require North Carolina to reduce their emissions by 39 percent by 2030. This extremely ambitious target will have tremendous impact on the United States’ utilities ability to produce reliable and affordable electricity in the future.

While we applaud the EPA for providing flexibility for states to meet these targets, we are very concerned about how this aggressive action will impact our customers. Cooperatives, like Jones-Onslow, serve communities most sensitive to, and least able to afford, increases in the cost of energy. As always, we advocate seeking a balanced solution that addresses environmental concerns without unduly burdening consumers. The draft regulations, as with all drivers increasing the cost of electricity today, must be considered in their entirety and comprehensively to fully appreciate the impact on electric cooperative consumers and their communities.

We look forward to working with the EPA to ensure that the final regulations are workable and economically viable.

Question: It’s easy to see how increased regulation will cause costs to rise, but how would they have a negative impact on reliability?
Answer: Many anticipate the closing of coal plants in North Carolina and across the country in an effort to comply with regulations. That generation will need to be replaced with new, more expensive plants. Increased regulations mean a more complex and lengthy permitting and construction process, which means potential delays in bringing new plants online.

Question: How much of NCEMC’s fuel portfolio comes from fossil fuels?
Answer: Currently, 32 percent of our fuel mix comes from fossil fuels, 19 percent from natural gas and 13 percent from coal. 56 percent of our fuel mix comes from emission-free nuclear power and the remaining 12 percent comes from renewables, hydro and market purchases.

Question: Does NCEMC own any fossil fuel generating plants?
Answer: NCEMC owns two natural gas peaking plants, one in Anson County and the other in Richmond County. Additionally, there is a small diesel generation plant on the Outer Banks.

Question: How will these regulations impact North Carolina?
Answer: It’s too early to tell. We’ll be analyzing the draft regulations and working with the EPA to ensure balanced consideration of affordability, reliability and environmental responsibility.