Electric News

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Marsh Competes in Area IV Wiring Contest

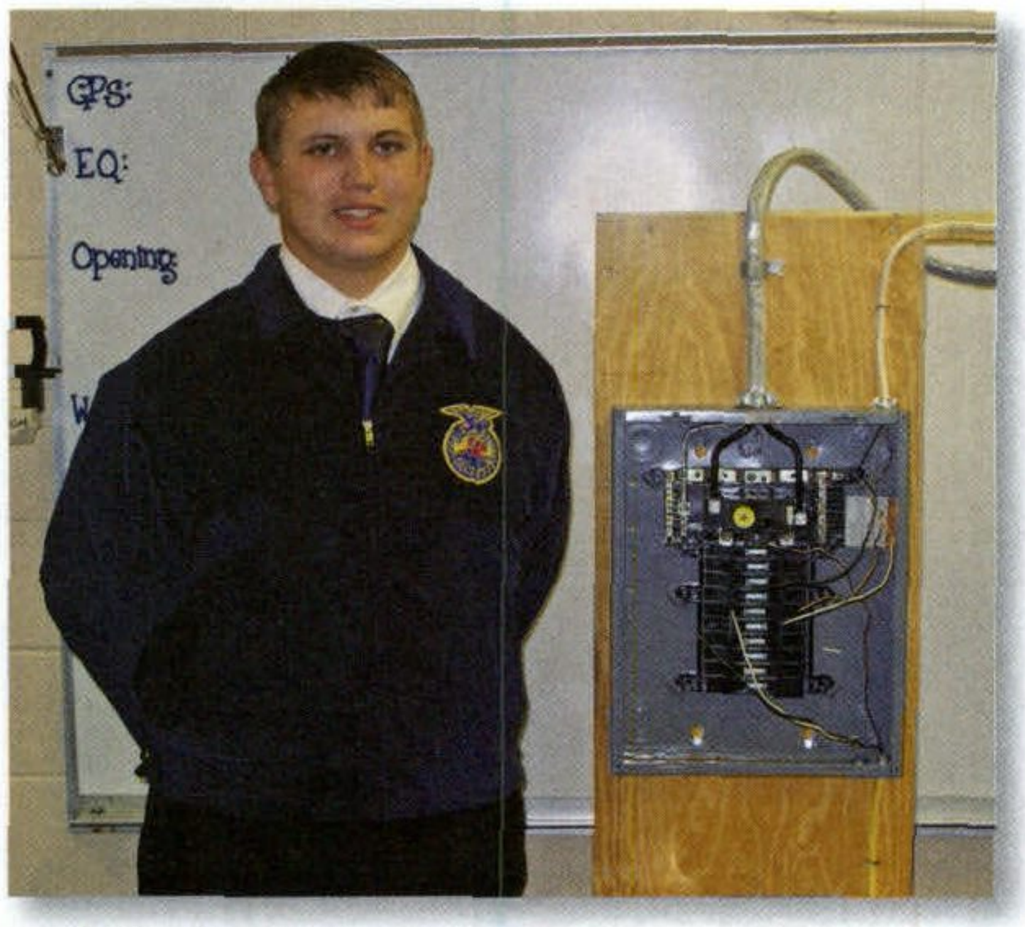
Justin Marsh, son of Al and Sandra Marsh, of Alamo, and a junior at Wheeler County High School in Alamo, participated recently in the Area IV EMC/FFA Agricultural Education Career Development Event (CDE) at Johnson County High School in Wrightsville. The program is designed to introduce agriculture students to electrification programs while teaching safe, efficient use of electricity.

Any active FFA member enrolled in a ninth, 10th, 11th or 12th grade high school agriculture education class in Little Ocmulgee EMC's service area is eligible to participate.

As an added incentive to participate, students can earn scholarships for use at any college, university or vocational school in Georgia. "Along with obtaining practical experience in the Career Development Event, students have the chance to try for scholarship money to help apply their knowledge after high school," says Lewis Sheffield, General Manager at Little Ocmulgee EMC. "We are certainly proud of Justin for representing our EMC service territory so well in the region competition. Justin is to be congratulated for the effort he put forth while competing in his first wiring contest among the Area IV contestants."

Sheffield adds, "The FFA wiring contest is one of the most demanding, yet rewarding, FFA competitions,

Justin Marsh, right, demonstrates his wiring skills at the Area IV EMC/FFA wiring contest at Johnson County High.



Justin Marsh and other participants were required to address the judges in an oral speech/demonstration on a specific wiring exercise. They also had to complete a written exam and a practical wiring problem, testing their knowledge of the National Electrical Code.

and it teaches students the practical skill of electrical wiring, combined with the life skills of problem solving and public speaking."

The Georgia FFA Association and electric membership corporations (EMCs) in Georgia, including Little Ocmulgee EMC, have offered this educational initiative for more than four decades. In January, region winners from throughout the state competed at the Georgia FFA-FCCLA Camp in Covington. As in their local competitions, state contest participants complete a written exam, a practical wiring problem testing their knowledge of the National Electrical Code and an oral presentation explaining steps to complete a specific electrical task.

"The EMC/FFA wiring event is a comprehensive tool for student learning," says Bryant Oliver, agriculture teacher at Wheeler County High School and a mentor to students preparing for the competition. "This contest is a complete package that takes the student through several areas related to electrical wiring."

Capital Credit Assignment for 2012

Being a member of Little Ocmulgee EMC has many advantages. One is that margins made at the end of each year are posted to each member's capital credit accounts and refunded on a 30-year cycle.

Margins are the amount of money remaining at the end of the year after LOEMC has paid its total operating cost. Capital credits are assigned to each member's capital credit account, based on the amount paid for electricity used during that year.

Example:		
Total annual electric bill (2012)	CC factor	Capital credits posted to member's account
$1,000 (estimate)	.026614	$ 26.61

In 1983, LOEMC started issuing refunds for the first time, beginning with deceased members' estates. In 1985, the first "general" refund (based on first in/first out) was issued for 1948 and 1949. To date, approximately $3,112,222 has been refunded to members and estates since 1983. Listed below are the capital credit factors for the past six years.

Year	Factor
2012	.026614
2011	.045706
2010	.045576
2009	.161397
2008	.067164
2007	.037245

The Cooperative will continue to make refunds on deceased members' estates, as well as general refunds, as financial stability permits. Any capital credit refund of less than $5 will be held over to the following year or years until such credits can be paid in the amount of $5 or more.

Claim Undeliverable Capital Credits

A current list of members with unclaimed capital credit checks issued in 2007, marked as "undeliverable" by the post office, is located for your review at our corporate office in Alamo and the branch offices in Dublin and McRae. All are open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m-5 p.m. This list can also be viewed at *www.loemc.com*.

The last possible date to claim these funds is Sept. 1, 2013. If not claimed by this date, they will be donated for charitable uses, as permitted by O.C.G.A. 44-12-236.

Prepare for Storms Before They Strike

Strong winds, icy rain and prolonged storms can leave your home temporarily without power. Or worse, you could be unable to stay in your home if it is damaged by fallen trees, debris or lightning.

The following tips will help you to be prepared to stay safe and comfortable if you and your family find yourselves without electricity or without access to your home:

- Create a weather emergency plan for your family. Write down important phone numbers such as Little Ocmulgee EMC, the local pharmacy, your doctor, your closest neighbors and family members. Figure out how to get out of your house in case the doors are blocked by debris. Canvass the neighborhood during nice weather to familiarize yourself with multiple exit routes in case any streets are blocked. Pick a place where everyone in your household can meet if you can't stay at home.

- Fill a backpack or a cooler with a couple of days' worth of food and water. Toss in a flashlight, a portable radio, a first-aid kit, some cash and your medicine. Take it with you to wherever you plan to stay until it is safe to return home.
- Before the bad weather starts, turn off the breakers to your water heater, kitchen appliances and air-conditioning units, plus unplug TVs, stereos and computers. This will prevent damage to appliances during the storm and when the electricity suddenly comes back on.
- Leave one light switch on so you will know when the power is restored.
- Keep extra batteries in a variety of sizes. Invest in a battery-operated radio, some reliable flashlights and possibly some battery-powered, flameless candles.
- Stay far from fallen power lines and flooded streets. Assume any utility wire you find on the street is "live" and will harm—or kill—you if you touch it. Call LOEMC to report any damaged wires or utility poles.
- Teach your children about the dangers of mixing water and electricity. Be clear about the harm electric power lines can cause to someone who touches them.

Good Friday Holiday Closing

Our offices will be closed Friday, March 29, 2013, in observance of the Good Friday holiday. In case of an electrical emergency, please call (912) 568-7171 or toll-free in Georgia, (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 dropoff slot at the branch office in McRae. You may also pay your bill online at *www.loemc.com*.

Dates to Remember

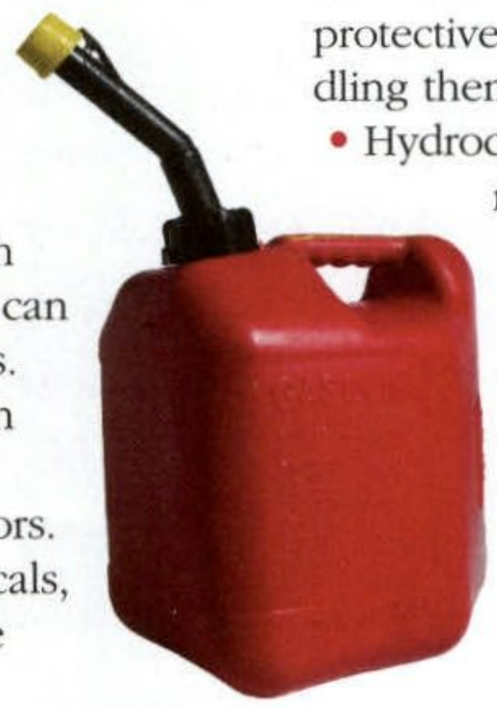
March 10..... Daylight saving time begins (set your clocks forward one hour)
March 17..... St. Patrick's Day
March 20.....Spring begins
March 29.....Good Friday (LOEMC offices closed)
March 31.....Easter
April 22..... Earth Day

Keep Your Family Safe Around Poisons

National Poison Prevention Week is March 17-23. As you begin spring cleaning and working in the yard, follow these simple tips to keep your family safe:

Household cleaners and other chemical products

- Keep potential poisons in the container they come in. Do not use food containers (such as cups or bottles) to store household cleaners and other strong chemicals.
- Store strong chemicals away from food. Many poisonings occur when one product is mistaken for another.
- Read and carefully follow the directions for products before using them.
- Never mix chemicals. Doing so (such as with ammonia and bleach) can create a poisonous gas.
- Turn on fans and open windows when using strong chemicals indoors.
- When spraying chemicals, direct the spray nozzle away from people and pets.
- Never sniff containers to determine what's inside.
- Discard old or outdated products. First-aid advice on containers may be incorrect and outdated.
- Always call Poison Help, (800) 222-1222, to double-check first-aid information.
- Even in small amounts, windshield wiper fluid is poisonous. If swallowed, it can cause blindness or death to people or pets.
- Strong chemicals—such as drain openers, toilet cleaners, rust removers and oven cleaners—can burn the skin. Wear protective gloves when handling them.
- Hydrocarbon liquids (liquids made from petroleum) are poisonous. They include gasoline, kerosene, charcoal lighter fluid, paint thinner, baby oil, lamp oil and furniture polish.
- If hydrocarbons are swallowed, they can easily get into the lungs.



Mushrooms

- Only experts can tell poisonous mushrooms from safe mushrooms.
- Poisonous mushrooms, called "death caps," often grow in yards and parks.
- Eating even a few bites of certain mushrooms can cause liver damage that can kill you.

Pesticides

- Pesticides (pest killers) can be absorbed through the skin or inhaled. Even leather shoes and gloves do not offer full protection. Pesticides can be extremely poisonous. Stay away from areas that have been sprayed until the spray has dried, or for at least one hour.
- Wear protective clothing when using bug spray or other spray products. Put on a long-sleeved shirt, long pants, socks, shoes and gloves. Remove and wash clothing after using chemicals.
- If pesticides are splashed onto the skin, rinse with running water for 15-20 minutes. If pesticides contact clothing, take off the clothing before rinsing skin.
- Many garden chemicals are poisonous to children and adults. These chemicals can be harmful if swallowed or inhaled.

—Source: U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services