Electric News

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Energizing the Next Generation

Despite the best efforts of extraordinary teachers across the nation, many students have a difficult time fully understanding and appreciating U.S. history. For that reason, many academics recommend taking students to historical sites where they not only learn history but also experience it through interactive exhibits and firsthand accounts.

Emma Faulk, daughter of Reggie and Sylvia Faulk, of the Cedar Grove community of Laurens County, was chosen for such a trip. She recently returned from the Washington Youth Tour, a weeklong leadership experience for teens sponsored by the electric cooperatives in Georgia, including Little Ocmulgee EMC.

Each June, high school students in Georgia join approximately 1,600 of their talented and ambitious peers from across the country in Washington, D.C., to learn leadership skills, understand the importance of civic involvement and tour the nation's historic sites. The various aspects of the trip combine to provide a unique lesson that cannot be duplicated in any classroom.

"The students come away with a new appreciation for the history of the country they live in, an interest in government and their elected representatives, and a new sense of responsibility when they realize how many people sacrificed for us so we could all live in a free society," says General Manager Lewis Sheffield of Little Ocmulgee EMC. "We think it's important to bring along the next generation of young people and teach them the importance of leadership and public service."

Gale Cutler, Georgia EMC Youth Tour Director, says the tour helps EMCs promote stronger communities and a stronger nation by giving as many young people as possible the ability and desire to make meaningful, lifelong contributions to their communities.

BYRON McCOMBS

Blair Riley Inabinet, left, Little Ocmulgee EMC's 2000 Washington Youth Tour delegate and one of this year's chaperones, joined LOEMC delegate Emma Faulk on this year's tour. Emma will be featured in the January/February 2014 issue of Little Ocmulgee EMC's edition of *GEORGIA Magazine*.

This year, 106 students and 14 chaperones from Georgia participated in the tour, which began with a kickoff banquet in Atlanta, emceed by WSB-TV's Sophia Choi. Before heading to D.C., the group toured President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Little White House in Warm Springs, the birthplace of rural electrification.

In Washington, highlights included visits to Arlington National Cemetery, the U.S. Capitol, National Archives (where delegates viewed the Declaration of Independence), U.S. Supreme Court, Library of Congress and the Smithsonian museums. The students toured the revered Jefferson, Lincoln, FDR, Martin Luther King Jr., World War II, Vietnam Veterans and Korean War memorials. The Georgia delegation also visited a new stop this year—Fort McHenry, in Baltimore Harbor—the site of a famous battle in the War of 1812 that inspired Francis Scott Key's "The Star-Spangled Banner."

In addition to taking in the sights of the nation's capital, students gained perspective on some of today's

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Washington Youth Tour, *Continued from page 34A*

important issues and their role as involved citizens. Everyone had the opportunity to engage with staff and/or members of Georgia's congressional delegation, including personal visits with U.S. Sens. Saxby Chambliss and Johnny Isakson and U.S. Reps. Jack Kingston, Sanford Bishop, Lynn Westmoreland, Austin Scott, Doug Collins, Paul Broun, Phil Gingrey, John Barrow and Tom Graves and Rob Woodall's Chief of Staff.

Finally, all the state groups convened for National Youth Day, sponsored by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), to learn from public figures and their inspirational speakers, including Jo Ann Emerson, the organization's new Chief Executive Officer. Over nearly 50 years, more than 50,000 young citizens have traveled to Washington with the help of their electric cooperatives. The 2013 delegates follow an esteemed group of recent WYT alumni who have graduated as valedictorians, salutatorians and STAR students. Others are now working as congressional aides and as federal agency staff, and many more serve in some role in state and local governments.

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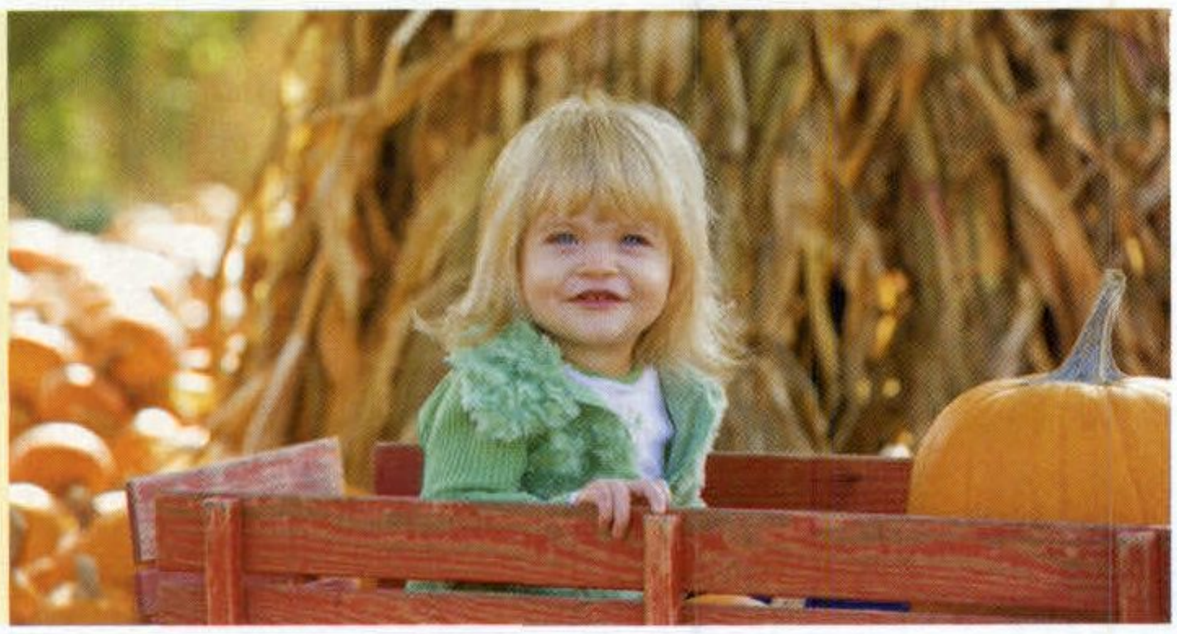
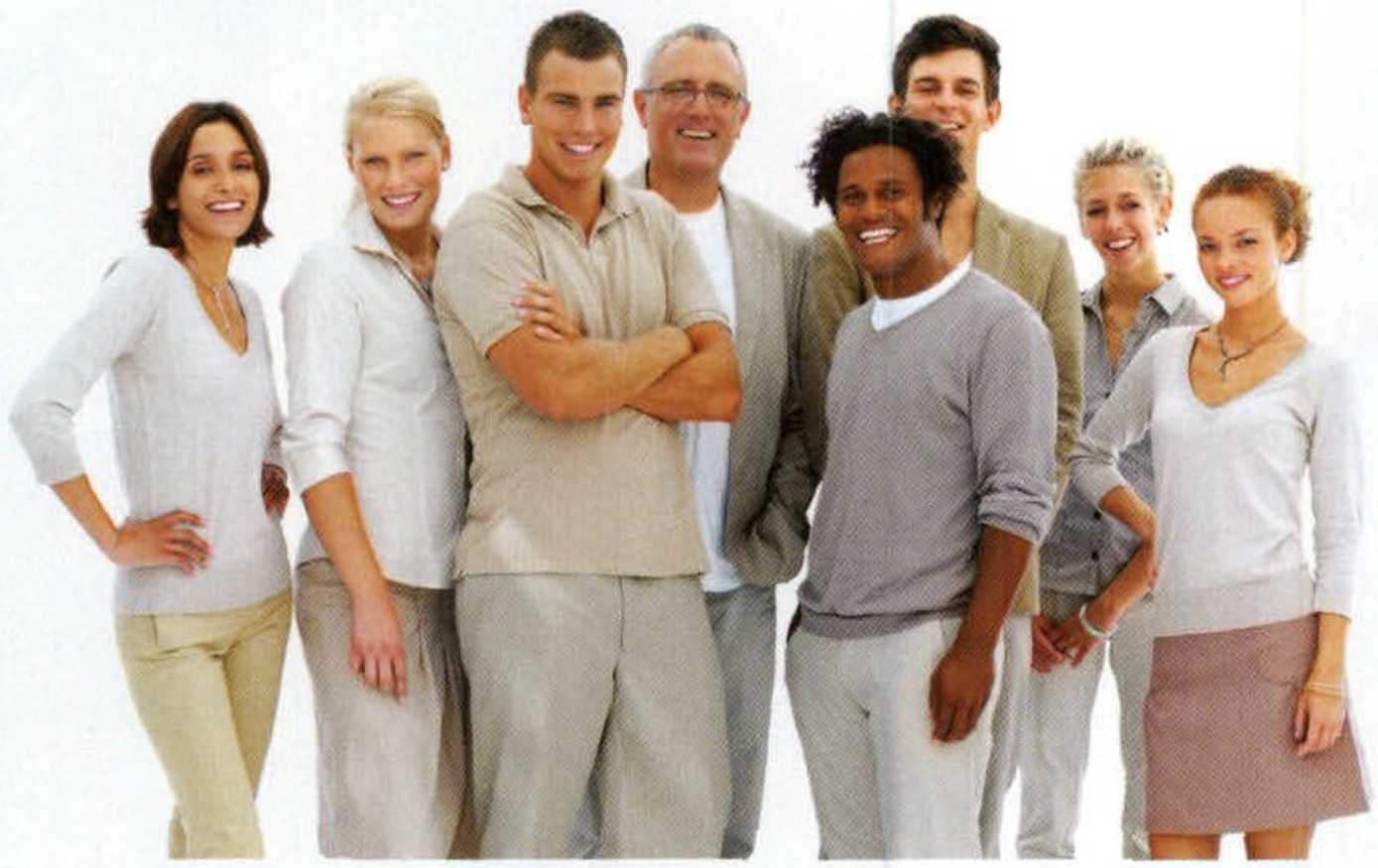
Dates to Remember

Labor Day	Sept. 2
Patriot Day	Sept. 11
First day of fall/autumn	Sept. 22
Columbus Day	Oct. 14
National Boss' Day	Oct. 16
Halloween	Oct. 31

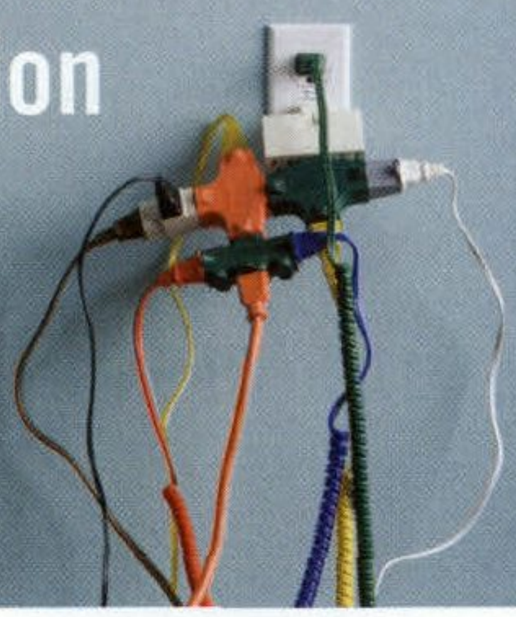


Make Plans Now to Attend Your Annual Meeting

The 75th Annual Meeting of Members of Little Ocmulgee EMC will be held Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2013, at the Wheeler County High School gymnasium in Alamo. Doors will open promptly at noon for member registration. Prior to the 2 p.m. business session, there will be a health fair, vendor booths and gospel entertainment. Door prizes will be awarded at the conclusion of the meeting.



Pay Attention to Cords, Plugs and Outlets



Misused and malfunctioning electrical outlets and cords cause tens of thousands of house fires every year, the National Fire Protection Association reports.

Keep your family safe by paying attention to how the members of your household treat cords, plugs, appliances and outlets.

Some tips:

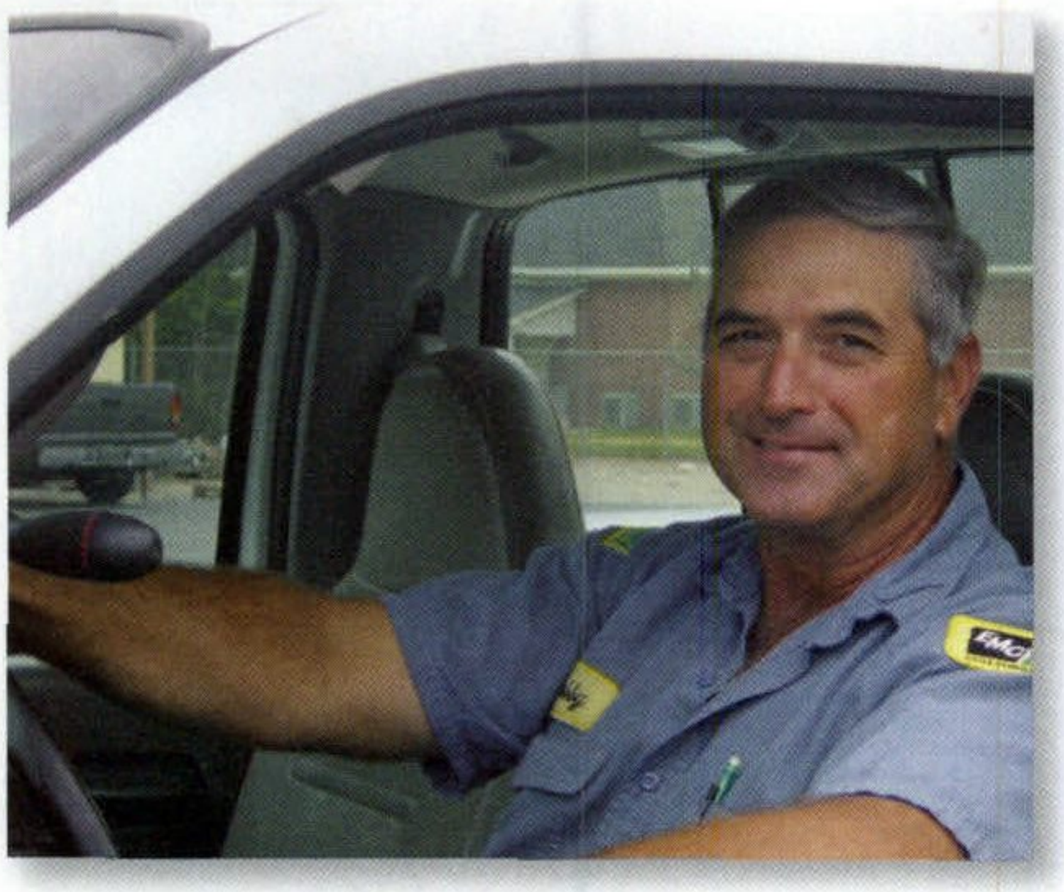
- If you notice that the cord attached to an appliance is damaged, frayed, split or coming loose from its plug, discard the appliance. Buy a new one.
- Don't leave an extension cord plugged in for more than a few days. It's not designed for permanent use. Move your lamps, electronics and appliances closer to wall outlets so you don't need extension cords. If you need more outlets, call an electrician.
- When you use an extension cord, keep it in plain sight. Do not hide it under a carpet, where it can get trampled. If the cord overheats, it can catch the rug on fire.
- Childproof all receptacles so children won't stick their fingers or foreign objects into outlets.
- Plug no more than one high-wattage appliance or electronic device into a single receptacle, even if you're using a multi-receptacle power strip. The power strip doesn't add capacity to your electrical circuit. It just makes it easier to overload it. Overloading a circuit can cause a fire.
- If you have outlets and switches that heat up when you plug them in or turn them on, call an electrician to identify and solve the problem.
- If you trip a circuit every time you turn on your hair dryer, or if your lights flicker or dim when you turn them on, that's a problem. Alert an electrician.
- Find out which kind of lightbulb is safe for each table lamp in your house. You'll find information about maximum wattages if you look at the socket where you screw in the lightbulb.
- Make sure your house has ground-fault circuit interrupters in the kitchen, every bathroom, the laundry room, the basement and on outdoor electrical outlets.
- Equip your home with arc-fault circuit interrupters. They are circuit breakers designed to prevent fires by detecting an unintended electrical arc and disconnecting the power before the arc starts a fire.

Wood Retires after 30 Years of Service

Bobby Wood retired on June 6, 2013, after more than 30 years of service to Little Ocmulgee EMC. Bobby started out on May 25, 1981, as an Engineer Technician in training. In early 1982, he began Lineman training, and became a First-class Lineman in July of that year. He later was promoted to Crew Leader and then Foreman. He spent two years as a Staking Engineer, then returned to the Foreman position before retiring.

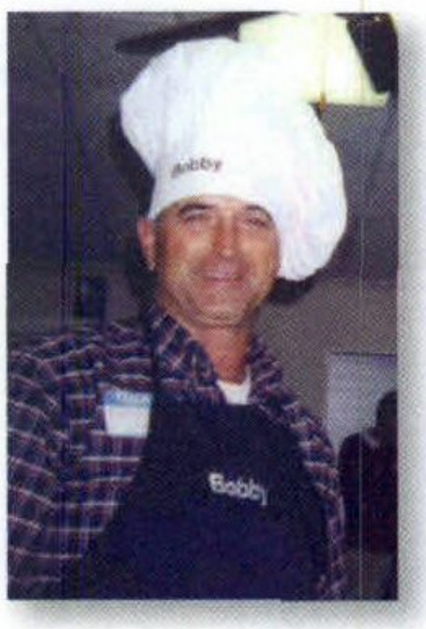
Bobby is one of 12 children of the late Nathan and Betty Wood, who lived in the Dexter community. He and his wife, Rhonda, are the parents of Eric Wood, Martina Suttles, Eric Shepard, Paige Holbrook, Matt Shepard and Scott Shepard. They are the proud grandparents of Parker Kate Wood, Eli Kai Suttles, Lauren Shepard, Luke Shepard, Makala Shepard and Ryleigh Shepard.

Although known as a practical joker, Bobby has always been very generous and could be serious when the need arose. He prided himself on always being first to assist in outages and has received many

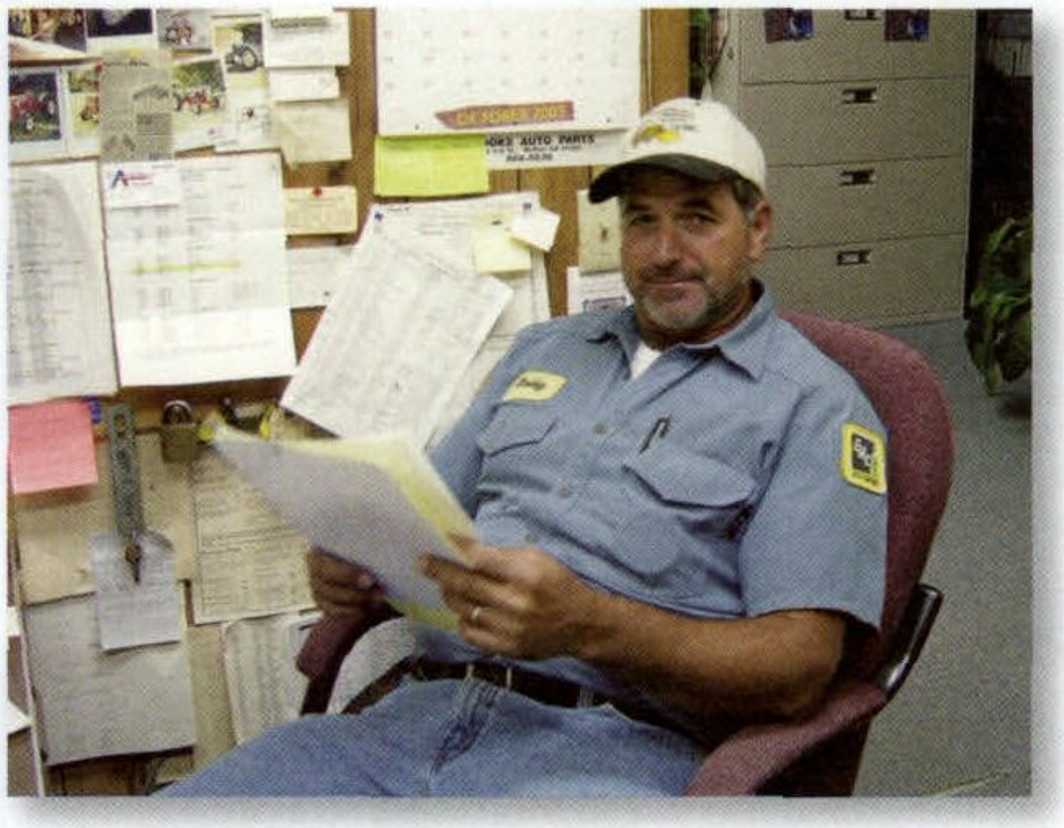


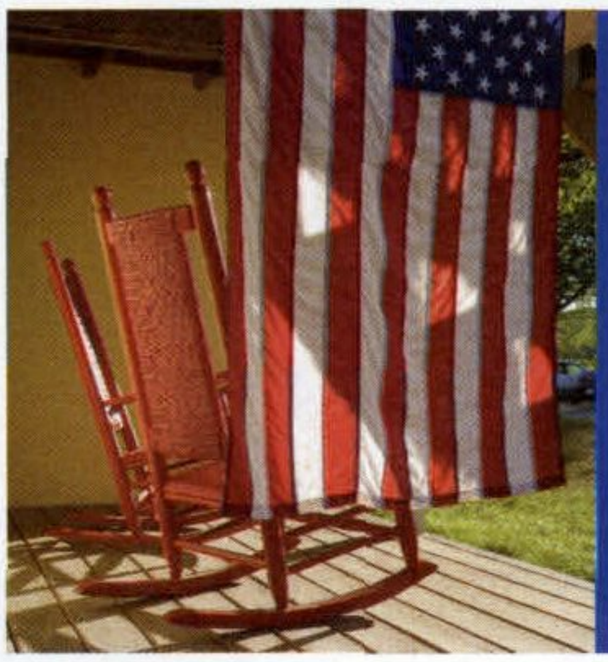
commendations over the years from other EMCs in Georgia and surrounding states when he and co-workers assisted with power restorations after storms.

Another side of Bobby that probably few people know is he's considered a gourmet chef (see picture on this page). He is well known among co-workers for his cooking. Everyone always looked forward to his delicious cakes, fried fish, grilled meats, and most especially, his famous crab stew, which he prepared for many Christmas celebrations.



Bobby's willingness to work in any capacity and his versatility made him a valuable asset to the co-op. He has been an integral part of Little Ocmulgee's "team" serving members and will certainly be missed.





Labor Day Closing

Our offices will be closed Monday, Sept. 2, 2013, in observance of Labor Day. In case of an electrical emergency, please call (912) 568-7171 or toll-free in Georgia at (800) 342-1290.

For your convenience, night deposit boxes are available at our main office in Alamo and the Dublin branch office, as well as a door drop-off slot at the branch office in McRae. You may also pay your bill online at *www.loemc.com*.