



Kirk Beacham Wins First Place in 50th Anniversary State Wiring Contest

Colquitt County High School student **Kirk Beacham** won first place in the State EMC/FFA Agricultural Education Career Development Event (CDE) held on January 13 at the FFA Center in Covington. As the statewide winner, Beacham receives a \$1000 scholarship.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the state contest. Since 1968 Georgia electric cooperatives across the state have mentored FFA

students to prepare them for the contest, holding local practice sessions and staffing the area and state contests. That first year, **Don Copeland**, Colquitt EMC Board President, participated in the state meet as an area winner on the Tift County High team. The team was required to mount and wire a 100 amp main breaker, hook up the service entrance and run several circuits. Since the first state contest, teams have changed to individual competition.



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CELEBRATING A 50-YEAR LEGACY: Pictured left to right, Don Copeland (1968 participant), Kirk Beacham (2018 state winner), and Stacey Beacham, Colquitt County High FFA Advisor.

Hints that your heating system is on the blink

With this winter's unseasonably cold weather, you can expect your electric bill to be higher than usual. However, with your heating system needing to work overtime to warm the house, it is essential to make sure it is working correctly. Look for these hints that the heating system may be on the blink:

- The heating system seldom if ever shuts off.
- The heating system cannot reach your thermostat set point temperature.
- You experience a burst of warmth between periods of discomfort.
- Your thermostat frequently displays (AUX) on its display.
- You see ice on the heating system refrigerant lines.

Call your heating and air contractor if you are experiencing any of these problems.



BURN WITH CARE... AVOID TROUBLE.

ATTENTION: Use firebreaks around any utility poles on land that will be burned under controlled conditions. By using a firebreak to protect utility poles, you can help Colquitt EMC save thousands of dollars in repair costs. Also, you can avoid potential safety problems resulting from burned poles.

-Thank you in advance for your cooperation.





DON'T MISS OUT! Look for Colquitt EMC's Scholarship Application in April

Colquitt EMC awards scholarships to students who are enrolled in colleges or universities located in Colquitt EMC's service area. To be eligible, applicants must reside in the household of a Colquitt EMC member. The application and additional details will be available at www.colquittemc.com, beginning April 1. *Applications will also be available in our offices.*

Wiring Competition from front

50 years and still going strong..... Frank L. Hemphill, chairman of the 1968 Contest Steering committee, could not have known how right he was to predict, "With this level of participation, the contest should be one of the most successful events of this nature ever sponsored by the rural electric systems of Georgia."

The EMC/FFA electrical wiring contest allows students to apply their knowledge outside of the classroom. To excel in the competition, students must be thoroughly familiar with the National Electric Code, best practices of the industry and the history of rural electrification.

Congratulations, Kirk, on winning first place in the state competition!

Colquitt EMC is proud to partner with our local FFA/Agricultural Education Programs in sponsoring this event. *Happy 50th!*



FLASHBACK TO 1968... Colquitt EMC Board President Don Copeland participated in the first State FFA meet as an area winner on the Tift County High team.

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WIN
A WEEK-LONG TRIP
to WASHINGTON DC!



The Electric Cooperative

YOUTH TOUR

June 7-14, 2018

Visit historic monuments and museums

Boost your community service and engagement

Join hundreds of young people from across the country

Meet with your U.S. Representatives and Senators

Meet with students from many states on Rural Electric Youth Day

Applications are available at
www.colquittemc.com

The application deadline is March 1, 2018.



Recipes of the Month



Red Velvet Cake

INGREDIENTS

2 1/2 cups sifted cake flour
2 tablespoons cocoa powder
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon baking powder
1 teaspoon salt
1 1/2 cups sugar
1/2 cup unsalted butter, softened
2 large eggs
1 cup buttermilk
2 ounces red food coloring
1 teaspoon distilled white vinegar
1 teaspoon vanilla

Frosting

1 (8 ounce) package cream cheese
1/2 cup butter, softened
1 cup melted marshmallows or marshmallow creme
1 (1 lb) box confectioners' sugar
1 cup chopped pecans

DIRECTIONS

For the cake: Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Grease and flour 2 (9-inch) cake pans. In a medium bowl or on a piece of waxed paper, sift together flour, cocoa, baking soda, baking powder, and salt; set aside. In a large bowl, cream together sugar and butter. Beat in eggs one at a time. Alternately add flour mixture and buttermilk. Beat in food coloring and vinegar, then add vanilla. Spread the batter evenly in the pans. Bake for 20 to 30 minutes or until a wooden toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean. Turn out onto a rack to cool. *Frosting:* Blend cream cheese and butter together in a mixing bowl. Add marshmallows and sugar and blend. Fold in nuts. Spread between layers and on top and sides of cooled cake.



Triple Dark Chocolate Cake

INGREDIENTS

1 (18 ounce) pkg. dark devil's food cake mix
1 pkg. instant chocolate pudding mix
1 cup sour cream 1/2 cup cooking oil
1/2 cup warm water 4 eggs, beaten
1 1/2 cups chocolate chips

DIRECTIONS

In a large bowl combine all ingredients except chocolate chips. Beat 4 minutes. Fold in chocolate chips. Bake in a greased and floured 12 cup bundt pan at 350 for 50-60 minutes or until toothpick comes out clean. Cool in pan for 15 minutes then turn onto serving plate.

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