

## Honoring our fathers

Last month, we gave thanks to mothers for all they do for their families, and this month, the focus turns to fathers. On June 20, families will buy cards and gifts for Dad as they celebrate Father's Day. But, for many years, fathers didn't have their day. For young Sonora Smart, who was born in 1882 in the coal-mining town of Jenny Lind in Sebastian County, that simply wasn't fair.

As the daughter of William Jackson Smart, a Civil War veteran and farmer, Sonora saw how hard he worked to raise her and her five siblings after her mother's untimely death. Sonora called her father a "great home person," according to [history.com](http://history.com), which further described him as "a man who exemplified fatherly love and protection."

Inspired by a Mother's Day sermon in 1909, Sonora, then living in Spokane, Washington, began her crusade for Father's Day. A year later, the first Father's Day was celebrated on June 19, in Spokane. In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson sent a telegraph message to Sonora in support of the Father's Day celebration. In subsequent years, interest in the holiday faded only to be resurrected with help from businesses that made ties, tobacco pipes and other items popular with men. In 1938, the Father's Day Council, formed by the New York Associated Men's Wear Retailers, began promoting the holiday.

While Mother's Day became a national holiday in 1914, fathers would have to wait decades for President Lyndon Johnson to sign a presidential proclamation declaring the third Sunday of June 1966 as Father's Day. In 1972, President Richard Nixon made it a permanent national holiday.

For many, this Father's Day may be a day of family reunions after more than a year of separation due to the pandemic. It most certainly will mean an increase of sales of neckties, perhaps the most traditional Father's Day gift. But, most of all, as was the intent of a young girl from Arkansas, may this day remind us of the gifts fathers have given to us through hard work, service to their country and sacrifices, including for many, the ultimate one made on battlefields at home and abroad.

Sonora Smart Dodd became the talk of the town in Washington state after she spearheaded the campaign for a national Father's Day holiday to take place in June, the month her father was born. This article appeared in *The Tacoma-Times* in May 1911.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



# Local students to attend the 2021 Electric Cooperative Virtual Youth Tour

Congratulations to Reid Dutton of Star City and Brentlee Wilkins of Woodlawn for being chosen to participate in the 2021 Virtual Youth Tour sponsored by the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas. The virtual program replaces the traditional in-person tour of Washington, D.C., which was canceled due to the pandemic. This year's participants will engage in a virtual program that will allow them to connect and learn with each other this June 21-25. The virtual experience will include:

- Learning about electric cooperatives and the cooperative business model.
- Hearing from lawmakers on Capitol Hill and the Arkansas State Capitol.
- Hearing from Arkansas business, education and faith leaders on the pandemic and related processes in Arkansas.
- Electing a Youth Leadership Council (YLC) representative to NRECA's YLC program.
- Interacting with each other virtually.
- Learning how they could earn a \$5,000 college scholarship by planning and executing a public service project in the local community. Students will not be required to perform a project to participate in the Youth Tour.

Reid Dutton, who will be a senior at Star City High School, is the son of Todd and Emile Dutton. He is in the



Reid Dutton



Brentlee Wilkins

Beta Club, Library Club, Math Club and the Technology Student Association. Reid has served on the Robotics team for six years. Outside of school, Reid enjoys robotics, reading and chess. After graduation, he plans on attending college and majoring in computer science or engineering. In his essay, titled "What Leadership Means to Me," Reid stated, "A great leader is someone who cares about what it is they do and the people around them, and has the wisdom to employ that drive properly and the charisma to convince and to teach others what they believe."

Brentlee Wilkins, daughter of Brent and Meredith Wilkins, will attend 12th grade at Woodlawn High School this fall. Brentlee participates in several clubs and activities including National Beta Club (secretary), Art Club, Spanish Club, (representative), FBLA (FBLA District 3, Intro to Business Presentation — fourth place) and FCCLA. She is also a member of the Student Council and serves as co-captain of the Woodlawn Cheer Squad. Brentlee is on the cross-country, basketball and Quiz Bowl teams. She is also a part of the Woodlawn Gifted and Talented program and was selected for Girls State in 2021. Outside of school, she enjoys playing the guitar, hanging out with family, swimming and reading about biology. Brentlee has a special interest in science and plans on attending college to become a pediatrician. In her essay, she states, "To me, leadership means having compassion, looking out for the people around you, and having enough discipline to guide and motivate individuals to their fullest potential."

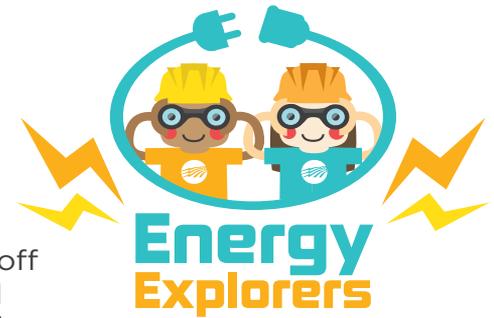
*C & L Electric is proud to have these outstanding students represent them during the 2021 Electric Cooperative Virtual Youth Tour. Congratulations, Reid and Brentlee.*

**4<sup>th</sup> July**

*Happy 4th of July*

The offices of C & L Electric will be closed Monday, July 5th, in observance of Independence Day.

# SWIMMING POOL ELECTRICAL SAFETY CROSSWORD



Water and electricity never mix! When you're cooling off in the swimming pool, remember to practice electrical safety. Complete the pool safety crossword puzzle below.

**Hint:** Check your answers in the key below.

**1 Down:**

When possible, use \_\_\_\_\_ operated devices when outside near a swimming pool.

**2 Across:**

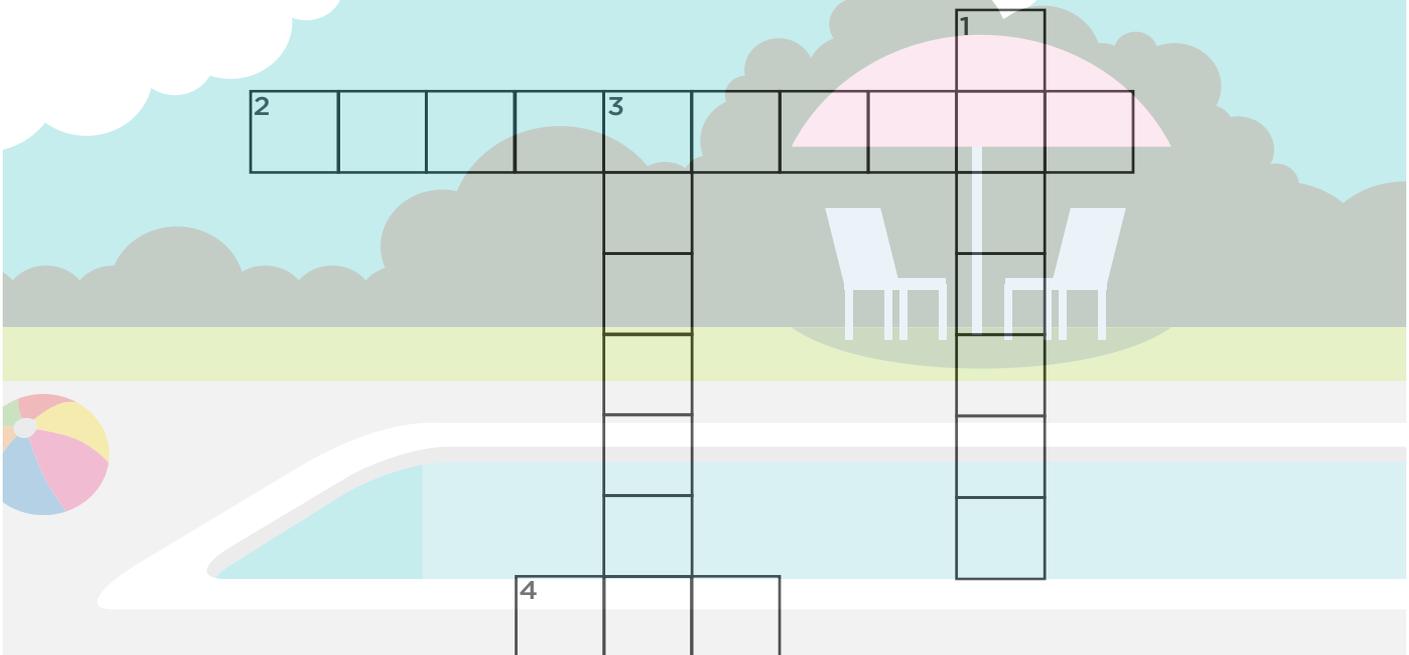
Never bring \_\_\_\_\_ devices near a swimming pool. If they come in contact with water, electric shock could occur. Devices should be kept at least 10 feet away from water sources.

**3 Down:**

If you hear \_\_\_\_\_, immediately exit the swimming pool. Storms may be near.

**4 Across:**

All outdoor electrical outlets should be covered to keep them \_\_\_\_\_.



Answer Key — 1 Down: battery 2 Across: electrical 3 Down: thunder 4 Across: Dry