

# Power Lines

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



DECEMBER 2008

## Why Haywood EMC may send you money in December



Norman Sloan

In a local electrical cooperative like Haywood EMC every member owns the business. One of the cooperative advantages is that we provide our members with “at cost” service, which means we don’t exist to earn a profit. As an owner and a member, you share in the profits through what are called capital credits. These capital credits represent each member’s ownership of the cooperative. They are margins credited (or allocated) to the members of the cooperative based on their electricity purchases from the cooperative the previous year.

Your Board of Directors recently approved a capital credit refund of about \$288,000 for the people who were members during 1983-2002. Those with a return of less than \$10 will see a credit on their December bill. Those with a return of \$10 or more will receive a check mailed in late

December.

“Capital credits reflect the nonprofit nature of the cooperative,” explained Norman Sloan, General Manager and Executive Vice President of Haywood EMC. “We work hard each day to keep your rates as low as possible. But it’s nice to know that when there are profits, they come back to you. They demonstrate the power of being a member of Haywood EMC.”

According to Sloan, investor-owned utilities like Progress Energy and Duke Energy return this margin, or profit, to their stockholders through dividends. In the case of a not-for-profit cooperative like Haywood EMC, the margins are returned to the people who own the business—the members.

In addition to the approximate \$288,000 retirement, Haywood EMC has retired approximately \$279,000 in capital credits to estates of deceased

members for a total retirement of about \$567,000. This is equivalent to a reduction in power costs of about 1.7 percent. When a member dies, the administrator of the estate should contact Haywood EMC to claim that individual’s capital credit account. Once the administrator presents a death certificate and completes the necessary paperwork, the cooperative issues a capital credit check. According to our members, many people find this money helpful in paying funeral expenses during a difficult time.

It pays to be a member of Haywood EMC. Your co-op is always there, looking out for you. That’s because in an electric co-op, the people have the power.

That’s the Cooperative Difference!

*Norman Sloan*

## Safe holiday decorating



In the spirit of the season, it can be easy to become engrossed in holiday decorations and lights. These embellishments also add extra electrical strain to your home and safety must be considered when plugging in those giant Santas and miles of icicle lights. Practice the following tips to ensure a safe, joyful holiday season:

### Lights

- ✓ Avoid plugging multiple strands of lights into one outlet
- ✓ When decorating with lights, look for frayed or broken cords and damaged light bulbs
- ✓ Immediately replace a broken light bulb with a new one. Leave the old one in until you find a replacement
- ✓ Don’t run extension cords under rugs or furni-

- ture, especially under a Christmas tree skirt
- ✓ Only use lights with the label “Underwriters Laboratories Approved” or “UL Approved”
  - ✓ Do not leave lights on unattended

### Trees

According to the U.S. Fire Administration, Christmas trees account for 200 fires annually, resulting in an average of six deaths, 25 injuries and more than \$6 million in property damage. Keep your family safe with the following tips:

- ✓ Keep your tree well hydrated. Dry branches can ignite when they come in contact with lights
- ✓ Never use electric decorations on an aluminum tree
- ✓ If your tree is artificial, make sure it is fire retardant

- ✓ Do not place your tree close to a heat source, such as a heater, vent or fireplace
- ✓ When disposing of your tree, never put the branches in the fireplace. Rather, take your tree to a recycling facility or have it discarded by a community pick-up service

### Other Decorations

- ✓ Never leave candles burning when you are away
- ✓ Never put lit candles on a Christmas tree
- ✓ Never discard wrapping paper by throwing it in the fireplace

The holiday season is meant to be a festive time spent with family and friends. Practice electrical safety during this special time to protect your loved ones.

# Haywood EMC awards Bright Ideas grants to local creative teachers

This year's Bright Ideas grant program brought in 36 applications from around western North Carolina. Local teachers submitted many fresh and innovative ideas to incorporate some excitement and fun into their classrooms. More than \$9,000 was awarded to seven of these outstanding teachers. Haywood EMC believes that education must be a top priority for the children in our communities. Every year we look forward to visiting our local classrooms to see what an impact a Bright Ideas grant can make.

**Wayne Hamlin, T.C. Roberson High School: "Waves: They're Not Just for Oceans Anymore," \$2,000**

A lab activity working in groups of 2-3, physical and earth science students will have the opportunity to become actively engaged in understanding the propagation and application of wave properties and energy transfer by mechanically changing variables on a precision ripple tank set, slinkies and spiral springs.

**Zonya Harris, Haywood Christian Academy: "New Crops for a New Carolina: Exploring Viable Cash Crops," \$1,994.44**

Students will apply scientific methods to investigate viable crop options for western N.C. families. Students will plant and research cultivation techniques of native plant species sold in the natural products industry such as ginseng, goldenseal, etc. Student research will focus on cultivation techniques conducive to commercial growth and global market options.

**Pam Christy, Bethel Elementary School: "Oohey, Gooley, Messy Materials," \$1,828.15**

This grant will provide for an outdoor learning lab where students can explore and learn about earth science. Students will have experiences with composting (biodegradable materials), properties of sand/soil, water, rocks and minerals.

**Laura Smith, Davidson River School: "Cutting-Up in Small Business," \$1,450**

Students will develop and run a business that provides custom die cuts, lettering and logos to small business in Transylvania County. Digital die-cutting machines allow the designer creative freedom to create and product any object. Traditional die-cutting machines limit the designer to machine produced die cuts.

**Kim Parton, Flat Rock Middle School, "Flip' for Technology," \$750**

This project will create more opportunities for under-resourced learners to have hands-on experience with multimedia technologies by allowing students to use Flip video cameras, iPods and school computers to create multimedia presentations, enhanced web pages and podcasts while developing writing skills.

**Lisa Gillespie, Rosman High School: "Books of Hope," \$639.82**

"Books of Hope" is a program where U.S. students can sponsor a school abroad. Through this project, students will apply writing, word processing and desktop publishing skills. Students will create books on various topics. These books will be shipped overseas to schools in other countries that need educational materials.

**Louise Noland, Junaluska Elementary School: "Kindergarten Ratatouille," \$365.44**

We have a cooking cart to do cooling projects. We are lacking a lot of equipment to cook with. We bring things from home so the children can experience cooking while learning math. We want to stock the cart so everything we need is at our fingertips when we cook.



*Assistant Principal Bonnie Johnston, Wayne Hamlin and science students at T.C. Roberson High School.*



*2nd Row: Alyssa Sinyard, Zonya Harris, Headmaster Blake Stanberry. Top Row: Principal Jason Smith and Faith Woods, surrounded by senior school students at Haywood Christian Academy.*



*Emily Page, Pam Christy, Debbie Warren and First Grade students at Bethel Elementary School.*

# High School Juniors: Win a trip to D.C. on the Youth Tour

The Rural Electric Youth Tour is an annual event sponsored by Haywood EMC and coordinated by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and the N.C. Association of Electric Cooperatives.

Every year Haywood EMC sends two high school juniors on an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., for a week in early June. They travel from Raleigh with approximately 40 other juniors from across North Carolina and meet up with more than 1,500 other juniors in D.C. from all across the United States. They see the historical sites they have studied, learn about the rural electrification program and see their government in action. A third student, or runner-up to the two Youth Tour winners, will serve as an alternate with an opportunity to attend on an all-expenses-paid leadership conference at White Lake, N.C.

North Carolina has participated in the Youth Tour for more than 40 years. Learning is a major aspect of the trip, and the fun of getting to know so many other teens from across the state and the nation is just as important.

Youth Tour participants also have the chance to win one of two scholar-

ships. The \$2,500 Gwyn B. Price Youth Tour Scholarship and the \$2,000 Katie Bunch Memorial Scholarship are awarded each year. The participants receive application forms during their senior year and a panel of judges selects the winners.

Criteria for scholarship selection are 50 percent need; 25 percent scholastic achievement; and 25 percent extracurricular activities (school and community). In addition, winners must have been accepted by an accredited four-year college or university.

Rising seniors can obtain an application form from their high school guidance office, from Haywood EMC's Web site at [www.haywoodemc.com](http://www.haywoodemc.com), or from the co-op's office. The form consists of general questions (name, address, school activities, etc.) and a short "thought-provoking" question concerning electric power or electric cooperatives. A personal interview may be included in the process.

Applications must be in Haywood EMC's possession by February 27, 2009. For more information, call the Waynesville office at (828) 452-2281 or 1-800-951-6088 and ask for Ken Thomas or Stacey Messer.



Laura Smith with some of her Marketing at students at Davidson River School.



Kim Parton and students at Flat Rock Middle School.



Lisa Gillespie and students at Rosman High School.



Kristie Easler, Nichole Reeves and Louise Noland with their kindergarten classes at Junaluska Elementary School.

## Holiday Hours

Haywood EMC wishes its members a joyful holiday season! Co-op offices will be closed on Wednesday, December 24, and Thursday, December 25, for Christmas and Thursday, January 1, for New Year's Day.



## Power Lines

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