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## NEWS RELEASE

**Choctawhatchee Electric Cooperative**  
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CHELCO linemen Dan Paul (left) and Chase Horton (right) with Jack Purvis.

### **CHELCO LINEMEN SAVE A LIFE DURING AN OUTAGE REPAIR**

Today, Jack Purvis met with CHelCO linemen Dan Paul and Chase Horton to say thank you. Linemen often are thanked for keeping the lights on, but Mr. Purvis' appreciation was of another kind.

“Just thank God for that squirrel,” said Purvis. “I don't think I'd be sitting here talking with any of you if it hadn't been for Dan and Chase. I believe they saved my life”

A Friday morning outage call is fairly typical for CHelCO linemen. They arrive on scene, identify and repair the cause, and restore power to members. For Horton and Paul, the call on the

morning of June 3 turned out to include a more serious type of rescue. A squirrel had caused a short circuit that knocked out power, but what they found after repairing the line was Purvis, and it was clear he needed help.

The two noticed Purvis across the road from where they were working, and he was lying down in an awkward position. They spoke with his neighbor, and she immediately knew something must be wrong, so they rushed to his side only to find him unresponsive.

Paul called 911, explaining what they observed. The operator asked if they had an AED on the truck, and all CHELCO bucket trucks are equipped with the life-saving equipment. They attached the AED to Purvis and turned it on. After the automatic scan, it instructed them to start CPR. Horton began CPR immediately.

“I wouldn’t have been able to stay calm and think through what needed to be done without Dan,” said Horton. “My adrenaline was pumping, and he kept me calm and made sure I followed the right steps.”

CHELCO’s credo of “safety first” is the reason the training is required. That morning, the linemen not only put their training to good use but also their concern for the community into action.

“You always have in the back of your mind that you may have to pull that machine off the truck for one of the guys in your crew,” said Paul. “Being able to help Mr. Purvis with our training was definitely a learning experience for us, and I am glad we were there.”

Once a Walton County Sheriff deputy and EMS arrived, they took over and escorted Mr. Purvis to the hospital. He was sitting up and talking in the ambulance before they left the scene.

“If it wasn’t for Dan and Chase, he would have not been revived so quickly,” said Walton County Sheriff’s Office Lieutenant Donald Savage.

Purvis, 80, retired after 30 years as an educator with Okaloosa County School District. He lives in the Bruce area and spends his days trying to help others.

“I am very proud of our linemen for remaining calm under extreme pressure while assisting Mr. Purvis,” said CHELCO CEO Steve Rhodes. “They went above and beyond, and that is the cooperative way.”

CHELCO is a not-for-profit electric distribution cooperative serving more than 48,000 members in Walton, Okaloosa, Holmes and Santa Rosa counties. Please visit [www.chelco.com](http://www.chelco.com) for more information.

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