

## Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc.

[horryelectric.com](http://horryelectric.com)

**MAIN OFFICE**  
 P.O. Box 119  
 Conway, SC 29528-0119  
 (843) 369-2211



**TO REPORT  
 POWER OUTAGES ONLY**  
 (843) 369-2212

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

- Johnny M. Shelley  
*President*
- Eugene Harriott Jr.  
*Vice President*
- Ashley Anderson  
*Secretary/Treasurer*
- Elaine D. Gore
- Aaron C. Johnson
- Franklin C. Blanton
- Ronald H. Floyd
- Jody D. Prince
- Frederick 'Freddy' Thompkins

**EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT & CEO**

Daniel B. Shelley, III

**CO-OP ATTORNEY**

Kenneth R. Moss

**CO-OP NEWS EDITOR**

Jennifer A. Cummings  
[jennifer.cummings@horryelectric.com](mailto:jennifer.cummings@horryelectric.com)

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



# How winter weather impacts reliability

**WHEN OUTDOOR**

temperatures drop, our electricity use increases. That's because our HVAC

systems run longer, and more often, to counteract colder temperatures. Since we all tend to use electricity at the same times—in the mornings and early evenings—this puts a lot of strain on the electric grid.

At Horry Electric, we work closely with our local generation and transmission cooperative, Central Electric Power Cooperative (Central), in resource and infrastructure planning to ensure you have the power you need. However, the electric grid is much larger than Horry Electric and Central.

In winter months, when more electricity is being used simultaneously across the country, it is possible for electricity demand to exceed supply, especially if an extreme event occurs. If this happens, the grid operator for our area may call for rolling power outages, also known as rolling blackouts, to relieve pressure on the grid. This is rare, but we saw it happen to other South Carolina electric utilities in December 2022.

Horry Electric and Central take proactive steps to ensure electric reliability in extreme weather, including regular system maintenance, grid modernization efforts and disaster response planning. It takes everyone to keep the grid reliable.

Here are a few things you can do to use less energy while also saving on your monthly bill:

- ▶ Select the lowest comfortable thermostat setting and turn it down several degrees when possible. Your

HVAC system runs longer as it tries to make up the difference between the thermostat temperature and the temperature inside your home.

- ▶ Seal air leaks around windows and exterior doors with caulk and weather-stripping. Air leaks and drafts force your HVAC system to work harder than necessary.
- ▶ Stagger your use of major demand users such as your clothes dryer, electric water heaters and stove.
- ▶ Start the dishwasher before you go to bed and use smaller countertop appliances like slow cookers and air fryers to save energy.
- ▶ Ensure your HVAC system is optimized for efficiency with regular maintenance and proper insulation.
- ▶ Setting your water heater thermostat to 120 degrees can help you save energy and reduce mineral buildup and corrosion in your water heater and pipes.

As we face the challenges posed by winter weather across the country, understanding its impact on energy demand is crucial for maintaining a reliable power supply. Adopting energy conservation practices during periods of extreme cold not only gives you the opportunity to save on your bill, but also contributes to the resilience of the power grid—keeping our local community warm and connected.

**DANIEL B. SHELLEY, III**  
 Executive Vice President and CEO

## HEC trustee receives Order of the Palmetto

**JOHNNY SHELLEY**, a native of Horry County, recently received the Order of the Palmetto Award for his dedication and service to the community. Several members of Horry County's delegation presented Shelley with the award on Dec. 14, including Sen. Greg Hembree (R), Sen. Kent Williams (D), Rep. Lucas Atkinson (D), Rep. Jeff Johnson (R) and Rep. Kevin Hardee (R).

The Order of the Palmetto is South Carolina's highest civilian honor presented in recognition of a lifetime of extraordinary achievement, service and contributions on a national or statewide scale. This once in a lifetime honor is awarded by the governor to natives or residents of South Carolina.

"I was very surprised and humbled to be presented with this award," Shelley says. "I am truly blessed to be surrounded by friends who thought I deserved this. The Horry County Legislative Delegation and Governor McMaster made this happen and I'm beyond grateful."

Shelley graduated from Floyds High School and attended Campbell College, where he earned a degree in business and finance. After a short career in mortgage banking, Shelley discovered his passion working on the family farm.

Shelley has dedicated his life to serving



KRISTI FORBUS

Rep. Jeff Johnson presents Johnny Shelley with the Order of the Palmetto Award alongside (from left) Rep. Kevin Hardee, Sen. Greg Hembree, Horry Electric Executive Vice President and CEO Danny Shelley, Rep. Lucas Atkinson and Sen. Kent Williams.

his fellow farmers and Horry County residents. For more than 20 years, he has served on Horry Electric Cooperative's board of trustees and currently serves as board president. He's also on the board of directors for the Horry County Council on Aging and Anderson Oaks Assisted Living Community.

On a national level, he serves as a board member for the U.S. Tobacco Cooperative to assure local farmers have a voice when it comes to their future.

Shelley has held numerous positions over the years, enhancing the lives of many. He served as an Horry County councilman for 13 years, assisting in the

development of the Green Sea Floyds Senior Center, the Mount Vernon Senior Center and the Johnny M. Shelley Agriculture Building in Conway. A leader in the development of the South Carolina Tobacco Growers Association, Shelley successfully lobbied for the buyout of tobacco quota, saving the retirement funds of many farmers.

Commitment to community has remained at the forefront for Shelley as he's spent his lifetime serving the communities in various capacities. His service and dedication to the community is why he was nominated for this prestigious award.

### WIRE Scholarship available

**DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE** to apply for Horry Electric Cooperative's 2024 WIRE Scholarship. The local Women Involved in Rural Electrification (WIRE) chapter is accepting applications until Friday, March 1 at noon.

Each year, this scholarship is awarded to a freshman entering Coastal Carolina University or Horry-Georgetown Technical College.

Applicants must be an active member of Horry Electric or



dependent of an active member. The applicant must also live in the home with the member.

The \$1,500 scholarship is for one academic year. The recipient will be awarded \$750 for the first semester and must have at least a cumulative 2.5 GPA at the end of the semester to receive the additional \$750.

Visit [horryelectric.com/wire-scholarship-form](http://horryelectric.com/wire-scholarship-form) to apply.

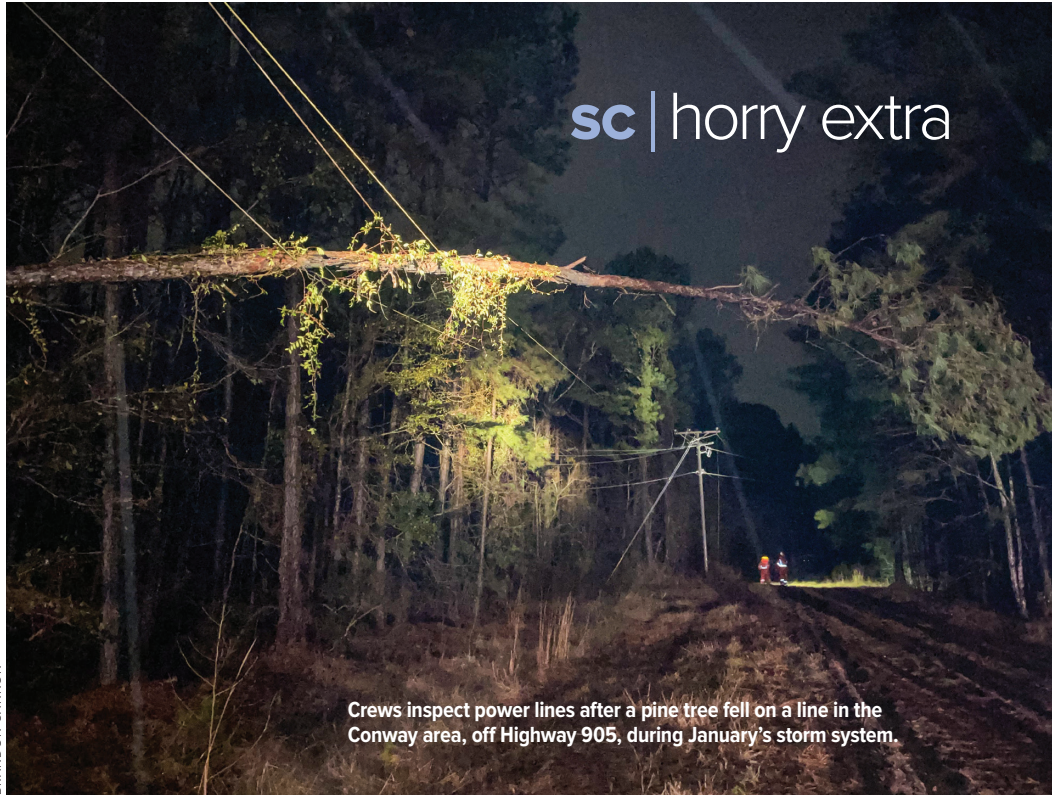
If you have questions, please contact Horry Electric's WIRE Coordinator, Susan Brown at [susan.brown@horryelectric.com](mailto:susan.brown@horryelectric.com) or call (843) 369-6323.





JUSTIN LEWIS

BRANDON CANNON



sc | horry extra

Crews inspect power lines after a pine tree fell on a line in the Conway area, off Highway 905, during January's storm system.

# When the lights go out, so do we

Recognizing the heroes in hard hats

**DAY OR NIGHT**, rain or shine, Horry Electric's linemen are ready to answer the call. When a car hits a pole or severe weather approaches, crews are on standby to respond to outages the moment one is reported.

Horry Electric trucks are rolling across the county 24/7. Members could see this in full force as crews worked to restore power during two severe weather events this winter.

## December 2023 Nor'Easter

In mid-December, the National Weather Service confirmed an EF-1 tornado touched down in the Socastee area, close to Socastee Boulevard. At the height of the storm, more than 5,200 members were without power. The majority of members were impacted by three broken poles caused by the tornado. Crews spent more than 10 hours, working through the rain, to replace the broken poles (pictured at right).

## January 2024 storm system

A severe storm system from the Midwest hit Horry County on Jan. 9. Fortunately, the storm did not hit as hard as meteorologists expected, but high gusting winds caused scattered outages throughout Horry County.

Members in Loris, off Mount Olive Road, were without power because a tree fell through the power lines. You can see the power lines laying on the ground in the picture above (left).

At 6 p.m., nearly 900 members were without power due to downed trees and power lines. Crews worked throughout the storm, in winds gusting over 40 miles per hour, and restored power to all impacted members before midnight the same day.



CHASE COX

## #ThankALineman

Working as a lineman is one of the most dangerous jobs in the country. Horry Electric holds training to a high standard to ensure each lineman makes it home to his family every night. Like our motto states, Safety is our First Concern. Severe weather holds an unknown variable—you never know what Mother Nature will do.

Embracing the unknown, linemen work to restore power as quickly and safely as possible. The power restoration process starts at the substations and linemen work their way out from there, down the main distribution lines, then on to individual homes and businesses.

You may not always see the linemen in action, but they are there, working to get your lights back on. They're the heroes in hard hats.

Next time you see a crew working or see a lineman in uniform at the grocery store, be sure to thank them because when the lights go out, so do they.





All-star football players helped 44 local children go on a shopping spree at the Target store on Seaboard St. in Myrtle Beach during the Touchstone Energy Bowl week.

# Local all-star builds brotherhood, gives back

Carolina Forest's McLean experiences Touchstone Energy Bowl week

BY JOSH P. CROTZER

WITH ONE A PANTHER and the other a Ram, Gionna Burgess may not have known what to call the two towering young men with her. But by the end of a whirlwind trip through the aisles of a local Target store, she seemed to make the right call.

"They were like my big brothers, and they were very helpful," says the fourth grade student at Myrtle Beach Elementary, who scored some clothes and a popular toy. "My favorite is the Barbie doll."

Burgess had just completed a shopping spree aided by a couple of standout football players, Carolina Forest High School offensive lineman Phil McLean and Hillcrest High School linebacker Jy'Savion Leake. McLean and Leake were among the all-stars playing in the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives Bowl at Doug Shaw Memorial Stadium.



Phil McLean and Jy'Savion Leake help Gionna Burgess on her Target shopping spree.

Each year in early December, on the Thursday before the all-star game, 44 deserving elementary school students from Myrtle Beach Elementary meet 88 of the best high school football players in South Carolina. Once the children are matched with players from each team, the groups are equipped with a curated list of items that include a mix of the child's needs and wants and a \$150 gift card provided by the electric cooperatives.

The all-stars are tasked with assisting the children, helping them find the items on their lists, assuring clothes fit, and that they have a good time. The task requires a spirit of giving that is not new to McLean.

"My parents and I participate in community service projects around Loris and the beach," says McLean. "It's been

rewarding to come here and give back to the next generation this week."

The players and the children weren't the only ones who got into the holiday spirit thanks to the shopping spree. Angela Jarrette, human resources manager for the Target store where it occurs each year, says Target employees had been asking when the "shop with a football player" was going to happen.

"To see the kids come in and shop with the football players, it's just magical. There's nothing that beats it," says Jarrette. "The staff, even they get excited. So, it really brings a lot of joy to our store and our community."

For McLean, partnering with a player like Leake from the North squad during the shopping spree, and being on the field with standouts from across the state, was a privilege.



Jacob Riddei shows some of the North players a video of how much sweat can accumulate in a lineman's rubber glove.

"It's been an honor and a blessing to be here on this big stage," says McLean. "I'm thankful to be able to learn and build a bigger brotherhood throughout the state."

According to game director Scott Early, that is exactly what the Touchstone Energy Bowl is about.

"We recognize these young men, not just for their athletic ability, but for their character on and off the field" says Early. "We want them to develop a true spirit of camaraderie throughout the week—not only honing their skills, but developing friendships that last a lifetime."

McLean also got to see what it's like in the trenches for another type of lineman brotherhood. The high school all-stars participated in Lineman Demo Day. A crew from Horry Electric set up hands-on demonstrations on the field adjacent to the stadium so the players could explore careers as cooperative lineworkers. Players put on personal protective equipment and took turns using various lineworker tools.

"I think some of them may have thought this was going to have something to do with being an offensive or defensive lineman, not electric line work," says Advanced Line Technician Jacob Riddei. "But once they saw the stations, they really enjoyed it and asked a lot of questions. There may be some future line workers among them."

A few of the demonstrations even stoked the players' competitive natures, challenging them to race one another to drill a hole through a pole, among other exercises.

"That was a fun experience," says McLean of his Brason drill race. "But I got tired halfway through. That took a lot of strength, and my triceps were burning."

There were no climbing poles for McLean or any of the players, but some



JOSH P. CROTZER



JOSH P. CROTZER

McLean (center) got to see how his local co-op linemen—Horry Electric's (from left) Jamie Spivey, Jacob Riddei, Phil McLean, Sean Brown, Chad Tyler—worked before the game.

were lifted above Doug Shaw Memorial Stadium the night before the game. All the players had the opportunity for a tethered ride in the Touchstone Energy hot air balloon.

"It was a little scary," he says. "But

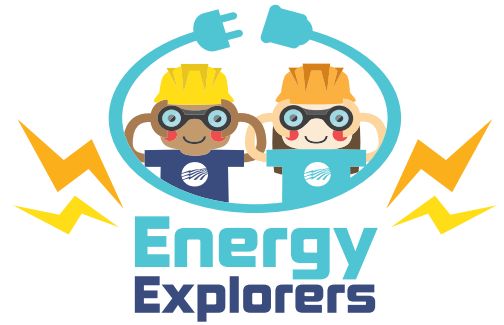
once I got in the air and got comfortable, it was really fun."

Back on earth the next day, McLean's blocking helped pave the way for the South's ground game as they rushed for 215 yards in their 28-8 victory.



# WINTER SAFETY WORD SEARCH

Did you know most home fires happen during colder months? Play it safe this winter season. Read the safety tips below, then find and circle the bolded words in the puzzle.



A P I R P A J G F W D C Q T W  
U L B S G W N N P T S A T A T  
R L A Y P J I U Q P Q N G E O  
C T W R Y J D X A R X D B L Z  
J F T P M K G C I B T L T C F  
X B K Y Z S E M B Q G E B D B  
G B W B Z H K T Z H J H R M X  
C V X J E B X S X B Q C K V A  
V I M A B O K A T C S I K F E  
X Y T Q Y K J S F N Q V T J W  
L E V J A N V U W C B A P A W  
R T R E L E C T R O N I C S O  
W Z B K R Y X S B V A Q O U E  
S D R O C N O I S N E T X E P  
I F J R W K J B Q P U B D T Z

Never overload electrical outlets with too many **electronics**.

Test smoke and carbon monoxide **alarms** every month.

Never leave a **candle** burning in an empty room.

Keep flammable items at least three feet away from a **space heater**.

**Extension cords** should only be used temporarily. Damaged or frayed cords should be thrown away.