

AMICALOLA

BEACON

"Owned By Those We Serve"

July 2005

Amicalola EMC Youth Awards Banquet Honors 22 Students



Clay Lowman



Jacie Duncan



Jessica Dean



Dedra Casey

Twenty-two students were honored at the Youth Awards Banquet sponsored by Amicalola EMC on March 22, 2005.

Matthew Boudreah of Dawsonville, Whitney Crouch of Cherry Log, Jessica Leigh Dean of Talking Rock, Julie Self of Dahlonega and Derek Waters of Dawsonville received \$1,000 scholarships that were funded by Amicalola EMC and the Operation Round Up® program.

Walter Harrison Scholarship nominees announced at the banquet included Dedra Casey, Elizabeth Jasperse and Kimberly Poole. Each received a \$300 scholarship from Amicalola EMC for their nomination as well as having their application entered for competition in the statewide Walter Harrison Scholarship. One of the Amicalola EMC nominees, Dedra Casey, was then one of the seven students selected to receive a \$1,000 scholarship. In 2005 more than 74 students from EMCs throughout Georgia were nominated for one of the Walter Harrison Scholarships that began in 1985 in memory of the late Walter Harrison for his pioneering efforts in the electric cooperative industry.

Jessica Leigh Dean, Jacie Duncan and Clay Lowman were chosen to represent Amicalola EMC on the Washington Youth Tour this year. Jessica Dean is from Talking Rock and is a senior at Pickens High School. She is the daughter of Autry and Gale Dean. Jacie Duncan is from Jasper and is a senior at Pickens

High School. She is the daughter of Barry and Irene Duncan. Clay Lowman is from Dawsonville and is a senior at Dawson High School. His parents are Lee and Gail Lowman. Each student will receive an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., during the week of June 16-23, 2005. Each winner also receives a \$600 scholarship from Amicalola EMC.

First, second, and third place runners-up for the Washington Youth Tour contest receive a \$400, \$200, or \$100 savings bond, respectively, from the following supporting banks: Gilmer County Bank, Jasper Banking Company, United Community Bank of Dahlonega and Crescent Bank of Jasper.

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Amicalola EMC \$1,000 Scholarship winners, left to right: Derek Waters (Dawson), Matthew Boudreah (Dawson), Jessica Dean (Pickens), and Whitney Crouch (Gilmer) with Robert L. Payne (CEO); not shown, Julie Self (Lumpkin).

Amicalola EMC Welcomes New Businesses to East Ellijay

Amicalola EMC would like to welcome our new commercial businesses in the East Ellijay area. As most of our customers know, East Ellijay has been growing steadily over the last few years and among these customers is the New Horizons Bank. The New Horizons Bank initially began business in a mobile unit in May 2004 next door to where the beautiful new bank was later built. Construction was complete on the new two-story brick 16,000-square-foot bank in December 2004, and Bank President Kent W. Sanford and the staff of New Horizons Bank moved into their new facilities. The New Horizons Bank, which is locally owned, provides a full range of banking services to Gilmer County and surrounding areas. The banking lobby resides on the main floor and the second floor houses a community room and professional retail space which is occupied by Kiker Investments, Marshall Insurance and Miller and Associates.

Located across the road from New Horizons Bank in Highland Crossing is a retail center which is full of new businesses. Among them are Beds, etc..., One Source Business Products and Town & Country Furniture.

Beds, etc... is a retail store that opened for business the end of February 2005 and specializes in rustic furniture and mattress sets. Beds, etc... not only carries rustic furniture but can obtain any type of furniture that you are looking for to match your decor.

The store owners, Ray and Judy Norton, also have local handmade quilts and hand-painted art available.

One Source Business Products opened during the end of January 2005 and carries a full line of office supplies and office furniture. One Source, owned by Barry Cates, offers a one-stop shop for your business needs, offering copying (including blueprint copies), fax service, and all printing needs such as business cards, stationery, envelopes and more.

Town & Country Furniture just opened their new location in East Ellijay after being in business since 1961 in Blue Ridge. Town & Country Furniture offers more to their customers than furniture alone. They provide appliances, flooring (pre-finished wood and area rugs), hot tubs, pool tables, accessories, quilts, bedding and much more. Town & Country also offers rustic and traditional furniture suitable for any home or cabin. The owner, Donna Whitener, and her staff look forward to assisting customers with the home of their dreams. Town & Country Furniture will also be opening a new store at 169 Orvin Lance Connector in Blue Ridge this summer.



New Horizons Bank in East Ellijay



New businesses occupy the recently constructed retail space

Honor Students *continued from page 29*

Runners-up for the Washington Youth Tour:

Cherokee County:

1st runner up Whitney Holcombe

Dawson County:

3rd runner up Josh Sellers
2nd runner up Andrew Grigsby
1st runner up Zack Fausett

Gilmer County:

3rd runner up Stephanie Chastain
2nd runner up Jessica Smith
1st runner up Samuel Posey

Lumpkin County:

1st runner up Kyle Orear

Pickens County:

3rd runner up Jessica Young
2nd runner up Christina Graves
1st runner up Will England

Bargain Barn to Reopen Late August

The Bargain Barn/USI Sports is well under reconstruction and is slated to open in late August 2005. The new store will take the look of a traditional Southern barn. The center of the high red roof will extend the length of the building with two lower red roof planes that will extend from either side of the building. The new building will be 475 feet long and 132 feet wide counting the 16 foot covered porches that will go on either side. The complete bottom floor will be devoted entirely to selling space with some additional selling space on the second floor where the offices, conference room and warehouse space are located.



Bargain Barn reconstruction almost complete.



The Bargain Barn succumbed to fire in June 2004.

The new building will have a sprinkler system, a concrete floor on the upper level, and a concrete vault with a sprinkler system under the lower

level that will house firearms and ammunition.

The Bargain Barn/USI Sports will continue to have all the merchandise that they carried before and will continue to look for new products that go with their type of business. Most of the original employees are still working with Bargain Barn/USI Sports and are anxiously awaiting the opening of the \$3 million building that they feel will be something the whole community will be proud of. The employees feel that it has been a long hard journey to get to the point where they are, but are all grateful to Jerry and Freida Stover for rebuilding and giving the employees the opportunity to continue to work.

Amicalola EMC to Refund Capital Credits

The Amicalola EMC Board of Directors authorized the refunding of capital credits for years 1969 through 1975 at their May board meeting. The capital credits to be refunded in July to members total \$541,179. Not all current members of Amicalola EMC will receive a capital credit refund. Refunds are being credited only to members and previous members who received electric service from Amicalola EMC during the years of 1969 through 1975. Capital Credits will not be issued for less than \$5, instead the refundable amount will be held and refunded at such time in the future when the amount totals \$5 or more.

Amicalola EMC is a not-for-profit, electric distribution cooperative. Revenues received from the sale of electricity that exceeds the cost of operating the cooperative are referred to as margins. Under the bylaws of the corporation these margins are capital furnished by the members. The cooperative is obligated to annually assign credits to a capital credit account for each residential and small business commercial member on a pro-rata usage basis.

Capital credits are not always refunded annually. In fact, Amicalola has not made a capital credit refund since 1994. Because of the significant growth that has occurred in our service territory over the past 10 years, it has been in the best interest of all members to invest this money in infrastructure to avoid unnecessary interest expense on the money that would have had to be borrowed. This is a very common way of financing growth at fast growing cooperatives. Records are kept and each member's account is updated annually. When the financial conditions of the cooperative permits, your board of directors may authorize future payments of capital credits on a first-in first-out basis.

If you have questions concerning capital credits, please call customer service at (706) 253-5200.





Amicalola EMC Employees Taking Steps For Healthier Babies



On Saturday, April 9, 2005, Amicalola EMC joined March of Dimes Walk America and Pickens County 2005 Special Ambassador Landon VanSant, grandson of Amicalola EMC employees Donna and Greg Gaddis, in a four-mile walk for healthier babies. Through several fund raisers the Amicalola EMC team raised a total of \$1,353 that will go toward research in helping save babies. Amicalola EMC won 1st Place in the T-Shirt contest

along with several team members winning door prizes.

Thanks to the March of Dimes, many premature babies like Landon VanSant have a chance at life. Born nine weeks premature and weighing 4 pounds and 9



Landon at birth, December 9, 2002

ounces, Landon's life began as a day-to-day struggle to survive. After two weeks on a ventilator in NICU, five weeks of surfactant therapy for RDS, five weeks stay in the hospital and six months on an apnea monitor, Landon is now a healthy and vibrant 2 year old. Landon is a preemie survivor thanks to the support of the March of Dimes.



Walking Team members Judy Fowler, Tammy Morris, Jacob VanSant, Linda Jones, Denise Terrell, Greg Gaddis, Debbie Parks, Brittany Fields, Stacey Fields, Patsy Fox, Amanda VanSant, Landon VanSant, Justin Morris, Donna Gaddis, Patsy Fox and Vickie Shackelford.



Landon on Walking Day with his buddy Romeo



Landon participating in the Walk on Walking Day

Process for Electing Directors

Members of Amicalola Electric Membership Corporation are reminded that nominations for the AEMC Board of Directors will be posted July 3, 2005. The Nominating Committee's recommendations for the board will be posted on the bulletin board at the main office in Jasper, Georgia, and on the AEMC Web site.

The Amicalola EMC Bylaws state "that the committee on nominations shall make at least one nomination for each post for director to be voted on at the

annual meeting. The committee shall prepare and post at the principal office of the Cooperative at least ninety (90) days (July 3, 2005) before the meeting, a list of nominations for directors, but any fifteen (15) or more members may make other nominations in writing over their signatures no less than sixty (60) days (August 2, 2005) prior to the meeting, and the Secretary shall post the same at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted."

