

## Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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**TO REPORT  
 POWER OUTAGES ONLY**  
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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

# Tree trimming improves service for all



**ONE OF THE THINGS** I love best about our community is the natural beauty that surrounds us. We are fortunate to have so many trees that offer beauty, shade and habitat for all sorts of birds and wildlife.

At Horry Electric, we strive to maintain beautiful surroundings and ensure a reliable power supply by keeping power lines clear in rights-of-way (ROW).

While we recognize and appreciate the beauty of trees, there are three main benefits to tree trimming in ROW areas. A right-of-way is the land we use to construct, maintain, replace or repair underground and overhead power lines. Rights-of-way enable the co-op to provide clearance from trees and other obstructions that could hinder power line installation, maintenance or operation. ROW areas are typically on public lands or located near a business or home. Regardless, Horry Electric must be able to maintain the power lines above and below the ROW. The overall goal of our vegetation management program is to provide safe, reliable electricity to members while maintaining the beauty of our community.

### Safety

First and foremost, we care about our members. We put their safety, and the safety of our lineworkers, above all else. Overgrown vegetation and trees pose a risk to power lines. For example, if trees are touching power lines in a member's yard, they can pose danger. If children can access those trees, they could climb into a danger zone. Electricity can arc or jump from a power line to a nearby conductor like a tree. A proactive approach also diminishes the chances of fallen branches or trees during severe weather. Fallen branches or trees make it more complicated and dangerous for

lineworkers to restore power.

### Reliability

One of the biggest benefits of a smart vegetation management program is reliability. Strategic tree trimming reduces the frequency of downed lines causing power outages. By being proactive with tree trimming and pruning, power lines can stay clear of obstructions, promoting reliability of service.

As I previously mentioned, tree trimming is important during the summer storm and hurricane seasons. If a tree takes down a power line, lineworkers have to cut and remove the tree before making repairs to restore power, which prolongs an outage. Call (843) 369-2211 to report a tree too close to a power line.

### Affordability

Horry Electric is a not-for-profit cooperative, which means we strive to keep our costs in check in order to keep our rates affordable. This includes vegetation management. If trees grow too close to power lines, the potential for expensive repairs also increases. Effective tree trimming and other vegetation management efforts keep costs down for everyone.

Our community is a special place. We appreciate the beauty trees offer, but we also know our community depends on us to provide safe, reliable and affordable electricity. Through vegetation management, we are better able to keep the power lines clear, prepare for future weather events and secure the reliability of the grid.

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

# Annual Meeting snapshots

## Congratulations to our Grand Prize Winner!

**AS REPORTED EARLIER**, Horry Electric Cooperative's 2021 Annual Meeting in May was a major success. Over the course of a day and a half, 7,855 accounts were registered, a new record. Of those, 5,996 were members who registered and voted.

Congratulations to our 2021 Annual Member Meeting Grand Prize Winner, Foy Stone (right)! The grand prize was a 2017 E-Z-Go TXT electric golf cart.

He's pictured with his grandchildren (from left) Elliot Stone, Emily Stone and his wife, Stacy.

Stone told Horry Electric when he received the golf cart, "This is a blessing. I've never won anything in my life except a pack of bubble gum!"

Thank you to all the members who attended Annual Meeting. Here are some of our favorite snapshots.



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PHOTOS BY JOSH CROTZER



# We're ready for storm season. Are you?

**THE SUMMER MONTHS** can make conditions right for dangerous storms like hurricanes and tornadoes. These weather events can cause serious damage to our electrical system, but Horry Electric crews are ready to respond should power outages occur in our area.

“When major storms knock out power, our line crews take all necessary precautions before they get to work on any downed lines, broken poles and other repairs,” says Burroughs Nobles, manager of operations. “Members can also practice safety and preparedness during major storms and outages.”

## Stocked for the storm

The Federal Emergency Management Agency recommends the items below as a starting point for storm and disaster preparedness. Visit [horryelectric.com](http://horryelectric.com) or [ready.gov](http://ready.gov) for additional resources.

- ▶ Stock your pantry with a three-day supply of non-perishable food, such as canned goods, energy bars, peanut butter, powdered milk, instant coffee, water and other essentials.
- ▶ Confirm that you have adequate sanitation and hygiene supplies.
- ▶ Ensure your first aid kit is stocked with pain relievers, bandages and other medical essentials, and make sure your prescriptions are current.
- ▶ Set aside basic household items you will need, including flashlights, batteries, manual can opener and a portable, battery-powered radio or TV.
- ▶ Organize emergency supplies so they are easily accessible in one location.

## Turn off, turn on

In the event of a prolonged power outage, turn off major appliances, TVs, computers and other sensitive electronics. This will help prevent damage from a power surge and overloading circuits during power restoration. Leave one light on so you will know when power is restored. If you plan to use a small generator, make sure it's rated to handle the amount of power you will need, and always review the manufacturer's instructions for safe operation.

**Advanced Line Technician Brandon Chandley loads his truck with equipment and supplies to prepare for storm season.**

## Stay informed

Listen to local news or a NOAA Weather Radio for storm and emergency information. Also, check Horry Electric's website and social media channels for power restoration updates.

After the storm, avoid downed power lines and walking through flooded areas where power lines could be submerged. Allow ample room for utility crews to safely perform their jobs, including on your property.

Planning for severe storms or other emergencies can reduce stress and anxiety caused by the weather event and lessen the impact of the storm's effects. Sign up for NOAA emergency alerts and warnings.

Horry Electric recommends you prepare today because there is power in planning.

## Sign up for MyOutage

Horry Electric's outage text alert program—MyOutage—provides a convenient way to stay connected during a power outage.

All Horry Electric members have been opted in to this service, as long as a cell phone number was listed on the account.

With this service, members can text 1 (844) 369-2767 to report a power outage or request status updates. We'll also notify members when power has been restored at their service location.

You can find a list of Frequently Asked Questions on our website. Visit [horryelectric.com/myoutage](http://horryelectric.com/myoutage) for more information.

If you'd like to sign up, call and speak to a member service representative about adding your cell phone number to your account(s).



JENNIFER HARMON

# Baseball and brotherhood

Co-workers bond over Little League baseball

**TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK.**

It's a saying we've all heard, but working together as a team is a lesson we're taught throughout life. Everyone is different and has their own way of doing things, but that's the beauty of being on a team—learning how to work with different types of people.

Teamwork is one of the many lessons Advanced Line Technician Chase Cox is teaching his Little League baseball team. After work during the spring and summer months, Chase trades his rubbers gloves and sleeves for a baseball glove. He's the head coach of one of the 9- and 10-year-old boy's teams with the Aynor Area Athletic Association.

Cox has been a lineman with Horry Electric for six years. He works on one of the overhead line crews. To put it in baseball terms, each crew, or team in this case, is made up of five men who all play different positions, but work together to bring light to the community.

Baseball is a sport that has always run through his veins.

"I played baseball for 14 years," Cox

says. "I started when I was four, playing t-ball, and I played all the way until I graduated high school."

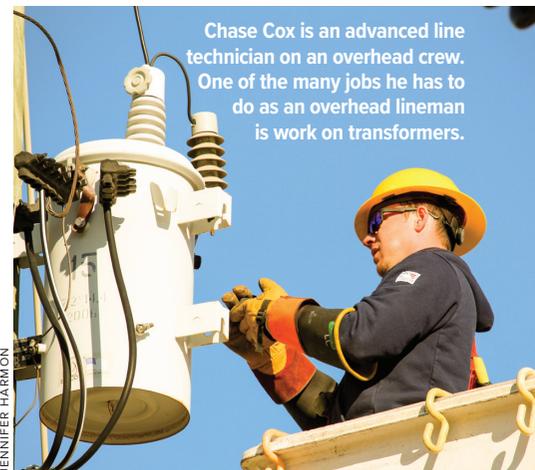
Now, he's coaching his own team and the thing that makes it even more special is his 9-year-old son, Eli, is one of his players.

**Double play**

Cox's Little League team is more than a team—they're a family, in all aspects. Cox started volunteering as a head coach four years ago. His assistant coach happens to be Horry Electric Overhead Superintendent John Martin. Martin has been with the co-op for 22 years and has been an assistant coach off and on for the past 10 years. The double play—Martin's 10-year-old son, Tripp, is also on the team.

Still, the family tree grows a little more. A third co-op employee, Operations Trainer Chris Grainger, has two grandsons, 10-year-old Hunter and 9-year-old Reid, on the team.

"These kids all go to school together, they're all the same age and have grown



Chase Cox is an advanced line technician on an overhead crew. One of the many jobs he has to do as an overhead lineman is work on transformers.

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up together," says Cox. "Most of my team has been playing baseball together since they were 6 years old. I've been their coach every year."

The family ties of the baseball team relate closely to the ties of the cooperative—everyone is family.

"I enjoy coaching with Chase. A lot of what we do in our outside lives is actually spent with our co-workers," says Martin. "They're your friends, your family, the people you're around most. There are a lot of people at the co-op who take vacations together, go camping together, or their paths cross at the recreation field."

Cox and Martin's working relationship began the minute Cox started at Horry Electric. "John was my first foreman, so I worked with him for about a year," says Cox. "Working together makes things easier for us because I can talk to him if I'm running call or if I'm running behind. We can work with each other because we work together, and he understands what I do for a career. That's a huge plus."

**Step up to the plate**

The Little League season lasts six to eight weeks. The team usually plays 12 to 14 games against other recreation programs across Horry County.

Before any players step up to the plate, Cox brings them in for a group huddle to break down the game. After that, every player takes off their baseball



Cox gives a pep talk to his in-field players during a huddle at the pitcher's mound.

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cap and bows their head to pray. Saying a prayer is something Cox always did before his games when he played and it's a tradition he's passing down to his son and the other players.

Cox and Martin are responsible for teaching the players the basics of baseball and making sure they have fun, while enjoying the game. "If the players love the sport of baseball, they look forward to practice and going to the games, which means you can hold their attention and teach them something," says Cox.

Little League is slightly different from higher levels of baseball. The field is smaller, but the majority of the rules apply—three outs, players can strike out and the pitch count is the same. Once the players understand the basics, they learn each position and where they play best.

"You always have to remember that everyone doesn't have the same opportunity," says Martin. "You have the chance to give them that opportunity. Like the last game of the season, Chase decided he was going to mix everything up and give everyone the chance to pitch if they wanted to."

### Life lessons

The three biggest lessons the coaches work to teach are teamwork, respect and good sportsmanship. It's important to Cox and Martin that they teach these young boys these fundamental lessons to prepare them for the future.

"Of the 11 or 12 players on the team, one may grow up to play college ball," says Grainger. "The one thing all of them have in common is they're all going to be men one day."

Grainger says Cox and Martin's team stands out because of the way the team encourages each other. "You can hear the comments the players make to each other, like 'Good job. Good swing. Don't worry, you'll get it next time,'" says Grainger.

Ultimately, each game is a competition. Cox works to teach the



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Cox (left) pictured with his son, Eli, and Operations Trainer Chris Grainger (right) with his grandsons (from left) Reid and Hunter.

players to be competitive, with the understanding they're not always going to win.

"In life, you're going to be in competition in everything you do, no matter what career path or life choices you make," says Cox. "I work to teach them how to lose humbly and how to be humble when they win."

### Grand slam

The core values in both coaching baseball and working as a lineman are teamwork and leadership. Cox sees similarities between his Little League team and the employee team at Horry Electric. Each team is looking for good leadership and advice, paying attention

to learn something and working together toward a common goal.

"When you look at the foreman of a crew, he's leading and coaching a team," says Grainger. "The big difference is when you're coaching out here, you're coaching for real and there's no losing in the power industry."

Grainger says he can see leadership qualities in Cox on and off the field. "Chase is one of our senior linemen and he

has younger guys coming up behind him. Just like he coaches his Little League players who don't know much about baseball, he's coaching these groundworkers about electricity."

Cox's leadership skills come from years of playing baseball, spending five years in the Army and serving in Afghanistan, and coaching Little League.

Commitment to community is one of the seven cooperative principles. Cox and Martin's involvement in the community gives them the opportunity to connect with kids and young adults. "You get to teach these kids, watch them grow and they'll always have the memories of Little League baseball," says Cox.



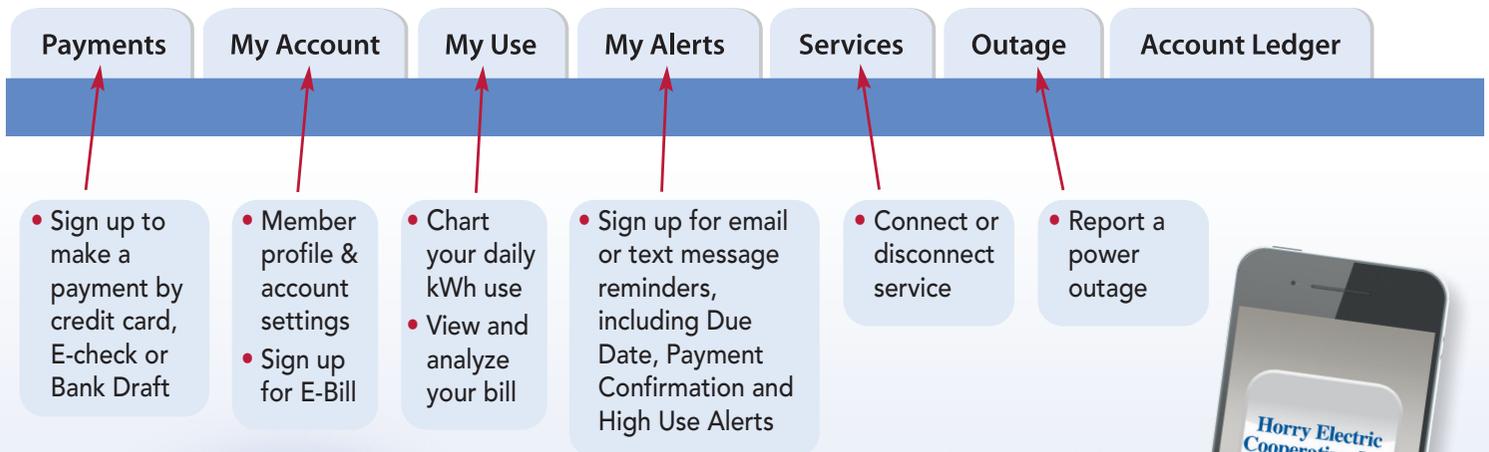
Cox poses for a picture with his Aynor Little League team after their game against Loris.

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that significantly expands your account management options. Simply go to [www.horryelectric.com](http://www.horryelectric.com), click the MyEnergy *Online* icon, and you'll have access to an informative, user-friendly site designed with you in mind. It's a virtual service representative—24 hours a day—7 days a week—365 days a year.



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