

# cooperative REVIEW

for members of Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative

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## Even in tough times we help our neighbors

Our new program, Members Helping Members saw immediate support among our customer-members, with 311 members signing up in the first two months!

The Members Helping Members program enables customers in Southern Maryland to help their neighbors who are struggling to pay their electric bills throughout the year.

**Help**

*continued page 2*

*Join SMECO's competing linemen as they take on the events at the 2011 Gaff 'n' Go Rodeo. For more information about the rodeo, read the full article on page 4.*



## Help CONTINUED

Customer-members who would like to contribute simply choose to add \$1 to their electric bill each month, and SMECO will match customer donations up to \$25,000 in 2011.

Each month, donations are sent to the Southern Maryland Tri-County Community Action Committee, which administers the funds to those customer-members who seek aid and meet the qualifications.

If you would like to donate just \$12 a year to help your neighbors, you can sign up to be a member who helps members by calling 1-888-440-3311, visiting the website at [www.smeco.coop/mhm](http://www.smeco.coop/mhm), or in person at the customer service counter at a SMECO office. If you would like to make a larger donation, you may send a check to Members Helping Members at P.O. Box 1937, Hughesville, MD 20637. Participants can opt out at any time.

## Statement of Nondiscrimination

SMECO is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The USDA prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). Sonja Cox, SMECO Senior Vice President of Financial, Economic and Employee Services, is responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination efforts. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call toll free 1-866-632-9992 (voice) or 1-800-877-8339 (TDD) or 1-866-377-8642 (relay voice users).

SMECO is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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# Winners of MATHCOUNTS Competition announced

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Over 140 students from 21 middle schools in Southern Maryland tested their computation skills at the 17th annual MATHCOUNTS competition, held at Theodore G. Davis Middle School in Waldorf on February 5, 2011.

During the three-hour competition, the middle-school students tackled challenging mathematics problems in a series of exciting rounds. MATHCOUNTS is designed to offer the entertainment level of a sports event and to ignite student interest in the world of numbers.

The local MATHCOUNTS competition is sponsored by SMECO and the Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's county public schools, with the support of the National Society of Professional Engineers. Winners of the Southern Maryland competition will go on to compete in the statewide contest at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. State winners will progress to the national competition held in Washington, D.C.



**The winners of the target and sprint rounds and countdown round.** *Left to right: Logan Cotner of Mattawoman Middle School was the first-place winner of the target and sprint rounds and Belinda Chiu of Spring Ridge Middle School was the first-place winner of the countdown round.*

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**MATHCOUNTS**  
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# Saddle up and join your SMECO linemen at the 2011 Gaff 'n' Go Rodeo

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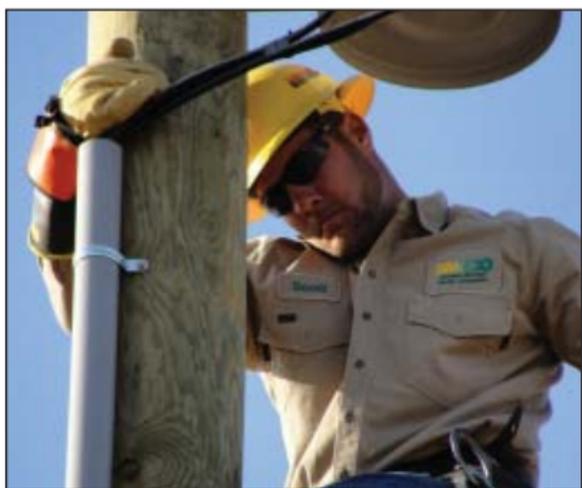
It's time for the ninth annual Gaff 'n' Go Rodeo. Linemen perform dangerous work that requires physical strength, agility, and skill especially under the worst weather conditions. They must perform with consistency and safety; their lives depend on it.

The Gaff 'n' Go Lineman's Rodeo is an opportunity for linemen to test their skills against those of their peers. The event also provides an opportunity for members of the community to see what it takes to be a utility lineman—skill, strength, and respect for electricity.

This will be the seventh year that SMECO linemen will compete in the Gaff 'n' Go Rodeo. Each team consists of two Journeymen and a Groundman, and they participate in five mandatory events, including the pole climb, hurt-man rescue, and three mystery events.

Apprentices also compete. They are judged on the pole climb, hurt-man rescue, a written test, and two mystery events. A person is considered an Apprentice for up to four years after he enters the apprenticeship.

In 2010, SMECO linemen won a total of 10 awards. The journeyman team of Will Robertson, Jeremy Green, and Brian Rawlings finished the rodeo with a perfect score of





500 along with five other teams that also had perfect scores. This was the first time a SMECO team had finished the rodeo with a perfect score, and it is a huge accomplishment. In addition, as a journeyman team, Will, Jeremy, and

Brian, won the Jimmy Gardner Award for the electric cooperative with the best score. This is the second time they have won this award.

Some SMECO crew members have completed the hurt-man rescue in a little over one minute. That means that from the ground, they put on their equipment, climb the pole, tie off and lower the victim to the bottom of the pole, and return safely to the ground in a little over sixty seconds! SMECO has a video of a hurt-man rescue demonstration on our YouTube page, visit [www.youtube.com/user/somdelectric](http://www.youtube.com/user/somdelectric).

The events are judged by utility supervisors and previous rodeo contestants following very strict criteria based on correct work procedures and safety practices. The top three teams and top three apprentices will receive paid entry to the International Lineman's Rodeo in Kansas City, Missouri, being held October 12–15, 2011.

Join our linemen at the Ninth Annual Gaff 'n' Go Rodeo, April 9, 2011, at the Meadow Event Park (home of the Virginia State Fair) in Doswell, Virginia. The event is located off I-95, exit 98, one mile east of King's Dominion. If you would like more information on attending the Gaff 'n' Go Rodeo, please visit [www.gaff-n-go.com](http://www.gaff-n-go.com) or call 804-968-4073.



## Make sure your heat pump system operates efficiently.

The most important thing you can do for your heat pump is to change your filters. A dirty filter can cause a heat pump to use auxiliary heat and drive up your electric bill. If you suspect that your system is not working properly, have it checked by a professional!

Get tips for troubleshooting your heat pump at [www.smeco.coop/energy/tips/heatpump.html](http://www.smeco.coop/energy/tips/heatpump.html)

## around **TOWN**

### **April 2**

#### **Point Lookout**

#### **Lighthouse Open House**

Sponsor: Point Lookout Lighthouse Preservation Society (PLLPS), Inc.

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Scotland, MD. Docents will be on hand to answer questions. No charge to enter the lighthouse, however standard park entrance fees apply.

301-872-5688

[www.PLLPS.org](http://www.PLLPS.org)

#### **Treasures Sale at**

#### **All Saints' Church**

Sponsor: All Saints' Episcopal Church

Starts at 8 a.m.

All Saints' Church Parish Hall, corner of Routes 2 and 4 in Sunderland. Admission and parking are free.

301-855-4865

[www.allsaints1692.org](http://www.allsaints1692.org)

### **April 9**

#### **Barbershop**

#### **Extravaganza Concert**

Sponsor: College of Southern Maryland

2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

CSM Fine Arts Center, La Plata. All seating is general admission.

#### **\$ Admission**

301-934-7828

[csmd.edu/finearts/somix/](http://csmd.edu/finearts/somix/)

#### **Green Expo**

Sponsor: Calvert County Citizen's Green Team

11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

College of Southern Maryland, 115 J. Williams Road, Prince Frederick

[www.calvertgreenexpo.org](http://www.calvertgreenexpo.org)

### **April 10**

#### **Basket Bingo**

Sponsor: Benedict VFDRS Auxiliary

Doors open at 1 p.m.,

games start at 2 p.m.

Benedict VFDRS, 18210

Hyatt Ave., Benedict.



Visit [www.smeco.coop/community/aroundtown](http://www.smeco.coop/community/aroundtown) for more events.

Call for reservations.

**\$ Admission**

[www.bvfdrs.com](http://www.bvfdrs.com)

### **April 16**

#### **Hospice Easter Egg Roll**

Sponsor: Society for the Friends of Hospice

10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

La Plata United Methodist Church, Fun for the entire family. **\$ Admission**

301-934-1268

[hospiceofcharlescounty.org](http://hospiceofcharlescounty.org)

### **April 20**

#### **Homeschool Day— Our Natural Environment**

Sponsor: Historic SMC

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Historic St. Mary's City  
Spend the day learning about the impact humans have had on the St. Mary's River area and how people can help make a difference for the future. **\$ Admission**

240-895-4990

[www.stmaryscity.org](http://www.stmaryscity.org)

#### **United Way of Charles County Back-to-Back Golf Tournaments**

Sponsor: United Way of Charles County

7 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Swan Point Yacht and Country Club. We will

have back-to-back tournaments with

shotgun start times

of 8 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. **\$**

301-609-4844

[www.unitedwaycharles.org](http://www.unitedwaycharles.org)

### **April 28–May 1**

#### **18th Annual Southern Maryland Spring Festival**

Sponsor: Holy Face Church of Great Mills

5 to 11 p.m. Thurs. &

Friday; 10 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Saturday; 10 a.m. to

6 p.m. Sunday

St. Mary's County

Fairgrounds,  
Leonardtwn

301-994-0525

[holyfacechurch.org/festival.html](http://holyfacechurch.org/festival.html)

# MATHCOUNTS

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## First-place team, Northern Middle School

*From left are Matt Heide, John Williams, Sydney Feldman, Amanda Spyropoulos, and Coach Judy Haines.*



## Second-place team, Spring Ridge Middle School

*From left are coach Tamarah Dishman, Sharlene Chiu, Megan Yuen, Sarah Carty, Belinda Chiu, and coach Gina Clark.*



## Third-place team, St. John's School

*From left are John Winslow, Stephen Henkel, Jared Daye, and coach Barney Feist. Not shown is Elizabeth Feist.*