

NE CONNECTION

A PUBLICATION OF NORTHEAST OKLAHOMA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

COFFEE ON WHEELS
LOCAL WOMAN HITS THE ROAD

HAPPY JULY 4TH!
CALENDAR OF EVENTS INSIDE

JULY 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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Darryll Lindsey - Member Services

Nick Sutton - Operations

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

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THE NUTS AND BOLTS OF BOLT

JD Davenport

Engineering Superintendent

How did we get here?

BOLT Fiber Optics came about by Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative doing what it has

always done and that's take care of our communities and members' needs. NOEC identified something that was lacking in the area: fast, reliable internet. We not only wanted to provide this service, we wanted to provide it at the same level that could be found anywhere else in the country.

No longer a luxury

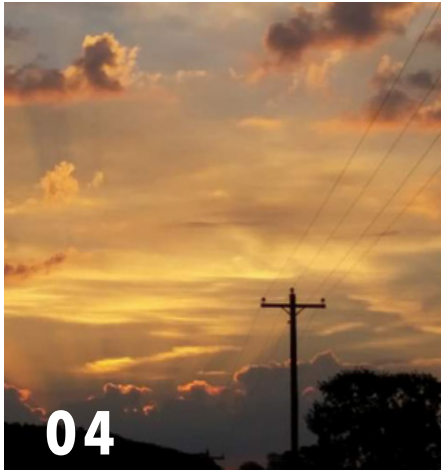
The internet is no longer simply "nice to have." Whether we are working from home or using it as an educational resource, the internet is a critical function of our everyday lives. Face-to-face time over live video with family was made possible during the COVID "lockdown" thanks to high-speed internet. No longer a luxury, the internet is a key component of our personal and professional lives. It isn't going anywhere but will continue to grow.

Why fiber?

Aside from being the cutting-edge technology for accessing the internet, there are a lot of very tangible benefits fiber offers that other internet technologies simply can't match. The main advantages of fiber are reliability, scalability, accelerated download speeds, and symmetrical upload speeds.

Symmetrical speeds is one of the many reasons why fiber is so popular. Most broadband services offer inferior upload speeds because, up until recently, the internet was used primarily for downloading. Now, with the rise of telecommuting, telehealth, online gaming, video platforms, and social networking, more and more consumers need upload speeds that match the download capacity. With fiber optic technology, customers can utilize the internet to their heart's content. That means symmetrical speeds all the time.

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PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS



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COFFEE ON WHEELS



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WIN A \$250 ELECTRIC CREDIT



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EASY WAYS TO SAVE MONEY

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

\$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 August 1, 2022, to claim a \$100 credit on your electric account.

JULY 2022 EVENTS

Vinita 150 Fest and Fireworks

July 1 | Vinita

Craig County Fairgrounds

Wyandotte Nation Fireworks

July 2 | Wyandotte

Wyandotte Pow Wow Grounds

City of Commerce Fireworks

July 2 | Commerce

Commerce High School

Green Country Gigger's Association Fireworks

July 2 | Eucha

Lake Eucha

Horse Creek Resort Fireworks

July 2 | Afton

Across from unfinished bridge

Grand Lake Fireworks

July 3 | Disney

Disney Spillway

Grove's July 3rd Extravaganza

July 3 | Grove

Wolf Creek Park

Monkey Island Fireworks

July 3 | Monkey Island

Shangri La Resort

Blue Bluff Harbor Resort Fireworks

July 4 | Grove

Blue Bluff Harbor Resort

Duck Creek Fireworks

July 4 | Afton

Duck Creek

Huckleberry Fireworks

July 4 | Jay

Jay

Miami Fireworks

July 4 | Miami

Buffalo Run Casino

Parade of Flight

July 4 | Ketchum

South Grand Lake Regional Airport

Heritage Fest

July 29-30 | Miami

Downtown

THE NUTS AND BOLTS

CONTINUED FROM INSIDE COVER



BOLT installer setting up new service.

Versatility and scalability

Of the various media available for broadband connectivity, fiber offers the most robust, scalable solution. Distance and bandwidth limitations associated with copper based networks and wireless technology inhibit these offerings as solutions to the constantly growing bandwidth needs of our consumer base. Fiber optic networks are readily scalable with bandwidth often increased with nothing more than endpoint hardware upgrades. Under most circumstances, these upgrades pose little to no service interruptions in the network.

Scalability of fiber, at this point, is unlimited. Copper-based transmission currently maxes out at 40 Gbps, whereas fiber optic technology can carry data at nearly the speed of light. In fact, bandwidth limits imposed on fiber are primarily theoretical but have been tested to be measurable in hundreds of terabits per second. In general terms, technology has not even scratched the surface of what fiber can do.

Engineering our network

As Engineering Superintendent for BOLT Fiber Optics, I am primarily responsible for overseeing the design of middle-mile and last-mile fiber-based networks for our Fiber to the Home (FTTH) project. FTTH design requires an in-depth understanding of the most current industry standards and processes. I love my job and derive a great deal of satisfaction in bringing fiber optic technology to previously underserved areas where it can have the most impact in our communities.

2022 DISTRICT MEETINGS

DISTRICTS 2, 7, AND 9 TO SELECT BOARD TRUSTEE CANDIDATES

MEETING DATES

DISTRICT 2: JULY 25

Benny Seabourn, Incumbent Trustee
Crossroads Church in Fairland
56900 E Hwy 59, Fairland, OK

DISTRICT 7: JULY 26

James Wade, Incumbent Trustee
American Legion in Salina
401 E Ferry St, Salina, OK

DISTRICT 9: JULY 28

Jimmy Caudill, Incumbent Trustee
Grove Community Center
104 W 3rd St, Grove, OK

REQUIREMENT TO REGISTER

At District Meetings

Only eligible members may register and cast a vote at any member meeting. To register and vote you MUST be one of the following:

- **Primary on an individual account**
- **Primary or secondary on a joint account (only one joint member may vote)**
- **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.

Members may register to vote/participate at their District Meetings from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Those in line prior to 7 p.m. 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.

The Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative Board of Trustees is extending invitations to Cooperative members in Districts 2, 7, and 9 to attend their respective 2022 District Meetings this summer. As always, the invitation includes freebies like soda and giveaways, along with the chance to win a \$250 electric credit.

OFFICIAL TRUSTEE CANDIDATE FILING PERIOD: JULY 11-15, 2022

Section 3.06 of the Cooperative Bylaws requires any member desiring to be a Trustee candidate from the District of their primary residence to file with the Cooperative their Notice of Candidacy for Trustee during the official Candidate Filing Period:

- **Monday - Thursday, July 11 - July 14, 2022: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**
- **Friday, July 15, 2022: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

The Notice of Candidacy for Trustee MUST be filed at the Headquarters Office of the Cooperative: 27039 S 4440 Rd, Vinita, OK 74301, during the Candidate Filing Period. **Only pre-qualified Candidates can be nominated at District Meetings.**

NOTE: Currently, the Cooperative is planning to conduct the 2022 District Meetings in the same manner it has conducted District Meetings in the past. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States or other unforeseen issues, 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 or other unforeseen issue, 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 Member Meeting, in accordance with Section 3.06 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.

SPRING PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

WE ARE OKLAHOMA PROUD.

Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative (NOEC), is proud of its Oklahoma roots. We know our members share this same pride. A great way to communicate that pride is through photography. We want to thank all members who participated in our Spring Photo Contest this year. Below are our winners for each category. Winners were awarded a \$50 electric credit. One runner-up per category was awarded a \$25 electric credit. To view all entries visit www.noec.coop/photocontest. Thank you again for participating!

WILDLIFE & NATURE

Winner: Lindsey, Craig County

"Three Little Foxes"



Runner Up: Lindsey, Craig County

"Mighty Buffalo"



AGRICULTURE

Winner: Margaret, Delaware County

"True Love"



Runner Up: Olivia, Craig County

"Hammish"



ELECTRIC UTILITY

Winner: Danette, Mayes County

"On the 8th Day God Made a Lineman"



Runner Up: Joseph, Delaware County

"Cutting Through"



WILD CARD

Winner: Leslie, Delaware County

"Dandelion Delight"



Runner Up: Lindsey, Craig County

"We Remember"



OKLAHOMA TOURISM

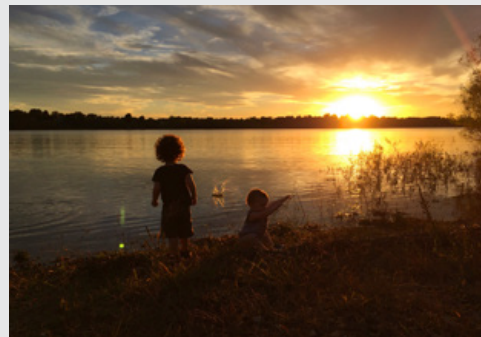
Winner: Lindsey, Craig County

"Fancy Feet Coming Through"



Runner Up: Joseph, Delaware County

"The Good Life"





COFFEE ON WHEELS

LOCAL WOMAN HITS THE ROAD WITH BEVERAGE SERVICE

A cup of coffee is never a bad idea. At least that's the growing consensus among Americans. Coffee is not only the second-most consumed drink in the U.S. after water, it continues to grow in popularity.

Should water be concerned? We think so.

Studies show that 7 out of every 10 Americans drink coffee at least once a week with 64% of adults in the U.S. now drinking coffee daily. The average American coffee drinker consumes roughly three cups per day, which translates to 150 million Americans consuming around 400 million cups of coffee each day. Another notable statistic indicates that the number of Americans under 40 years of age have increased their coffee consumption a whopping 40 percent since 2015.

Deborah Kessel certainly isn't helping water's cause. On any given morning you can find the Bluejacket resident doing her best to help increase access to coffee for folks in and around northeast Oklahoma.

It's long been a dream of Kessel's to own her own business. With her three children grown and the nest empty, the timing couldn't be better for her to embark on a new adventure. Her business model of choice? Let's just say it's the coffee equivalent of a food truck. Juan Valdez and his faithful burro would be proud.

Kessel's dream of business ownership began to take shape after she saw pictures of a cute vending trailer on Pinterest. She sent the pictures to local carpenter Trevor Taylor and he went right to work.

"I sent pictures to Trevor and never saw the trailer again until after he built it and then surprised me with the finished product," said Kessel. "He did an amazing job. I must say, I never set up where at least one person isn't taking pictures and complimenting his work."

Kessel is delighted to share her love of coffee with others every time she takes her show on the road. She typically sets up four days a week. It isn't uncommon to see the trailer at a local sporting event or festival. She recently traveled by special request to a cutting horse event in Arkansas four hours away.

"I'm always up for an invite somewhere," she said. "We loved our time during the Christmas In the Country event last year. That was a lot of fun."

The coffee Kessel serves is no ordinary coffee. The beans are blended and roasted locally into a custom "Trailer Blend" especially for Kessel by Keagan Green at Coffee Shelter in Vinita. Green is a barista and all around coffee expert. Kessel worked at the Coffee Shelter for several months and learned much of what she knows from him.

The drink selection at Cactus Ranch Coffee is always evolving and expanding.



"We offer more of a variety than we did when we started," Kessel confirmed.

Fall months bring seasonal favorites, of course. A popular summer specialty is the Bananas Foster coffee drink that Cactus Ranch has perfected.

"Bananas Foster is always a hit served hot or cold," Kessel said. Her personal favorites are: "Almond Joy when I want some mild, sweet goodness, or just plain black coffee with some almond milk, either warm or iced."

Not a coffee drinker? Cactus Ranch has an option for you. We suggest one of Kessel's fresh-brewed sweet southern teas. Cherry is a popular choice.

Customers can also look forward to a complimentary cookie with every drink purchase. In the future, Kessel said she would like to expand the menu and perhaps offer a slice of pie.

When Kessel anticipates business being a little more hectic, she is grateful to be able to call upon daughter Kelsey Smith and friends like Audrey Bowers, Amie Robinson, and Leisha Renner. They are all happy to pitch in and help whenever needed.



CONTACT CACTUS RANCH COFFEE!

Call: 918.244.2176

Email: cactusranchcoffee@gmail.com

Facebook: Cactus Ranch Coffee

Instagram: cactusranchcoffee



For Kessel, Cactus Ranch Coffee isn't just a business. It isn't just about selling great coffee and making a buck. It's a means of providing support and encouragement to those she encounters. Whether it's a kind word or sharing her faith, Kessel is gifted with a unique ability to uplift and inspire. She travels internationally to minister to women and also shares her testimony in a book she wrote.

"Whether serving coffee or serving people, I have been given a platform to talk to others about the goodness of God and His provision. That is what I hope to do everywhere I go," she said. "I am planting a seed and letting women hear they can do anything and overcome anything with God's help."



Born in Clovis, New Mexico, and raised in Canyon, Texas, Kessel moved to Big Cabin, Oklahoma, at age 17, and spent the next 12 years raising a family. She relocated to Tulsa for a few years, but returned to the area 18 years ago after marrying Bluejacket rancher Mike Kessel. Three children and eleven grandchildren later, Kessel finds herself trying something different.

"I've been living out my rancher's wife dream for the past 18 years and I thought it was a good time to step out of the box and do something I've always wanted to do," she said. "So here I am with a little coffee trailer that serves up more than just coffee. We also serve up hugs, encouragement, and just a good listening ear."

Whatever Kessel is doing seems to be working. The cheerful faces of her customers tell you all you need to know.

"It always makes me smile when I look out and see people standing around visiting with each other outside the coffee trailer," she said. "I think it's time we get back to face to face interaction and what better way than drinking coffee with one another."

974881



FEATURED RECIPES

OTTAWA COUNTY



DEBRA HOGAN | MIAMI

PECAN CREAM PIE

INGREDIENTS

- 2/3 cup sugar
- 4 tbsp corn starch
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 3 egg yolks
- 12oz can evaporated milk
- 1 cup milk
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 3 tbsp butter
- 2/3 cups chopped pecans
- 1 pie shell (9") baked

Step 1: Over medium heat blend sugar, cornstarch, and salt. Slowly add milks and egg yolks (beaten). Continue to stir until thick.

Step 2: Remove from heat, add butter, vanilla, and 1/3 cup pecans. Cool 5 minutes and pour into baked pie shell.

Step 3: Top with meringue or allow to cool completely and top with whipped cream. Garnish with remaining pecans.



MARY COOK | BLUEJACKET

GLAZED BARS

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup sugar
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1 egg
- 2 cup flour
- 3/4 cup oil
- 1/4 cup honey
- 1 cup chopped pecans

Step 1: Mix all ingredients well and spread on ungreased baking sheet, pat out evenly.

Step 2: Bake at 350°F for 15 minutes. They will rise then fall.

Step 3: Prepare glaze and pour over bars while still warm.

Glaze: Combine 1/2 stick of butter, 3 cups powdered sugar, and 3-4 tbsp of milk.

SUMMER SAVINGS

SAVE MONEY & USE ELECTRICITY SAFELY

- **USE COLD WATER TO WASH YOUR CLOTHES**
- **RUN FULL LOADS OF LAUNDRY INSTEAD OF SMALLER ONES**
- **WHEN DRYING CLOTHES, INCLUDE A DRY TOWEL THE FIRST 20 MINUTES OF A CYCLE**

- **CLEAN THE LINT FILTER AFTER EACH DRYER LOAD**
- **KEEP THE AREA CLEAN AND FREE OF CLUTTER**
- **KEEP YOUR DRYER EXHAUST DUCT AS SHORT AND STRAIGHT AS POSSIBLE**

CLOTHES DRYER DOS

Cleaning

- Don't forget to clean the back of the dryer where lint can build up. In addition, clean the lint filter with a nylon brush at least every six months or more often if it becomes clogged.
- Clean lint out of the vent pipe every three months.
- Have your dryer cleaned regularly by a professional, especially if it is taking longer than normal for clothes to dry.

Maintenance

- Inspect the venting system behind the dryer to ensure it is not damaged or restricted.
- Put a covering on outside wall dampers to keep out rain, snow and dirt.
- Make sure the outdoor vent covering opens when the dryer is on.
- Replace coiled-wire foil or plastic venting with rigid, non-ribbed metal duct.
- Have gas-powered dryers inspected every year by a professional to ensure that the gas line and connection are together and free of leaks.



- Check regularly to make sure nests of small animals and insects are not blocking the outside vent. Keep the area around the clothes dryer free of items that can burn.
- If you will be away from home for an extended time, unplug or disconnect the dryer.



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