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It's all about giving back

By David Bailey, General Manager SAEC

The holidays bring many things to mind. Happy memories of seasons past, good food, great family traditions and kids waiting to open gifts. And, if you are like me, the holidays bring about thoughts of giving back, spreading love and sharing joy.

Perhaps you commit random acts of kindness like sharing Christmas gifts with a family in need, or cooking and serving food for the hungry. Maybe you give your time or money to local, national or international charities. Or perhaps you simply try to embrace the season by showing gratitude and kindness to those around you.

However you share your own unique holiday spirit, know that we here at South Alabama Electric Cooperative strive to share our spirit with you.

I hope you see it reflected in your cooperative each day through the benefits, savings and services we provide. I also hope you see it in the ways we give back to our community. We work with local economic development organizations to keep jobs in our area. We donate time and money to local charities. Our employees are involved in activities across all of the cooperative service territory. Just this year, the cooperative and its employees have donated to numerous local charities and organizations including: **Pike and Crenshaw Relay for Life, Boys and Girls Club, American Legion, FFA, the LA Relief Fund (flood relief), Pike County Cattlemen, MDA, Boy Scouts of America, Crenshaw County Volunteer Fire Department, Brantley Volunteer Fire Department, Pike County United Way, Pike County Extension, the Humane Society, Pike County Chamber of Commerce, Pike County**

Economic Development, Crenshaw County Economic Development, our local schools and many more.

Not only do we help members keep energy use in check by providing energy efficiency tips through *Alabama Living*, on Facebook and on our website, we also know how important it is to give back. That concern for the community is at the very heart of the cooperative business model.

It's also the time of year we give back to you. If you were a member of the cooperative in 1982, 1983 or 2015, you'll be receiving your capital credits this year. SAEC is rotating over \$1.265 million to members who had capital credit accounts during these years. So watch your mailboxes; your check will be arriving this month.

We are nothing without our members. We recognize that and understand that we cannot thrive unless you thrive, so we do all we can to make sure that our community is strong.

From all of your friends at South Alabama Electric Cooperative, we hope you have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! ■

David Bailey serves as the general manager of South Alabama Electric Cooperative. He is a native of the New Hope Community in Coffee County and a graduate of Troy University. He and his wife, Nelda, have two daughters and one grandson. He is a Certified Public Accountant and has been with SAEC since 1993.

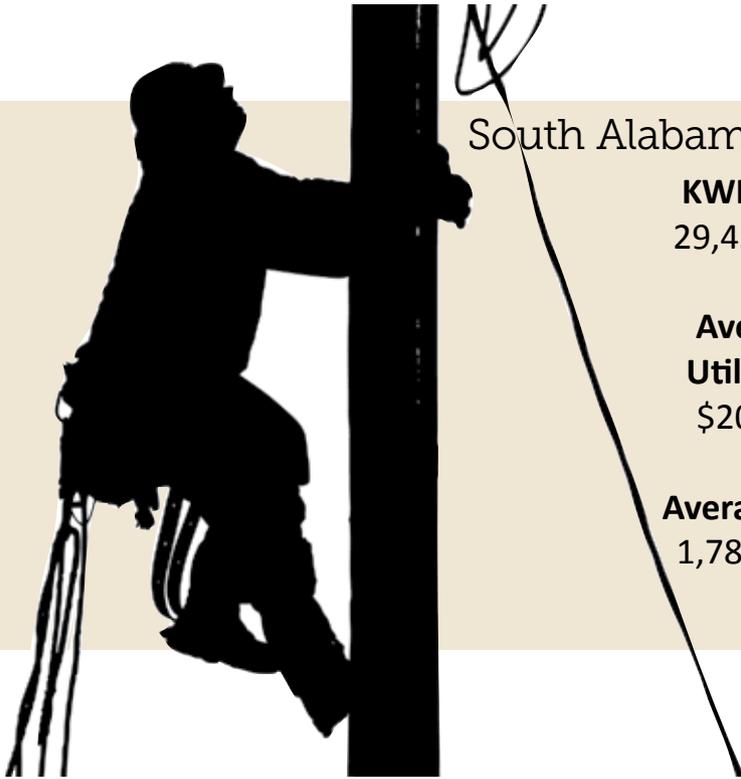


Our office will be closed Dec. 23 & 26, so that our employees can enjoy the Christmas holiday with their families. In the event of an outage or emergency, please call 800-556-2060.

South Alabama Electric's Monthly Operating Report

KWH Sold 29,450,043	Total Accounts Billed 16,478	Consumers per mile of line 6.05
Average Utility Bill \$202.38	Total Miles of Line 2,720	
Average Use 1,787 kWh		

Information from SEPTEMBER 2016



Crews aid Clay Electric members in wake of Hurricane Matthew

In early October, South Alabama Electric joined 16 other Alabama cooperatives in sending 31 crews to Florida to help with power restoration from the damage caused by Hurricane Matthew.

SAEC linemen worked in the Keystone Heights area with Clay Electric Cooperative. Helping with the restoration efforts were: **Chris Sanders, Regal Hamm, Darrell Foster, Jay Adair, Kenyatta Holley and Dalton St. Cin.**

Three days into the restoration effort, Clay member Mary Manges said in a Facebook message, "God bless your guys! It was a pleasure meeting them. They looked tired, but so ready to help again. Be safe out there!"

The electric co-op network is always willing to step in and aid neighboring cooperatives who were dealing with the aftermath of a storm.

"I'm proud of our linemen," David Bailey, general manager of SAEC, said. "They are always willing to help other cooperatives when storms like this come along. I think it's important to help out neighboring cooperatives, because you never know when the next storm might hit our area and we need help from them." ■



SAEC crews left in the early morning hours to help with storm restoration efforts at Clay Electric Cooperative following Hurricane Matthew.



Downed trees and tangled wires were just some of the problems our crew encountered while in Florida.

2016 Annual Meeting highlights





The doors opened at 10 a.m. for the South Alabama Electric Cooperative Annual Membership Meeting on Oct. 25. Members enjoyed beautiful weather, gospel entertainment and a hot dog lunch before the business session got under way.

A total of 590 members registered this year, with an estimated 1,000 in attendance at the Pike County Cattleman's Complex.

Members had the opportunity to learn about the cooperative's rebate program as well as pick up information on making their homes more energy efficient. A new program, E-billing, was also introduced.

E-billing allows our members to sign up for statements that are delivered to their email accounts instead of receiving a paper statement in the mail.

"Several of our members have requested this service and we're glad to be able to offer it now," Kadra Jordan, billing administrator, said. "It's a great, easy to use alternative. To sign up, members need their account number and a current email address. Once it is set up, members will receive a link to their statement so that they can log in and view their bill. Then you can make payments through any of the ways we offer. Members can sign up for E-billing on our website (www.southaec.com) or by visiting our office."

The business session began with a recognition of former General Manager Max Davis.

"In May 2016, Max Davis retired after 35 years of service to the cooperative," General manager David Bailey said. "The cooperative cannot replace that experience and leadership. His legacy will be tough to follow. But for the members of the cooperative, we will continue to improve every day, just the way Mr. Davis would like it."

Members were reminded of the co-op business model and how important it was for them to understand how a co-op operates.

"It's important for each of our members to truly understand how the cooperative is structured," Bailey said. "The foundation of every cooperative revolves around the members and their ability to take an active role in the cooperative."

South Alabama Electric has been retiring capital credits every year since 1985.

"Your board of trustees is committed to continuing the retirement process provided the cooperative's financial condition warrants," Bailey said. "Our promise to you is that your board and management will continue to fight for your cooperative."

Following a video presentation on what capital credits are and how they are recorded, Bailey announced the 2016 retirement.

"I'm pleased to announce your board of trustees has voted to retire capital credits totaling \$1,265,337 to our members."

Before closing the meeting, members exercised another of the cooperative principles - democratic member control. Following a vote of the membership, Jimmy Shaver (District 2) and Bill Hixon (District 1) were re-elected to three-year terms as trustees. ■

Co-op brings electric shock drowning message to area students



Approximately 135 sixth-grade students from Troy Elementary School got a lesson in preventing electric shock drowning as part of the Trojan Fishing and Boating Expo held at the newly reopened Pike County Lake.

Forrest Lee, TES physical education instructor, spearheaded the event.

"This was a fun and educational field trip," he said. "Students learned about fishing equipment, angling, safety, ecology and much more. Students moved through 11 stations. For many it was their first fishing trip or first boat ride."

Jeff Whatley, training and safety coordinator for SAEC, told the students it was important for them to swim away from the dock if they ever felt a shock.

"Your first instinct is going to be to swim towards the dock because you think that's the best way to get out. It's not. That's generally going to be where the electricity is coming from and the closer you get to it, the stronger it is."

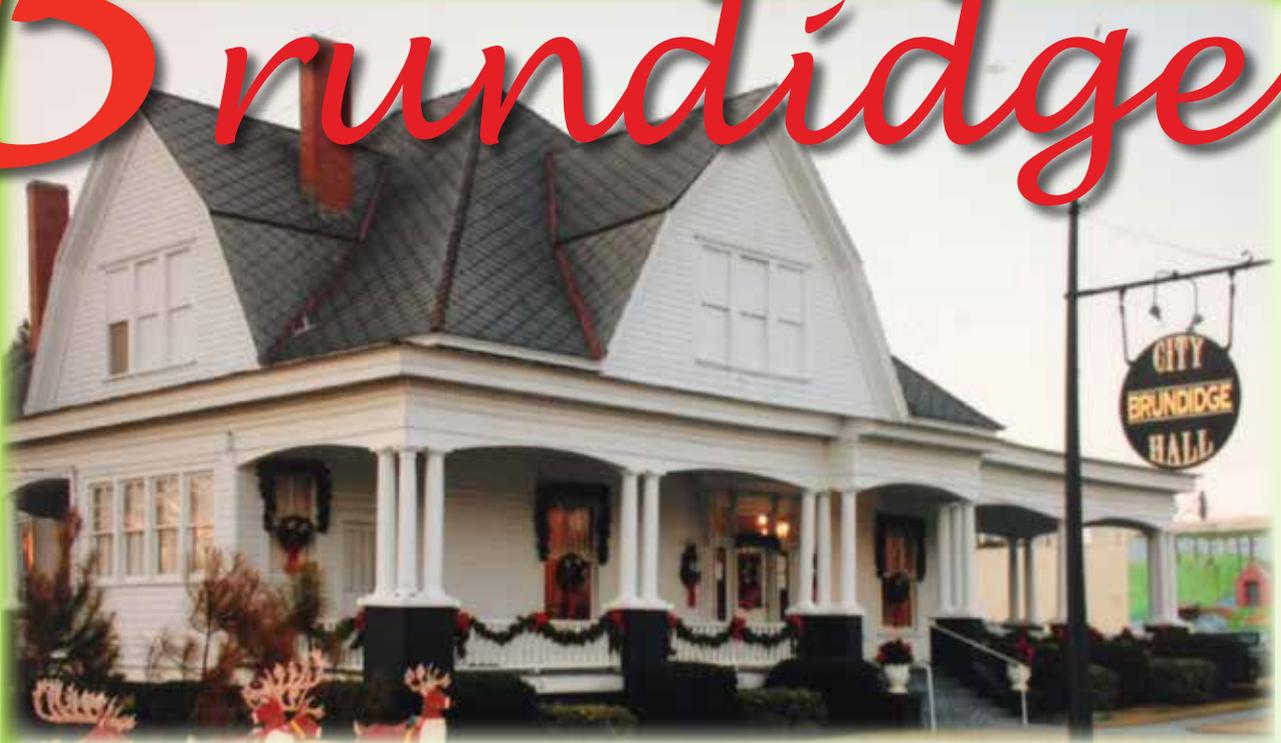
He told the students to: Reach, Throw, Row or Go.

"If you can reach the person with a non-conductive pole or other piece of equipment, use it to pull them away from the source," he said. "The next option is to throw them a life ring. You can row out to them in a boat. As long as you aren't in the water, you should be able to pull them in to safety. The final option is to go for help. Call 911. Do not go into the water to try and help them." ■

You can see more pictures and watch a video on electric shock drowning by visiting our Facebook page.



Brundidge



Annual Christmas Parade and City Lighting

Tuesday, December 6th

6:00 PM

Main Street

Call 334-735-2306 for information.

*Joy to the
World*

*The merchants of the Brundidge Business Association
wish you a wonderful holiday season and invite you to
visit Brundidge for your holiday shopping.*



www.brundidgealabama.com

Peace starts here.



From all of us at South Alabama Electric Cooperative,
"Peace on earth. Good will to men!"

We value your membership. We value you.



**South Alabama
Electric Cooperative**

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