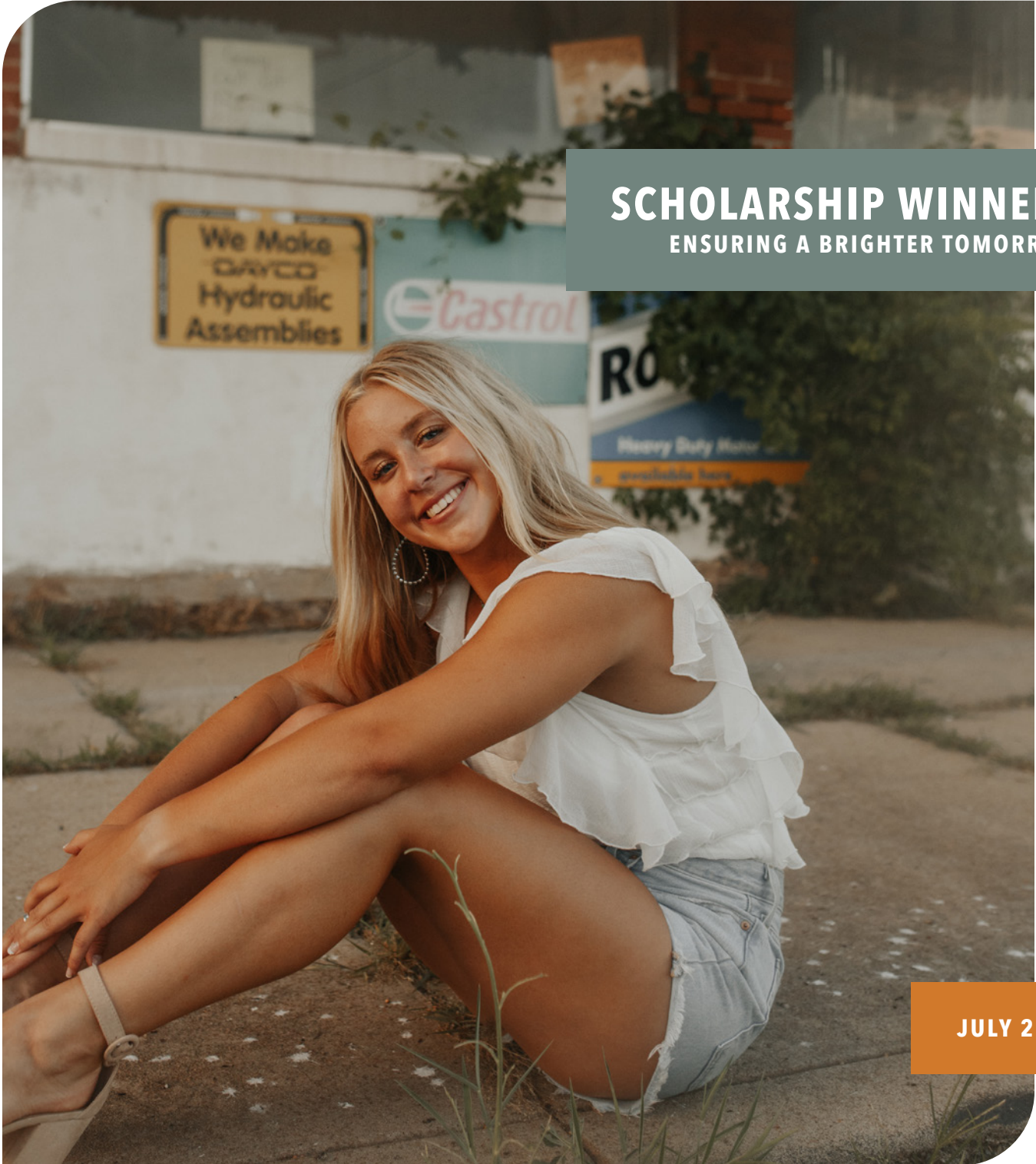


# NE CONNECTION

A PUBLICATION OF NORTHEAST OKLAHOMA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



**SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS**  
ENSURING A BRIGHTER TOMORROW

**JULY 2023**

# NE CONNECTION

A PUBLICATION OF NORTHEAST OKLAHOMA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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

## OFFICERS & TRUSTEES

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**John L. Myers** - District 4, Vice-President  
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**Shane Burgess** - Engineering  
**Ricky Hignite** - Information Technology  
**Darryll Lindsey** - Member Services  
**Nick Sutton** - Operations

## VINITA HEADQUARTERS

27039 South 4440 Road, Vinita, OK 74301

## GROVE OFFICE

600 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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## REASONS BEHIND THE RULES

**Kelly Rush**  
**Director of Regulatory & Compliance**

*You are remembered for the rules you break.* -Douglas MacArthur, Five-Star General of the U.S. Army

While MacArthur was referencing the courage it takes to break rules in order to receive a favorable outcome during conflict, businesses breaking rules is rarely a cause for celebration.

Too often we learn of investors being defrauded, losing their retirement savings, and consumers receiving faulty, potentially dangerous, products. What can prevent most of these events? Following the rules.

Rules aren't fun. Quite honestly, rules can be frustrating and seem burdensome. But, we have to remember that the rules are there for a reason. Following rules is crucial to Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative (NOEC) for several reasons:

**Legal Compliance.** Rules and regulations are in place to ensure NOEC operates within the framework of the law. Compliance with law such as labor, environmental, and consumer protection regulations is vital to avoid legal consequences, fines, lawsuits, and reputational damage. By following the rules, NOEC can maintain its integrity and build trust with members.

**Ethical Conduct.** Rules often reflect ethical principles and guidelines that promote fairness, integrity, and responsibility. Adhering to these rules ensures that NOEC treats its employees, members, and suppliers ethically and with respect, which fosters beneficial long-term relationships.

**Risk Management.** By following established rules, NOEC can minimize the occurrence of errors, accidents, and other operational issues. Compliance also helps identify potential risks and provides the opportunity to implement preventive measures, protecting NOEC from financial losses, operational disruptions, and reputational harm.

*Continued on page 2.*



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SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



08

ENERGY CAMP



10

CRAIG COUNTY RECIPES

HAPPY  
*Independence*  
DAY  
Tuesday, July 4th

**\$100 IS HIDING!**  
Search the pages of *Northeast 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 August 1, 2023, to claim a \$100 credit on your electric account.

**FUN FACT!**  
Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative is celebrating its 85th year serving you!

**JULY EVENTS** .....

<b>Food Truck Friday</b> July 7   Grove Downtown	<b>District 5 Meeting</b> July 13   Ketchum Ketchum High School
<b>Grand Lake Summer Expo</b> July 7-8   Vinita Craig County Community Center	<b>GCPAAA Car, Truck, Motorcycle, and Golf Cart Show</b> July 15   Grove Wolf Creek Park
<b>KDBA Drag Boat Races</b> July 8-9   Grove Wolf Creek Park	<b>Old Time Gathering &amp; Music Festival</b> July 21-22   Grove Har-Ber Village Museum
<b>2 Hip Chicks Roadshow</b> July 8   Miami Miami Civic Center	<b>Route 66 Heritage Fest</b> July 28-29   Miami Downtown
<b>District 1 Meeting</b> July 10   Miami Peoria Tribe Community Center	<b>Willie Osbourn Memorial Run</b> July 29   Miami Downtown
<b>District 3 Meeting</b> July 11   Welch Welch Civic Center	

Events are published as space allows and must be submitted at least 60 days in advance. Send information to Northeast Connection Events Calendar, PO Box 948, Vinita, OK 74301 or email: [publicrelations@noec.coop](mailto:publicrelations@noec.coop)



# REASONS BEHIND THE RULES

## CONTINUED FROM INSIDE COVER

**Financial Stability.** Adhering to financial rules, such as accurate accounting practices, tax compliance, and financial reporting standards, is crucial for NOEC's financial stability. Accurate financial records enable informed decision-making, enhance transparency, and build trust with members, lenders, and regulatory bodies.

**Reputation.** Businesses are judged by their reputation, which is heavily influenced by adherence to rules and regulations. Compliance demonstrates a commitment by NOEC to responsible business practices.

In summary, following rules is important to NOEC because it ensures legal compliance, promotes ethical conduct, manages risks, enhances consistency and efficiency, supports financial stability, and safeguards our reputation. By following rules, we create a strong foundation for growth and success.

I know I used MacArthur's words out of context to make a point. Given the importance of rules to our business, this quote by legendary football coach Lou Holtz, rings true for NOEC: *I follow three rules: Do the right thing, do the best you can, and always show people you care.*

\*903677\*

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### DISTRICT MEETINGS 1, 3, & 5

#### JULY 10: DISTRICT 1

**Charles Wyrick, Incumbent Trustee**

Peoria Tribe Community Center  
1809 Cleveland Avenue, Miami, OK

#### JULY 11: DISTRICT 3

**Brian Kelly, Incumbent Trustee**

Welch Civic Center  
610 S Curtis Street, Welch, OK

#### JULY 13: DISTRICT 5

**Dandy Risman, Incumbent Trustee**

Ketchum High School, commons area  
236 N Fulton, Ketchum, OK

## YOU'RE INVITED!

**Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative is hosting district meetings this summer for members in Districts 1, 3, and 5.**

If you are an NOEC member residing in one of these three districts, please join us for a brief meeting, meal, \$10 electric credit, and a prize drawing for a \$250, \$100, and \$50 electric credit. Register from 6-7 p.m. (locations provided at left). Meetings will begin at 7 p.m.

*More info: [www.noec.coop/about/governance/](http://www.noec.coop/about/governance/)*

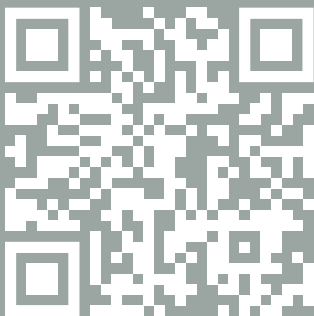
# COOPERATIVE **FILL-IN-THE-BLANK**

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.**



1. Co-ops don't have customers. Instead, they have \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Co-ops are local organizations and businesses, so they value 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.



**SCAN ME**

for more cooperative info

or visit [www.noec.coop/about/who-we-are/](http://www.noec.coop/about/who-we-are/)

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

# NOEC AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS

**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 scholarship committee selected four 2023 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 2023 NOEC College/Trade School Scholarship include: Grove High School's Borin Arnold, Miami High School's Brant Walker, Pryor High School's Evan Weaver, and Nowata High School's Benton Blasi.



The 2023 NOEC College/Trade School Scholarship for the Craig and Rogers County area was presented to Nowata High School graduate **Benton Blasi**. Benton is the son of Julie Lamb of Vinita. He will attend Northeastern State University this fall and study cellular/molecular biology and optometry.

Benton represented Nowata High School well during a robust high school experience that included involvement in FFA, National Honor Society (NHS), student council, football, and baseball. He served as president, vice-president, and treasurer of the school's FFA chapter; student council treasurer; NHS vice-president; and captain of both the varsity football and baseball teams.

Recognition for Benton included a nomination for the U.S. Presidential Scholars program, National Society of High School Scholars, Superintendent's Honor Roll 2018-2023, FFA Star Greenhand, FFA Star Chapter Farmer, and Ironmen Baseball Player of the Year.

Benton co-founded the first Nowata Public Schools podcast "Speak NPS," was an Earth Team volunteer for the Natural Resources Conservation Services, volunteered his time as a tutor for the Nowata Boys & Girls Club, is a member of Cornerstone Community Church, and played for the Bartlesville American Legion 17U baseball team.

"Benton is an extremely disciplined student who never disappoints regarding integrity and academic excellence. He has been a dedicated student who is in the top five percent of his graduating class," remarked Nowata High School Counselor Monae Hubbard Thompson. "I am very impressed with Benton's ability to maintain a high grade-point average and be a part of all the extracurricular activities he is enrolled in."

Benton also received high praise from Cord Colwell, District Conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Nowata Field Office.

**"Benton volunteered close to 100 hours with our office and was instrumental in assisting us in many areas of office and field work that allowed us to accomplish our mission of getting conservation on the ground," Colwell said. "During his time spent in our office, Benton demonstrated exceptional leadership skills when working with and overseeing other volunteers on daily tasks. His ability to tackle any assignment head-on and see the project through was a huge asset to our office. Benton's work ethic and desire to help people is something that is rarely seen in youth today."**



Representing the Ottawa County area in accepting the 2023 NOEC College/Trade School Scholarship is Miami High School graduate **Brant Walker**. The son of Billy and Kelly Friend of Miami will attend Oklahoma State University this fall and pursue a degree in Business Management/International Business.

Brant was an active student at Miami, participating in student council (serving as class vice-president his junior year), FCA, varsity golf (four years), varsity basketball (two years), and weightlifting. He frequented the school's honor roll and was recognized as student of the month by the Disabled American Veterans.

**"Brant could be described as steady and consistent in both his school work and in his athletic extracurriculars," remarked Whitney McGhee, Miami High School's Mental and Behavioral Health Liaison.**

Brant was a two-time state golf qualifier and had the birdie of the month at Peoria Ridge Golf Course.

Brant graduated with distinction as a result of his advanced placement work and will carry 24 hours of credit with him to Oklahoma State from concurrent enrollment.

"I have observed Brant growing up and he is courteous, dependable, responsible, and honest," said Kim Harnar, Chief of Staff for the Wyandotte Nation. "Brant is always respectful and has the drive and discipline necessary to achieve his goals of completing his college education. He is a well-deserving individual and I know he will continue to do great things in the future."



Pryor High School graduate **Evan Weaver** represented the Mayes County area in accepting the 2023 NOEC College/Trade School Scholarship. Evan is the son of William and Carla Weaver of Pryor and will attend Northeastern State University this fall where his studies will focus on Health and Human Performance.

Best known for his proficiency on the golf course, Evan was a two-time Metro Lakes Conference golf champion and was the number one bag for Pryor High School from 2020-2023. He is a member of the Oklahoma Junior Golf Tour, Texas Junior Golf Tour, and American Junior Golf Tour. Evan will join the NSU Riverhawks golf team as a preferred walk-on, which guarantees him a roster spot but offers no athletic scholarship.

Notable among Evan's golf accomplishments is pioneering an after-school golf club, along with his father, in hopes of promoting youth golf interest in the area. Evan and his father managed the program from 2019-2022 and Evan served as a coach for the club.

Outside of golf, Evan was a 2022 Oklahoma Indian Honor Society student, received his basic woodworking certificate in 2019, and was named to the Mid-East Honor Band in 2018 (trombone).

Evan received glowing recommendation from Mayes County Conservation District Manager Jamie Lynn Walters.

**"I have worked closely with Evan for the past four years and have developed a great deal of respect for this outstanding young man," Walters remarked. "Not born with a silver spoon in his mouth, he has excelled in the game of golf and in all academic fields to boot. Evan possesses strong leadership qualities and a genuine concern for community."**

Pryor High School English instructor Sarah Ricketts also praised Evan.

"I have known about Evan for years because he's one whose reputation certainly precedes him in every good way possible," she said. "It's just this year that I have really gotten acquainted with Evan and I'm richer for the experience. I could count on Evan to show up to class every day, prepared with what he needs to succeed.

He's not afraid to ask questions and participate in class discussions. His work ethic is superb and he goes over and above what is expected of him. He's truly fun to have in class, and he has a wonderful ability to write, something that his hard to find in today's students."

Ricketts added: "During his time in high school Evan has been a stellar student. His GPA shows that he takes education seriously and, quite honestly, given the past few years, this refreshing to see and be a part of. While many students went online and struggled through their educational careers, Evan showed up to school and blossomed. If Evan can get through COVID while being a high school student, college should be another chapter of his life that he can fulfill. He shows tenacity in everything he attempts and accomplishes."



The 2023 NOEC College/Trade School Scholarship for the Delaware County area was awarded to **Borin Arnold** of Grove High School. Borin is the daughter of Jim and Adrian Arnold of Wyandotte. She will attend Pittsburg State University this fall and make Exercise Science/Pre-Med the focus of her studies.

Borin's high school experience was robust and included membership in student council, Interact Club board, National Honor Society, Safety Committee, and INTEGRIS Health Grove Hospital Junior Board. She also competed on the school's basketball and track teams. Borin was a Metro Lakes Conference first team selection in pole vault and twice qualified for state in the event.



Additional honors and involvement for Borin included being named Rotary Club Student of the Month, Junior STEM Scholar, and Ridgy Way Student of the Month. She also served freshmen class representative and C.O.W. Week vice-president.

Borin's work ethic was further evidenced off campus. In addition to an internship with INTEGRIS Health Grove Hospital, she worked for Grandwood Assisted Living, Nuance Interior Designs, Elk River Lawn Care, YMCA, as a lifeguard at the Grove city pool, and as a youth sports referee.

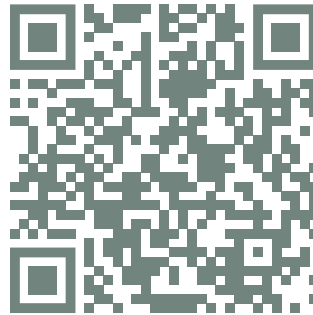
**Notable among Borin's many accomplishments was having earned her Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) certification from Northeast Technology Center in Afton alongside her high school studies. She also graduated with 15 hours of college credit from Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College.**

"Borin is a wonderful young lady who brings an outstanding presence to our school," remarked Donna Kerr, librarian and student council sponsor at Grove High School. "She is an excellent student leader and top-notch athlete. She takes every opportunity to use her leadership skills to make our school a better place."

Grove Schools' Terri Guthridge also praised Borin's high school achievements.

"Borin is a driven young lady who demonstrates a level of commitment necessary to succeed in college. I know she will be successful in everything she strives for. I feel very fortunate to have been a part of her educational journey and I can't wait to see what her future holds."

## INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT OUR YOUTH PROGRAMS?



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.....

Or visit [www.noec.coop/community-services/youth-programs/](http://www.noec.coop/community-services/youth-programs/) to view programs and applications.



# COOL OFF

## AT THE GRAND LAKE SUMMER EXPO

..... **CRAIG COUNTY COMMUNITY CENTER**

**JULY 7-8 | 9 AM – 6 PM**

Mark your calendars now for the 3rd Annual Grand Lake Summer Expo, sponsored by the Grand Lake Association. More than 30 exhibitors are already scheduled to attend. Admission to the event is free.

"We are bringing our event this year to Vinita and hope to continue building on the momentum we established with our March boat show," remarked Grand Lake Association Executive Director Jay Cranke.

The two-day event runs 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day and will provide attendees with a break from the summer heat while they shop. Local food trucks will also be on site.

**For the latest updates, click on the Grand Lake Summer Expo logo at: [www.GrandLakeFun.com](http://www.GrandLakeFun.com).**

# NOEC SENDS TWO TO ENERGY CAMP



**Bluejacket students Preslee James and Sarah Burdick completed all the requirements of the 2023 Energy Camp Community Service Project/Essay Contest and were selected to represent Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative during the camp, which took place May 30-June 2 at Red Rock Canyon in Hinton, Oklahoma.**

Preslee and Sarah both submitted essays on the topic *"Making a Difference Where I Live."*

"I want to make my community better," Preslee wrote. "Things I could do to help include painting or repairing people's homes, campaigning for more lights to make poorly lit streets safer, or I could help organize a community garden. These tasks would spruce up the community and make people happier."

Expanding on the community garden concept, Preslee wrote: "Community gardens provide food and work for everyone in the community. These gardens also provide a peaceful place to relax or study, and they just look nice to around buildings or open areas that were just dirt and pavement to begin with."

She said produce could be donated to those in need and also sold on the open market "to help buy more seed and soil" for the following growing season.

She added: "If it turns out to be good for the community, benches could be added so that anyone would be able to peacefully study or have a moment to relax."

Sarah's essay focused on a different facet of beautification.

"One way to improve my community is to help pick up trash," she wrote. "I could give back to the community by cleaning up parks, before and after games held at the park or school, parking lots, along streets, and other public places to help keep them nicer."



Preslee (left) poses with fellow camper



Sarah presents to the group



She added: "Picking up trash would be the first step in making a difference in my community. My hope is that others will notice how much nicer the area looks and they will start helping pick up trash as well."

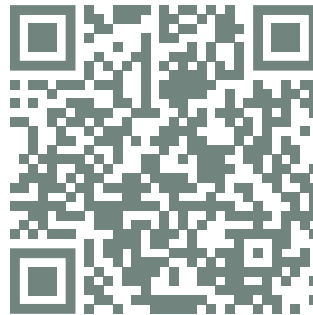
Sarah acknowledged the positive influence her efforts may have on others.

"To make a difference in my community may take a while, but you have to start somewhere," she said. "Maybe if others see me taking an interest in the community they will help make our community something everyone can be proud of."

In closing, Sarah emphasized the importance of starting somewhere.

"If I were to start small and try to improve on all of these things, then we could have a nicer community," she said. "Maybe then others would want to move here and that would add more homes and stores to our small town. In turn, maybe that would bring in even more families and that would help build our community."

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# FEATURED RECIPES

## CRAIG COUNTY | APPETIZERS



Bake time: 25-30 minutes

### JALAPEÑO POPPER DIP

SHARON WALKER

#### INGREDIENTS

- 2, 8 oz packages cream cheese
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1/2 cup shredded Monterey jack cheese
- 1/2 cup chopped canned green chili
- 1/4 cup diced jalapeños
- 1 cup shredded Parmesan cheese
- 1/2 cup panko bread crumbs

**Step 1:** Combine first 5 ingredients in bowl and transfer to a baking dish.

**Step 2:** Sprinkle mixture with Parmesan cheese and panko bread crumbs.

**Step 3:** Bake at 400°F for 25-30 minutes until golden brown.

**Step 4:** Serve with chips, crackers, or bread.

### SUMMER SAUSAGE

TERRI KEMOHAH

#### INGREDIENTS

- 4 lbs lean ground beef
- 1 1/2 cups water
- 4 tbsp Morton Tender Quick
- 3/4 tsp onion powder
- 1/2 tsp garlic powder
- 1 1/2 tsp liquid smoke
- 1 tbsp mustard seed

**Step 1:** Mix all ingredients well, cover, and refrigerate for 24 hours.

**Step 2:** Remove from refrigerator and form into 4-6 inch rolls.

**Step 3:** Place on baking rack so grease drips off as it cooks. Bake for 1 hour and 15 minutes at 300°F

**Step 4:** Place on paper towel after baking to absorb any extra grease.



Cure time: 24 hours

Bake time: 1 hour 15 minutes