

JEMCOnews

Jackson EMC
Linemen Take

TOP PLACE

at

GEORGIA LINEMAN'S

RODEO

JUNE 2023 | IN THIS ISSUE

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IT'S RODEO TIME!

When we say our linemen are “going to the rodeo,” we don’t mean the kind of event with cowboys and horses. Instead, they’re participating in one of the most respected and challenging competitions in our industry – the lineman’s rodeo. This year, we sent 45 linemen to participate in the Georgia Lineman’s Rodeo, where they competed in a series of events in traditional linemen skills. The challenges they face preparing and competing in rodeo enhance the on-the-job skills they use to provide you with reliable power.

In our line of work, safety is the top priority and participating in the lineman’s rodeo allows our linemen to sharpen their safety skills, too. In their day-to-day jobs, our linemen use their safety training to stay safe in hazardous conditions and when working around high-voltage electricity. Competing in the rodeo creates a unique, controlled setting where they can practice safety protocols and demonstrate their training in action. For our members, that

means our linemen improve their safety skills on the job, which can potentially reduce incidents.

Without a doubt, the rodeo is a powerful platform to showcase the professionalism of these hardworking linemen. And it’s also a fun, family-friendly event! Jackson EMC’s competitors have lots of support from their families, friends and co-workers at the rodeo. This is often the only time their loved ones see them in action – climbing poles, replacing equipment and working alongside their fellow linemen. The loudest cheers often come from their spouses and children. Some of these families will be cheering again when the top winners represent Jackson EMC at the International Lineman’s Rodeo in Bonner Springs, Kansas in October.

Jackson EMC’s linemen are some of the best in the country as evidenced by the number of trophies and awards they won for their outstanding performance at this

year’s rodeo. Those awards are a nice reminder that our linemen are top in their field. They are true champions serving our community. We’re proud of our linemen. I hope you’ll take a few minutes to watch our linemen at the rodeo in a video you can find at news.jacksonemc.com/GaRodeo23. Let’s give them some big cheers!

Have a story to share about how a lineman helped you? Email me at chip@jacksonemc.com.

CHIP JAKINS
President & CEO

Move Over or Slow Down for Working Line Crews

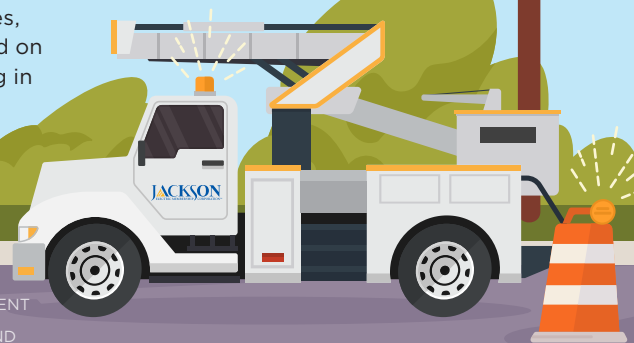
Linemen dedicate long hours to ensuring affordable and reliable electricity gets to you. Georgia’s Move Over law helps drivers do their part to keep linemen safe while working near roadways.

When you see a utility vehicle on the side of the road with its lights flashing, move over a lane to give linemen the room they need to safely complete their work.

If you don’t have an extra lane to move over, the law requires you to slow down below the posted speed limit and be prepared to stop.

The Move Over law includes all first responders (law enforcement, fire and EMS), utility vehicles, DOT vehicles, HERO units and wreckers stopped on the side of the road and operating in an official capacity.

TO LEARN MORE, VISIT THE GOVERNOR’S OFFICE OF HIGHWAY SAFETY AT GAHIGHWAYSAFETY.ORG



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Electric Vehicles:



GET THE FACTS ON EVs

If you're considering buying an electric vehicle, our trusted energy advisors can help answer your questions. Our website also has tools to help you understand EVs, compare models and find local EV charging stations.

We regularly receive questions from members about EVs, including these:

Q: What are the different types of EVs?

- A:** There are three types of EVs:
- **Battery EVs:** Also called "all electric vehicles" because they have a battery and electric motor instead of a gas tank and an internal combustion engine.
 - **Plug-in Hybrid EVs:** Have an electric motor and a gas-powered internal combustion engine. They can be plugged in to charge the battery.
 - **Hybrid EVs:** Also have an electric motor and a gas-powered internal combustion engine; however, they don't plug in for charging.

Q: Can I charge my EV at home using an existing outlet or do I need a special outlet?

- A:** New EVs come with a 110-volt-compatible (Level 1) charging unit, which can be plugged into any standard household outlet. Charging times and range of miles added can vary greatly, depending on the type of charger used and other factors. If you typically drive longer distances or are in a hurry, a Level 2 charger takes about half the time and provides about 180 miles of range over an eight-hour charging period. A Level 2 charger uses a 220-240 volt outlet. Jackson EMC recommends members considering installing a Level 2 charger or 240-volt outlet contact a licensed electrician. Level 3 fast chargers are typically available only as public charging stations.



Q: Does the outside temperature affect the range of an EV?

- A:** Outside temperatures, particularly colder weather, can impact the range of an EV. Unlike a gas-powered vehicle, where the heat is mostly coming from the engine, an EV must produce cabin heat and manage an optimal battery temperature with energy that comes from the battery, which can reduce battery range.

Q: What kind of incentives are available for EVs?

- A:** We offer a \$250 rebate for residential members who purchase a Level 2 EV charger. There are also potential federal tax credits. Visit jacksonemc.com/EV for the latest incentives available.

Q: How much does it cost to replace a battery in an EV?

- A:** EVs require less maintenance than gas-powered vehicles because they don't need oil changes or have spark plugs to replace. They also don't have an exhaust system, including mufflers or catalytic converters, that need repair. At some point, all batteries – including those in EVs – experience diminished performance. When it comes time to replace an EV battery, the costs range from about \$5,000 up to \$20,000.

Q: Will an EV meet my daily driving needs?

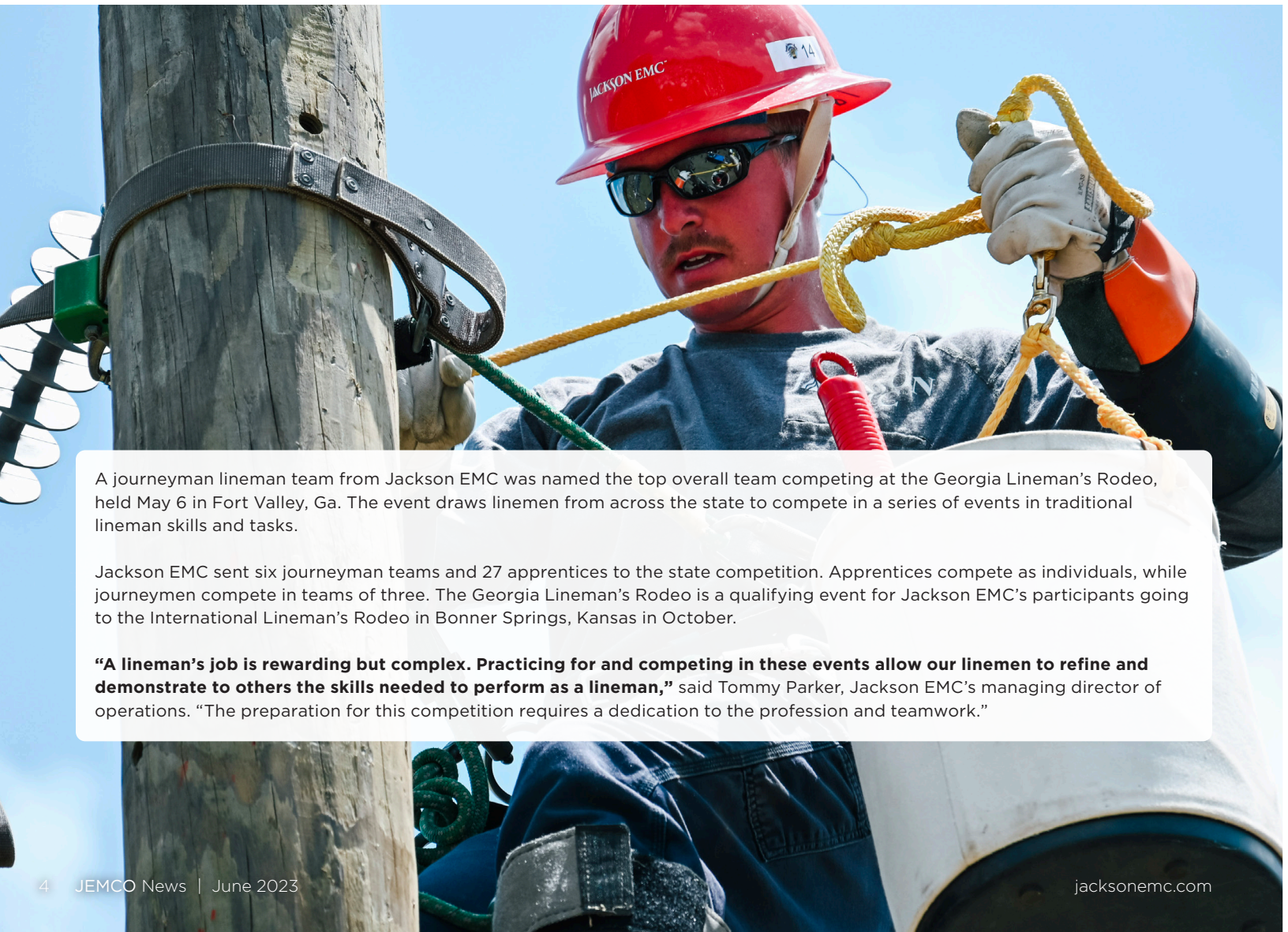
- A:** If you are like most Americans and drive an average of 30 miles a day, an EV may meet your daily needs. Our website (jacksonemc.com/EV) has a tool where you can compare your daily commute's estimated costs in a gas-powered vehicle vs an EV.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT EVs, CALL US AT **1-800-462-3691**, OR VISIT **JACKSONEMC.COM/EV**.



Jackson EMC
Linemen Take
TOP PLACE
at
GEORGIA LINEMAN'S
RODEO



A journeyman lineman team from Jackson EMC was named the top overall team competing at the Georgia Lineman's Rodeo, held May 6 in Fort Valley, Ga. The event draws linemen from across the state to compete in a series of events in traditional lineman skills and tasks.

Jackson EMC sent six journeyman teams and 27 apprentices to the state competition. Apprentices compete as individuals, while journeymen compete in teams of three. The Georgia Lineman's Rodeo is a qualifying event for Jackson EMC's participants going to the International Lineman's Rodeo in Bonner Springs, Kansas in October.

"A lineman's job is rewarding but complex. Practicing for and competing in these events allow our linemen to refine and demonstrate to others the skills needed to perform as a lineman," said Tommy Parker, Jackson EMC's managing director of operations. "The preparation for this competition requires a dedication to the profession and teamwork."



Journeyman Teams

A journeyman team with **Jeremy Adams, Kaleb Chapman** and **Jeff Sutton**, of Gainesville, finished in first place as the top overall team, first in the EMC division, first in the recloser switch changeout event, first in the lightning arrester changeout event and second in the hurtman rescue event.

A journeyman team with **Austin Gragg, Devin Triplett** and **Justin Cash**, of Jefferson, finished in second place overall, second in the EMC division, second in the crossarm changeout event, and third in the lightning arrester changeout event.

A journeyman team with **Justin Roper, Matt Tolar** and **Austin Yearwood**, of Oakwood, finished in fourth place overall and third place in the crossarm changeout event.

Two senior journeyman teams placed among the top at the competition. **Kevin Grant, Brett Hurst** and **Scotty Tompkins**, of Oakwood, earned second place in the overall senior division. **Daryl Bond, Jason Bond** and **Kevin Waters**, of Jefferson, earned third place in the overall senior division.



Apprentices

In the apprentice division:

- **Walt Palmer**, of Gwinnett, placed second overall, second in the EMC division, and second in the pole top insulator changeout event.
- **Austin Lewis**, of Gwinnett, placed third overall and third in the EMC division.
- **Shawn Thurston**, of Gwinnett, placed fourth overall, third in the hurtman rescue event, and third in the pole top insulator changeout event.
- **Carter Kelling**, of Gwinnett, placed first in the hurtman rescue event and third in the polybell changeout event.
- **Adam Warner**, of Gwinnett, placed first in the polybell changeout event.
- **Jonathan Woodring**, of Oakwood, placed second in the service installation event.

SEE OUR LINEMEN IN ACTION AT THE GEORGIA LINEMAN'S RODEO AND GET FULL RESULTS AT [NEWS.JACKSONEMC.COM/GARODEO23](https://news.jacksonemc.com/garodeo23) OR BY **SCANNING THIS QR CODE.**



\$127,675 IN GRANTS RECENTLY AWARDED

The Jackson EMC Foundation board of directors awarded \$127,675 in grants during a recent meeting, including \$122,675 to organizations and \$5,000 to an individual.

Organizational Grant Recipients:

\$15,000 to Camp Koinonia, Homer, to provide 36 underprivileged third through sixth grade Banks County students referred by Family Connection and DFACS with a five-day camping experience that uses positive learning experiences to establish strong character, leadership and team-building skills, and build personal relationships.

\$15,000 to Camp Kudzu, to support 18-20 children, teens and their families in the 10 counties served by Jackson EMC to attend a variety of camp activities for children and teens with diabetes.

\$15,000 to Camp Twin Lakes, a not-for-profit organization that offers year-round recreational, therapeutic and educational programming for children facing serious illnesses and other challenges, to help children in Jackson EMC's 10-county service area attend its state-of-the-art, fully-accessible camp.

\$15,000 to Spectrum Autism Support Group, for a parent-run nonprofit group in Suwanee that provides Gwinnett and Hall County families with support, education and resources for the entire spectrum of autism disorders, to help disadvantaged autistic individuals ages four to 22 attend the organization's week-long summer camp program, with daily activities that teach social skills lessons.

\$15,000 to YMCA of Athens, to help enable children in Barrow, Clarke, Jackson, Madison and Oglethorpe counties to participate in its nine-week summer day camp project, which offers supervised sports and other activities, as well as teaches math, reading and values.

\$15,000 to YWCO of Athens, to help 30 girls from low-income families attend the summer girls camp program, a structured recreational and educational summer program targeting young girls ages 5 to 14 from low-to-moderate income families.

\$11,675 to Connections for Special Parents (CSP) of Northeast Georgia, for its Summer Connections Program, which provides a camping experience for teens and young adults who have social, emotional, or developmental disabilities in Banks, Franklin and Madison counties.

\$10,000 to Camp Amplify, Winder, to provide 15 children ages eight to 12 from under-served communities with a week-long camping experience to develop character, leadership and team-building skills through a high adventure, overnight camp.

\$6,000 to Families of Children Under Stress (FOCUS), a nonprofit agency serving children, teens and adults with developmental disabilities and their families, to help provide 18 children the opportunity to build social skills, self-respect, character and community living skills at Camp Hollywood in Lawrenceville.

\$5,000 to Foster Siblings Reunited, to enable children in the 10 counties Jackson EMC serves to attend Camp to Belong summer camp, which reunites siblings living separately in foster care or other out-of-home care to strengthen relationships, increase self-esteem, create healthier attitudes and childhood memories.

Individual Recipient:

\$5,000 for assistance with **home plumbing repairs** for a Jackson County resident in need.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO APPLY FOR A GRANT, VISIT JACKSONEMC.COM/FOUNDATION

Community Impact
Family Promise of Hall County

Family Promise of Hall County recognizes that families who are at risk of being homeless often need childcare. One of the programs this Gainesville-based organization offers is a daycare for parents who are experiencing and facing homelessness while they are newly employed or actively seeking employment.

Family Promise of Hall County recently received a \$10,000 grant from the Jackson EMC Foundation for its Little Steps Community Daycare. This program serves children ages six weeks to four years of vulnerable, low-income families in Hall County.

"Grants like this act as a scholarship for families to have the first four weeks of daycare for free," said Margaret Hopkins, daycare director of Family Promise of Hall County. From her long experience with childcare, Hopkins knows that families in these situations need that extra support. "You should see the faces of these parents when they are told they will have this childcare assistance," she said. **"It is my passion to work with kids and vulnerable families who lack all of the basic necessities."**

Little Steps Community Daycare currently has 10 children but is looking to increase enrollment as it increases staff. Families eligible for daycare services must have a referral from Family Promise of Hall County or a community partner or agency.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON FAMILY PROMISE OF HALL COUNTY, VISIT FAMILYPROMISEHALL.ORG.

5 ENERGY SAVING TIPS FOR RENTERS



People who rent an apartment or home must often get approval from a property owner or management company to make upgrades, so it may be difficult to make energy-efficient upgrades.

However, there are some simple ways you can make changes to save energy.

- 1. Set Your Thermostat at an Energy-Saving Temperature.** In the summer, set your thermostat to 78 degrees. Lower settings increase operating costs approximately 5% for every degree below 78 degrees. In the winter, set your thermostat at 68 degrees.
- 2. Change Light Bulbs.** An easy way to trim your energy use is to switch your light bulbs from incandescent bulbs to LED bulbs. Light bulbs that are ENERGY STAR®-certified use up to 90% less energy than traditional bulbs.
- 3. Use a Ceiling Fan.** By using a ceiling fan in a room, you'll feel cooler, making it less likely you'll need to lower your thermostat. In the summer, set your ceiling fan to operate counterclockwise.
- 4. Unplug Electronics.** When electronics are turned off, but still plugged in, they can continue to use electricity, including device chargers. You can eliminate this wasted energy by simply unplugging devices when not in use.
- 5. Use Blinds or Curtains.** To keep the heat out during warm days, close your curtains or tilt your blinds up to divert heat away. In the winter, keep curtains open and tilt blinds down to let in warmth.



FOR MORE ENERGY-SAVING IDEAS, VISIT [JACKSONEMC.COM/WAYSTOSAVE](https://www.jacksonemc.com/waystosave).

Are You a Renter?

Think about your options for HOME SECURITY

Home security systems aren't just for people who own their homes - there are options to protect your residence if you're a renter, too. EMC Security has offered its security services and products to residents and businesses since its founding in 1998. When it comes to getting a security system for an apartment, there are some factors EMC Security recommends you consider.



Installation

Most rental management companies don't allow residents to drill holes in walls to run wires. A wireless security system is a good option. Wireless security systems are easy to install and set up. Unlike a wired system, wireless security is also portable, so you can use the system in another residence if you move.

Fewer Entrances

Apartments typically have fewer doors and windows than single-family houses for potential burglars to enter. With less square footage, an apartment may not need an extensive security system.

DIY

EMC Security's DIY security system is an affordable option if you're a renter. With DIY, you can avoid installation fees and enjoy the convenience of setting up your alarm system according to your schedule. The DIY self-installed system is a one-time cost of \$275 from EMC Security and includes step-by-step instructions and a video guide for setting up your system.

Security Cameras

Along with a security system, a security camera - like EMC Security's indoor camera - can help you enhance your apartment's protection. When paired with a monitoring app, an indoor camera can show you what's happening inside your apartment on your phone. The indoor camera can also change its view to focus on different things, such as a pet. EMC Security's indoor camera is \$135.

EMC Security offers the same security service available to all customers, including its no-contract policy, for apartments.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL EMC SECURITY AT **770-963-0305**, OR VISIT [EMCSECURITY.COM](https://www.emcsecurity.com).

YOUR POWER.
YOUR COMMUNITY.

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MEMBERS MAKE IT DELICIOUS

Butterscotch Sheet Cake

FEATURED
RECIPES RECEIVE
\$200
PRIZE
PACKAGE



INGREDIENTS:

- 1 3.4 oz. package vanilla instant pudding mix
- 2 cups whole milk
- 1 package yellow cake mix
- 1 11 oz. package of butterscotch chips
- 1 cup chopped pecans

DIRECTIONS:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Place pudding mix and milk in a large mixing bowl and blend according to the package directions. Fold in the dry cake mix and stir until the batter is combined, although still a little lumpy. Pour the batter into a 9x9 sprayed pan and smooth the top with a rubber spatula. Scatter the butterscotch chips on top of the batter, then sprinkle the pecans on top of the chips. Bake 35-40 minutes.

“It’s rich and really easy to make. Every time I make it people ask for the recipe.”

ELEANOR CASTEEL, *Flowery Branch*

Send us your best recipes: recipes@jacksonemc.com or mail to
Cooperative Cooking | Jackson EMC PO Box 38 | Jefferson, GA 30549
Find more recipes at: jacksonemc.com/recipes.