



Media Release

For Immediate Release March 1, 2018

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Originally published in Today in Mississippi

Local students selected for Youth Leadership program

Three area high school juniors will represent Pearl River Valley Electric this year in the Electric Cooperatives of Mississippi Youth Leadership program. Jacob Ryan Brogan of Lamar Christian School, Thomas Hahn of Columbia High School and Katie Norris of West Marion High School are the winners of this year's essay/interview contest. As a result, each student earn the opportunity to participate in a leadership conference in Jackson and a week-long trip to Washington, D.C. this summer.

Pearl River Valley Electric selects the winners from essays submitted by students throughout its 12-county service area, and then through interviews with the finalists. This year's essay topic required students to discuss how PRVEPA has helped benefit Association members since being organized in the 1930's, as well as how it can continue to serve members and the communities where they live.

Brogan, 16, is the son of Tommy Brogan and Susan Haynes Johnson. A Purvis resident, he is an award-winning student at LCS and a member of the Beta Club, First Priority and a student council representative. He has participated in other youth legislative trips and is active at the Jacob's Well Community Worship Center. In his spare time, Jacob enjoys reading, writing songs and taking adventures.

Hahn, 16, is the son of Lawrence and Angela Hahn of Columbia. He has won numerous scholastic honors at Columbia High, including a national AP Scholar award and being named to the Superintendent's Scholar list. He participates on the golf team as well as the speech and debate team, and is in the National Honor Society, Beta Club, Mu Alpha Theta and Key Club. Thomas also enjoys reading, playing tennis and piano, and church youth activities.

Norris, 17, is the daughter of Kevin and Patricia Norris of Foxworth. She has maintained all A's and perfect attendance at West Marion, as well as playing on the softball team and assisting with other sports. She is in the National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta and Science Olympiad. Katie is also very active in FFA, serving as an officer in the Marion County chapter, and she maintains a successful business raising, breeding and showing goats.

In late February, Jacob, Thomas and Katie joined 80 other students from around the state in Jackson for the 32nd annual Mississippi Youth Leadership Workshop, where they met with legislators and took part in leadership training sessions (see next month's *Today in Mississippi* for more information). They will also meet up with thousands of other students from around the country in June to attend the National

Rural Electric Youth Tour in Washington. There they will have opportunities to meet their Congressmen, tour the U.S. Capitol and do lots of other site seeing.

Eleven other area high school juniors were finalists in this year's contest: Columbia Academy students Maddie Lott, Abigail Miller, Katelyn Morris, Madison Ott, Victoria Pace, and Warren Parker; West Marion High School students Joshua Cotton and Elaina Hollis; Carrington Brown of Oak Grove High School; Presbyterian Christian School's Sabrina Walia; and Erin McLaurin of Forrest County AHS.

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