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. Congratulations to all of you!

**HIGH SCHOOL RECIPIENTS**

- **Camp Lejeune**: Liam Day, Carissa Baldwin
- **Dixon**: Emily Korenek, Justin Condry
- **East Duplin**: Lindsey Blizzard, Maddison Hopkins
- **Jacksonville**: Avery E. Anderson, Bryan H. Ruschs
- **Jones Senior**: Megan Downs, Sagar Patel
- **Northside**: Kiara A. Boutista, Jamon M. Parker
- **Richlands**: Erykah A. Lawson, Ronald Russell, III
- **South Lenoir**: Jameson Grady, Micaiah Jackson
- **Southwest**: Alyssa J. Brown, Matthew C. McCurry
- **Swansboro**: Jessica D. Edwards, Thomas G. Copeland
- **Topsail**: Sara Major, Domenick DiBiase
- **White Oak**: Kayla M. Boudreau, William R. Nathan

**COMMUNITY COLLEGE RECIPIENTS**

- **Coastal Carolina**: Lisa Meredith, Nicholas Ward
- **Lenoir**: Steve A. Baugus, Kelsey R. Gray
Energy Star Appliance & HVAC Credits/Rebates Available...

When buying an appliance for your home, there are two things that you need to keep in mind—what you pay to purchase the appliance and what you pay for the energy and water it uses.

Energy Star qualified appliances incorporate advanced technologies that use 10 to 50 percent less energy than standard models. And, many times, the money you save on your utility bills can more than make up for the difference in price.

JOEMC wants to help customers maximize their energy dollars and become more energy efficient so that’s why we offer the Energy Star Appliance Credit/Rebate Program. Customers who purchase qualified Energy Star appliances and heating and cooling equipment will receive credits/rebates ranging from $50 to $350.

**SMALL APPLIANCES**

The cooperative is offering a $50 credit (on your electric bill) for the purchase of qualified Energy Star appliances which include clothes washers, refrigerators, freezers, dishwashers, ceiling fans, dehumidifiers, and programmable thermostats.

To qualify for the credit, customers must complete a form, attach a copy of the sales receipt, and mail or bring the paperwork to the Jacksonville or Sneads Ferry office. The form that must be completed can be downloaded at the JOEMC website, joemc.com, or picked up at one of the offices. Additional restrictions for the program do apply so call the office or go online to get more information.

**HEATING AND COOLING**

JOEMC customers who have installed an Energy Star rated electric central air conditioning unit, air-source heat pump, or geothermal heat pump are eligible to receive a credit/rebate from the cooperative ranging from $35 to $350.

To qualify for the credit/rebate, customers must complete the HVAC Rebate Application (it can be downloaded at joemc.com or picked up at one of the offices) and return the form to the Jacksonville or Sneads Ferry office. Rebate checks may be issued upon request for all rebates greater than $50. Additional restrictions for the program do apply so call the office or go online to get more information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eligible HVAC Systems</th>
<th>Rebate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High Efficiency Central AC 15 SEER</td>
<td>$35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Efficiency Central AC 16 SEER or greater</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Efficiency Heat Pump 15 SEER or greater</td>
<td>$250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geothermal Heat Pump 19 EER or greater</td>
<td>$350</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Relax... and forget about it!

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

Take advantage of our FREE automatic 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 opt to have us securely draft from your checking account or you can use a credit or debit card (Visa, MasterCard or Discover).

If you are already registered for online bill pay, you can set yourself up for automatic draft and no form is required. You can also 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.

Sign up today for automatic draft then sit back, relax...and forget about it!
Identity theft protection

The Co-op Connections® Card program now offers SAFE IDENTITY, an identity theft monitoring and resolution provider.

Identity theft is the fastest-growing crime in the United States and affects about 12 million people every year.

Protect yourself. Visit connections.coop and sign up for SAFE IDENTITY today. Get exclusive membership pricing ($5/month for individuals or $8/month for the entire family) using your Co-op Connections® Card membership. It’s a small price to pay for peace of mind!

Note: If you’ve misplaced your card, drop by our office or give us a call. We’ll be happy to get you another one.

6 ways to lower your summer electric bill

1. Install a programmable thermostat. Raising your home’s temperature by a few degrees at night or when no one is home saves money. Installing a programmable thermostat is an easy way to automatically make adjustments.

2. Only use ceiling fans when you are under them. A ceiling fan does not actually lower the temperature of a room; it only circulates the air. So only use a ceiling fan when there’s someone in the room to feel it—and save on your bill.

3. Close the blinds and drapes. This is the easiest way to save money and to help keep the heat out during the hot summer days.

4. Hang out your laundry. Your dryer is probably one of your home’s biggest energy users. Plus, some of the heat escapes the dryer and winds up heating your home. Let the sun work for you instead of against you this summer.

5. Caulk up cracks. Do you feel warm air around your doors or windows? If so, check for leaks and seal the gaps with caulk or expanding foam. This will keep the cold air in and warm air out and help you save on your bill.

6. Keep the kitchen cool. Cooking will quickly heat up your home. Consider grilling outside, plan no-cook meals like salads, or even using a slow cooker on the back porch. A little pre-planning may reduce your electric bill.

Statement of Nondiscrimination

Jones-Onslow Electric Membership Corporation is an equal opportunity employer and strives to comply with all applicable local, state, and federal laws, regulations, rules, and orders regarding equal employment opportunities. In particular, the Corporation strives to comply with all applicable provisions of the Equal Pay Act of 1963, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, and the American with Disabilities Act of 1990, and all amendments to these Acts. Furthermore, the Corporation is committed to helping ensure that no individual is discriminated against by the Corporation because of the individual’s race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability.

Shirley F. Cox, PHR, the Corporation’s Vice President of Human Resources, is responsible for coordinating the Corporation’s nondiscrimination efforts. Any individual who believes that he or she has been discriminated against by the Corporation may obtain additional information from, or may file a charge of discrimination with, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). Any charge of discrimination, however, must be filed with the EEOC within one-hundred and eighty (180) days after any alleged discrimination.
Fireworks and flags. Cookouts and cold drinks. The Fourth of July is a festive day on which we celebrate our nation's independence. While we spend a lot of energy having fun, if we give any thought about our forbearers and their determined efforts to bring about our nation's independence, it's fleeting.

It is worth reflection, however, that this American spirit of independence remains part of our collective DNA more than 200 years after the independent nation of the United States was formed. And this sense of independence has served us well. For example, more than 70 years ago, an independent streak inspired groups of rural citizens across America's countryside to band together and improve their quality of life. Aside from President Franklin Roosevelt’s promise of federal aid in the form of low-interest loans and engineering expertise, rural Americans had little help in bringing electricity to their homes. So, they did it themselves by pulling together.

Since the time of the Arab oil embargo in the 1970s, U.S. energy independence has been a driving theme in our country. Today, while we still have a ways to go, we are closer than ever to reducing our reliance on imported oil and other forms of foreign energy. We are exporting more gas and importing less foreign fuel than in recent memory. And American ingenuity in the form of new technology and innovation is creating more options and greater efficiencies.

Consumers have an important role to play in the road to energy independence. They don’t have to wait for Democrats and Republicans to agree or environmentalists and fossil fuel advocates to reach consensus on a path to energy independence. Consumers can play a part in moving us toward national energy independence by taking action in simple, practical ways – insulating and caulking around windows, doors and electrical outlets; washing clothes in cold water instead of hot; replacing air filters; installing a programmable thermostat; and using more energy efficient appliances and home heating and cooling systems. Efficiency efforts can cut costs for individual households but the collective benefit is even greater.

In addition, Jones-Onslow, along with other electric co-ops across the country, have been actively engaged in promoting renewable energy resources like wind, solar, hydropower and biomass (including landfill gas, livestock waste, timber byproducts and crop residue). Today, nearly 95 percent of the nation’s 900-plus electric co-ops provide electricity produced by renewable sources, all playing a key role in fostering our nation’s energy independence.

So as we move through the month of July and celebrate our nation’s birthday, take time to reflect on the enduring spirit of independence that is integral to our American character.