



# Roanoke Electric **FLASHES**

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Serving 14,400 Members

"Owned by those we serve"

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## REC lineman places fifth in Statewide Pole Top Rescue Competition

Charles Bryant, a serviceman with Roanoke Electric Cooperative, placed fifth in the 11th Pole Top Rescue Competition for North Carolina's electric cooperatives held October 15 in Raleigh. Bryant has worked for Roanoke Electric Cooperative for 17 years and has been in line work for 19 years. Bryant lives in Roanoke Rapids with his wife, Heather, and their two children.

Bryant competed against 24 other electric cooperative line workers from North Carolina at the state competition held on the lawn of North Carolina's electric cooperatives' headquarters building.

Other electric cooperative line workers from the state who placed in the top five were Jason Worley finishing in first place, Leonard Person in second, Shay Reed coming in third place and Russell Wells in fourth.

The pole top rescue drill consists of a line worker placing an emergency radio call, donning climbing gear, scaling 20 feet up a utility pole, rigging a rope, lowering a 105-pound mannequin and beginning CPR. Bryant finished the drill in 1 minute and 58.85 seconds.

More than 600 North Carolina electric cooperative line workers began the year competing



*Charles Bryant*

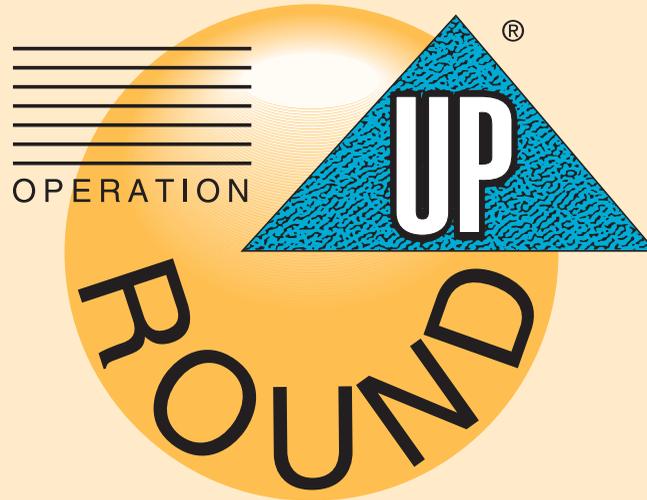
for the 2008 title. Winners of local cooperative and regional competitions advanced to the state championship.



## Holiday closings for Roanoke Electric

The Roanoke Electric Cooperative office will close for the holiday season: Thursday, December 25, Friday, December 26, and January 1, 2009. For emergencies, call (800) 358-9437. From our family to yours, have a happy and safe holiday!





*Roanoke Electric's Operation RoundUp program awarded a total of \$6,200 in grants to six area non-profit organizations for the fourth quarter of 2008. Those organizations were:*

Rheasville Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.  
Roanoke Rapids, Halifax County, \$1,200  
Union Rural Volunteer Fire Department  
Ahoskie, Hertford County, \$1,000  
Northampton County 4-H  
Northampton County Education Foundation  
Northampton County, \$1,500  
Roanoke-Chowan Domestic Violence Task Force  
Bertie County, \$1,000  
The Boys and Girls Club of Halifax County, Inc.  
Halifax County, \$1,000  
Mostmen Mostmen, Inc.  
Hertford County, \$50

The Operation RoundUp program is administered by the Roanoke Electric Care Trust, which grants funds quarterly to non-profit organizations that serve local communities. Members of Roanoke Electric round their electric bills to the next whole dollar to create a reliable source of funds that provide educational, charitable, or economic development services.

If your non-profit organization is located in Bertie, Hertford, Gates, Halifax, Northampton Chowan or Perquimans counties, you are invited to submit grant applications to Roanoke Electric's Operation RoundUp program. Grant requests can be made up to \$5,000 and are given out in January, April, July and October. The next grant application deadline is 5 p.m. Friday, January 2, 2009. For more information or to obtain an application, visit our Web site at [www.roanokeelectric.com](http://www.roanokeelectric.com).



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## “UTILITY BILLS ON THE RISE”

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Roanoke Construction Group  
409 North Main Street  
Rich Square, NC



The Roanoke Construction Group is funded by the Golden Leaf Foundation

## Roanoke Electric Cooperative announces the winners of the 2008 Bright Ideas grant awards

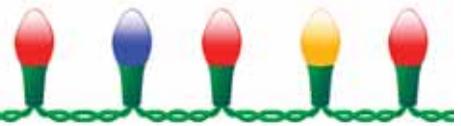
Roanoke Electric recently awarded \$8,000 in grants to area teachers as part of its annual Bright Ideas grant program. Teachers submitted applications detailing innovative classroom/school wide projects typically not funded. Receiving grants this year are:

- ☆ Edna Harvey, Lawrence Academy in Bertie County: \$1,850 for “I See!”
- ☆ Shervi Barnes, Squire Elementary in Northampton County: \$1,400 for “Fueled By Fitness”
- ☆ Vickie H. Watford, Askewville Elementary in Bertie County: \$1,820 for “Increasing Success Through the Extended Classroom”
- ☆ Retha Smith, Bertie Middle in Bertie County: \$645 for “Real Men Do Read and Succeed!”
- ☆ Pamela H. Flack, Chaloner Middle in Halifax County: \$389.48 for “Book Commercials—‘Take One!’”
- ☆ Emily Lloyd, Hertford County Middle in Hertford County: \$1,895 for “Navigating in the 21st Century”



## Check lights when decorating for holidays

Colorful, twinkling lights help make the holidays a magical time of year, but they must be handled with care. Each year, fires occurring during the holiday season injure 2,600 individuals and cause more than \$930 million in damage, according to the U.S. Fire Administration, largely due to the misuse of electrical products and decorations. Here are tips for using electrical products safely during the holidays:



- Before decorating, read and follow the manufacturers’ instructions concerning installation and maintenance of all decorative electrical products.
- Indoors and out, use lights and other electrical decorations certified by a recognized, independent testing firms such as Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. (UL).
  - Use lights certified for outdoor use only for outdoor use. The same goes for indoor lights.
  - Carefully inspect each light before plugging it into a socket. Cracked, frayed, loose, or bare wires may cause a serious electric shock or start a fire.
  - Do not mount or support light strings in any way that might damage the cord’s insulation. Never nail or staple light strings or extension cords.
  - Always unplug an electrical decoration before replacing light bulbs or fuses.
  - Do not connect more than three light string sets together. Light strings with screw-in bulbs should have no more than 50 bulbs connected together.
  - Do not overload extension cords.
  - Keep all extension cords and light strings clear of snow and standing water.
  - Use caution when decorating near power lines.
  - Never use electric lights on a metallic tree.
  - Do not allow children or pets to play with electrical decorations.
  - Always turn off decorations before leaving home or going to bed.
  - Plug outdoor lights and decorations into circuits protected by ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs).

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