

NE CONNECTION

A PUBLICATION OF NORTHEAST OKLAHOMA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

JUNE RECIPES
CELEBRATE CANDY MONTH

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS
FOUR OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

JUNE 2020



Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives

NE CONNECTION

A PUBLICATION OF NORTHEAST OKLAHOMA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Northeast Connection is published monthly to communicate with the members of Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative.

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Nick Sutton - Operations

VINITA HEADQUARTERS

27039 South 4440 Road, Vinita, OK 74301

GROVE OFFICE

212 South Main, Grove, OK 74344

BUSINESS HOURS

Monday-Friday, 8am to 4:30pm

Offices are closed Saturday, Sunday and holidays.

DISPATCHING AVAILABLE 24 HOURS AT

1.800.256.6405

If you experience an outage:

1. Check your switch or circuit breaker in the house and on the meter pole to be sure the trouble is not on your side of the service.
2. When contacting the cooperative to report an outage, use the name as it appears on your bill, and have both your pole number and account number ready.

Please direct all editorial inquiries to Public Relations at 800.256.6405 or email ask@noec.coop

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BENEFITS OF TREE TRIMMING AND VEGETATION MANAGEMENT TO OUR COOPERATIVE

David Cusick
Manager of NRS-ROW

Clearing trees and overgrown vegetation is essential to providing safe and reliable power to our cooperative members. We clear certain areas of our distribution system known as "rights of way" in order to:

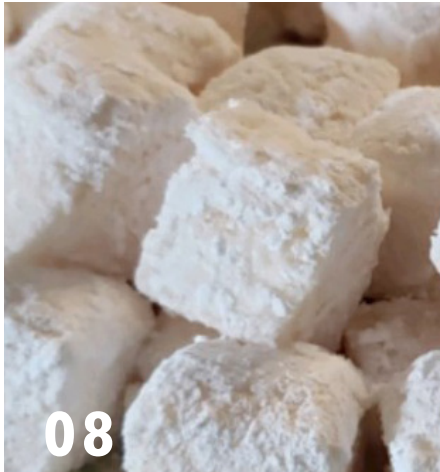
- Keep vegetation from encroaching on energized power lines.
- Allow for restoration of power outages in a timely manner.
- Protect the safety of our cooperative crews, members and the public.
- Reduce the frequency of outages caused by tree related interruptions.

NOEC utilizes a variety of resources and techniques to maintain vegetation throughout our entire system, depending on the density and terrain. With over 5,200 miles of distribution line to maintain, the conditions and terrain vary greatly within our service area. The far eastern areas of our system, adjacent to the foothills of the Ozarks, are rich with heavy and dense vegetation that present certain limitations in regards to accessibility and limitations due to rough terrain.

NOEC utilizes specialized heavy equipment such as mechanical tree trimmers and mowers to maintain these types of areas. For this terrain, a mechanical approach is the most efficient and cost-effective manner to ensure system reliability and public safety.

With variations in terrain, vegetation density, and membership population, there is no one-size-fits-all solution for right of way maintenance. In more populated areas of our system, distribution lines still traverse through challenging terrain and brush density. Areas like this are still most efficiently maintained using mechanical means but still have challenges of access for right of way crews. In these instances, crews are using smaller, more compact mechanical equipment to perform trimming and mowing maintenance. This equipment involves a basket truck along with a trac unit equipped with a mower attachment.

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JUNE RECIPES



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2020 DISTRICT MEETINGS



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SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



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YOUTH TOUR CANCELLATION

\$100 IS HIDING!

Search the pages of NE Connection for a 6-digit account number with an asterisk on each side. For example: *XXXXXX*. Compare it to your account number, which appears on your monthly electric bill. If they match, contact the cooperative at 918.256.9332, by July 1, 2020, to claim a \$100 credit on your electric account.

Events are published as space allows and must be submitted at least 60 days in advance. Send information, including phone number for publication, to Northeast Connection Events Calendar, PO Box 948, Vinita 74301 or email to ask@noec.coop.

JUNE 2020 EVENTS

Copperhead Run Rally

June 4-6 | Spavinaw
Copperhead Rally Grounds
918.589.2990

Outlaw Nation Monster Truck Show

June 5-6 | Miami
Ottawa County Fairgrounds
417.887.9400

Jefferson Highway Caravan Tour

June 6 | Chouteau
Love's Travel Center
918.682.0312

Port City Volkswagen Show II

June 6 | Claremore
Rogers Point
918.698.3780

Thunder on Wolf Creek

June 12-14 | Grove
Wolf Creek Park
918.786.9079

American Heritage Music Festival

June 12 | Grove
Wolf Creek Park
918.786.9079

Toes in the Grand Festival

June 13 | Grove
Wolf Creek Park
918.786.9079

Peoria Powwow

June 19-21 | Miami
60610 E 90 Rd
918-540-2535

Oklahoma 8-Man All Star Game

June 20 | Miami
Red Robertson Field
918.542.4435

Leake Collector Car Show & Auction

June 26-27 | Tulsa
River Spirit Expo
918.254.7077

3rd Annual Grand Jam Music Festival

June 26-28 | Cleora
Grand Meridian RV Park
918.864.2417

Events are subject to date change or cancellation. Please contact host for most current information.

DISTRICT MEETINGS

DISTRICTS 1, 3, AND 5 TO SELECT BOARD CANDIDATES

DISTRICT MEETINGS:

- District 1 - Charles A. Wyrick - JULY 20
- District 3 - Brian Kelly - JULY 21
- District 5 - Dandy A. Risman - JULY 23

Note: Locations and directions to meetings will be announced in the July NE Connection.

REQUIREMENT TO REGISTER

At District Meetings

In accordance with Article I of Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative, Inc.'s Bylaws, only eligible members may register and cast a vote at any member meeting. In order to register and vote you MUST be one of the following:

- Primary on an individual account
- Primary or secondary on a joint account
- Named representative of a business or organization (present a letter from the governing body of the entity stating you are the representative for that entity)

If you are not listed on the account, regardless of marital status, you will not be able to register to vote. We strongly encourage you to check your account. It is simple to add a person to make a joint account. Call member services at 800.256.6405.

The Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative Board of Trustees is extending invitations to Cooperative members in Districts 1, 3, and 5 to attend their respective District Meetings this summer. As always, the invitation includes freebies like soda and giveaways, along with the chance to win a \$250 credit.

Trustee Terms for Charles A. Wyrick, Brian Kelly, and Dandy A. Risman are expiring and Trustee elections are taking place in 2020 for three-year terms on the Cooperative Board of Trustees. The Board is also seeking a little help from members in Districts 1, 3, and 5 to conduct the yearly business of the Cooperative.

Section 4.06 of the Cooperative Bylaws requires any member to file with the Cooperative their Notice of Candidacy for Trustee during the filing period of July 6-10, 2020. The Notice of Candidacy for Trustee must be filed at the Headquarters Office of the Cooperative: 27039 S 4440 Rd, Vinita, OK 74301.

Only pre-qualified candidates can be nominated at District Meetings.

Members may register for District Meetings from 6-7 p.m. Those in line at this time will be given a card ensuring their opportunity to register.

The meeting will start as soon as is practical thereafter or when all members with cards have registered.

NOTE: Currently, the Cooperative is planning to conduct the 2020 District Meetings in the same manner it has conducted District Meetings in the past. However, due to the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic in the United States, there may be government-imposed restrictions or guidelines in place, limiting the size of gatherings such as the Cooperative's District Meetings, or it may otherwise be unsafe to gather for the District Meetings. If such restrictions or guidelines are in place at the time set for the District Meetings, or if it is otherwise unsafe to gather for the District Meetings due to COVID-19, then the Cooperative may take certain actions necessary to maintain the safety of the members, Cooperative employees, and the public, and/or to comply with any government imposed restrictions/guidelines regarding gatherings. These actions may include, but are not limited to: (1) postponing the District Meetings to a later date that is not less than thirty (30) nor more than ninety (90) days prior to the date of the Annual Meeting, in accordance with Section 4.06 of the Cooperative's Bylaws; (2) utilizing drive-thru registration and voting; (3) conducting the District Meetings utilizing live video technology (e.g., Facebook Live); or (4) if necessary, cancelling the District Meetings. The Cooperative will take all reasonable efforts to conduct the District Meetings, nominate Trustee candidates, and elect Trustees in accordance with the Cooperative's Bylaws, while maintaining the safety of the members, Cooperative employees, and the public, and complying with any government-imposed restrictions/guidelines regarding gatherings.

INTERESTED MEMBERS MAY BECOME CANDIDATES

Have you ever considered becoming a member of the Cooperative's Board of Trustees? Members residing in Districts 1, 3, and 5 may run for election if they meet the Trustee qualifications below.

The Board meets regularly to review the performance of the Cooperative, establish goals and operating policies, and ensure the financial health of the Cooperative. For more information on Board participation, please call 800.256.6405, extension 9417.

TRUSTEE QUALIFICATIONS

SECTION 4.02. Qualifications (in part)

No person shall be eligible to become or remain a Trustee of the Cooperative who:

- (a) while serving on the Board or during the five (5) years preceding nomination thereto shall have been finally adjudged to be guilty of a felony; or
- (b) is, becomes, or within the last five (5) years has been employed by the Cooperative, a subsidiary of the Cooperative or a labor union which represents, or has represented, or has endeavored to represent any employees of the Cooperative; or
- (c) is, and if elected and seated as a Trustee will continue to be, a close relative of an incumbent trustee or an employee of the Cooperative; or

**CANDIDATE FILING PERIOD:
JULY 6-10, 2020**

Monday through Thursday - 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM,

Friday - 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

The Notice of Candidacy for Trustee MUST be filed at the Headquarters Office of the Cooperative: 27039 S 4440 Rd, Vinita, OK 74301

(d) has not continuously been, for at least one (1) year prior to nomination, or who ceases after election to be, a member in good standing of the Cooperative, receiving service therefrom at a permanent and year-round residence which is the member's primary residential abode in the Trustee District from which the member is elected; or

(e) is not at least eighteen (18) years old; or

(f) is in any way employed by or financially interested in a substantially competing enterprise or a business selling energy, services, or supplies to the Cooperative or its subsidiary businesses; or

(g) is any way employed by or financially interested in a business selling electrical or plumbing equipment, appliances, fixtures, supplies or wiring to the members.

Notwithstanding the restrictive provisions of this Section that are based upon close relative relationships, no incumbent trustee shall lose eligibility to remain a trustee or to be re-elected a Trustee if, during incumbency, the Trustee becomes a close relative of another incumbent Trustee or of a Cooperative employee because of a marriage or an adoption to which the trustee was not a party.

Upon establishment of the fact that a nominee for Trustee lacks eligibility under this Section or as may be provided elsewhere in these Bylaws, it shall be the duty of the Board to disqualify the nominee. Upon the establishment of the fact that any person being considered for, or already holding, a trusteeship or other position of trust in the Cooperative lacks eligibility under this Section, it shall be the duty of the Board to withhold such position from such person or to cause such person to be removed therefrom, as the case may be.

SECTION 4.06. Nominations (in part)

Any member desiring to be nominated as a candidate for Trustee from the district of his/her residence, shall file, with the Cooperative, written notice on a form provided by the Cooperative, of his/her candidacy and intention to seek nomination for the office of Trustee from his/her district at such time as may be designated as the official filing period by the Board of Trustees. Only persons filing such written notice of candidacy and intention to seek nomination shall be eligible for nomination at said meeting.

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

TO FOUR OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative is helping ensure a brighter tomorrow for four area high school seniors by supporting their dreams of a life-enriching higher education. The cooperative's scholarship committee selected four 2020 graduates from among many qualified applicants to receive \$1,000 each toward a continuing education at a college, university, or trade school of their choice.

Recipients of the 2020 NOEC College Scholarship include: Adair High School's Hannah Guthrie, Afton High School's Kathryn Miller, Jay High School's Sydney Matheson, and Vinita High School's Brannan Vail.



Hannah Guthrie represented the Mayes County area in accepting the 2020 NOEC College Scholarship. Hannah is the daughter of Kenny and Courtney Guthrie.

Hannah graduated from Adair High School in May and will be attending Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College in Miami this fall. She plans on pursuing a career as a physical therapy assistant.

Academic recognition for Hannah included Honor Society, National Society of High School Scholars, and Principal's Honor Roll. At the time of her graduation, she had completed 12 hours of concurrent college credit.

Hannah's extracurricular participation was robust. As a three-sport athlete, she was a key contributor to the school's decorated basketball, track and cross country programs. She helped her team earn state championships in both basketball and track. Hannah was also a member of the school's FCA and FCCLA programs.

"Hannah exemplifies leadership and dedication to her work inside and outside of the classroom while remaining extremely active in our athletic program. Yet, what truly sets Hannah apart from her peers is the well-rounded balance she achieves," commended Michelle Taylor, Adair High School Counselor. "In addition to being a successful student, she has participated in the Cherokee Nation Work Program, as well as maintaining concurrent enrollment at Rogers State University. Hannah is committed to community service projects with her local church youth group such as Operation Christmas Child and volunteering with the Salvation Army. She has a clear understanding of service projects and their benefits and plans to continue this work long after high school."

Hannah also received glowing praise from Josh Greer, lead pastor at Gathering Church in Adair.

"I have the opportunity to be Hannah's pastor, and I have personally been able to see the determination, faithfulness, and excellence that she gives to anything she does," said Greer. "Hannah is always willing to help in any way that is needed and she has one of the greatest servant's hearts that I have seen. She is one of the finest young women that I have ever met. She loves Jesus, loves people, and loves working hard. She will always give the best that she has."

KATHRYN



Representing the Ottawa County area in accepting the 2020 NOEC College Scholarship is Kathryn Miller. Kathryn is the daughter of Justin and Carrie Miller.

Kathryn graduated from Afton High School in May and plans to pursue a degree in Chemical Engineering at Oklahoma State University this fall. She is a 4.0 student, a member of Northeast Tech Center's STEM Academy, and has completed AP Calculus, AP Physics C, and AP Physics 1 studies.

A member and officer for both the AHS Student Council and National Honor Society, Kathryn served as STUCO reporter and president, NHS reporter and class president (four years). She is a member of Welch Baptist Church, where she was an active member of the youth group and was always more than willing to volunteer time during mission trips.

"Katie has gone on mission trips during the last two spring breaks," explained Kellie Wallace, Worship Leader and Sunday school teacher at Welch Baptist Church. In 2018, she went to Texas where she helped work on a family home that had flooded during the Houston flood. She hung sheetrock in the house and helped clean the yard. In 2019, she went to the inner city in St. Louis and helped work on a new bathroom and kitchen flooring for Apostles Church.

She laid backing for the ceramic tile, laid tile, grouted and then cleaned the tile when finished. Katie worked hard on both mission trips, making a difference and touching lives."

Wallace also mentioned other ways Miller has demonstrated her heart for service.

"Katie and her youth group have helped prepare Green Country Baptist Church Camp in Disney for summer camps by working to clean the grounds by weed eating and by picking up trash and debris. They also clean the tabernacle. She has also helped in the Welch community by helping the elderly with yard work. She also goes caroling as a way to minister to those unable to leave their homes."

Said Wallace: "I have known Katie for several years. She attends church faithfully. She grew up in our church, from the nursery to the children's department and now the youth group. She is very active in our church and is dedicated to helping others. Katie has been our church audio technician over the last two years. She manages the audio and visual equipment necessary for our weekly worship services. She runs the sound system for the church service and special music, and projector during worship time. She also works during revivals and Vacation Bible School. She helps by substituting as a Sunday School teacher in the children's department, works in the nursery and children's church and for several years now has helped with Vacation Bible School by preparing rooms with the VBS director. She helps the youth group doing daily Bible stories through skits and also runs the audio and visual equipment for those."

Wallace added: "Katie is hardworking, dedicated, kindhearted and giving. She always has a smile and brightens a room with her sweet personality. She is going to touch many lives throughout her life. I am extremely proud of the beautiful young lady Katie has become."

Miller was also highly recommended by Afton High School Principal, Brad Ferguson.

"Kathryn is an excellent student and participates in various extra-curricular activities," Ferguson said. "She is the president of Student Council and is a member of the National Honor Society. Kathryn is a leader in our school and a great example in our community."

As a student, Kathryn has the ability to be focused, driven, and dedicated. She recognizes the importance of education, and has a plan for college and her future. She is determined to be a productive member of society. It is with this that she recognizes the importance of a strong work ethic, persistence, and intellectual integrity to obtain her goals in life.”



Jay High School’s Sydney Matheson accepted the 2020 NOEC College Scholarship for the Delaware County area. Sydney is the daughter of Randal and Orrise Matheson. She will attend the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma and pursue studies in Deaf Education & Speech Pathology.

Sydney was a winner of Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative’s 2019 Youth Tour Essay Contest and subsequently attended the 2019 Oklahoma Youth Tour of Washington, D.C. Also resulting from her Youth Tour involvement was a top ten finish during Youth Leadership Council selection.

Sydney was an active student during her high school experience. She graduated with all honors and 18 concurrent hours from Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College in Miami.

Among her numerous accomplishments were participation in the Oklahoma Page Program, Academic Team, Integris Grove Hospital Student Governing Board, Science Club, Yearbook editor, Mu Alpha Theta chapter secretary, and Grand Savings Bank Junior Board Secretary. Outside of school, she was a member of the Mount Herman Church Student Leadership Team, and program assistant for the Boys & Girls Club of Delaware County. She was also employed part-time at a local title company.

Jeff Orr, biology and physiology instructor at Jay High School was very complimentary of Sydney’s work ethic.

“This year marked my third opportunity to have Sydney Matheson in my classroom,” he explained. “For two years she was working toward honors credit in a non-honors class. This took a great deal of extra effort on her part—to cover material beyond what was taught under the regular class setting. This she succeeded at in grand fashion and with a positive attitude brought to the classroom every day. It is seldom my opportunity to so wholeheartedly recommend a student to a leadership position and truly feel they will reap future benefits from the experience. However, this is just the position I find myself in with Ms. Matheson. She exhibits a work ethic that is sorely lacking in today’s school society. She has handled her responsibilities with great poise and high expectations of both herself and those around her. It speaks well of her character as a person beyond what she displays academically as a student at Jay High School. Again, my highest recommendations for Ms. Matheson as she truly exhibits the qualities that I believe we all would like to see in the leaders of our community.”

Those sentiments were echoed by Johnnie Earp, Branch President at Grand Savings Bank.

“I have watched Sydney through her career at Jay Public Schools and also got to know her better during her service on our Junior Board,” said Earp. “She exhibits characteristics that should enable her to achieve goals she sets for herself for the future. She has an extremely good work ethic, has good attendance, and a desire to complete the project. Her grades have been good while maintaining a challenging school curriculum, and extracurricular activities.”

Sydney also has an excellent personality, is a leader, and works with others well to accomplish team goals. It is my opinion that she will have a successful future due to these qualities and will achieve the goals which she sets for herself in life."



The 2020 NOEC College Scholarship for the Craig/Rogers County area was presented to Vinita High School's Brannan Vail. Brannan is the son of Bryant and Terra Vail. He plans to begin his pursuit of a degree in Kinesiology this fall at Kansas State University.

Brannan has been busy in his preparation for a continuing education as demonstrated by his dedication to a strong academic foundation. He completed coursework in Pre-AP English I & II, and AP Biology. In addition, he completed the following concurrent courses at Northeastern Oklahoma A & M College: Comp I & II, College Algebra, and Speech. Always an involved student, Brannan was extremely active in his FFA chapter program. His scope of FFA interests include livestock showing and judging, as well as breeding and raising cattle and pigs. Along with earning his state degree, he was honored to be a Northeast District Star Farmer Nominee, and was a member of the 2017 State Champion Livestock Team. He also earned 5th High Individual in the State Livestock Judging Contest.

In addition to his FFA membership, Brannan is also a member of the National Honor Society, was a Junior Lion, and a Senior Rotarian. His high school athletic involvement included football, powerlifting, and baseball.

"Brannan is a great example of hard work, intellect and leadership," said Carolyn Piguet, Advisor for the Vinita High School FFA program. "He has participated in all parts of the FFA experience but exceeds the capacities beyond his age with his project area. He has been driven to care and manage aspects of FFA interests well beyond high school capacity."

Piguet added: "Brannan has done much more than just show livestock with his project. He has worked in the area of livestock breeding and beef management as a job and for perfection of his abilities and understanding of livestock nutrition. Brannan intertwined his love for agriculture and livestock into an agricultural literacy concept that he does through daily conversations that will better the industry. This young man is a great reflection of opportunities that FFA have brought to an agricultural education student and how it has landed him at the top of the field in agriculture, engineering and sales, as well as perfected his skills as a communicator."

Commendation for Brannan also came from Heath Hartley, CEO of Oklahoma State Bank in Vinita.

"Brannan is an outstanding young man who demonstrates many of the qualities highly successful individuals exhibit," Hartley praised. "I have seen him over the years display characteristics in leadership, responsibility, respectfulness and humility. In addition, his compassion stands out as he takes a genuine interest in others. He truly has never met a stranger and is always willing to engage in a conversation."

Said Hartley: "Brannan has been involved in multiple activities from sports teams, school organizations and community groups. This involvement, along with his family and the attributes I've outlined, have helped make Brannan who he is today. These traits have served him well over the years and I expect nothing but more of the same in the future from him."

****978417****



JUNE IS NATIONAL CANDY MONTH



PEANUT BUTTER & CHOCOLATE BUCKEYE BALLS

- **1 1/2 Cups Creamy Peanut Butter**
- **1/2 Cup Butter, Softened**
- **1 tsp Vanilla Extract**
- **4 Cups Sifted Confectioners' (Powdered) Sugar**
- **6 oz Semi-Sweet Chocolate Chips**
- **2 TB Shortening**

Line a baking sheet with waxed paper; set aside. In a medium bowl, mix peanut butter, butter, vanilla, and confectioners' sugar with hands to form a smooth stiff dough. Shape into balls using 2 teaspoons of dough for each ball. Place on prepared pan, and refrigerate. Melt shortening and chocolate together in a metal bowl over a pan of lightly simmering water. Stir occasionally until smooth and remove from heat. Remove balls from refrigerator. Insert a wooden toothpick into a ball, and dip into melted chocolate. Return to wax paper, chocolate side down, and remove toothpick. Repeat with remaining balls. Refrigerate for 30 minutes to set.



CARAMEL CHEWY CARAMELS

- **2 Cups White Sugar**
- **1 1/2 Cups Corn Syrup**
- **2 Cups Heavy Cream**
- **1 Cup Butter**
- **1 tsp Vanilla Extract**

Butter a 9x13 inch dish. In a heavy saucepan, combine sugar, corn syrup, 1 cup cream and butter. Bring to a boil, stirring often, then stir in remaining 1 cup cream. Heat, without stirring, to 242 degrees F (116 degrees C), or until a small amount of syrup dropped into cold water forms a firm but pliable ball. Remove from heat, stir in vanilla, and pour into prepared dish. Refrigerate. When cool, return candies to room temperature then cut into 1 inch squares and wrap in waxed paper.

SUGAR

HOMEMADE MARSHMALLOWS

- **1 Cup Confectioners' (Powdered) Sugar for Dusting**
- **2 Cups White Sugar**
- **1 TB Light Corn Syrup**
- **1 1/4 Cups Water Divided**
- **4 TB Unflavored Gelatin**
- **2 Egg Whites**
- **1 tsp Vanilla Extract**

Dust a 9x9 inch square dish generously with confectioners' sugar. In a small saucepan over medium-high heat, stir together white sugar, corn syrup and 3/4 cup water. Heat to 250 to 265 degrees F (121 to 129 degrees C), or until a small amount of syrup dropped into cold water forms a rigid ball. While syrup is heating, place remaining water in a metal bowl and sprinkle gelatin over the surface. Place bowl over simmering water until gelatin has dissolved completely. Keep in a warm place until syrup has come to temperature. Remove syrup from heat and whisk gelatin mixture into hot syrup. Set aside. In a separate bowl, whip egg whites to soft peaks. Continue to beat, pouring syrup mixture into egg whites in a thin stream, until the egg whites are very stiff. Stir in vanilla. Spread evenly in prepared pan and let rest 8 hours or overnight before cutting.



For colorful marshmallows add a few drops of food coloring to the mixture.

FLAVORED

HARD ROCK CANDY

- **1 Cup Confectioners' (Powdered) Sugar**
- **3 3/4 Cups White Sugar**
- **1 1/2 Cups Light Corn Syrup**
- **1 Cup Water**
- **2 tsp Cinnamon or Other Flavored Oil**
- **1 tsp Food Coloring, Color of Your Choice**

Roll the edges of two 16 inch square pieces of heavy duty aluminum foil. Sprinkle the foil very generously with confectioners' sugar. In a large heavy saucepan, combine the white sugar, corn syrup, and water. Heat over medium-high heat, stirring constantly until sugar dissolves. Stop stirring, and boil until a candy thermometer reads 300 to 310 degrees F (149 to 154 degrees C). Remove from heat. Stir in the cinnamon oil and food coloring. Pour onto the prepared foil, and allow to cool and harden. Crack into pieces, and store in an airtight container. Sprinkle with confectioners' sugar if desired.



YOUTH TOUR, ENERGY CAMP CANCELLED FOR 2020

Youth Tour Winners Awarded Scholarship Instead

Amid concerns surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, it was no surprise to learn that the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) made the difficult decision in April to cancel all in-person events through June. This cancellation includes the 2020 Youth Tour, which was scheduled to take place June 19-25.

Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative (NOEC) had already selected and submitted the names of its four winners, each of whom was excited for the opportunity to visit our nation's capital. This year's field of winners included: Bluejacket High School's Shelbie Baker, Pryor High School's Seamus Meehan, Oaks-Mission High School's Tamara Gilmore, and Vinita High School's Emma Speer.

In lieu of the trip, a decision was made to award each of these students a \$1,000 scholarship toward the college, university, or trade school of their choice. The decision was approved by the NOEC board of trustees at its April monthly meeting.

NRECA CEO Jim Matheson explained that the safety of event participants is the number one priority.

"As we continue to monitor the evolving coronavirus situation, I want to assure you that we are taking measures to protect the health and safety of our members, staff and event participants," said Matheson. "Based on the health risks and local, state and national orders, as well as recommendations from the Center for Disease Control, we are canceling in-person NRECA programs through June 24."

Stacy Howeth, Director of Member Services and Youth Tour Coordinator for the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives (OAEC), expressed her disappointment for the students.

"I'm absolutely heartbroken that this is happening," Howeth told Youth Tour participants. "Youth Tour has been taking place for more than 50 years and has never been cancelled. We are truly in unprecedented times. But I'm sure I don't have to remind you of that. Many of you are experiencing disruptions in all areas of your life. I'm sure there is shared disappointment about cancelled proms, spring sports and school activities, and much more."

Added Howeth: "Even in all this uncertainty, one thing I know for sure is that cooperatives are unwavering in their support for the communities they serve. In fact, one of the operating principles of cooperatives is "Commitment to Community"—but you might already know that from your research when applying for Youth Tour. Everyone involved in Youth Tour, including your sponsoring co-op, your statewide organization (OAEC) and your national organization (NRECA) will do our very best to recognize and honor that fact that YOU were selected to represent your co-op for 2020 Youth Tour. It's just going to look different than ever before, and since we've never been in this position, we're still figuring out the details. Please bear with us as we all take a little bit of time to process the options and determine the best way to move forward at the various levels of involvement."

Energy Camp, scheduled May 26-29, was also cancelled. Not all entries had been received since the deadline for submission had not passed at the time of cancellation, thus no winners were selected for 2020.



BENEFITS OF TREE TRIMMING AND VEGETATION MANAGEMENT TO OUR COOPERATIVE

Continued from Front Cover

Many miles of NOEC distribution line serve very populated areas not suited for the earlier aforementioned mechanical clearing methods. These areas require more labor intensive clearing methods that are more costly and not as efficient as other means. Densely populated areas and subdivisions are typically maintained using individual bucket trucks to clear and remove encroaching trees. Tree limbs and debris are then chipped and removed by ground crews.

All these types of clearing methods are used to provide a clear and attractive right of way. Our goal is to maintain the rights of way to reduce tree related outages and keep the lights on in a safe, efficient, and effective manner.

