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Fourth-Grader Wins *Cooperative Living* Magazine's Annual Youth Art Contest

Alex Griffin, the 10-year-old son of Powell Valley Electric Cooperative members Jennifer and Brian Griffin, has earned "Best in Show" honors in *Cooperative Living* magazine's 2015 Youth Art Contest.

For the 13th-annual version of this contest, students in kindergarten through fifth grade were invited to submit artwork illustrating the theme "My Favorite Vacation."

Alex, a 4th-grader at Forge Ridge Elementary School in Harrogate, Tenn., used crayon and colored pencils to create his entry, which depicts him with a John Deere tractor at the Grainger County Tomato Festival. He and his dog Tiny, both sitting behind the wheel of his grandfather's tractor, are featured on the cover of the July issue of *Cooperative Living*.

More than 500 student artists entered the annual competition, which was judged by staff at the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives, publisher of *Cooperative Living*. First place in each grade category received a \$25 cash prize and Alex's "Best in Show" work earned him a \$100 prize.

"We started the Youth Art Contest to encourage youthful creativity and give kids a chance to show their art to the magazine's 1.25 million readers," said Bill Sherrod, *Cooperative Living*'s editor. "Everyone who judged the entries was impressed with both the quality and creativity of the students' work."

The contest was announced in the February and March/April issues of *Cooperative Living* and entries were due May 1. The first-, second- and third-place entries for each grade are published in full color in the July issue of the magazine, which is available online at www.co-opliving.com.

2015 Youth Art contest winners by grade are:

Kindergarten

1st – Siena Pegues, Warrenton

2nd – Knysha Day, Edinburg

3rd – Jessica Rathburn, Staunton

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First Grade

- 1st – Simon Miller, Greenville.
- 2nd – Reese Grimshaw, Staunton
- 3rd – Deborah McMurray, Harrisonburg

Second Grade

- 1st – Eden Alphin, Suffolk
- 2nd – Gabriel Leonard, Farmville
- 3rd – Jessica Sykes, Sperryville

Third Grade

- 1st – Mihika Dusad, Ashburn
- 2nd – Josiah McMurray, Harrisonburg
- 3rd – Hunter Stamper, Alberta

Fourth Grade

- 1st – Miriam McMurray, Harrisonburg
- 2nd – Lillian Eleanor Lovelace, Winchester
- 3rd – Mary Grace Pisano, Fairfax Station

Fifth Grade

- 1st – Cassandra Mallory, Warrenton
- 2nd – Leandra Combs, Staunton
- 3rd – Daniel Smith, Jonesville

Cooperative Living, the membership publication of Virginia's consumer-owned electric cooperatives, is published 10 times annually by the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives. The magazine is mailed to more than 500,000 homes, farms and businesses across Virginia. For more information, visit www.co-opliving.com.

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