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Automated Outage Reporting

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www.blueridge.coop

Pickens

P.O. Box 277
734 West Main St.
Pickens, SC 29671

Oconee

P.O. Box 329
2328 Sandifer Blvd.
Highway 123
Westminster, SC 29693

Anderson

1212 North Fant St.
Anderson, SC 29622

Greenville

3751 Highway 11
Travelers Rest, SC 29690

Mission Statement

Blue Ridge will be a competitive, quality provider of energy and other services, maintaining its history of integrity and adapting to the challenges of a changing world. While exercising leadership in the community, the organization's focus will be on exceeding customer expectations.

Board of Directors

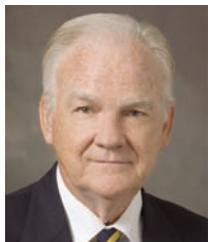
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A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

An effective response to storms

IN LATE APRIL, a series of destructive tornadoes tore through several of our Southeastern states. A call for help



soon arrived at Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative. Early the next morning, 14 of our linemen and their trucks hit the road for the town of Cullman, Alabama.

When these men reached their destination, they found that not a single meter was

turning on the entire 40,000-member Cullman Electric Cooperative system. The tornadoes had interrupted service to every home, business, and institution within the Cullman territory.

For the next 11 days, the Blue Ridge crews made repairs and brought four backbone feeder lines back into service. Their work included changing out more than 50 broken poles. After contributing all that time of continuous, strenuous labor to restoring electric service to Cullman's membership, our employees returned home safely. They did a wonderful job.

A stormy May and June

Unfortunately, a stormy May and June awaited them and the rest of our employees. The frequency and severity of high winds and thunderstorms during those two months was quite unusual. Along the way, the Blue Ridge crews were again and again contending with numbers of broken poles, as well as many other outage situations.

In the face of being called out with regularity on these storm emergencies, our employees have performed superbly. Service has been restored remarkably quickly, and all members of the Blue Ridge workforce have given a great account of themselves.

Successful outage-restoration

The Blue Ridge system of power lines is in its best condition ever. That factor certainly worked to mitigate some of the effects of the storm damage. It also helped significantly to have skilled, competent employees ably shouldering their respective responsibilities when these emergencies did arise. Add to those ingredients our employees' dedication and commitment to quality service for every member, and you have a successful outage-restoration program.

I can tell you with complete sincerity that the cooperative takes seriously every single service interruption that comes our way. It distresses us to know that any of our members are going without power. That's why we make reliable service a priority, and it's also why I can enthusiastically take my hat off to our employees for the job they do.

Charles E. Dalton
President and CEO

New Harmonies exhibit is coming to Walhalla



New Harmonies: Celebrating American Roots Music is part of Museum on Main Street, a collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution and The Humanities Council[®]

MUSIC LOVERS OF all ages will have the opportunity to explore American roots music when the Smithsonian's **New Harmonies** exhibit arrives for its six-week run at the Oconee County Public Library after Labor Day. The exhibit will be displayed from September 10 to October 23 at the main library in Walhalla.

The **New Harmonies** exhibit has been taken to nearly 850 locations throughout the country since its debut a number of years ago and began its tour of communities in South Carolina in April. OCPL staff member Philip Cheney, who is coordinating plans for the exhibit, helped in

its assembly at the Visitors Center in Gaffney, the first stop in South Carolina: "The exhibit occupies 800 square feet of floor space and is made up of numerous illustrations of performers from all the different types of roots music; it also provides listening stations where you can hear the different musical genres, such as spirituals, gospel, country, blues, Tejano and folk."

Cheney notes that the School District of Oconee County and the Oconee Heritage Center in Walhalla are key partners and were instrumental in acquiring the exhibit for Oconee County. One of the major concerts will be held in the Walhalla High School Auditorium in October and the Oconee Heritage Center

will host a companion exhibit on the history of radio in Oconee County.

The **New Harmonies** exhibit will be accessible at the Walhalla Library during library hours, which are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday and Tuesday; 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday; Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; and Sunday afternoon from 2 to 5:30. There is no charge for admission.

Large groups need to schedule their visits by calling (864) 638-4133. For a complete listing of events associated with the New Harmonies exhibit, visit the Oconee County Public Library's website at oconee.lib.sc.us.

For additional information on the exhibits, see page 28.



Mary Chandler, far right, plans to incorporate what she learned on the trip into her lesson plans for the upcoming school year.

Washington Youth Tour: Nothing short of impressive

Co-op member and Spanish teacher at J. L. Mann Academy, Mary Chandler was selected as one of two teacher chaperones to attend this year's Washington Youth Tour. Upon returning, she strongly endorsed the program. "The Washington Youth Tour was nothing short of impressive. It was extremely educational, but it was also a blast! As a teacher, I know that is hard to pull off, but it was amazing to see how the cooperatives can offer this to so many youth across the nation and make it as fun as they do."

Each year in June, Blue Ridge, along with the other cooperatives across South Carolina, sends students to our nation's capital to learn first-hand what it is like to be involved in politics, community service and the energy industry. Students meet their elected representatives, take in all the sights in Washington and spend one day with students across the nation at National Youth Day. Blue Ridge representatives this year were Salley Hiott from Pickens High School and Kristain Smith from Tamasee-Salem High School.

Opened to all high school juniors in our area, the search for next year's representatives will begin in January. If you have a child who is interested, visit our website or talk with your high school counselor next fall. It's the trip of a lifetime for many. Mary Chandler recognizes what this trip means to many that go. "So many youth do not have the opportunity to visit Washington, D.C., or to travel anywhere. The Washington Youth Tour offers them an opportunity to do something they will always remember. It's a very impressionable week for these kids."



Kristain Smith and Salley Hiott are pictured in front of the Capitol building, one of the stops on their tour.