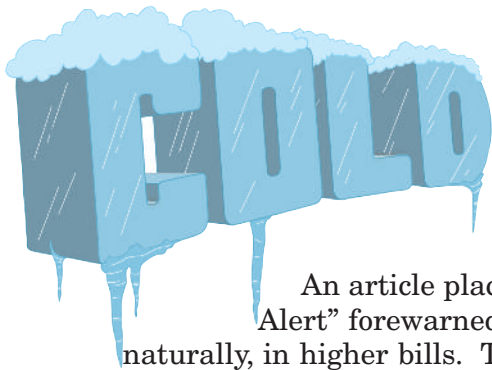


# GRADY E.M.C. NEWS

VOLUME 60

March 2010

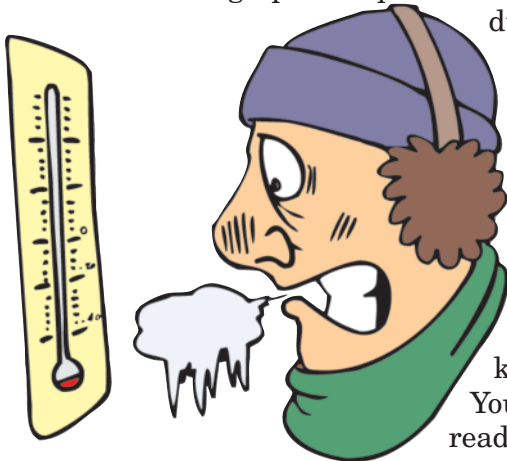
NUMBER 1



## *Projected Increased High Kilowatt Hour Usage Confirmed*

An article placed on Grady EMC's website on January 4, 2010 titled "Winter Weather Alert" forewarned us of the possibility of extremely high kilowatt hour usage, resulting, naturally, in higher bills. The membership of Grady EMC's system set an all-time record peak of 104 Megawatts (104 million kilowatt hours) in January 2010, as compared to the previous high of 97 MW consumed in February, 2009. The extended, extremely severe cold weather created abnormal run times on heating systems which created the high demand. Heating systems were calling upon strip heat and running constantly during these times. A

### **Highest usages occurred January 2-16**



period of 14 days saw sub-freezing temperatures into the teens and 20's at night with high temperatures rising only into the 40's during the day.

As the December-January bills started arriving in the mail, a few members became upset and directed their frustrations toward their cooperative in various ways. It was either the meter's fault, rates had been increased, trees not being trimmed causing meter problems, etc. Most stated they didn't run their heating systems or they weren't home during that time. Grady EMC's residential energy kilowatt hour rate has not increased. It is the same as it was in 1992!! Your cooperative has the highest technology available with regards to reading meters. The system provides an hour by hour kilowatt hour con-

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# GRADY EMC



**"Your local cooperative with access to the world's power"**

**T.A. ROSSER**  
President

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DURING and AFTER  
OFFICE HOURS  
377-4182  
TOLL FREE  
SERVICE NUMBER  
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Grady Electric Membership Corporation

## *continued from page 1*

sumption history at the location. This data confirms when the usage occurred, the amount of usage, and a good indicator as to what equipment caused the usage. Highest usages occurred January 2-16 during the cold weather. As soon as the frigid air moved out and the temperatures began to moderate to our normal weather patterns, usages started dropping off drastically. Grady EMC realizes that mistakes can be made and that equipment can fail, and in those situations, your cooperative will make the necessary corrections.

*The article below, Winter Weather Alert, is what was on our website as referenced above. It was intended for informational and educational purposes:*

Abnormally extended, severe cold weather has created conditions that are causing extremely high kilowatt hour demand and usage. Temperatures ranging from the teens at night to daytime highs in the mid 40's-low 50's are causing heating systems to run almost constantly. Predictions for this weather are for several more days extending into next week. Even high efficiency heat pumps could experience times when they will not cycle off for hours. As a general rule, dependent on the energy efficiency of the home, heat pumps will not cycle when outside temperatures exceed approximately 25 degrees from what the thermostats are set at. For example, when a thermostat is set in the heating mode at 65 degrees, and the outside temperature is around 40-45 degrees, the heat pump is no longer able to cycle. At these temperatures, the heat pump is now having to call upon the heat strips, to supply the additional heat required, as being called for by the thermostat. This increased demand, placed on the unit, now causes considerably higher kilowatt hour consumption than our normal weather patterns. Usage can increase two to three-fold, and possibly more, from what we are normally accustomed to using. Naturally, the more kilowatt hours used, the higher our bills will be.

In trying to reduce consumption, insure that all windows and exterior doors are tightly weather-stripped so that conditioned air loss is reduced to a minimum. R38 attic insulation, R19 floor insulation (with crawl spaces), HVAC ducted delivery systems sealed with Mastic and insulated to an R7 minimum as well as caulking or using spray foam to seal any other cracks/crevices are measures that need to be addressed in trying to reduce energy consumption in our homes.

**SAFETY :** Alternative methods of heating homes, such as fireplaces, electric space heaters, etc. should be checked for safety issues. Electrical cords, extension cords, etc. hooked up to electrical space heaters should be checked for frayed wiring and should meet UL safety approval standards. Wood burning fireplaces, stoves, etc. should be clear of any flammable material. Fireplace screens should be in place to prevent hot embers from popping onto the floor. ■

# Grady EMC Proud of EMC/FFA Wiring Contestant, Alan Glass of TCCHS

Alan Glass, a local student at Thomas County Central High School recently took part in the FFA Agricultural Electrification Career Development Event (CDE) sponsored by Grady EMC. The CDE, also known as the EMC/FFA Wiring Contest, is a unique educational program that for more than 40 years has been teaching high school students the safe, efficient use of electricity.

Students enrolled in agricultural education courses take part in FFA-supervised projects which prepare them to compete. Each participant completes a practical wiring problem testing their knowledge of the National Electric Code, a multiple choice written exam, and an oral presentation describing necessary steps to complete a specific electrical task.

Alan finished first in the Area Contest held at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton. Alan moved on to compete in the January 9, 2010 State Contest held at the FFA/FCCLA Center in Covington, and made an excellent showing there.

Alan, by competing in these competitions, earned himself some scholarship money. The first place winners from each of the six area competitions received \$500.00 in scholarship money. Second place winners received a \$300.00 scholarship. The winner at the State competitions can receive up to an additional \$1,000.00.

Grady EMC is pleased to sponsor the EMC/FFA Wiring Contest and proud that Alan was successful in his efforts. This program allows us the opportunity to provide scholarship funds to local students and to promote electrical safety at the same time. We would also like to thank Mr. Jerry Stone, FFA advisor for TCCHS, and Alan's teacher. ■



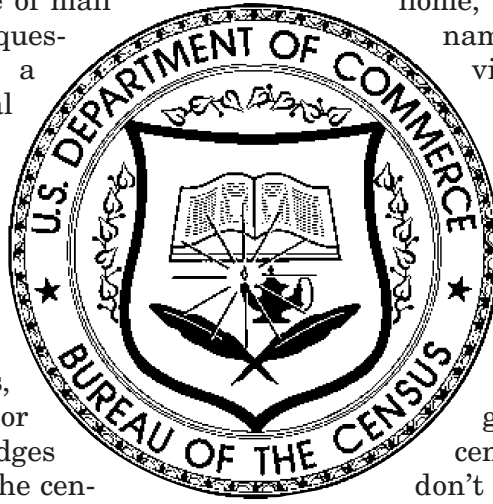
Pictured from left to right is Travis Duren, Grady EMC, who assisted at the area and State competitions, Alan Glass, and Mr. Jerry Stone

**In just a short time**, farmers, plantations, and individuals will begin to do some control burning. Whether in your yard, field or woods, Grady EMC would like to bring to your attention that we have had to replace several electric distribution poles as a result of permanent damage brought on by fire. We understand how this type of accident can happen and we are asking you to take EXTRA PRECAUTIONS this year in order to prevent this from happening. Not only does this create a potential safety problem by weakening the integrity of the pole and possibly causing it to break; but also, creates an unnecessary cost to you for having the pole replaced. Please do your part in helping hold down costs at your cooperative. Thank you in advance for your cooperation, help, and understanding. ■



# CENSUS FORMS FOR 2010: IN YOUR MAIL THIS MONTH

Households throughout Georgia and across the nation receive an additional piece of mail in March when the U.S. Census questionnaire arrives. Taken once a decade, the census is an official count of everyone living in the United States. Results of the count are used to determine how many seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives and how \$400 billion in federal monies are divided among states and communities to fund hospitals, job training centers, schools, senior centers, emergency services, bridges and other public works projects. The census questionnaire requests information about your



household, such as how many people live in your home, whether you own or rent, and the name, gender, age and race of each individual in your home. All personal data is protected under federal law. It takes about 10 minutes to answer the 10 questions on the survey. Mail the form back in the postage-paid envelope provided, and you're done. If you don't mail the form, you'll likely receive a visit from a census taker, a temporary worker hired by the federal government to visit homes to solicit census information from those who don't return questionnaires. Visit [2010.census.gov](http://2010.census.gov) for more information. ■

## CELEBRATING PEANUTS!

## NATIONAL PEANUT MONTH

*Did you know* that March is National Peanut Month?

No "small peanuts," this important crop is a \$2 billion industry in Georgia, with peanuts being produced in more than 80 of the state's counties, according to statistics from the Georgia Peanut Commission. Overall, Georgia produces 45 percent of the nation's peanuts—and that's something to celebrate!

### Whole Wheat Pasta with Cucumber and Spicy Peanut Sauce

Courtesy of the Southern Peanut Growers

- 3/4 cup creamy peanut butter
- 3 tablespoons soy sauce
- 3 tablespoons lemon juice
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 teaspoon dried hot red pepper flakes
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 1 cup hot water
- 20 ounces whole-wheat pasta
- 2 cucumbers, peeled, seeded, cut diagonally into 1/8-inch slices
- 1 cup thinly sliced scallions
- 1 cup red peppers, thinly sliced and 1-inch in length
- Salt and pepper, to taste

In a blender combine the peanut butter, soy sauce, lemon juice, garlic, red pepper flakes, sugar and hot water until smooth. In a pot of boiling salted water, boil the pasta until just tender; transfer to colander and rinse briefly under cold water. Drain pasta noodles well. In a large bowl, toss noodles with peanut sauce, cucumbers, scallions and red peppers. Add salt and pepper to taste. Serve immediately at room temperature. Makes 8 servings.