



Celebrating Young Talent

Rylynn Vaden wins 2025 Lineworker Appreciation Coloring Contest

In a delightful display of creativity and imagination, 7-year-old Rylynn Vaden from Roanoke County has emerged as the winner of the 2025 Lineworker Appreciation Coloring Contest, hosted by Craig-Botetourt Electric Cooperative. Garnering nearly 500 votes out of more than 1,700 cast on the CBEC Facebook page, Rylynn's artistic prowess captured the hearts of many, making the competition a closely contested affair with the top two entries receiving almost half of the total votes.



A CHAT WITH THE YOUNG ARTIST

When asked about her reaction to winning, Rylynn beamed with joy, exclaiming, "I was really happy!" Her mother, Jessica, proudly shared the moment they discovered over 500 people had voted for her artwork. Rylynn, already an aspiring artist, revealed her love for drawing horses, rainbows and sunsets.

Her winning piece, which took two to three weeks to complete, was a testament to her dedication, as she worked on it bit by bit.

Excitingly, Rylynn also won a \$50 Visa gift card, which she plans to save until she finds some art supplies or Legos that she wants to purchase. The young artist credits her coloring skills to her mother, with Jessica noting that they've been focusing on teaching depth and perspective at home. As a homeschooled student, Rylynn benefits from personalized creative guidance alongside her brother.

For other budding artists, Rylynn has a simple yet inspiring tip: "I like to watch Bob Ross and try to do what he does." It's clear that her passion for art is matched by her enthusiasm for learning.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

With dreams of becoming an artist, Rylynn's favorite colors — purple and pink — often find their way into her imaginative creations. Her success in the contest not only highlights her talent but also serves as an inspiration to other young artists in the community.

The Vaden family has been part of the CBEC community since 2006, and this annual contest is a cherished event, held to honor lineworkers during Lineworker Appreciation Month in April. Rylynn's win is a reminder of the vibrant creativity and community spirit that the contest celebrates.

CONTACT US

26198 Craigs Creek Rd., P.O. Box 265
New Castle, VA 24127-0265

Phone

540-864-5121 • 800-760-2232

Email

craigbot@cbec.coop

Website

cbec.coop



Office Hours

Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

President

James E. Huffman

CEO

Jeff M. Ahearn

*Craig-Botetourt Electric Cooperative is an
Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.*

Power to the Future!

Electric Cooperatives Announce Scholarship Recipients



VMDAEC
EDUCATION
SCHOLARSHIP
FOUNDATION

The Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives, along with its Education Scholarship Foundation, proudly announces the awarding of \$124,500 in college scholarships to exceptional high school students for the 2024-25 academic year.

To qualify, recipients' parents must reside in areas served by electric cooperatives within the three-state region. Students from the Craig-Botetourt Electric Cooperative's service area who received scholarships include: Shailyn Wickline from James Monroe High School in Monroe, WV, awarded the C.D Hypes Scholarship of \$2,500; Jaycob Wolfe from Craig County High School in New Castle, Va., granted the Worth Hudson Scholarship of \$2,000; and Jadyn Miller from James River High School in Buchanan, Va., received a Worth Hudson Scholarship of \$1,500.

In honor of the Foundation's first chairman, 33 students received Worth Hudson Scholarships of \$1,500 or more. Hudson also chaired the board of directors for Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative in Chase City, Va.

Additionally, the Foundation has approved four cooperative-specific scholarships. The Gertrude Winston Memorial Scholarship, valued at \$2,500, was awarded to a student in the Rappahannock Electric Cooperative service area, established in memory of the mother of longtime REC board member Richard Oliver.

The C.D Hypes Memorial Scholarship, also worth \$2,500, as mentioned above, went to a student in the CBEC service area. Hypes was both an educator and a board member for CBEC.

Five students in the Delaware Electric Cooperative service area received Cook Scholarships, each amounting to \$1,500, made possible by a generous recurring donation from Leslie and Larry Cook of Delaware.

In memory of a former *Cooperative Living* magazine editor who passed away in 2020, five students were awarded Bill Sherrod Memorial Scholarships, each valued at \$2,000 or more.

Lastly, the Foundation's largest award, the Roberta I. Harlowe Scholarship of \$3,000, was presented to a student in the Central Virginia Electric Cooperative service area. Harlowe and her husband, Bill, made a historic donation to the Foundation, establishing its first endowment fund to secure its future for generations. The Harlowes have contributed over \$50,000, creating a lasting financial foundation for VMDAEC's charitable initiatives.

"Electric cooperatives adhere to the 7 Cooperative Principles," says VMDAEC President and CEO Brian Mosier. "The fifth principle emphasizes education, training, and information. These scholarships reflect our commitment to support, train, educate and empower the next generation of electric cooperative leaders. Helping deserving students pursue higher education or acquire skills strengthens our communities."

Scholarship recipients are chosen through a competitive evaluation process that considers financial need (40%), academic achievement (20%), and community involvement and personal history (20%). Applicants must be graduating high school or homeschooled seniors in the application year and provide proof of acceptance into a postsecondary education institution or program. Scholarships can be used for tuition, fees and books.

The Foundation is supported through tax-deductible donations and bequests from individuals, proceeds from fundraising events and CoBank's Sharing Success Program. For more details or to contribute to the Foundation, please visit vmdaec.com/scholarshipfoundation.



Bee Online Advantage

FIBER BROADBAND & VOIP PHONE SERVICES
NOW AVAILABLE IN BOTETOURT & ROANOKE COUNTY
Coming soon to Alleghany County!

BEE Basic

\$49.99

250 Mbps/250 Mbps

Great for online gaming, working from home and more

BEE Fast

\$69.99

400 Mbps/400 Mbps

Great for 2-5 users, 4K streaming, fast file download and more

BEE Super Fast

\$89.99

600 Mbps/600 Mbps

Great for 5+ users, using creative apps and more



Perfect for a large family!

BEE Ultra Fast

\$114.99

1 Gig/1 Gig

Great for 8K video, multiplayer gaming, using home security, outdoor entertainment

Call 540.864.7070 or visit beonlineadv.com to sign up today!
Powered by Craig-Botetourt Energy & Home Services LLC

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Take advantage of the warmer weather to reduce home energy use. Avoid using your oven and use a grill instead. Not only will cooking outdoors eliminate the energy used to power the oven or stove, but it will also avoid raising the temperature inside your home, reducing the need for additional air conditioning.

You can also avoid using the oven with tasty no-bake recipes. Get creative in the kitchen and explore new ways to save energy!

Source: energy.gov

JUNE 15TH

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY
HAPPY FATHER'S DAY
HAPPY FATHER'S DAY
HAPPY FATHER'S DAY
HAPPY FATHER'S DAY
HAPPY FATHER'S DAY
HAPPY FATHER'S DAY
HAPPY FATHER'S DAY
HAPPY FATHER'S DAY
HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

