Electric News

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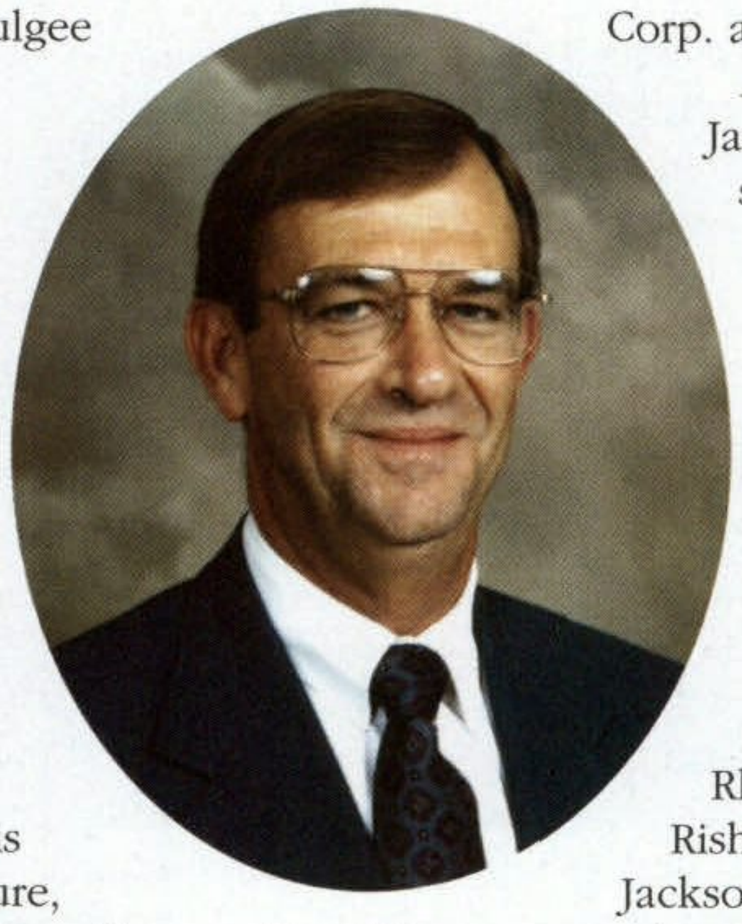
A Tribute to Arnold Horton

On Nov. 13, 2014, Little Ocmulgee EMC was saddened by the death of retired General Manager Arthur Arnold Horton. Born on March 16, 1947, to the late Arthur and Ruby Webb Horton, Arnold was a member of the Alamo United Methodist Church. He received his B.S. degree in civil engineering in 1971 from Georgia Tech.

Arnold began his career at Little Ocmulgee EMC in 1983 as Manager of Engineering. He was named General Manager in 1993 and served in that capacity until his retirement in 2011. During his tenure, he served on various boards and committees for Georgia EMC, Oglethorpe Power Corp. and Georgia Energy Cooperative.



Arnold Horton

Arnold is survived by his wife, Jane Smith Horton, of Alamo; three sisters, Elizabeth Horton Jones, of Jacksonville; Wanda Horton Harrell and Jennifer (Kenny) Horton Van Ness, both of Dublin; brother, Blynn Horton of McRae; three stepchildren, Chris (Sherry) McDonald, of Perry; Matt (Jennifer) McDonald, of Alamo; and Betsy (Brad) McDonald, of Scotland; step-grandchildren, Kristin McDonald, Rhyan McDonald and Delaney Rish; aunt, Judy (Joe) Padgett, of Jacksonville; several nieces, nephews and grandnieces and grandnephews and many friends.

Little Ocmulgee EMC Members Give Back

Little Ocmulgee EMC employees have been diligently working to assist local charities and nonprofit organizations with monetary donations made available from unclaimed capital credits. House Bill 431, passed in 2005, allowed unclaimed capital credits to be donated to nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations or to be used in support of education or economic development purposes, instead of returning the funds to the state.

Telfair County 4-H

Capital credits are paid to a member's account on an annual basis after all expenditures of the EMC have been met. These margins are distributed based on the member's annual patronage and paid out on a 30-year rotation, with checks mailed to the member. Some checks are undelivered and returned; these funds are deemed unclaimed and given to charities or nonprofit organizations or sent to the state, after all efforts to reach the member have been exhausted.

Leadership Laurens

Little Ocmulgee EMC, headquartered in Alamo, with branch offices in Dublin and McRae, is proud

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How to Boost Efficiency of Mobile Homes

Manufactured homes, sometimes dubbed mobile homes, often log disproportionately higher energy bills than traditional wood-frame or modular homes. But there are steps you can take to help manage energy costs and increase comfort.

The ways manufactured homes are designed, built, installed and operated help to explain why their energy performance can be much lower than site-built homes. During construction, lower-quality, less-efficient materials may be used, or design specifications may not be met. Transporting a unit to a site, along with movement, can disrupt the integrity of the original construction. Also, homes that sit on jack stands or blocks allow air to flow underneath, which compromises the structure.

Manufactured homes come in several configurations: single-wide, double-wide and triple-wide. Double-wides and triple-wides require a crossover duct to provide airflow between the sections—a major culprit in air leaks that waste energy.

It takes time to troubleshoot all the possible causes of energy loss. The most common culprits and ways to remedy them are:

- **Belly board problems:** In most manufactured homes, the belly board holds the insulation in place under the floor and serves as a vapor barrier. Plumbing that runs under the floor is on the warm side of the insulation, to keep it from freezing in winter. However, the belly board can be damaged by animals, deteriorate over time or tear, allowing the floor insulation to become moisture-laden or to simply fall out, exposing ductwork and increasing energy losses. Often there is also long-term water damage from leaky pipes, toilets and showers. These problems must be addressed prior to basic weatherization. Replacing the belly board and repairing leaky plumbing should be the first things on your to-do list.
- **Air leakage/infiltration:** Specific problems include deteriorated weather stripping; gaps in the "marriage wall" that joins multiple units making up the home; holes in the ends of ducts; gaps around wall registers and behind washers and dryers; and unsealed backing to the electrical panel. This is a dirty job and will require you to crawl under the home and into the attic, looking for gaps. Gaps can be filled with weather stripping and insulation.
- **Crossover ducts:** Sealing the ducts that run under the sections making up your mobile home will save energy and increase comfort. Crossover ducts are often made of flexible tubing and are therefore prone to collapse and easy for animals to chew or claw into. Crossover ducts made of thin sheet metal can leak heated or cooled air to the outdoors, which is what happens when ductwork connections are made with duct tape.

Repairs are generally easy, using either a special duct sealant or metal tape that can be found at most home improvement stores. If you can afford the upgrade, consider replacing a flexible crossover duct with metal ductwork.

- **Lack of insulation:** Insulation levels and associated R-values (a number showing the ability of insulation to resist heat transfer) in walls, floors and ceilings in manufactured homes can be woefully inadequate. If it is easily accessible, adding insulation to ceilings and floors will help. However, adding insulation to walls will be a problem without major renovations that are often not cost-justified.
- **Uninsulated ductwork:** Wrapping ductwork will lead to energy savings. You should be able to find insulation specifically made for ductwork at your local hardware store.
- **Single-glazed windows and uninsulated doors:** Replacing the windows with double- or triple-glazed windows or adding storm windows will help make the home more comfortable. An insulated door will also help. However, these solutions can be very expensive. At a minimum, you should add weather stripping to doors and windows. Also, a window film kit is cheap, easy to install and will help keep winter winds out.
- **Heat-absorbing roof:** In areas where you need to frequently run the air-conditioning unit, you can save by installing a white roof or cool roof coating. These roofs reflect more sunlight to keep manufactured homes cooler. Many cool roof coatings can be brushed or rolled on like paint and are easy to apply on metal roofs. The cost of roof coatings varies depending on how reflective they are, and how long they will last. Choose a coating that is appropriate for your climate.

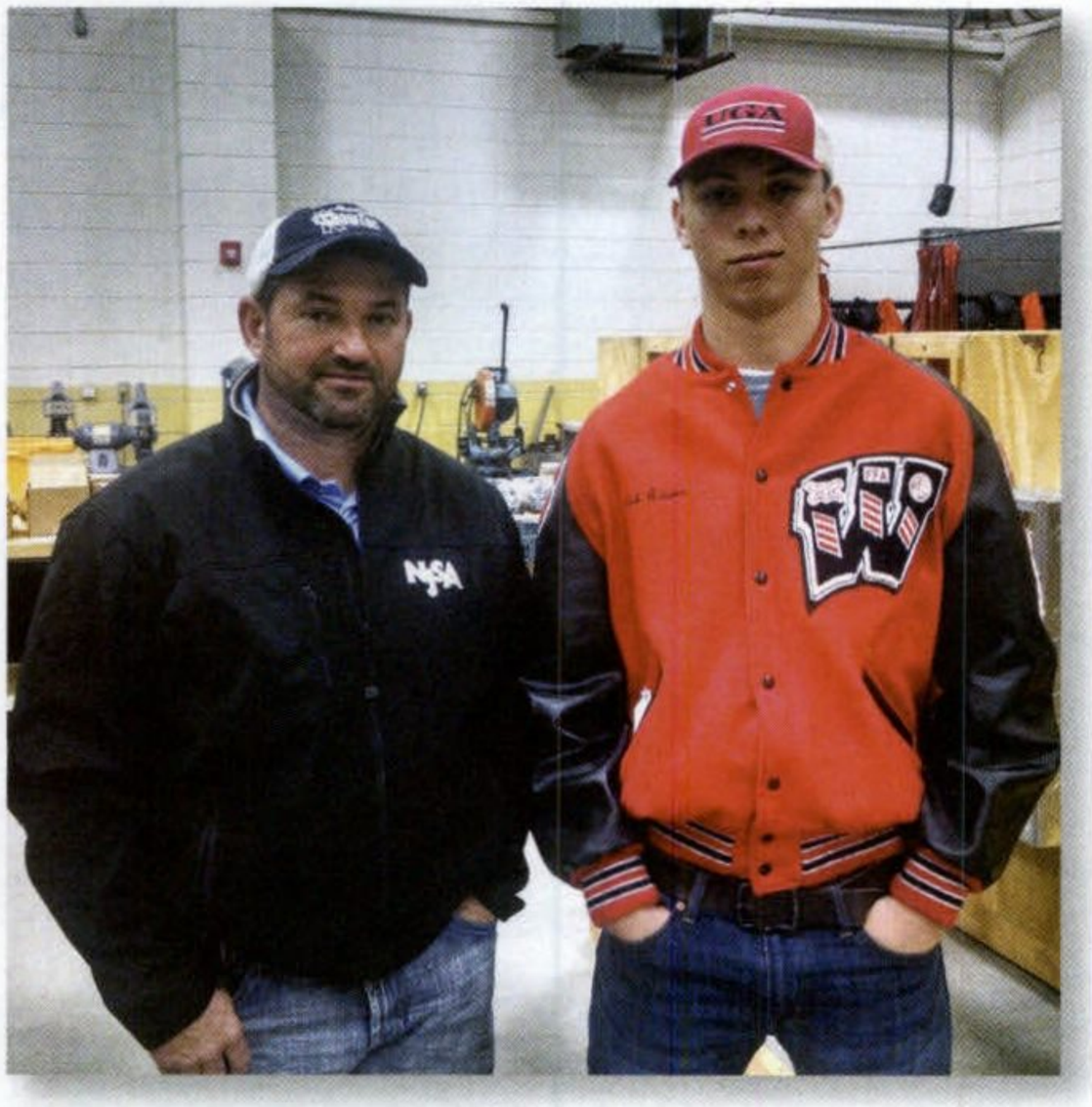
Thomas Kirk is a technical research analyst specializing in energy efficiency and renewable energy for the Cooperative Research Network (CRN), a service of the Arlington, Va.-based National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Adams Competes in Area IV Wiring Contest

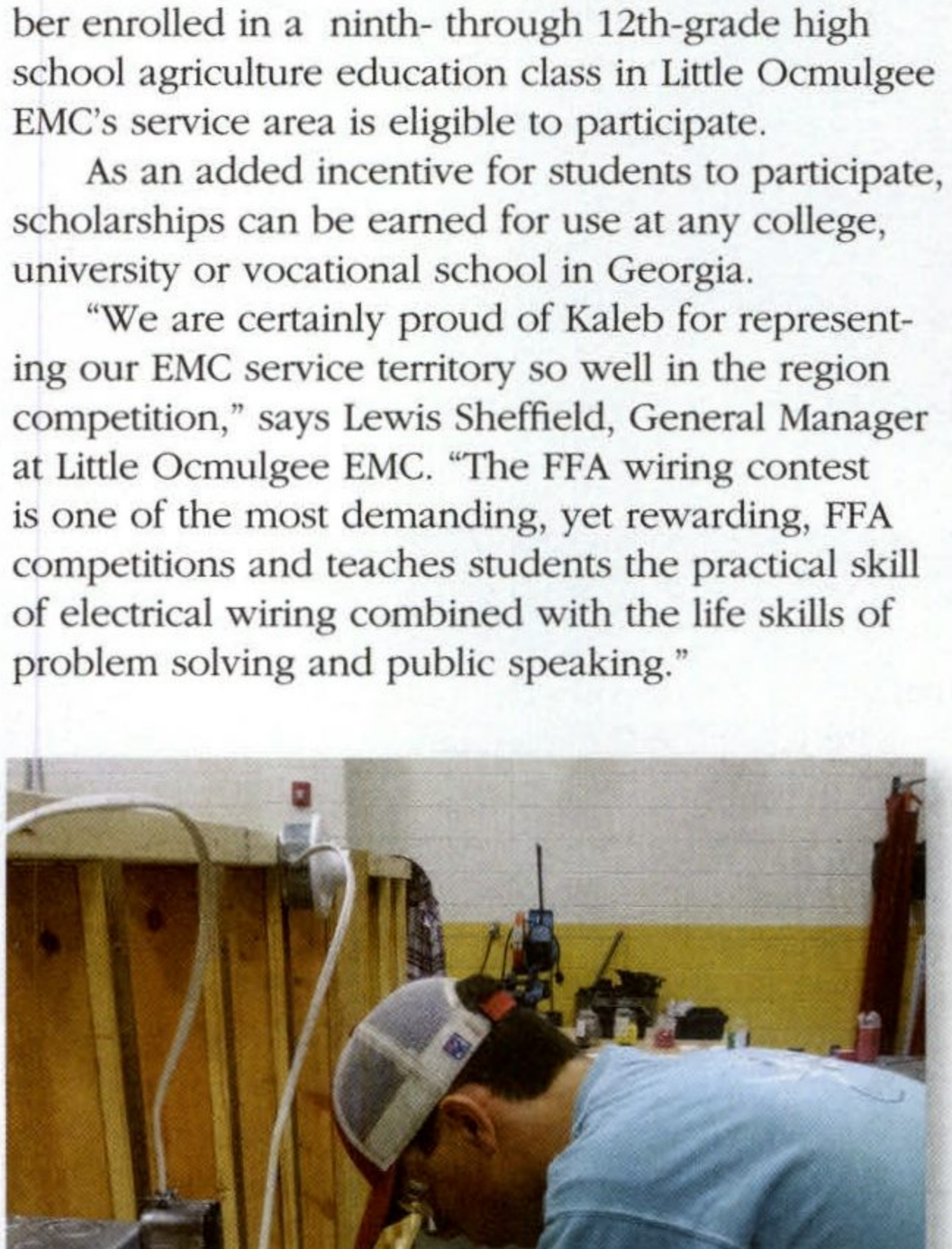
Kaleb Adams, son of Becky and Michael Adams, of Alamo, a junior at Wheeler County High School in Alamo, participated in the Area IV EMC/FFA Agricultural Education Career Development Event (CDE) at Treutlen County High School in Soperton on Nov. 18, 2014. The program introduces agriculture students to electrification programs while teaching safe, efficient use of electricity. Any active FFA member enrolled in a ninth- through 12th-grade high school agriculture education class in Little Ocmulgee EMC's service area is eligible to participate.

As an added incentive for students to participate, scholarships can be earned for use at any college, university or vocational school in Georgia.

"We are certainly proud of Kaleb for representing our EMC service territory so well in the region competition," says Lewis Sheffield, General Manager at Little Ocmulgee EMC. "The FFA wiring contest is one of the most demanding, yet rewarding, FFA competitions and teaches students the practical skill of electrical wiring combined with the life skills of problem solving and public speaking."



Wheeler County High School Ag Teacher Bryant Oliver, left, advises Kaleb Adams before the wiring contest. Kaleb completed a written exam and a practical wiring problem, testing his knowledge of the National Electrical Code, plus he was required to give the judges an oral speech/demonstration on a specific wiring exercise.



Kaleb Adams demonstrates his wiring skills at the Area IV FFA/ EMC wiring contest at Treutlen County High in Soperton.

The top two individuals in each area contest go on to participate in the state competition. Congratulations this year to Chase Giles, from West Laurens High School, who placed first in the Area IV contest, while Cejay Heath, from Treutlen County High School, finished second. At the state wiring contest, held in Covington on Jan. 10, 2015, Cejay finished third and Chase secured fourth place. As in the local competitions, state contest participants complete a written exam, a practical wiring problem testing their knowledge of the National Electrical Code and an oral presentation on steps to complete a specific electrical task.

The Georgia FFA Association and electric membership corporations (EMCs) in Georgia, including Little Ocmulgee EMC, have offered this educational initiative for more than four decades.

"The EMC/FFA wiring event is a comprehensive tool for student learning," says Bryant Oliver, Ag Teacher with Wheeler County High School and a mentor to students preparing for the competition. "Kaleb is to be congratulated for the effort he put forth while competing in his first wiring contest among the Area IV contestants."

Little Ocmulgee EMC Members Give Back

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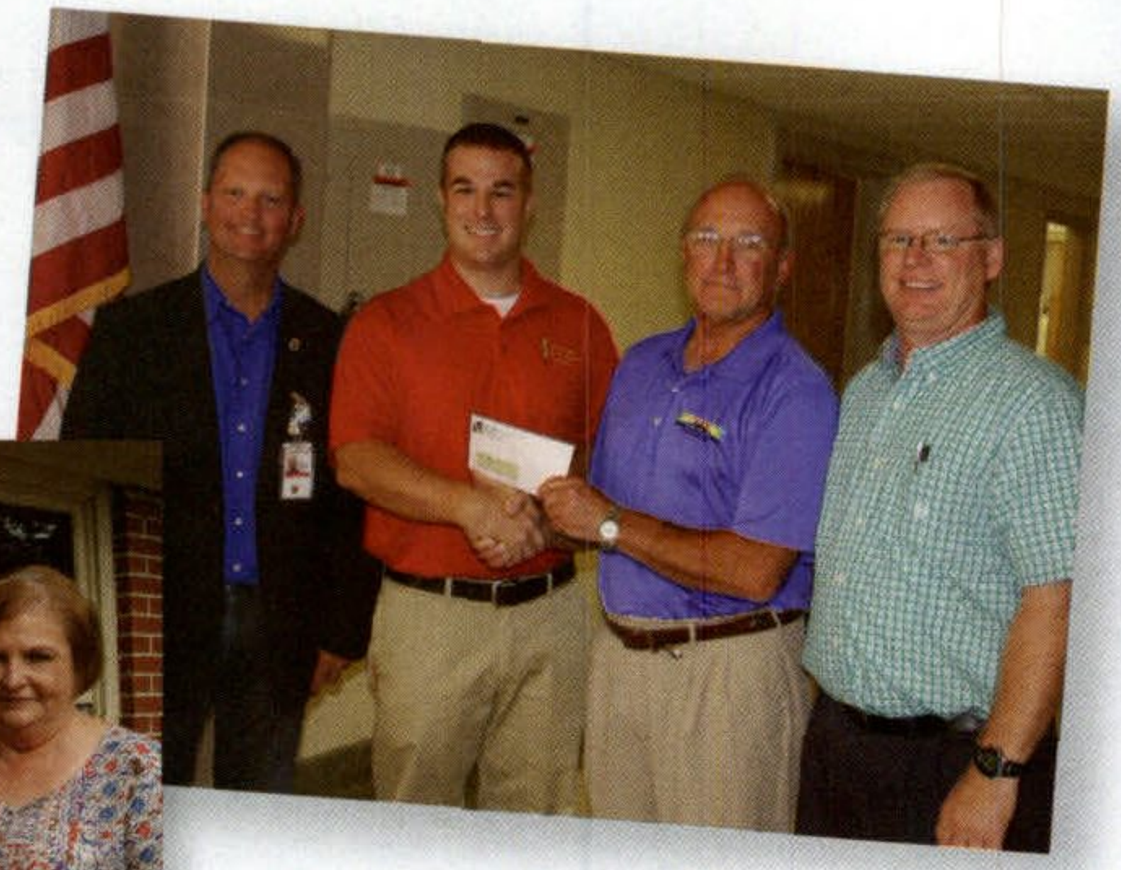
to be able to give back, in the form of monetary contributions of the available funds, to various local community charities and organizations. LOEMC proudly serves more than 7,500 members with more than 11,000 meters in Wheeler and Telfair counties, plus portions of Laurens, Dodge and Montgomery counties.

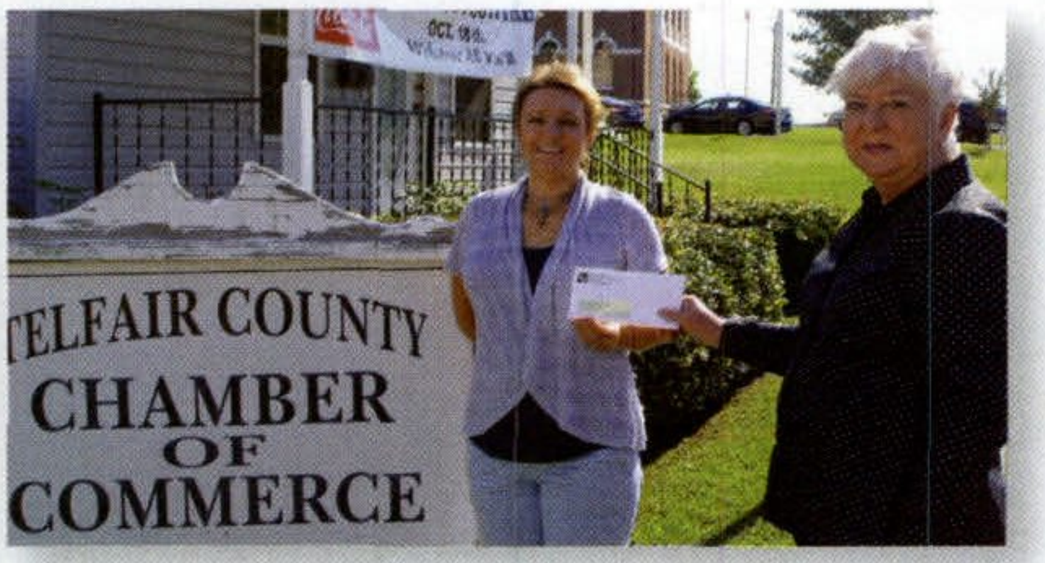


Vietnam Moving Wall

Laurens County 4-H

WINGS

Wheeler County 4-H



Telfair-Wheeler Youth Leadership

Laurens Co. Relay For Life

Serenity Foundation

Telfair Co. Relay For Life

Teen Challenge

Wheeler Co. Relay For Life

Bridges of Hope