

# NE CONNECTION

A PUBLICATION OF NORTHEAST OKLAHOMA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

**THE YOUTH ISSUE**  
SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS & MORE!

**PATRONAGE**  
ALLOCATION ANNOUNCED

**AUGUST 2022**



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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**Shane Burgess** - Engineering

**Ricky Hignite** - Information Technology

**Darryll Lindsey** - Member Services

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## VINITA HEADQUARTERS

27039 South 4440 Road, Vinita, OK 74301

## GROVE OFFICE

212 South Main, Grove, OK 74344

## BUSINESS HOURS

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

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 [publicrelations@noec.coop](mailto:publicrelations@noec.coop)

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## PERSEVERANCE

**Leslie Taylor**

**Director of Accounting**

The definition of perseverance is doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success. As an electric cooperative, we have definitely

had to persevere these last couple of months. Recovering from a pandemic, rising fuel costs, interest rates, vehicle costs, and conserving energy to avoid power outages. As a member myself, all these hit home. I understand the difficulties of paying bills while the costs continue to rise.

In order to persevere sometimes we must change. Change is exactly what I did in September 2021 after working 18 years for a local generation and transmission cooperative. I was given an opportunity to serve NOEC members as Director of Accounting. Being able to serve my member cooperative by helping keep costs low and being involved with members in the communities where we provide service was an exciting change for me.

With the recent retirement of several longtime members of the accounting staff, we find ourselves having to adjust and adapt here in the NOEC financial services department. That's to be expected when you lose almost 90 years of experience. With our dedicated accounting staff, however, our members will continue to receive the same quality of service. We continue to look for ways to cut costs and save our members money. As we move forward, we will follow the NOEC mission statement: "To deliver competitively priced electric power and work to improve our members quality of life." Keeping our members' electric bills (including my own) as low as possible continues to be our shared goal.

Oklahomans are resilient and, through perseverance, we will get through this time of economic uncertainty. Rest assured NOEC is doing everything possible to help its members. As parents we told our kids, "Be part of the solution, not the problem." We can't always control the circumstances in life, but we can look for ways to make them better. I will try to do my part one step at a time, and I know NOEC will too.



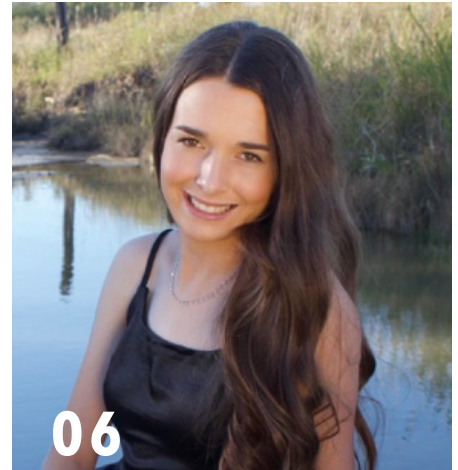
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**PATRONAGE ALLOCATION**



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**YOUTH TOUR TRIO**



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**SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS**



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**MAYES COUNTY RECIPES**

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 [publicrelations@noec.coop](mailto:publicrelations@noec.coop)

**\$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 918.256.6405, by September 5, 2022, to claim a \$100 credit on your electric account.

**AUGUST 2022 EVENTS**

**2022 OCA Summer Workshop**

**Aug 5 | Afton**

Shangri La Resort

**Ottawa County Fair**

**Aug 6-13 | Miami**

Miami Fairgrounds

**UTV Takeover**

**Aug 10-14 | Jay**

MidAmerica Outdoors

**Ottawa County Premium Sale**

**Aug 12 | Miami**

Miami Fairgrounds

**2 Hip Chicks Roadshow**

**Aug 13 | Grove**

Grove Civic Center

**Fearless Fern 5k & 1-Mile Walk**

**Aug 21 | Miami**

Downtown

**Will Rogers Rodeo Parade**

**Aug 24 | Vinita**

North Park

**\*910236\***

**Will Rogers Memorial Rodeo**

**Aug 24-27 | Vinita**

Will Rogers Rodeo Arena

**2 Hip Chicks Roadshow**

**Aug 26 | Claremore**

Claremore Expo Center

**2022 Miami Rodeo**

**Aug 26-27 | Miami**

Miami Fairgrounds

**Women's Weekend at Shangri La**

**Aug 26-28 | Afton**

Shangri La Resort

August events are subject to date change or cancellation. Please contact the host for most current event information.





# NOEC BOARD APPROVES 2021 PATRONAGE ALLOCATION

**Cooperative businesses are unique. They are owned by the members they serve and are guided by a set of seven principles that reflect the interests of those members. One of those seven guiding principles is Member Economic Participation.**

Economic participation simply means that members contribute equitably to—and democratically control—cooperative capital. Unlike investor-owned utilities, cooperatives do not issue stocks. Surpluses are considered margins, not profits.

Margins exceeding what is required to operate the business are allocated to member patronage accounts. The success of a cooperative is shared with its members through annual patronage allocation.

**Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative's Board of Trustees recently approved allocation of 2021 patronage capital totaling \$3,503,496.**

For 2021 usage, an allocation factor of \$0.004857 per kilowatt-hour (kWh) will be used. A member using 1,233 kWh per month, for example, would produce \$71.86 in patronage.

To calculate the capital credit allocated to a member patronage account for 2021, simply multiply the allocation factor of \$0.004857 by the total kWh of usage for the year.

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## FORMULA EXAMPLE

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \$0.004857 & \times & 1,233 & \times & 12 & = & \$71.86 \\ \text{allocation} & & \text{kWh} & & \text{months} & & \text{patronage} \\ \text{factor} & & & & & & \end{array}$$

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**If you are an NOEC member with active service, you can find the allocation amount in the upper right-hand corner of your August 2022 statement. This amount will remain in your patronage capital account until a future patronage retirement is made.**

NOEC is honored to serve and share its success with you. If you have questions about how capital credit is allocated or would like to know the total amount in your member patronage account for this or previous years, feel free to contact us at 918.256.6405, extension 9313.

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# ASSISTANCE AGENCIES

## 2022 RESOURCE LIST

### Craig County

Department of Human Services (DHS).....	918.713.5000
Grand Gateway.....	918.783.5793
Grand Nation/Salvation Army.....	918.276.2192
Grand Lake Community Ministries.....	918.782.2861
Neighbors Helping Neighbors.....	918.713.8088

### Delaware County

Community Action.....	918.253.4683
Cherokee Nation Human Services, Jay.....	918.253.4219
Department of Human Services (DHS).....	918.435.3001
Grand Gateway.....	918.783.5793

### Ottawa County

Department of Human Services (DHS).....	918.541.2400
Salvation Army.....	918.542.3436
Grand Gateway.....	918.783.5793

### Mayes County

Cherokee Housing Authority.....	918.825.4811
Department of Human Services (DHS).....	918.824.4900
Grand Gateway.....	918.783.5793
Grand Lake Community Ministry, Langley.....	918.782.2861
Salvation Army/Community Action Pryor.....	918.825.3423

### Rogers County

Community Action.....	918.341.5000
Department of Human Services (DHS).....	918.283.8300
Grand Gateway.....	918.783.5793

### Northwest Arkansas

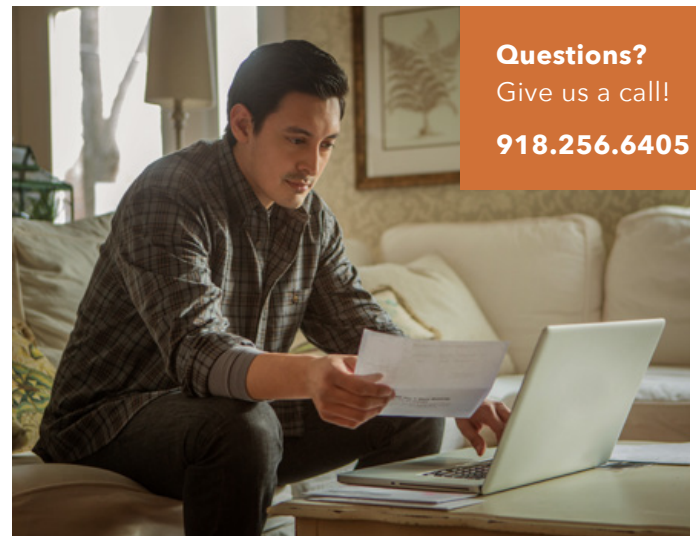
Salvation Army.....	479.521.2151
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### Contact

### Tribes

Apache Tribe.....	405.247.9493
Cherokee Nation Tribe.....	800.256.0671
Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribe.....	405.422.7476
Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma.....	580.436.7256
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.....	580.924.8280
Comanche Nation.....	580.492.3240
Delaware Tribe of Oklahoma.....	918.337.6590
Eastern Shawnee Tribe.....	918.666.5151
Kaw Nation.....	580.269.2552 x 231
Kiowa Tribe.....	580.654.2300
Miami Tribe of Oklahoma.....	918.541.1389
Modoc Tribe of Oklahoma.....	918.542.1190
Muscogee Creek Nation.....	918.756.8700
Ottawa Indian Tribe.....	918.540.1536
Quapaw Tribe.....	918.542.1853 x 222
Sac and Fox Nation.....	918.968.3526
Seneca-Cayuga Tribe.....	918.787.5452
Shawnee Tribe.....	918.542.2441
United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians	918.871.2800
Wyandotte Nation.....	918.678.2297

### Contact



### Questions?

Give us a call!

**918.256.6405**

# TRIO REPRESENTS NOEC

## DURING 2022 YOUTH TOUR



*Elyssa Branham, Jack Taylor, and Jaci Palmer*



### Three local students headed to our nation's capital in June as part of the 2022 Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.

Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative was represented on the trip by Jaci Palmer of Vinita (Epic Charter School), Jack Taylor of Adair (Adair High School), and Elyssa Branham of Pryor (Pryor High School). The NOEC trio was joined by 55 other student-delegates from across the state, as well as seven chaperones, and a nurse.

It was the first actual in-person Youth Tour trip since 2019 with COVID-19 having cancelled the event in 2020 and 2021.

"It's a great honor for these students to have been selected to represent their cooperatives and communities during this once-in-a-lifetime experience," remarked Stacy Howeth, Director of Member Services for the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives and coordinator of the Youth Tour trip. "Of course, this is a very special year to be a delegate because this is our first year traveling back to our nation's capital in-person."

This Oklahoma Youth Tour contingent departed early on June 18 and enjoyed six full days' worth of activities before returning home June 23. They took in a number of sights and sounds during the busy week including visits to: Fort McHenry National Park, Baltimore Inner Harbor, Arlington National Cemetery, Iwo Jima Memorial, Air Force Memorial, Pentagon 9-11 Memorial, Mount Vernon, Holocaust Museum, Library of Congress, and Ford's Theatre. They enjoyed a monument tour, Youth Day, a boat dinner cruise, a congressional summit, a tour of the U.S. Capitol, dinner at the Hard Rock Café, and the Oklahoma Reflection Party.

"As you can see, we get to see just about every monument, memorial, and museum possible," Howeth said. "It's a jam-packed week of visiting sights that lots of people have only heard about or seen in a book or on television. We've been preparing for this trip for pretty much three years now and are so excited to lead our students on this adventure."



**"They shared this mission with 55 other students, to whom they will be forever connected by these experiences. Oklahoma's electric cooperatives are proud to sponsor this journey."**

It was a year of change for the NOEC Youth Tour contest. Students this year were required to complete a 6-8 hour community service project, a format that represented a notable departure from the longstanding essay contest. The theme for the first-ever youth tour community service project was: "Making a Difference Where I Live."

Branham's project saw her spend a Saturday working alongside several regular volunteers at Big Cabin Baptist Church's Clothes Closet, a community outreach that provides clean, gently-used clothing to anyone in need. The Clothes Closet opens its doors for this purpose the third Saturday of every month.

Branham's duties included signing people in and then helping sort clothing items by size and type for distribution. She also donated some of her family's clothing items.

**"I love helping people find new hope in opportunity," said the 17-year-old Pryor High School student of her time as a volunteer.**



*Elyssa Branham gathering clothing donations*

Palmer's project was similar. She assisted Neighbors Helping Neighbors of Craig County by sorting clothing items that would be made available to needy area families.

It was a day well spent, according to Palmer.



*Jaci Palmer sorting clothes for Neighbors Helping Neighbors*

**"I got to help people in need," she explained. "It was rewarding being able to do something to help those less fortunate."**



*Jack Taylor with boxes of medical supplies ready to be shipped*

Taylor's project saw him help inventory and box surplus medical supplies and equipment for international distribution as a volunteer for the Medical Supplies Network, Inc. MSNI ships 8,500 pounds of supplies and equipment to struggling countries from its Tulsa warehouse each month. As a member of the Adair High School Interact Club, Taylor has attended Pryor Rotary Club meetings where they've shown pictures of villages with no access to medical supplies.

"Not everyone has quality health care like we do in the U.S.," he said. "We have so much."

If you know a student who would be interested in volunteering their time for a chance to attend next year's Youth Tour, email the NOEC Public Relations department at: [publicrelations@noec.coop](mailto:publicrelations@noec.coop). Students who will be in the eleventh grade during the 2022-2023 school year and attend school in Craig, Mayes, Delaware, or Ottawa counties (or Chelsea High School in Rogers County) are eligible to participate in this contest.

# SCHOLARSHIPS

## FOR OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative is helping ensure a brighter tomorrow for four area high school seniors by supporting their dream of a life-enriching higher education. The cooperative’s scholarship committee selected four 2022 graduates from among many qualified applicants to receive \$1,000 each toward a continuing education at a college, university, or trade school.

Recipients of the 2022 NOEC College Scholarship include: Jay High School’s Aliah Barrows, Quapaw High School’s Savannah Glerup, Adair High School’s Aubrey Yoder, and Welch High School’s Rose Small.



The 2022 NOEC College Scholarship for the Delaware County area was awarded to Aliah Barrows of Jay High School. Aliah is the daughter of Vanessa and Billy Barrows of Eucha. Aliah will attend Northeastern State University in Tahlequah this fall and was accepted into the school’s honors Chemistry program.

Aliah’s high school experience was robust and included participation in the school’s Drama Club, Book Club, varsity athletics, FFA, and Mu Alpha Theta programs. She was a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Grand Lake Junior Chamber of Commerce, Educational Talent Search, and Gifted & Talented. She was valedictorian of her class; made the Superintendent’s Honor Roll; was named Student of the Month; was both a track & field and cross country state qualifier and All-Stater; was a member of the wrestling, football and basketball homecoming courts; was named Academic All-State in basketball; and obtained an FFA Greenhand degree. She also held the following offices: Science Club reporter, Science Club president, National Honor Society vice-president, Grand Savings Bank board vice-president (twice), Class of 2021 graduation head usher, cross country team captain, student body president (twice), and prom committee president.

An excellent student, Aliah got a jump start on her college education, graduating with 16 honors credits and 24 concurrent credit hours. She maintained a 4.0 GPA and posted an ACT score of 30.

**“Aliah is one of the hardest workers I have ever had,” commended Stacey Stapleton, Head of the Science/Chemistry/Physics programs at Jay High School. “She is conscientious about everything she does. She is kind to everyone and is well liked by everyone. I believe that Aliah will make us all proud with her future academic endeavors because she puts her all into everything she does. She will never quit until she achieves her goals and she always puts academics first.”**

Jay Mayor, Becki Farley, was equally complimentary of Aliah.

“I have known Aliah for at least ten years and find her to be a smart and competent young woman,” praised Farley. “She has demonstrated leadership and her confidence has grown as a result. I feel Aliah will perform well on her journey in higher education and in life. She is goal-oriented and focused. She possesses the skills to be productive and is selfless. I look forward to seeing what she will accomplish.”

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**SAVANNAH**

**Representing the Ottawa County area in accepting the 2022 NOEC College Scholarship is Savannah Glerup of Quapaw High School. Savannah is the daughter of Susan and William Glerup of Miami. Savannah plans to pursue Pharmacy studies this fall at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford.**

Savannah was a busy student at Quapaw, participating in FFA, student council, cheerleading, softball, archery, and track & field. She was FFA vice-president, class valedictorian, senior class treasurer, and a member of the National Honor Society. She excelled academically, finishing with a 4.37 GPA and a score of 31 on the ACT. She also maintained full-time concurrent enrollment at Northeast Oklahoma A&M College, where she was selected to the President's Honor Roll.

Savannah's accomplishments did not go unnoticed by Quapaw High School faculty members, including Spanish teacher Joyce Clark and Family Consumer Science teacher Shannon Brewster.

**Said Clark: "I have been able to observe Savannah in numerous school activities. She has always shown a serious attitude about keeping up in her classes, even when activity absences were numerous and inevitable. She excelled on every assignment and activity while maintaining an extremely high grade. I have seen only demonstrations of respect and patience from her when interacting with others during group work and activities."**

**Savannah will confront every challenge and give 100% effort. Such drive and determination are rare in one so young."**

Brewster agreed: "Savannah has always been a very hard worker and dedicated friend to her classmates. She is a joy to be around and always has helpful ideas. She encourages others when working on projects and offers her time to help when needed."



**AUBREY**

**Adair High School's Aubrey Yoder represented the Mayes County area in accepting the 2022 NOEC College Scholarship. Aubrey is the daughter of Greg and Stacey Yoder of Pryor. Aubrey will attend Ozark Christian College this fall where her studies will focus on Counseling and Pastoral Care.**

Aubrey was an active student whose participation included FFA, FCCLA, STUCO, and FCA. She served on the advisory council and as a historian for her FFA chapter; was vice-president of membership and social media coordinator for the school's FCCLA program; served as student council president her freshman, sophomore and junior years; and was also STUCO historian.

Additional acknowledgement for Aubrey came from the National Indigenous Recognition Program, and National Rural & Small Town Recognition Program. She maintained a 4.0 GPA, scored 32 on her ACT, received a Diploma of Distinction, and was named Valedictorian of her class. She graduated with a jump start on college with 21 hours of concurrent enrollment credit.

**"Aubrey is one of the most intelligent students I have had the pleasure of being principal of," praised Adair High School Principal Becky DeLozier. "Not only is she academically gifted but she is a joy to be around. She is so helpful and very strong in her morals and values. She will stand up for what is right and hold strong and true no matter what. Aubrey has such admirable qualities that anyone would want in their child. She will be a strong leader after she graduates."**

DeLozier added: "Our mascot is the Warrior at Adair Schools, and Aubrey is a great representation of a warrior. She is strong to the core, supportive, a fighter for what is right, and loyal. She is a natural academically, and is so well rounded as an individual human. You do not find Aubrey's qualities in many students who are as academically strong as what she is. She is one-of-a-kind to the core. She will represent herself well and I envision her successful in whatever endeavor she pursues."



**The 2022 NOEC College Scholarship for the Craig/Rogers County area was presented to Welch High School's Rose Small. Rose is the daughter of Todd and Michelle Small of Welch. Rose will attend Oklahoma State University this fall and study Interior Design.**

Rose represented Welch High School well during an active high school experience that included memberships in the following organizations: Technology Student Association (TSA), Art Club, National Honor Society, Business Professionals of America, Student Council, FFA, and FCA.

She served as Art Club reporter, senior class treasurer, three years as TSA treasurer, and two years as FFA sentinel. Rose was also an avid high school rodeo participant, competing in both breakaway roping and barrel racing. She also served as her team's breakaway roping director.

Academic honors for Rose were also plentiful. In addition to the aforementioned NHS membership, she was named valedictorian of her class, and finished with a 4.21 GPA. She was named Rotarian Student of the Month, and was awarded first place in the state during the Oklahoma Project Fair. Rose took several honors level classes, including Algebra III, Chemistry, Anatomy, and Physiology, and graduated high school with 33 hours of concurrent credit from Northeast Oklahoma A&M College, earning a selection to the president's honor roll at NEO.

An active member of her church, Rose volunteered numerous hours as an assistant children's church and VBS teacher, sung at nursing homes, organized a blood drive, and served on mission trips.

**"Rose is a very dedicated, well-rounded student who has been a great asset to our school system and community," applauded Welch School Counselor Janey Sutton. "I have personally known Rose for many years and it is my opinion that she is honest, trustworthy, and of moral character beyond reproach. She is remarkable role model for other students in our school. In addition to her outstanding academic performance, Rose still finds time to be involved in numerous school and community organizations and service projects."**

Sutton's assessment was echoed by Tobie Gatewood, Northeast Tech's Afton Campus Student Advisor.

"Rose is a very good student with a great work ethic," said Gatewood. "Knowing her on a personal level, I believe her to be honest, driven and determined to succeed in all that she does. Rose has been active in student organizations and has great leadership qualities. She has the ability to influence her peers in a positive manner. She possesses a wide variety of skills, therefor I have no doubt that will excel in the next steps of her education's career."





# FEATURED RECIPES

## MAYES COUNTY



Cook time: 40 minutes

**GAYLA ANDERSON | PRYOR**

### CAMPFIRE POTATOES

#### INGREDIENTS

- 5-6 medium potatoes, thinly sliced
- 1 medium onion, thinly sliced
- 6 tbsp butter
- 1/3 cup shredded cheese
- 2 tbsp parsley
- 1 tbsp Worcestershire sauce
- 1/3 cup chicken broth
- Salt & pepper to taste

**Step 1:** Place potatoes and onions on large piece of heavy duty foil and dot with butter. Combine cheese, parsley, Worcestershire, salt and pepper and sprinkle over potatoes.

**Step 3:** Fold up foil and pour in chicken broth. Seal foil well and wrap with another piece of foil.

**Step 3:** Grill over medium heat for 40 minutes, turning every 10 minutes.



Cook time: 30-40 minutes

**PAM COLLINS | PRYOR**

### HOMINY CASSEROLE

#### INGREDIENTS

- 1 stick margarine
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 1 large green pepper, chopped
- 1, 4oz jar chopped pimento
- 1 large can chopped mushrooms
- 2, 4oz cans sliced olives
- 1 can water chestnuts
- 4 cans yellow hominy
- 1 large jar jalapeño Cheez Whiz
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan

**Step 1:** Sauté onion and green pepper in margarine until softened. Then drain the pimento, mushrooms, olives, chestnuts, and hominy in a colander.

**Step 2:** Mix all ingredients together, except Parmesan cheese, and place in a large casserole dish.

**Step 3:** Finish by sprinkling with Parmesan cheese and bake at 350°F until casserole bubbles in center, usually 30 to 40 minutes.

*If jalapeno Cheez Whiz cannot be found, mexican Velveeta cheese can be substituted.*



# COOPERATIVE **FILL-IN-THE-BLANK**

As a member of an electric cooperative (also known as a co-op), you're part of something special! Read the facts about co-ops below and use the word bank to fill in the blanks.

**Check your work in the answer key.**

## Word Bank

Electric  
Principles  
Members  
Communities  
Co-ops

1. Co-ops don't have customers  
Instead, they have \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Co-ops are local organizations  
and businesses, so they  
understand the local  
\_\_\_\_\_ and members  
they serve.
3. All co-ops are guided by  
the same set of cooperative  
\_\_\_\_\_.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ are led by the  
members they serve.
5. You're a member of an  
\_\_\_\_\_ co-op, but there are  
also housing, grocery, and  
other types of co-ops.

Answer key: 1. members 2. communities 3. principles  
4. co-ops 5. electric

## BACK TO SCHOOL ELECTRICAL SAFETY: ELEMENTARY THROUGH COLLEGE

- Don't play near or around power lines, poles, or pad-mount transformers (those big green boxes), while at school.
- Don't place objects, such as pens or pencils, in electrical outlets.
- Keep all electrical appliances and cords away from bedding, curtains and other flammable materials.
- Don't overload electrical outlets. Most dorms or campus housing are not equipped to handle today's use of electronic appliances.
- If you drive to school, obey traffic laws and practice safety when driving where utility crews are working.
- If you're in an accident involving downed power lines, assume the line is energized, remain in the vehicle, and call 911. If you must exit the vehicle, jump out of the vehicle with both feet together and avoid contact with the vehicle and ground at the same time. Shuffle away with small steps, keeping feet together and on the ground to reduce the risk of electrocution.