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Santee Electric Cooperative News

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



“We’re
always
working to
improve
the quality
of life in the
communities
we serve.”

Students are our future

HAPPY NEW YEAR, ladies and gentlemen! We have made it through another Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year’s since our last *South Carolina Living* issue. I hope your holidays were as wonderful as mine.

When deciding what to cover for this month’s column, I asked our editor Joanna what else we were focusing on this issue. When I realized we had a tribute to the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives Bowl game and a reminder about the Washington Youth Tour and Cooperative Youth Summit in this issue, I knew we needed to focus on our future—the students in our communities.

I want to point all of you toward the ad for the Tour and Summit on Page 5. If you have high school students in your life, these are great opportunities to teach young people about our government, about your cooperative and about what it takes to be a leader. I highly recommend these programs!

As for the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives Bowl, Santee Electric was delighted to be able to present four trophies this year. Congratulations to those young men.

Now that the kids are heading back to school after winter break, I would like to talk about a couple of things your cooperative did to support students right before they got out for Christmas.

First, there were the Bright Ideas teacher grants. Each year, Santee Electric donates about \$15,000 to teachers in our service area based on grants for which they apply each fall. We have a lot of gifted and hard-working educators in our schools. Sometimes, they have a great idea that needs a little extra funding to get off the ground. We are here to help.

Then there’s our wonderful Christmas card design contest. Each year, we pick a handful of up-and-coming artists as designers of Santee Electric’s company Christmas cards. Hundreds of 4th and 5th graders in our service area compete for this opportunity, and the choice is not easy. Nothing, however, puts a smile on our faces like walking into a classroom and telling a future artist that a picture they drew will be published and mailed out to a lot of people.

Your cooperative is always working to improve the quality of life in the communities we serve. We have always focused on that task directly by giving you the lowest cost and most reliable power possible. Lately, as you have heard, we have been stepping up our efforts to bring industry—and jobs and investment—into our communities. We certainly cannot forget our students, though. They are our future, and future success and prosperity begins with them.

ROBERT G. ARDIS III
President and Chief Executive Officer

SEC area players bring smiles before bowl game

IN THE SPACE of a couple of days in December, C.E. Murray High School defensive back Tyree Prunes made a kid from Horry County smile and a couple of North squad quarterbacks frown.

Prunes was among 88 of South Carolina's top high school football players in Myrtle Beach for the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives Bowl, the Dec. 11 all-star game pitting players from the state's North versus the squad from the South.

Part of the week's experience was a Christmas shopping spree at a Myrtle Beach Target for 44 deserving kids from Horry County Schools. South Carolina's electric cooperatives provide each child, chosen by school district officials, a \$150 Target gift card to spend on clothes, toys

and other items on their Christmas list.

"It really meant a lot that I could help put a smile on a child's face," says Prunes, who teamed with North all-star Tyler Smith of Gaffney High to assist fourth grader Promise Blocker with her shopping spree. "She went in there and picked out everything she wanted."

Prunes got some picks, too. He intercepted two passes in the game to help the South squad to a 20-17 victory over the North. Three other area players sponsored by Santee Electric joined Prunes on the winning side—tight end Avion McBride and running back Terry



The South team all-stars representing Santee Electric included Terry McKithen, JaMaurion Franklin, Avion McBride and Tyree Prunes (left to right).

McKithen of West Florence and Lake City defensive lineman JaMaurion Franklin.

In addition to the shopping spree and the game, players were able to take a break from practices and ride in the Touchstone Energy Cooperative balloon, which lifted them above the Doug Shaw Memorial Stadium the night before the game. The players also participated in Lineman Demo Day, in which they explored careers as lineworkers through six hands-on demonstrations presented by Horry Electric Cooperative linemen.

Ready for an experience you won't forget?

Your co-op has two amazing trips planned this summer. Juniors: Apply for the Washington Youth Tour. Sophomores: Apply for the Cooperative Youth Summit.

Juniors: Experience Washington, D.C., with hundreds of students from across South Carolina and the country, meeting lawmakers and touring all the sights. Your electric co-op will cover your round-trip plane ticket, tours and meals. In other words, it's all free!

Sophomores: Experience South Carolina's capital like never before. Tour the Statehouse, meet lawmakers and see how co-ops are preparing for our state's energy future. Plus, there's plenty of fun with visits to popular Columbia attractions like Riverbanks Zoo & Garden. Your electric co-op will cover all your expenses.

We've made it easy to apply for either FREE trip. Apply today!



Washington Youth Tour: June 18-23, 2022



Cooperative Youth Summit: July 11-14, 2022

**Applications available: santee.org/washington-youth-tour
Application Deadline: February 16, 2022**

