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This November, let your voice be heard

By David Bailey, General Manager SAEC

Low voter turnout has been a topic of conversation for the last several election cycles. Since the 1960s, voter turnout during presidential elections has seen a steady decline – with the occasional uptick here and there. In the 2016 primary election cycle, voter turnout in most states was only 21 to 30 percent, and this was a record year for primary voter turnout! In Alabama, we are bucking that trend. In the last two presidential election cycles, we've exceeded 70%. However, the same isn't true for non-presidential general elections.

Some speculate the reason for the decline is because the average American is not as engaged in politics as they have been in the past. And who can blame us really? Often times, we may feel like candidates are not speaking to the issues we care about. Or perhaps we don't feel like we understand enough about the candidates' stances on the issues, or even the issues themselves. But we can change this.

Here at South Alabama Electric Cooperative, we want to see civic engagement in our rural communities increase. We want to give you what you need to make informed decisions about candidates at all levels of government, not just the presidential race. And we want you to know more about the issues that could impact our local communities.

America's electric cooperatives are doing their part by informing co-op staff and members through Coops Vote, a non-partisan campaign with one simple goal: increase voter turnout at the polls this November. By visiting vote.coop, you can learn about your candidates, access voter registration information and more.

The future of rural economies depends on their ability to keep up with today's global economy, which is why access to broadband internet is a key topic of discussion this election season. Just 55 percent of rural Americans have broadband at home. Quick access to information is crucial in finding a job, getting a better education and even gather-



CO-OPS VOTE
A PROGRAM OF AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

- Pledge to be a co-op voter
- Find key election information
- Learn about the issues
- Register to vote

VOTE.COOP

ing the information needed to make major health decisions. But there is a barrier: expensive costs.

With the right state and federal policies, broadband technology can become available to all rural Americans, allowing families and businesses to communicate in new and faster ways.

Electric cooperatives are already committed to providing affordable electricity to our communities, so helping provide affordable broadband access is a natural next step.

We encourage you to visit vote.coop and take the pledge to learn more about the issues that impact us locally. Let's

work together to improve our communities by increasing voter turnout and changing our country, one vote at a time. ■

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.

UPCOMING OFFICE CLOSINGS

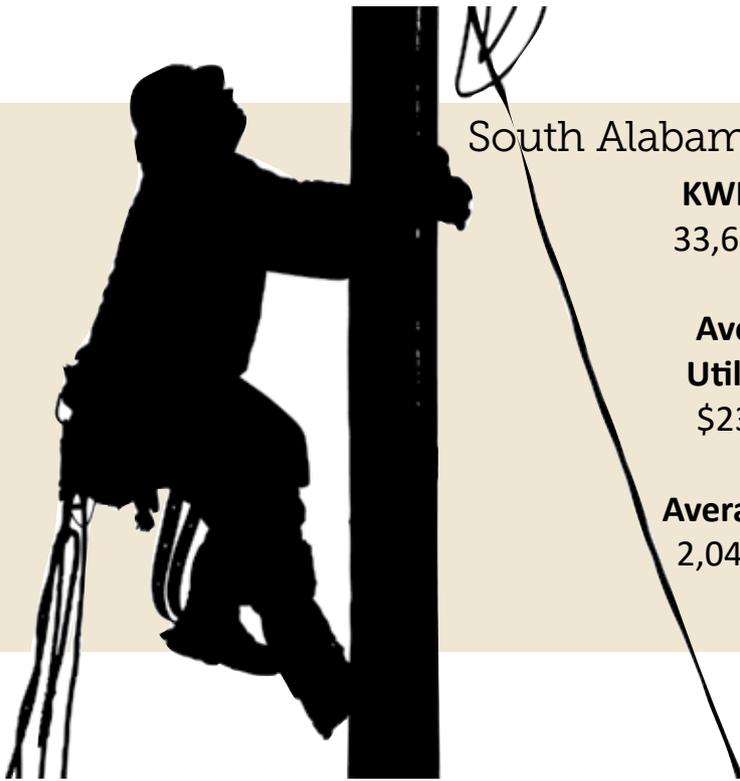
We will be closed **November 11** to observe **Veterans Day** and **Nov. 24-25** for the **Thanksgiving** holiday. We will also be closed **December 23 and 26** for **Christmas** so that our employees may enjoy time with their families.

If you experience an outage, please call 800-556-2060.

South Alabama Electric's Monthly Operating Report

KWH Sold 33,677,168	Total Accounts Billed 16,483	Consumers per mile of line 6.06
Average Utility Bill \$232.61	Total Miles of Line 2,719	
Average Use 2,043 kWh		

Information from AUGUST 2016



Local students attend ASPIRE – 2016



High School students from 30 Alabama counties attended the first ever ASPIRE Youth Leadership Conference held at the 4-H Center in Columbiana in July.

Representing the South Alabama Electric Cooperative service area were:

Chloe Dorrill, Pike Liberal Arts School

Trent Thomas, Goshen High School

The ASPIRE Conference was sponsored jointly by the Alabama Council of Cooperatives, ALFA, Alabama Poultry and Egg Association, Alabama Cattlemen's Association and Alabama 4-H.

The ASPIRE Conference replaced two conferences that had been held annually for many years - the Alabama Cooperative Youth Conference and ALFA's Youth Leadership Confer-

ence.

Workshops led by conference sponsors and staff were aimed at developing leadership skills and teambuilding.

Sponsors of the camp from the Alabama Council of Cooperatives included Alabama Farmer's Cooperative, First South Farm Credit, Alabama Ag Credit, Alabama Farm Credit, the Electric Cooperatives of Alabama, CoBank and Dairy Farmers of America.

Applications and information for next year's conference will be available online so make sure you check Facebook and the cooperative website, www.southaec.com regularly if you are interested in attending in 2017.



Insulate Your Electric Water Heater Tank

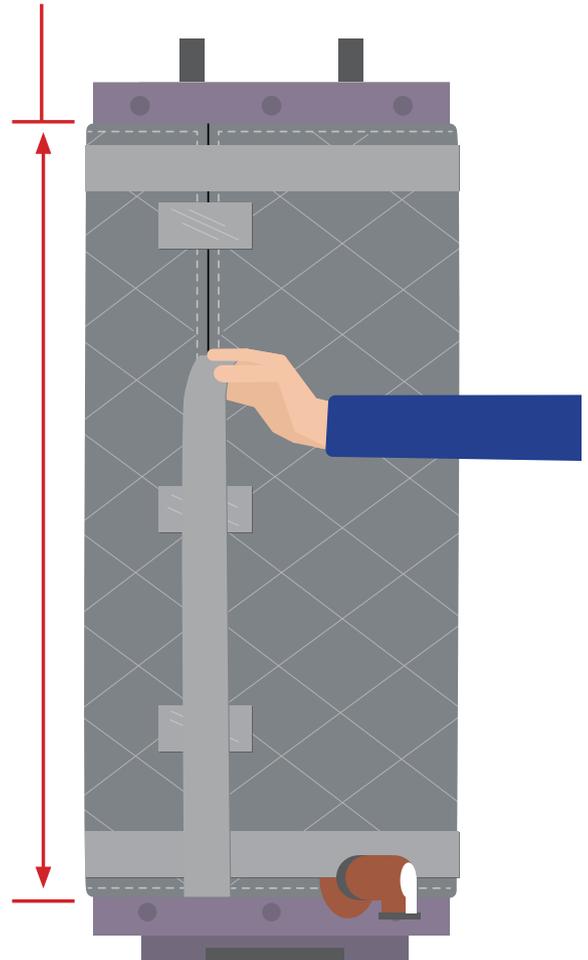
MATERIALS:

- Water Heater Blanket
- Scissors
- Duct Tape

STEPS:

1. Turn off the electric water heater at the breaker panel.
2. Measure the height of the water heater and cut the blanket to fit if necessary.
3. Leave the top of the water heater open.
4. Wrap the blanket around the water heater and temporarily tape it in place. Position the blanket so that the ends do not come together over the access panels on the side of the tank.
5. Mark the areas, then cut holes where controls are located. For electric water heaters, there will be two panels on the side of the tank. Mark the area where the pressure relief valve and pipe are located. This will be a pipe that protrudes from the side of the water heater.
6. Adhere the blanket. Be careful to line up the cut out areas and then tape it permanently in place.
7. Turn the water heater back on.

Cover the whole tank except temperature and pressure (T&P) valve and drain.



Safety Note: Don't set the thermostat above 130°F on the electric water heater with an insulating jacket or blanket – the wiring may overheat.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVES

Keep electricity from going down the drain

Water use and electricity go hand in hand. Heating water can account for 14 percent to 25 percent of the total energy consumed in a typical home. What's more, systems used to clean public water supplies and deliver it to homes require large amounts of electricity. If your home receives water from a well or spring, the pump also draws power. So when we use water, hot or cold, we're also using energy.

Techniques for trimming water use in your home are surprisingly simple. For one, you can significantly reduce hot water consumption by simply repairing leaks in fixtures—faucets and showerheads—or pipes. A leak of one drip per second can cost \$1 per month.

You can also reduce water heating costs in a matter of seconds by lowering the thermostat setting on your water heater. For each 10° F reduction in temperature, you can save between 3 percent and 5 percent in energy costs. Reducing the setting also slows mineral buildup and corrosion in your water heater and pipes.

Although some manufacturers set water heater thermostats at 140° F, most households usually only require them set at 120° F. However, if you have a dishwasher without a booster heater, you may require water temperature within a range of

130° F to 140° F for optimum cleaning.

Adding insulation to your water heater can save around 4 percent to 9 percent in costs. To determine if you need to insulate your water heater, touch it. A tank that's warm to the touch needs additional insulation.

Insulating your water heater tank is fairly simple and inexpensive, and will pay for itself in about a year. You can find pre-cut jackets or blankets available from around \$10 to \$20. Choose one with an insulating value of at least R-8. In addition, don't set the thermostat above 130° F on an electric water heater with an insulating jacket or blanket—the wiring may overheat.

Installing insulation on gas- and oil-fired water heaters is more difficult. For these appliances, it's best to have a qualified plumbing and heating contractor perform the work.

For more tips on trimming water use in your home, including pipe and water heater insulation techniques, visit www.energysavers.gov. ■

Sources: U.S. Department of Energy, H2O Conserve.org

H2O Plus

As part of our commitment to providing you with ways to conserve energy, the cooperative provides qualifying members with free, energy-efficient Rheem 50 gallon water heaters. To qualify, members current water heater must be non-repairable, or you are building a new home, or if you are swapping from gas to all electric. Members who participate in the free water heater program are signed up for the cooperatives H2O Plus program.

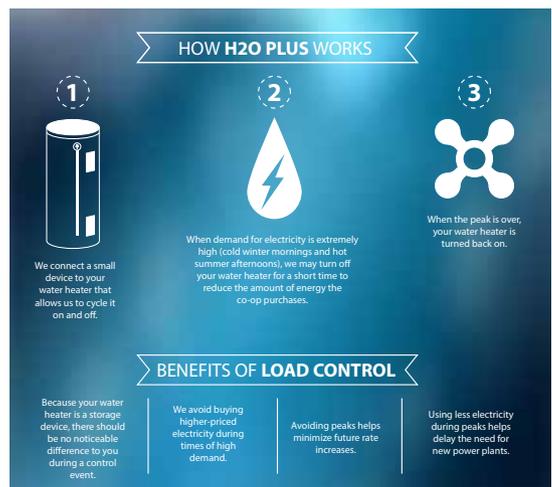
Since 2008, the South Alabama Electric has offered our members a innovative way to put technology to work and save energy. H2O Plus allows our power supplier, PowerSouth Energy Cooperative, the ability to cycle off water heaters if the electric system experiences an extreme demand for electricity.

The heart of the program is a device which the Cooperative or a licensed contractor installs on the water heater free of charge. Once the device is installed, PowerSouth can send a signal that instructs the device to cycle off. The elements will power down for a short period of time - usually less than two hours - and restart in time to maintain plenty of hot water for your home. Hot water is still available due to what is stored in the tank.

You will not see a reduction on your monthly power bill

from participating in this program. But, when it's combined with the thousands of other participating members across the region, the future impact on power costs is significant.

The H2O program is about managing the cooperative's peak demand. Power must be generated not only to meet the needs of our membership on a mild fall day, but it must also be available on that day in January where the temperature is in the teens and we have snow on the ground. This program allows us to meet that need for power, without investing in a costly new peaking power plant, or buying power off the open market when it's at its most expensive. ■



Neighbors helping neighbors, that's the co-op way



Once the staff of South Alabama Electric Cooperative felt confident our system would not experience major impacts from Hurricane Hermine, the electric co-op network went to work making a plan to aid neighboring cooperatives who were dealing with her aftermath.

"We're proud of our linemen," David Bailey, general manager of SAEC, said. "They are always willing to step up and assist other cooperatives when storms like this come along. We're always willing 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 Friday morning, Sept. 1, headed to Talquin Electric Cooperative. At the time our crews left, Talquin had approximately 39,000 accounts without power. Talquin Electric Cooperative is a member-owned cooperative providing electric power to approximately 53,000 homes and businesses over a 2,600 square mile service territory that includes portions of Tallahassee and surrounding areas.

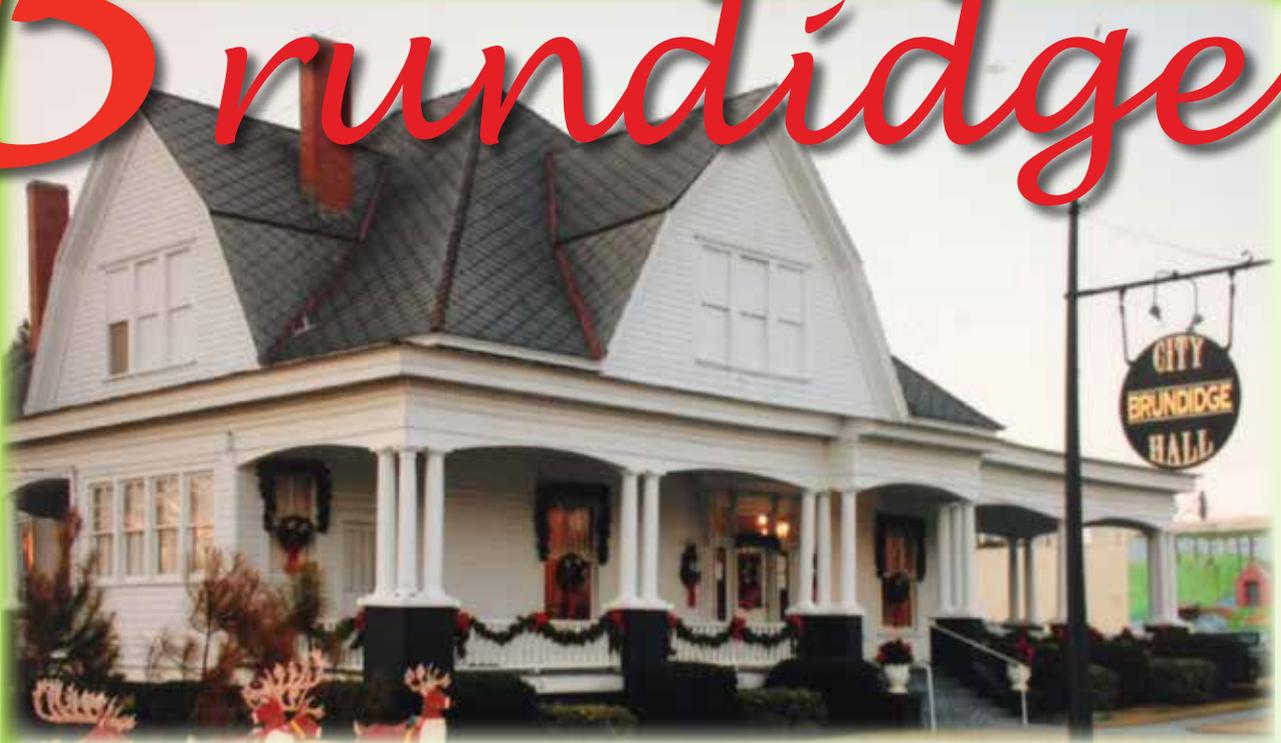
Our line crews spent a week helping to restore power to the hard hit areas.

"Thank you guys for getting my lights back on," Tallahassee resident Crystal Guerra said in a Facebook message. We appreciate each of you who followed along and sent well wishes to our crews through social media.

Crew members include: Kenyatta Holley, Class A Construction Lineman; Blane Senn, Class A Service Lineman; Corey Dunsieith, Class C Service Lineman; Jeffrey Eiland, Construction Foreman; Jay Adair, Class A Construction Lineman; Darrell Foster, Class A Construction Lineman; and Dylan Mobley, Construction Groundman. ■



Brundidge



Annual Christmas Parade and City Lighting

Tuesday, December 6th

6:00 PM

Main Street

Call 334-735-2306 for information.



Open House

Thursday, November 17th

Extended shopping hours

Business open until 8 pm

***Come visit our local merchants for
all your holiday needs***

www.brundidgealabama.com

Action starts here.



Before you vote, know your candidate's
stance on energy issues.

We value your membership. We value you.



**South Alabama
Electric Cooperative**

www.southaec.com
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