

Electric News

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Smith Heading To Washington This Summer

Wheeler County resident Kaitlyn Smith has been chosen to participate in the 51st annual Washington Youth Tour, an all-expense-paid leadership experience sponsored by electric membership cooperatives in Georgia, including Little Ocmulgee EMC (LOEMC). This year's tour takes place June 9-16.

According to EMC leaders and past participants, being chosen for the trip is a real honor. Candidates vie for a spot alongside other teens who are community volun-



Telfair County High School junior Colin Weeks, of Helena, was selected as a Youth Tour alternate.

teers, student-athletes and members of respected academic organizations such as Beta Club, National Honor Society, Governor's Honors Program, Student Council, Key Club, Debate Club, FBLA, Interact Club and Science Olympiad, among many others.



Little Ocmulgee EMC Administrative Services Manager Debbie Bullard, left, congratulates Kaitlyn Smith, the cooperative's representative on the 2016 Washington Youth Tour.

LOEMC General Manager Lewis Sheffield says the Youth Tour was established to inspire the next generation of leaders. Each year, the teen delegates are challenged to consider the part they play in government and the cooperative movement, become involved citizens and consider careers in public service.

after submitting an essay on solar power and completing an interview at LOEMC. Kaitlyn, the daughter of Toni Smith, of Alamo, is a senior at Wheeler County High School. Also competing this year was Colin Weeks, son of Chris and Kristi Weeks, of Helena, and a junior at Telfair County High School.

The Washington Youth Tour gives young Americans an experience that will stay with them the rest of their lives. The teen delegates will explore government on a local and national level, gathering in Atlanta before departing for Washington, D.C. When the group arrives in the nation's capital, participants will have a unique opportunity to meet with their elected officials and discuss issues that are important back home. Georgia's delegation will convene with more than 1,700 youths representing cooperatives across the nation and mingle with peers from other states and exchange views concerning local and national issues.

"These students represent the next generation of educated, engaged citizen leaders in our communities and country," says Sheffield. "It's important for them, especially at this critical age, to experience the nation's capital, to see monuments and memorials honoring those who made sacrifices so we can live and worship in a free society and introduce them to students who share similar hopes and dreams but also come from a variety of backgrounds and different parts of the state and country."



Thank a Lineman Year-Round

Georgia's electric cooperatives, including Little Ocmulgee EMC, designated April as Lineman Appreciation Month. Throughout April, LOEMC and other electric co-ops across the state and nation honored the dedicated men who work to keep the lights on. Every day, these devoted workers deal with the dangers of working with thousands of volts of electricity while high atop power poles and power lines.

"Our lineworkers are the first responders of our electric distribution system. They are on call 24/7, all 365 days a year to respond and restore power to members when they experience an outage," says Lewis Sheffield, General Manager of LOEMC. "Conditions can be dangerous, but the workers ensure service is restored at the earliest



possible time while utilizing safe work practices to protect themselves and our members."

A statewide Lineman Appreciation ceremony was held April 19 at the Capitol in Atlanta. To show your appreciation, and as a sign of respect and support, please take a moment and thank linemen for the work they do when you see them out working and always keep them in your thoughts and prayers. These men light up our lives and dedicate themselves to getting the job done, regardless of the conditions.

At Little Ocmulgee EMC, lineworkers maintain more than 2,026 miles of distribution lines in Telfair, Wheeler and portions of Dodge, Laurens and Montgomery counties, while providing dedicated service to more than 7,600 members and more than 11,000 meters.

Applications Available for Co-op Education Conference for Couples

Mingle with other married couples from Georgia while enjoying a weekend of fun, fellowship and cooperative education by the shore of beautiful Lake Chatuge and the surrounding Blue Ridge Mountains at the 2016 Co-op Education Conference for Couples. This all-expense-paid trip for one lucky married couple will be held July 29-31 at the Ridges Resort and Marina in Hiawassee, Ga.

Objectives of the Co-op Education Conference for Couples, hosted by the Georgia Cooperative Council, are:

- Network with leaders of cooperatives.

- Learn about the economic and service benefits of cooperatives and how they differ from other corporations.
- Exchange ideas with other young couples and cooperative leaders and strengthen your relationship with the cooperatives with which you do business.

Only Little Ocmulgee EMC (LOEMC) members may apply. Contact LOEMC at 1 (800) 342-1290 for an application and details, or visit our location in Alamo, Dublin or McRae. The application deadline is noon Friday, May 27, 2016.

Jump-Start Summer at Cooperative Youth Leadership Conference

Little Ocmulgee EMC (LOEMC) and the Georgia Cooperative Council will sponsor three local high school students to attend the 2016 Youth Leadership Conference. The conference will be held at the Georgia FFA/FCCLA Center in Covington, Ga., on July 18-22, 2016, and is sponsored by the Georgia Cooperative Council and Georgia's electric cooperatives, in cooperation with the Cooperative Extension Service, Georgia Department of Education and U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development.

The objectives of the conference are to provide cooperative education, heighten awareness of cooperatives, explore the cooperative way of

doing business and provide leadership development opportunities. All expenses and transportation to and from the conference will be provided.

LOEMC members' children who exhibit high moral character and demonstrate honesty and integrity in leadership are urged to apply. Participants must reside in a home that receives electric service from LOEMC and have completed their freshman year of high school. College students and previous conference participants are not eligible.

LOEMC will be accepting applications through noon May 27, 2016. To obtain an application, please visit one of our three locations in Alamo, Dublin or McRae or contact Gary L. Selph at 1 (800) 342-1290.

Take Control of Your Account with the New LOEMC App

Visit the app store on your mobile phone and search for LOEMC, then download. This free app will give you fast and secure access to manage your account easily. First-time users will notice on their current bill an access password is given with your member number. After initially signing in to your account, you will be able to change your password.



What is the difference between the mobile app and the mobile Web app, and how secure?

Our mobile apps are native apps that can be downloaded and installed on your compatible mobile device, while the mobile Web app is a Web portal that runs directly in the mobile browser on your smartphone or other mobile device. All critical information is encrypted in every transaction run through the apps and the mobile Web app, and no personal information is stored on your mobile device. However, mobile devices do allow you to store your login information for apps installed on the device. If you choose to store your login information, any person with access to your mobile device can access your account.

Both the native apps and the mobile Web app give you secure access to maintain your account information, to view your bills and your payment history, to manage your alerts and reminders and to make payments on one or more accounts directly from your mobile device.

How do I sign up for push notifications? What if I want to receive push notifications for multiple accounts?

Mobile apps allow you to register your accounts to receive push notifications for account milestones, such as an approaching or a missed due date. Push notifications are not available through the mobile Web app.

The first time you launch the app after installing it on your mobile device, you'll be asked whether you want to enable push notifications for our app on your device. Select OK to enable push notifications. Next, be sure to select each individual account and enable the Notify option for every account you want to receive push notifications. If you have our app installed on multiple devices, don't forget to enable push notifications for your accounts on each one.

I have five accounts. Can I see them all in the mobile app and the mobile Web app, and can I make a payment on multiple accounts?

Yes. Once you've logged in, you'll be directed to a list of all your accounts. When you select a specific account, the details will display above the list. If you only have one account, the details will show up as soon as you log in. From the list of accounts, either select the option to pay all accounts or select specific accounts for payment. You can also make a payment to a single account by selecting the payment option when that account's details are displayed.

How current is the account information I see in the mobile app?

The information in the mobile app and in the mobile Web app is shown in real-time, so it's always accurate. However, if you keep your mobile app or mobile Web app open for an extended period, you should refresh the page by selecting a new option to ensure the information is still current.

Memorial Day Closing



Our offices will be closed Monday, May 30, 2016, in observance of Memorial 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 or you may pay your bill online at www.loemc.com.

Dates to Remember

May 8 Mother's Day
May 21 Armed Forces Day
May 30 Memorial Day
June 14 Flag Day
June 19 Father's Day
June 20 Summer Begins

31st Annual Wheeler County 4-H and FFA Market Hog Show

Twenty-two 4-H and FFA members participated in the 31st Annual Wheeler County Market Hog Show in February at the livestock facility in Alamo. There were 54 entries this year, with hogs weighing between 220 to 280 pounds qualifying for the show.

Exhibitors participating this year were: Hunter Bridges, Reid Bridges, Walker Bridges, Austin Brown, Abbigail Burkhalter, Duke Clements, Dakota Connell, Chase Derriso, Jaden Derriso, Towns Ethredge, Jordan Holland, Emberli Horne, Lawson Lowe, Allison Oliver, Brianna Pickle, Denton Pickle, Landon Pickle, Peyton Pickle, Zackary Pickett, Collin Stinson, Tyrell Weeks and Logan Youngblood.

Project advisers were Brooke Jeffries, Wheeler County Extension Coordinator; Lonnie Giddens, Wheeler County Middle School Agriculture Education



Judge Garry Childs, left, presents Allison Oliver with the Grand Champion Gilt award, sponsored by Little Ocmulgee EMC.

teacher; and Bryant Oliver, Wheeler County High School Agriculture Education teacher. Neal Clark served as the master of ceremonies, and Garry Childs of Pelham, Ga., judged this year's show.

Little Ocmulgee EMC sponsored the Grand Champion Gilt, won by Allison Oliver with her 263-pound pig. Chase Derriso received Reserve Champion with his 245-pound gilt. Chase won Grand Champion Barrow honors with his 250-pound pig and Dakota Connell received Reserve Champion with his 280-pound barrow.

Showmanship is always a big part of this competition, and participants were judged on how well they could present their hogs to the judge.

Preparation includes washing, clipping, grooming, walking and training their animal. The winner for Intermediate Showmanship was Chase Derriso. Reid Bridges won for Junior Showmanship and Jordan Holland for Senior Showmanship.

Fifteen participants had an entry in the record book contest. They kept up with all their livestock project expenses and wrote a summary of what they learned. The top three winners in the 4-H/FFA Market Hog Record Book were Allison Oliver, first place; Dakota Connell, second place; and Jordan Holland, third place.

The market hog project began in late October, when students took the required Youth Pork Quality Assurance Plus training class, taught by Bryant Oliver. All 22 of the 4-H/FFA members traveled to Perry to compete in the Georgia Junior National Livestock Show.

The 4-H and FFA organizations would like to thank all the people who helped make this year's show a success.



The 31st Annual Wheeler County Market Hog Show attracted a strong group of 4-H and FFA members.