

Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc.

www.horryelectric.com

Main Office

P.O. Box 119
Conway, SC 29528-0119

Conway Office: 369-2211

Socastee Office: 650-7530



(to report power outages only)

369-2212

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Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc., is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc. is a non-profit, member-owned organization providing information and energy-related services on a fair and equitable basis.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

An independent streak

It's as American as Apple Pie

ON JULY 4, people all across this great nation celebrated our independence. My family and I celebrated right here at home, in



what the late Senator Dick Elliott always proudly referred to as The Independent Republic of Horry.

No, he didn't make up the name. It was actually the original name of Horry County when it was incorporated in 1801.

Elliott, who passed away last month, proudly and proactively represented our area in the South Carolina General Assembly for 30 years with perfect attendance. He is already missed.

Horry County is completely surrounded by water. Without the infrastructure we have in place today, the original population was pretty much isolated. They had to fend for themselves and were extremely independent. Hence, the name—The Independent Republic of Horry.

Horry County is no longer isolated from the rest of the world, but the strong, independent character and spirit of our residents is just as strong as it was in 1801.

It's a good thing

Having an independent streak is a good thing. It's what built our nation. It's what built Horry County. It's also what inspired groups of farmers around America's countryside to band together and improve their quality of life.

Aside from President Franklin Roosevelt's promise of federal aid in the form of low-interest loans and engineering expertise, rural Americans didn't have much help in bringing electricity to their homes. They pulled themselves up by their proverbial bootstraps and did it on their own.

This independence not only tends to inspire cooperatives; it's actually one of our guiding principles. The Fourth Cooperative Principle, "Autonomy and Independence," means that no matter what contracts and alliances Horry Electric Cooperative might enter into, we will always remain an independent entity.

A tip of the hat

This Fourth of July, as we recognized the hard-fought war that created the United States, I also tipped my hat to the people of The Independent Republic of Horry and to Horry Electric's founders, who beat incredible odds to make life better for themselves and their neighbors. We're pretty lucky in this part of the world. We can all be proud to be Americans, residents of Horry County and members of Horry Electric Cooperative.

James P. "Pat" Howle
Executive Vice President and CEO

Unclaimed Capital Credits posted online

A searchable database is posted on [horryelectric.com](http://www.horryelectric.com) (<http://www.horryelectric.com/capitalCredits.aspx>).

You can find it by using the Search Engine on the page or simply by selecting 'Capital Credits' from the myCO-OP tab on the home page of our website.

Horry Electric mails capital credit checks to members who have received service in past years. Many of these checks are returned to us by the postal service, and we are holding them for those listed on the website.

In order to claim funds, please contact Horry Electric Cooperative's main office in Conway between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays at (843) 369-2211. Please reference your call as concerning unclaimed capital credits.

In addition to the online database, Horry Electric publishes the unclaimed capital credit list in *The Horry Independent* on an annual basis.

Capital Credits



More convenient places to pay your HEC bill



ANDERSON BROTHERS BANK

ON JULY 1, all seven branches of Anderson Brothers Bank in Horry County began accepting Horry Electric bill payments.

Co-op members now have 14 local pay station locations at local banks. Seven Conway National Bank locations were already accepting HEC bill payments.

"Working out agreements with local banks to accept

payments has proven to be a win/win situation for everyone involved, but especially for our members," says Danny Shelley, chief financial officer for Horry Electric. "It's a convenience our members clearly appreciate, and they are definitely taking advantage of it."

An average of 6,000 members pay their co-op bill in person at Conway National Bank locations. Approximately 3,000 more were making payments each month at branches of

another bank that no longer participates in the co-op's pay station program.

"We're excited to have Anderson Brothers Bank on board," says Shelley.

ABB locations

Pay your HEC bill at any of these Anderson Brothers Bank locations in Horry County:

- ▶ 2651 Church St., Conway
- ▶ 500 Main St., Conway
- ▶ 71 Cloverleaf Drive, Longs
- ▶ 302 Hwy. 701 North, Loris
- ▶ 4230 E. Main St., Loris

Other ways to pay

Horry Electric Cooperative also accepts payments by phone, by mail, online through MyEnergy Online or the time-honored way—in person! But the easiest way is by Bank Draft.

By phone

Dial (843) 369-2211 and listen carefully to the menu options for access to your account or to pay by credit card. All transactions are processed through Southeastern Data Cooperative. Transaction fees will apply.

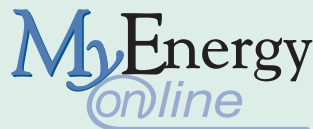
By mail

Please mail your check or money order (include your payment stub) to:

Horry Electric
Cooperative, Inc.
PO Box 119
Conway, SC 29528-0119

My Energy Online

You'll need your account number and password to log



into the system to view your account and make a payment online. All My Energy Online transactions are processed through Southeastern Data Cooperative. Transaction fees will apply. Payments made online through financial institutions are also accepted; however, please be aware these payments do not post immediately.

In person

You can pay with cash, a personal check, money order or cashier's check at our two co-op offices:

- ▶ 2774 Cultra Road, Conway
- ▶ 5889 Hwy. 707, Myrtle Beach (Socastee)

You can also pay in person at the ABB or CNB pay stations listed in the main story.

By Bank Draft

Bank Draft is the easiest, most convenient—and least expensive!—way to pay your HEC bill. You'll still get monthly statements showing kilowatt-hour use and the amount due, but you won't have to write and mail a check or bring it to the office. Instead, we'll draft your checking or savings account for the amount due on the date indicated on your bill. Sign-up forms and additional details are available at HEC offices and online at HorryElectric.com/BankDraft.



Horry Extra

A centenarian's remarkable memories

In this month's Horry Extra, starting on page 16A, we take you to a place where Mermaids beckon with a stylish Co-op Connections discount. On 16B we share the crystal-clear memories of a 101-year-old Horry Electric member, Ruth Fowler, pictured here in 1938 looking bright and lovely a few years before the co-op brought electricity to her rural home. On 16D, we offer timely tips from Brian Chestnut, our safety coordinator, who recently earned a national professional accreditation.



- ▶ 1799 Hwy. 17 N., North Myrtle Beach

- ▶ 617 8th Ave., Aynor

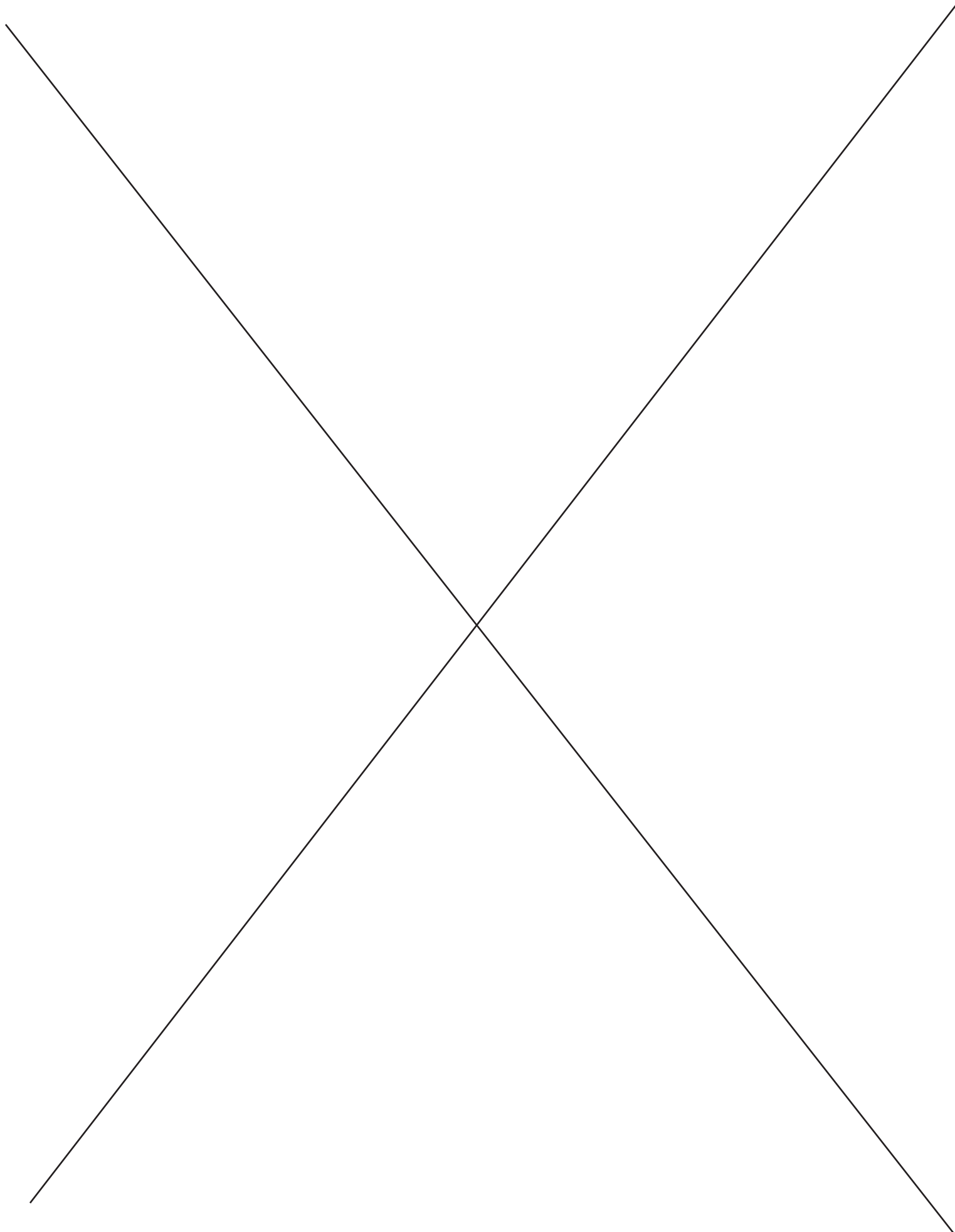
ABB banking hours are 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m. Monday–Thursday and 8:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m. Friday.

CNB locations

You can still pay your co-op bill at these Conway National Bank locations in Horry County:

- ▶ 2605 Hwy. 501 E., Aynor
- ▶ 1360 Hwy. 501, Conway (Red Hill)
- ▶ 2380 Hwy. 9 E., Longs (intersection of Hwy. 9 and 57/Little River)
- ▶ 110 Hwy. 17 N., North Myrtle Beach
- ▶ 2810 Church St., Conway (West Conway)
- ▶ 9726 Hwy. 17 N., Myrtle Beach (Northside)
- ▶ 1353 21st Avenue N., Myrtle Beach

CNB banking hours are 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m. Monday–Thursday and 8:30 a.m.–6 p.m. Friday.



Mermaids calling you to save —stylishly

"I'M A BEAUTICIAN, not a magician!" reads a small sign inside The Mermaids Parlor Salon. Some of Debbie Carpenter's customers might disagree.

"I'm hooked!" said Angie

Martin as she rose from the chair at the end of her second visit to Mermaids. "I'll definitely be back!"

Mermaids, a full-service salon, has kept its clientele

coming back. They've been in the current location for three years this month. Debbie, the owner, has around 15 years experience as a stylist, including about



Owner Debbie Carpenter (left) with fellow stylists Courtney Carpenter and Jordyn Davis (right) at Mermaids.

11 years that she worked from home. She is now joined at Mermaids Parlor Salon by her daughter, Courtney Carpenter, and Jordyn Davis. The three stylists are available for

men's and women's cuts and styles.

Mermaids also offers manicures, pedicures and tanning. Walk-in's are always welcome, Debbie says.

Whenever you visit, just be sure to show your

Local discount

Show your card, get 10 percent off all services

Where: Mermaids Parlor Salon
1717 4th Ave., Conway
Unit H-2 in the Southside Commercial Park
Phone: (843) 488-1310
Hours: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday; 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday and Friday; 8 a.m. to noon Saturday.
Closed Sunday and Monday.

Co-op Connections® Card

Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Co-op Connections card to receive a special discount exclusively for Touchstone Energy co-op members! ☺



Tucked away in the Southside Commercial Park off Hwy. 701 in Conway, Mermaids offers tanning as well as manicures and pedicures. Be sure to ask about their monthly specials, including manicures and pedicures for \$45 during July and 10 percent off for teachers' haircuts during August.



Horry Electric member Pam Howell smiles after Debbie finished her hair on a recent visit. Pam has been Debbie's customer for 10 years, coming once a week. Pam has very thick hair, as the before photo (inset) shows, so she counts on Debbie to keep it under control and looking nice.

A century of sights

HEC member remembers when boll weevil came, electricity followed



COURTESY RUTH KING FOWLER

Ruth King in 1938, a year before she got married. She and Montgomery Fowler (called "Mack Gumry," "Gumry" or "M.G." by some) were wed Oct. 18, 1939.

tobacco."

Fowler said while she remembers people getting Model T's and other brands, such luxuries were rare at first.

"We weren't too fast to get cars," Fowler says. "I can still remember going into town on the mule and buggy and tying up to the hitching post. We'd go into the Roy Hardy's country store and buy flour at 24 pounds, rice at 25 pounds, 10 pounds of sugar and coffee beans.

"When we'd come to town, it took a full day to come in and buy what we needed and take it home. We grew most of our food at home in our Victory Garden. We had tomatoes, Kentucky wonder beans, butterbeans, sweet potatoes, potatoes, hogs, chickens, milk cows and beef."

The long-time Horry Electric Cooperative member also remembers

how people got through hard times, such as the Depression, by relying on one another.

"I remember my grandmother going in the smokehouse and getting some meat to give to the family across the way from us. You did for others; we were all poor alike!"

Fowler says she remembers clearly the day the electricity came on in 1941, not because of how it changed her house, but her neighbor's.

"It was a happy day," Fowler says. "Our neighbor promised his wife when they got electricity he'd get an iron, so the day they ran the electricity out there, he went shopping. He brought a little iron back, and they were out there ironing clothes on the porch. He didn't want to see her having to heat up the old flat irons in the stove over and over.

"My husband, Montgomery, he always wanted hot water quicker, so the first thing we got was a hot water heater and electric pump. We put it right in the kitchen behind the wood stove. I was still cooking with a wood stove, but we had hot water."

With the modern conveniences that followed, doing things by hand—including making batches of lye soap to cut chunks off to bathe and wash clothes—have all gone by the wayside.

Which is just fine with Fowler.

"I could do those things again today if I had to, but I sure don't want to!" ☺



WALTER ALLREAD

"When I was little, cotton was king," says Ruth King Fowler, 101, who remembers picking it. "It was very hard work. It'd make your fingers sore." She was born April 3, 1913.

BY WALTER ALLREAD

IT STILL AMAZES Ruth Fowler what all she's seen in her 101 years of life.

From a time when cotton ruled the land to the Great Depression, the invention of automobiles, two World Wars and the coming of electricity to the rural South, Fowler watched it all growing up on her family's farm in Horry County as one of four children—one girl and three boys.

Her earliest memories are of a time when cotton called the shots in the South.

"When I was little, cotton was king," Fowler says. "I was little and remember picking cotton and laying it out, then I remember they'd lay it out and take it up to the cotton house to make the bale, then they'd gin it out. It was very hard work. It'd make your fingers sore.

"Then the boll weevil shut cotton down, and a lot of people turned to

Getting wired into Horry history



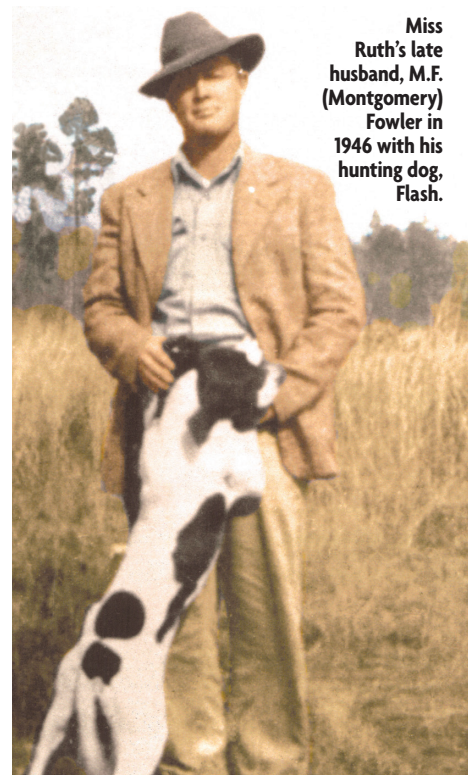
COURTESY STEVENS LAW FIRM

"Somebody that people around here thought a lot of was Mr. James Stevens," Ruth Fowler recalls.

She's referring to longtime Horry County Senator James P. Stevens Sr. When he was a James P. Stevens Sr.

young man earning money for law school, Stevens wired many Horry Electric co-op members' homes for lights. One was the Fowlers' residence, and "Miss Ruth" says it cost about \$65. She adds, "Every time we bought something new we had to wire it again!"

Stevens was a regular visitor, joining her husband, "Gumry," and other men who like to cook chicken bog and other down-home favorites at one of the Fowlers' barns. "We had



COURTESY RUTH KING FOWLER

Fowler's grandfather (above), James William (Bill) Bryant King, William David's father, c. 1880. Members of her church (right), Iona Methodist, on Mother's Day 1936. Miss Ruth shared some wonderful old photos. This one, from 1910, shows her "Aunt Lulu," Martha Louise King (lower right) with Shriners Ernest Anderson (upper left) and his wife and Bishop Bonner Anderson.

guineas, and they liked those," she says. "I'd clean one for them sometimes."

Staying connected to his constituents like this, Stevens went on to serve in the Legislature for 21 years. In fact, some say he won his first senate race in part because he had gone door to door meeting voters like the Fowlers, whose homes he had wired or plumbed.

As the Horry County Historical Society's biography of the

late senator notes, "Many had tried to dissuade him from running for the Senate saying that he was too young, unknown and too poor to compete with the other candidates who were well-known and had money for their campaigns. This made him more determined to succeed and his young and fresh approach won over the hearts of the voters and his victory was all the sweeter because of the odds against him."

DIY electrical safety

Are you up to the task? If not, don't risk life or limb

THE ECONOMIC DOWNTURN

has inspired more homeowners to tackle do-it-yourself projects than ever before. Faced with declining home values and aging properties, homeowners in some cases may choose not to pay for the services of a licensed electrician.

However, most of us don't have the training or experience needed to safely perform electrical work, which increases the risk of injury and electrocution and potentially introduces new dangers. Working with electricity requires thorough planning and extreme care—cutting corners can be a costly mistake.

For example, electrical outlets cause nearly 4,000 injuries every year. And each year, more than 19,700 people are hurt by ceiling fans that are improperly mounted or incorrectly sized.

The Electrical Safety Foundation International strongly recommends hiring a qualified, licensed electrician to perform electrical work in your home. However, if you decide to do it yourself, consider the following important safety tips:

- ▶ Make an effort to learn about your home electrical system so you

can safely navigate and maintain it.

- ▶ Never attempt a project that is beyond your skill level. Knowing when to call a professional may help prevent electrical fires, injuries, and fatalities.
- ▶ Always turn off the power to the circuit on which you plan to work by switching off the circuit breaker in the main service panel.
- ▶ Be sure to unplug any lamp or appliance before working on it.
- ▶ Test the wires before you touch them to make sure the power has been turned off.
- ▶ Never touch plumbing or gas pipes when



Before attempting any electrical repair or installation, flip the breaker for the affected circuit, says HEC Safety Coordinator, Brian Chestnut.

performing a do-it-yourself electrical project.

For more tips on treating electricity with care in the home and workplace, visit esfi.org.

Source: Electrical Safety Foundation International

Well grounded in safety



Brian Chestnut (left) and 1st Class Lineman Carllass King test grounding cables. "Good grounds help fault-sensing equipment operate when a fault is caused or detected," Chestnut says. "Grounding is one of four steps linemen must go through for proper de-energizing of lines. It is also a visual indicator that lines are de-energized."

WALTER ALLREAD

Safety coordinator earns industry accreditation

Brian Chestnut, safety coordinator for Horry Electric Cooperative, has earned industry-wide professional recognition through the Certified Utility Safety Professional (CUSP) program of the Utility Safety & Ops Leadership Network (USOLN).

CUSP offers utility-specific safety leadership credentials for various types of utilities and related contractors. The CUSP credential is only awarded to eligible applicants who take special courses and pass a rigorous exam. USOLN was formed in 2009 to offer utility safety and operations personnel opportunities for peer networking and professional development.

Chestnut has served as HEC's safety coordinator since 2005 and has been with the co-op for 24 years. He and his wife, Candy, have two sons, Tanner and Zachary.

Horry Electric's commitment to safety and employee training benefits all members. In addition to protecting member-owners, the general public and its employees from harm, HEC's efforts enhance worker efficiency while reducing losses. Controlling costs, including those for equipment and insurance, helps HEC hold down the cost of service for all members.