



Published for Member/Owners of **EnergyUnited**

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## 2016 SPORTS CAMP WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Three outstanding students have earned Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarships from EnergyUnited to attend summer basketball camps at two of the state's largest college campuses.



Melani Dixon



Nathan Brooks



Luke Law

Melani Dixon, a rising 7<sup>th</sup> grader at East Iredell Middle School in Statesville will attend the Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camp at NC State University. Nathan Brooks, a rising 8<sup>th</sup> grader at North Davie Middle School in Mocksville and Luke Law, a rising 6<sup>th</sup> grader who will be attending Bailey Middle School in Cornelius this fall, will attend the Roy Williams Carolina Basketball Camp at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, all on full scholarships from EnergyUnited. Melani Dixon is the daughter of Shanika Dixon, Nathan Brooks is the son of Kim and Jeremy Brooks, and Luke Law is the son of Jerel Law.

A panel of judges selected Melani, Luke and Nathan based

on an application that included academic achievements, extracurricular activities, an essay and a short-answer question.

The scholarships are sponsored by Touchstone Energy, giving these students, and nearly 50 other students from across the state, the opportunity to attend basketball camps in June. At the camps, students will stay in dorms and soak up lessons on the court from the collegiate coaching staffs and student-athletes. Congratulations to Melani, Luke and Nathan who will be representing EnergyUnited at the basketball camps this summer!

### TEACHERS CAN APPLY NOW!



K-12 teachers are encouraged to apply for a Bright Ideas grant at [www.ncbrightideas.com](http://www.ncbrightideas.com).

Early Bird Deadline: **August 15**  
Final Deadline: **September 16**

### SAVE THE DATE

#### 2016 Annual Meeting of Members

Thursday, September 15

300 S. Center St, Statesville, NC

Registration at 5:30pm

Business Meeting at 6:00pm

## Propane: It Fuels More Than Grills!

For many people, when they think of propane, they think of outdoor grilling. But, propane is playing an increasingly critical role beyond the backyard.

Nationally, about half of the propane Americans consume is used in residential applications, including home heating, water heating and clothes drying. The rest is used in commercial, industrial and agricultural applications and as an alternative vehicle fuel. EnergyUnited also provides propane to fuel commercial buses and landscaping equipment.

## Residential Generators



Imagine your home today without power – refrigeration, air conditioning, appliances, garage door openers, the internet, etc. Let's face it, without electricity our modern lifestyles are in serious jeopardy! Fortunately, the challenges and stress of outages are avoidable with a home backup generator. EnergyUnited has installed automatic backup generators for almost 20 years, helping our members protect their homes and families.

Not only are they more economical to purchase today, but technology has also improved. Customers can choose whether to automatically back up their entire home or just the most essential items. In addition, home backup generators can run on natural gas or liquid propane (LP) fuel, so save the gas cans for other outdoor power equipment. Designed to sit outside just like a central air conditioning unit, home backup generators have the reliability to power through the toughest situations. As a matter of fact, with the option of cellular remote monitoring, customers can know the status of their generator at any time using a computer, tablet or smartphone.

Contact us today to learn more: **1-888-895-4114**

## ENERGYUNITED PROPANE

EnergyUnited Propane was founded in 2000 and provides reliable propane and appliances to residential, commercial and industrial customers in 63 North Carolina counties and 11 South Carolina counties.

EnergyUnited Propane has 13 offices in North and South Carolina where we employ people in those communities. We provide customers with the best value, backed by superior customer service. We offer a number of automatic delivery options to take the worry out of having to call for your propane. We also offer easy payment options such as 'Smart Buy' where you can level your payments throughout the year.

## USING PROPANE

### GAS GRILLS

Nothing beats the ease and control of a propane gas-fired grill. As easy to light as your kitchen range, there's no fussing with coals or lighter fluid. And the constant and consistent heat gives you total control and the ability to adjust with the twist of a knob. Clean up is easier, too – no coal, no ash.

### TANKLESS WATER HEATERS

Tankless water heaters deliver an endless supply of hot water. Because the systems are on-demand, they heat water only when it's needed, eliminating standby losses that happen in typical hot water heaters. Stop by one of our showrooms to learn more about how you can save more than \$150 per year in energy costs with a tankless hot water heater!

### OUTDOOR GAS LIGHTS

Our selection of propane-fueled outdoor torches add ambiance and dramatic illumination to patios, pool decks and backyards. Gas torches are clean-burning, smoke-free and low-maintenance.

*Find more information about these products and EnergyUnited Propane at [www.energyunited.com](http://www.energyunited.com) or visit one of our office locations.*



## Renewable energy, legislative updates and EnergyUnited.

From renewable energy to regulatory changes, the electric energy industry is undergoing dramatic changes that demand our attention and engagement now more than ever.

Each May, representatives from EnergyUnited join directors, managers and employees of other member-owned electric cooperatives from across the country in Washington D.C., for the NRECA legislative conference. This annual event gives attendees the opportunity to speak to their congressional delegations and congressional staff about legislative issues affecting electric cooperatives and their member-owners.

Some of the issues discussed at this year's legislative conference included extended tax credits for energy-efficient geothermal heat pumps; regulations on the disposal of coal combustion residuals (or coal ash); FEMA reimbursement to help co-ops reduce the cost of restoring electric power after severe natural disasters; and proposed legislation that would increase the regulation of power poles owned by electric cooperatives.

Your interests in these issues on the state and national levels are represented by two political action committees. At the state level, the Rural Electric Action Program (REAP) represents the interests of EnergyUnited and 25 other electric cooperatives in North Carolina. REAP works directly with the NC General Assembly to positively impact legislation that affects 2.5 million users of cooperative power statewide. The Action Committee for Rural Electrification (ACRE) works with Congress on the national level and is supported by all of the cooperatives across the nation.

Recently, employees from cooperatives across the country met with the staff of lawmakers in Washington D.C., to discuss issues important to cooperatives that are eligible for upcoming sessions of congress. During these productive meetings we

discussed issues such as improving federal land management policies to improve the reliability of the electric grid, including streamlining right-of-way policy. Improvements in this area will make it easier for cooperatives like EnergyUnited to cut back potentially dangerous overgrown vegetation.

During these discussions we also spoke with legislative representatives about the importance of retaining tax credits for renewable energy, specifically geothermal heat pumps, for which tax credits expire at the end of 2016. It is our hope that lawmakers will extend the tax credit for this energy-efficient system, so EnergyUnited can continue to provide a variety of energy services to our members.

One of the most important issues lawmakers are considering is the role of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) during storms and other disasters. EnergyUnited supports FEMA's recommendation to provide cooperatives up to 75 percent of costs associated with replacing damaged or lost facilities. These funds allow co-ops like EnergyUnited to focus on efficient and safe restoration of power during emergency situations.

We are committed to working with lawmakers to ensure that our members' best interests are at the forefront of all policy decisions. Maintaining a strong grassroots presence in the political process is instrumental to the long-term success of the electric cooperative program and the communities they serve in these unpredictable times.

## THE COOPERATIVE DIFFERENCE

Because EnergyUnited is a not-for-profit organization, any revenues over and above the cost of doing business (margins) are allocated to members in the form of capital credits. These allocations are based on the individual purchases of electricity from the cooperative within a given year. Members of the cooperative in 2015 will find their individual allocation amount in the message section of their July electric bill statements. Just another benefit of being a member of EnergyUnited!

FOURTH  
OF  
JULY

EnergyUnited offices  
will be closed  
Monday, July 4, for  
Independence Day.

## Safety Tips for Grilling This Summer



You may be the kind of person who fires up the grill all year long at tailgating parties, or maybe you wait for a warm summer day and a backyard full of friends before you put on your apron. Unfortunately, where there is fun, there is also the potential for safety issues. Help protect yourself with these safety tips:

### Avoid Flames

Grill your food on glowing embers, not high flames. If you have a propane gas grill, keep it on medium heat instead of high heat. When meat fats, oils and juices drip down around the burners, it may cause flare ups and other problems, such

as depositing unhealthy carcinogens on your meat.

### Proper Placement

Keep grills on a level surface more than ten feet away from the house, garage or other structures. Keep children and pets away, as well as overhanging branches. Grills should not be used on a balcony or under an overhang.

### Gas Smells

If you smell or otherwise suspect a gas leak, and there is no flame, turn off the gas tank and grill. If the leak stops, get a professional to service it before using it again. If the leak does not stop, call 911.

## Stop Summer Energy Drains in Your Pool

### Check Your Filter

Filter types have an impact on energy consumption because they place different levels of resistance on the system. Resistance is related to energy efficiency because of its impact on flow. Of the three types of filters (cartridge, D.E. and sand), cartridge filtration offers the least (i.e., most favorable) resistance to flow. This is partially because cartridge filters do not require a valve, while filters that are routinely backwashed do need them. Backwashing consumes water, so using a filter that does not require backwashing conserves water and the chemicals in that water.

### Keep the Pool Covered

About 70 percent of the heat lost from swimming pools results from evaporation, caused by both wind and water. That means



tap water goes to refilling the pool, which means higher electric bills to reheat the water. To save energy, cover a pool when it's not in use.

### Consider a Propane Pool Heater

Did you know that propane gas pool heaters perform better than heat pumps and can cost significantly less than an electric pool heater? They also warm faster than a heat pump and give you greater ability to control the water temperature in your pool. EnergyUnited offers heaters for any size pool, whether in ground or above ground, as well as outdoor spa tubs.

*For more information on purchasing any of these products, visit one of the showrooms at our 13 propane office locations or call 1-888-895-4114.*

[www.energyunited.com/propane](http://www.energyunited.com/propane)

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Please send questions, comments and story ideas to **Maureen Moore**, Communications Manager at [maureen.moore@energyunited.com](mailto:maureen.moore@energyunited.com).

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