

# Rayle Lines

## Member Newsletter



May 2024

The Official Newsletter of Rayle Electric Membership Corporation

## Operation Round Up awards \$14,865 in grants to local organizations

**T**he Rayle EMC Foundation has allocated \$14,865 to support three community initiatives, as part of its Operation Round Up program. At its recent quarterly meeting, the co-op's Foundation Board designated charitable grants to the following local organizations:

- **Maxeys Volunteer Fire Department,** Maxeys: \$4,865 to be used to purchase a thermal imaging camera and a smoke ejector fan. The thermal imaging camera, coupled with the smoke ejector fan, helps to quickly locate victims and efficiently rescue them.
- **Greene County High School FFA,** Greensboro: \$5,000 to cover the cost of FFA membership dues for all students, for students to attend the Georgia State FFA Convention, hold an FFA banquet and purchase FFA jackets for officers, as well as chapter shirts and hoodies for FFA students.
- **Carson Middle School FFA,** Greensboro: \$5,000 to cover the cost of FFA membership dues for all students for the current year and next year, purchase FFA jackets for officers, and purchase food and plaques for meetings.

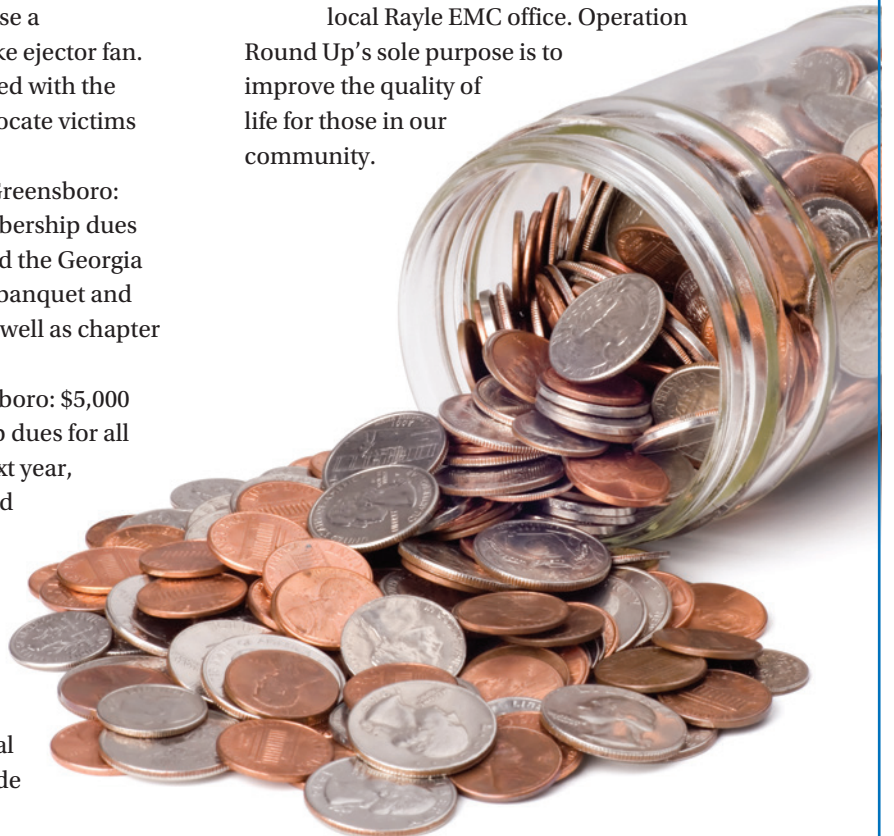
Operation Round Up is a charitable program supporting nonprofit organizations that serve to meet the health, safety, educational or recreational needs of the community. Funding is made possible when members voluntarily



“round up” their monthly electric bill to the next whole dollar. Individual members contribute, on average, about 50 cents a month.

If you are a Rayle EMC member and participate in Operation Round Up, we thank you for your generosity. Operation Round Up is tax deductible, so other contributions can be made by calling or visiting your local Rayle EMC office. Operation

Round Up's sole purpose is to improve the quality of life for those in our community.



# Three local high school students will spend a week experiencing the nation's capital

**W**interville resident Andee Dellinger and Washington residents Hannah Grace Moon and Kaylee Grimaud have been chosen to participate in the 2024 Washington Youth Tour, an all-expenses-paid leadership experience sponsored by Georgia's electric membership cooperatives, including Rayle EMC.

For more than 50 years, the tour has helped promising student leaders become exceptional young adults.

According to Rayle EMC General Manager Tony Griffin, the Youth Tour was established to inspire the next generation of leaders. This year's tour, which takes place June 14-21, offers opportunities for students to meet policymakers, tour historic monuments and participate in leadership experiences, all while making new friends from across the state and the nation.

Teens on the tour are challenged to consider the part they play in government and to understand the cooperative business model to become engaged citizens and to learn about careers in public service.

Andee Dellinger is the daughter

of Eric and Angie Dellinger of Winterville; Hannah Grace Moon is the daughter of John and Karmen Moon of Washington; and Kaylee Grimaud is the daughter of IV and Genna Grimaud of Washington. They were selected through an essay contest and will join other Georgia high

school students who have been selected by their local EMCs.

EMC leaders and former student delegates agree the Youth Tour has grown into an invaluable program that gives young Americans an experience that will stay with them for the rest of their lives.

As a recent del-

egate explained, "I learned so much about myself and our country and made so many friendships that I know will last a lifetime." While another added, "The Washington Youth Tour was not just full of educational experiences but fun ones too!"

The teen delegates will gather in Atlanta to kick off the tour, spending time getting to know each other before departing for Washington, D.C.

When the group arrives in D.C., participants tour historic locations like Mount Vernon, explore museums and monuments and meet with their elected officials to discuss the issues that are important back home. Georgia's tour delegates will convene with more than 1,800 youth representing electric cooperatives across the nation and exchange views concerning local and national issues.

"All the delegates were unique with so many different backgrounds," another delegate said. "It was interesting to see how other teens see society and politics and to be able to openly talk about issues with others. It was an amazing once-in-a-lifetime trip."

Since 1965, the Washington Youth Tour has given over 3,000 students in Georgia and more than 50,000 students nationwide the opportunity to take part in this memorable experience. The program was initially implemented at the request of President Lyndon Johnson to "send youngsters to the nation's capital where they can actually see what the flag stands for and represents."



Andee Dellinger



Hannah Grace Moon



Kaylee Grimaud





# Rayle EMC adds three new employees

**R**ayle EMC General Manager Tony Griffin announces the addition of three new employees: Natalie Martin, who works out of the Rayle EMC office in Lexington; and Dexter Worley and Marie Messer, who work out of the Rayle EMC office in Washington.



Natalie Martin

**Natalie Martin** of Winterville began her career with Rayle EMC on Jan. 2, 2024, as a Customer Service Representative in the Lexington District. Martin grew up in the Athens area and is a 2001 graduate of Madison County High School. She is the daughter of Rex Burkhalter and Barbara Wommack of Athens. She is married to Wade Martin and they have three boys, Mason, 19; Mathew, 16; and Maximus, 12. Before joining Rayle EMC, she was a stay-at-home Army wife and mom. Martin enjoys watching her kids' sports events and UGA football.

**Dexter Worley** of Tignall began his career with Rayle EMC on Jan. 2, 2024, as an Apprentice Lineman in the Washington District. Worley grew up in Tignall and is the son of Blaine and Jeana Worley of Tignall. He has one sister, Kayla Worley of Jacksonville, Fla., and is married to the former Carter Higginbotham of Hartwell. They have two children, a son, Zayden, 12, and a daughter, Navy, 3. Prior to joining Rayle EMC, he was a Crane Operator and Insurance Broker. He received his Electrical Lineman Certification from North Georgia Technical College, Crane & Boom Truck Certification from Heavy Equipment College of America and CDL Class A license from Daly's Truck Driving School. Worley and his family attend Clark Station Baptist Church in Tignall. He enjoys hunting, fishing, traveling and being outdoors.



Dexter Worley



Marie Messer

**Marie Messer** of Tignall began her career with Rayle EMC on Jan. 8, 2024, as a Customer Service Representative in the Washington District. Messer grew up in Tignall and is a 1991 graduate of Washington-Wilkes Comprehensive High School. She is the daughter of Daisy Hall Parker and the late Billy Hall of Tignall. She is married to Steven Messer of Tignall and has one sister, Pam Barnwell Cox of Tignall. Before joining Rayle EMC, she worked for CSRA Home Health for 24 years. Messer enjoys working outside in her garden, cooking, spending time with family and traveling when possible.

# Wilkes-Lincoln 2024 Farm Safety Camp

**T**he agricultural and safety-oriented businesses of Wilkes and Lincoln counties are joining forces once again to sponsor the 2024 Farm Safety Camp. The camp will be held Thursday, May 30, 2024, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the McGill-Woodruff Agricultural Center in Washington. Drop-off begins at 8:30 a.m. The camp features safety classes for children who have completed kindergarten up to 11 years old, who will learn in a fun, educational environment as they rotate through a series of classes on fire safety, tractor safety, electrical safety, gun and boat



safety, first-aid safety, large animal safety and much more!

The \$10 registration fee for the Farm Safety Camp includes classes,

lunch, two snacks, T-shirt and goody bag. Children may register at the Wilkes County Extension office or the Lincoln County Extension office. Only preregistered campers will be allowed, with a maximum of 150 campers. The deadline for submitting an application is Friday, May 10, by 5 p.m. There will be no application accepted after the deadline.

For more information, or to request a registration form, please call the Wilkes County Extension office at (706) 678-2332 or the Lincoln County Extension office at (706) 359-3233.



Rayle EMC's Director of Member Services Richard Heard, right, and Staking Technician Josh McLeroy, center, presented safety demonstrations for the Anita White Carson Middle School STEM Expo night in Greensboro on March 12. They showed those in attendance the Power Town, a high-voltage safety demonstration, an excellent educational exhibit that shows the dangers of coming in contact with energized lines.

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