



Golfers, volunteers and Walton County Boys and Girls Club members gather for a group photo at the Walton EMC Employee Charities annual spring Charity Golf Tournament.

Golfing for good

Walton EMC Employee Charities hosted their annual Charity Golf Tournament on April 16, raising nearly \$50,000 to benefit the Boys and Girls Club of Walton County. The event was a sellout with 45 teams participating. Proceeds help to provide essential programs, mentorship and resources to children.



Walton EMC employees (left to right) Kelvin Smith, Isaiah Glasper and David Peters connect with Walton County Boys and Girls Club members at the April 16 Charity Golf Tournament.

Take your shot!

Registration is open for the 14th Annual Walton EMC Charity Shoot set for Aug. 21 at the Cherokee Rose Gun Club in Griffin. Proceeds from the sporting clay tournament benefit area nonprofits Camp Twin Lakes, ESP (Extra Special People) and Walton County Special Olympics.

Registration opens at 7:30 a.m. with a shotgun start at 9 a.m. Pre-registration is required. Lunch is included.

The competition uses the Lewis Class scoring system for more balanced competition and prize distributions. Trophies will be awarded to top teams, including a ladies' division.

WHAT: 14th Annual Walton EMC Charity Shoot

WHEN: Thursday, Aug. 21

WHERE: Cherokee Rose Gun Club

REGISTER: waltonemc.com/community/events or scan the code



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Does Walton EMC owe you unclaimed membership fees, security deposits or capital credit refunds? The co-op's Unclaimed Funds search feature provides an easy way for any customer-owner to find out.

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JULY 2025

Walton EMC

INVESTING *energy* IN WHAT MATTERS MOST



NEW CROP OF LINEMEN SPROUT SUCCESS

Walton EMC linemen have a legacy of doing well at the Georgia Lineman's Rodeo, a day of competition designed to test participants' knowledge and skill. Their performance at the recent 2025 edition shows the tradition is still going strong.

Especially encouraging is that the large contingent of apprentice linemen competitors – those still in training – had a multitude of top-ten finishes over a number of individual events and overall placings.

Your co-op sent 12 apprentices to the rodeo, making up almost 10% of those competing. Four finished in the top 10 overall, including Phillip Mork who placed fourth, Mason Tolbert who placed fifth, Hollis Lucas who placed seventh and Nate Howell who placed ninth. Additionally, nine of the apprentices had top 10 individual event placements with all 12 earning perfect scores in the hurtman rescue event.

"The Lineman's Rodeo shows exactly what being a lineman demands—skill, strength and mental toughness," said Greg Pannell, Walton EMC line superintendent. "What you see at the rodeo is what our crews do every day to keep the power on, no matter the conditions."

Several journeyman linemen volunteer to serve as coaches for the apprentice competitors. Most of the practice in preparing for the rodeo is done outside of working hours.

The co-op's experienced journeyman team also made a good showing, placing fourth in the mystery event and 12th in the lightning arrestor change, earning perfect scores in both.

By being a mystery event, the journeymen have no idea what to expect until the instructions for the event are revealed.

The rodeo, in its 31st year, is held the first Saturday in May at the Camp John Hope FFA-FCCLA Center near Fort Valley. Both EMC and municipal electric teams from across the state compete, with winners advancing to the International Lineman's Rodeo in October.

—continued inside



"Hang on buddy, I got you!" Apprentice Lineman Mason Tolbert demonstrates how he can quickly rescue an unconscious co-worker using only a rope and knowledge during the Georgia Lineman's Rodeo.



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REALITE JULY 2025 VOLUME 75, NO.7

quick guide

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Our subsidiaries supply natural gas and security services.



Walton EMC
Loss Control Director
Brad Adcock

Championing safety

Co-op employees learn how to prevent accidents and injuries

Delivering safe, reliable electricity is a daily priority at Walton EMC. For CEO Ron Marshall, safety comes right at the top of the list.

Marshall, who began his career working as a lineman alongside his father, says his commitment to safety comes from personal experience. As a young lineman he witnessed the serious injury of a fellow crew member.

“I can still see and hear everything,” he said. The “pivotal moment” inspired his dedication to electrical safety.

Aligning with Marshall’s safety priorities, co-op safety team members recently held a high-voltage powerline demonstration for co-workers whose jobs don’t involve energized lines. The training opportunity helps co-op employees better serve members, said Ryan West, safety and training instructor.

“Poles can break, lines can fall to the ground, transformers can be displaced; but lines and equipment can still be energized,” he said, stressing the danger involved.

During the demonstration, employees were able to ask questions about high-voltage electricity safety and learn answers they can use to educate Walton EMC’s customer-owners.

It’s information that can come in handy in the often-stormy South where damaged power lines sometimes fall. Marshall hopes co-op employees can apply their new knowledge to help prevent accidents and possibly save a life.

Watch the powerline safety demonstration.



Lineman Success —continued

Competitors make co-op proud at Georgia Lineman’s Rodeo



Apprentice Lineman Phillip Mork uses only a climbing belt and spikes (called “hooks”) attached to his boots to stay stable atop a utility pole during the Georgia Lineman’s Rodeo. This allows his hands to be free to perform other tasks.



Journeyman Lineman Adrian Mendoza uses his body weight as an “engine” to lift a heavy load up to fellow linemen already atop a pole during competition at the Georgia Lineman’s Rodeo.



The 2025 Walton EMC Georgia Lineman’s Rodeo participants at Fort Valley, GA. Front Row (L-R): Cody Jarrett (apprentice), Ryan West (journeyman coach), Harry Ruiz (apprentice), Brandon Short (apprentice), Jacob Daria (apprentice), John Spence (judge), Adam Simmons (apprentice coach), Bryce Watson (apprentice), Phillip Mork (apprentice), Adrian Mendoza (journeyman), and Nate Howell (apprentice). Back Row (L-R): Steven Favinger (apprentice), Preston Roberts (journeyman coach), Cody Underwood (apprentice), Hollis Lucas (apprentice), Mason Tolbert (apprentice), Shooter Brooks (journeyman), David Peters (journeyman), Tyler Standridge (apprentice), Blaine Ogle (apprentice coach), and Tommy Ledford (apprentice coach). Not pictured: Brad Adcock (judge), Jacob McNary (judge), Josh Mercado (judge) and Greg Pannell (judge).



Phillip Mork

4TH PLACE OVERALL
6TH PLACE IN MYSTERY EVENT #1
4TH PLACE IN MYSTERY EVENT #2



Mason Tolbert

5TH PLACE OVERALL
2ND PLACE IN WRITTEN TEST
7TH PLACE IN MYSTERY EVENT #1
8TH PLACE IN HURTMAN RESCUE
8TH PLACE IN MYSTERY EVENT #2



Hollis Lucas

7TH PLACE OVERALL
3RD PLACE IN HURTMAN RESCUE



Nate Howell

9TH PLACE OVERALL
10TH PLACE IN MYSTERY EVENT #2

On the road again

ORU grant helps co-op member regain independence

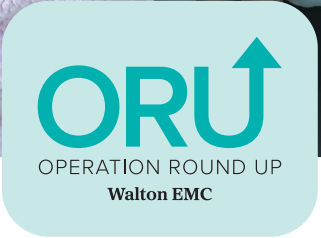
A Walton EMC Operation Round Up grant is making a life-changing difference in the life of customer-owner Harmony Perez of Lilburn. With help from fellow co-op members, she is regaining mobility after rare spinal strokes in 2024 caused a life-altering disability.

The ORU grant helped finance the installation of handicap hand controls in the family vehicle, enabling the mother of two to drive — a necessity for the family’s functionality and Harmony’s independence, says her husband, Chris.

“With two young children who depend on us daily, Harmony’s ability to drive will dramatically improve our capacity to manage household responsibilities and maintain a sense of normalcy amid this difficult time,” he said.

Now that his wife can drive again, Chris can return to his job with the Federal Emergency Management Agency. He has worked for 20 years to help communities nationwide recover from natural disasters.

A portion of the ORU grant is also contributing to some needed home modifications, such as a counter-depth refrigerator.



A Walton EMC Operation Round Up grant is helping Harmony Perez of Lilburn regain her independence after suffering rare spinal strokes last year. Pictured with the co-op customer-owner are her children, Riley, 11, and Maya, 8, and husband Chris.