

NE CONNECTION

A PUBLICATION OF NORTHEAST OKLAHOMA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

TOUCHING LIVES OASIS ANIMAL ADVENTURES



OCTOBER 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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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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TALKING TECH

Cory Vancil
Director of IT

What is IT?

IT is the commonly accepted acronym for "Information technology." IT describes the implementation of infrastructure

(hardware such as computers and physical devices) and networking processes needed to create, store, secure, and exchange any form of electronic data. Typically, IT is used in the context of business operations, as opposed to technology used for personal or entertainment purposes. The commercial use of IT encompasses both computer technology and telecommunications.

Why is IT important?

Let's face it, technology is present in practically every aspect of our lives, personal and business. Smart devices have evolved well beyond personal computers and servers. Today, most businesses and individuals own and use multiple smart devices, including phones, tablets, laptops, and game consoles. Even doorbells are smart now.

The Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative IT team helps implement, support, and maintain multiple systems across the organization's infrastructure. How do we do that exactly? Here's an example: Let say you call in to report a pole light that went out. Those prompts you hear when you're on the phone? We set up the call flow so you find the correct department to assist you. From there, the Member Services Representative assisting you takes your information and creates a service order for your light. That information is entered into a software program that we updated the night before. Your service order is then assigned to a lineman who uses his smart device to access your information and get driving directions that take him right to your pole light.

Continued on page 2.



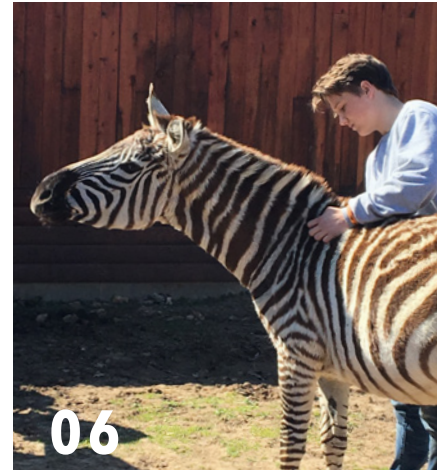
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OCTOBER RECIPES



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SEABOURN REMEMBERED



06

TOUCHING LIVES FUR REAL



03

DOWNED POWER LINE SAFETY

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, OK 74301 or email to: publicrelations@noec.coop

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

OCTOBER 2022 EVENTS

2 Across

Oct 1 | Grove

Playmakers Theatre

Chuckwagon Dinner Fundraiser

Oct 1 | Grove

Har-Ber Village Museum

Dennis James Silent Movie at the Coleman

Oct 1-2 | Miami

Coleman Theatre

The Grove Block Party

Oct 7 | Grove

Grove Community Center Lawn

Route 66 Film Festival

Oct 7 | Miami

Main Street

Chouteau Days

Oct 7-8 | Salina

Downtown

OKTOBERFEST

Oct 8 | Vinita

Holy Ghost Catholic Church

39th Annual Pelican Festival

Oct 6-9 | Grove

Wolf Creek Park

Indigenous People Festival

Oct 7-10 | Miami

Downtown

Ottawa County United Way Pulled Pork Feed

Oct 20 | Miami

First Christian Church

4 States Draft Mule Sale

Oct 21-22 | Miami

Miami Fairgrounds

MAO Racing Finals

Oct 28-30 | Jay

MidAmerica Outdoors

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

TALKING TECH CONTINUED

Beyond the computers, servers and smart devices, NOEC’s Information Technology team is committed to protecting our member and customer data. We ensure multiple layers of security are in place, both physically and virtually. Physical security such as badge and fingerprint readers allows us to limit access to data sensitive areas. Virtual security is a bit more perilous. This requires regular maintenance and updating of firewalls, routers, switches, servers, computers, credit card machines, and all smart devices.

Why do we work in IT?

Because we love a challenge. We have an excellent group of IT professionals working behind the scenes here at NOEC to make everyone’s job as seamless as possible. By embracing and utilizing emerging technologies, we have—and will continue to deliver—the best quality of service possible to our members and subscribers.



Vancil gains secure access with his fingerprint

HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS FOR MOTORISTS



- Be on the lookout for children darting out into the street, and always yield to pedestrians. If you see one child, there are likely more who will attempt to cross.
- Enter and exit driveways and alleys carefully.
- Park in a spot where you won’t need to back up. If you must back up, have an adult outside to make sure no children are in the way of your vehicle.
- Don’t use a cell phone or other mobile device while driving. Pull over safely to check voice messages or texts if necessary.

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

DON'T BECOME ELECTRICITY'S PATH TO GROUND



When utility equipment is damaged, the ground and objects around it can become energized.

If you are in a situation where downed power lines or a damaged pole, guy wire, or padmount transformer (green box) may be present, know what to do to save your life and the lives of others.

Visit www.noec.coop for more safety tips.

1

CAR ACCIDENT SCENARIO:

Stay inside your vehicle since the ground or surrounding objects could be energized.

Call 911 and report that there are downed or damaged power lines or equipment.

Wait for the utility crew to arrive to de-energize the scene.

2

EXIT ONLY IF

The vehicle is on fire.

Cross your arms over your chest and make a clean jump out.

Do not touch the vehicle and the ground at the same time.

After jumping, hop away with your feet together as far away as you can.

3

IF YOU ARE A BYSTANDER

Do not approach the scene and try to help.

Stay at least 50 feet away and do not lean on or touch anything, including fences or guardrails.



A LOOK BACK AT THE LIFE OF BENNY SEABOURN

(JANUARY 16, 1948 - AUGUST 26, 2022)

Benny Seabourn was taught responsibility at an early age. He remembers like it was yesterday the day his father gave him an old roan cow to teach him the value of hard work and accountability.

The free cow from dad's herd came with a message that let Benny know the offer had its limitations.

"This is all you're gonna get," said the elder Seabourn, stressing to Benny the importance of diligence in caring for the animal the first and only time around.

Seabourn was five years old at the time and he still chuckles as he recalls the cow kicking out twins every year. "By the time I finished high school I had 30 head," Seabourn said. "I used my calves to put myself through college."

Seabourn developed into an able cowhand at an early age. He knew enough to be an asset down at the sale barn. He went to work for Tommy Carroll at the Grove Livestock Auction at the ripe old age of ten years old.

"Tommy was the first guy who ever fired me," Seabourn grinned. "The insurance company came by and saw me working and told him I was too young. I worked there three years and Tommy fired me every year."

There were other lessons to be learned at a young age. Seabourn watched his father hitch a team and toil endlessly in the field to raise crops on their Delaware County farm. The family raised wheat, oats and corn on a farm east of Grove.

"He farmed a long time with a team before he bought a tractor," recalled Benny of his father's dogged determination to make ends meet for his family by the sweat of his brow. "I was just a kid and I remember when he got his last wheat crop. After he paid the fertilizer bill he had \$9 left. He decided then he'd better find another line of work."

**A lifelong resident of northeast Oklahoma
Seabourn was raised in Grove.**

IN OUR THOUGHTS

Our cooperative family is mourning the August 26 passing of longtime District 2 trustee Benny Seabourn. He was 74.

Seabourn was born on January 16, 1948, in Miami, Oklahoma to Vernie and Joyce Jean (Mosby) Seabourn. He was preceded in death by his parents and wife Nancy, with whom he spent many wonderful years.

Seabourn is survived by son Shane Seabourn and wife Lea of Fishers, Indiana; daughter Shannon Kelsey and husband Kenny of Chelsea; sister JoAnn Gant of Edmond; grandchildren Chandra Kelsey, Katie Kelsey, Cameron Seabourn and Triston Seabourn. step-grandson Blayton Stoffer; great-grandsons Maverick Eslinger and Connor Sampson; two nieces; a nephew; and six great nieces and nephews.

Seabourn graduated from Grove High School in 1966 and passed up on a scholarship to attend Oklahoma State University and another to play football at Friends University in Wichita. He wanted to stay closer to home in order to help his family, so he attended Northeastern Oklahoma A&M in Miami. He graduated in '68 and ventured off to Northeastern State University in Tahlequah where he completed his bachelor's degree in accounting and business administration in '70.

Six years of active duty in the National Guard saw Seabourn spend four days on patrol at McAlester State Prison during the infamous riot of 1973. It was a volatile event that left a lasting impression on Seabourn, who says it was an experience "he'll never forget."

Seabourn began his career as an accountant in November of 1970. He spent seven years working for larger firms before striking out on his own.

A self-employed tax professional, Seabourn was a member of the Oklahoma Society of Enrolled Agents and was past-president of the Oklahoma Association of Tax Professionals. His clients were primarily business owners across Oklahoma, Kansas and Missouri.

"Most have some sort of business or rental property," he said. "I also help people out who are having problems with the IRS. I get quite a bit of work that way."

As an enrolled agent, Seabourn was licensed by the U.S. Treasury to practice in all 50 states. He could practice in front of the Internal Revenue Service and without a reciprocity agreement.

Seabourn joined the board on August 15, 1977. He represented the co-op's 2nd district for 45 years. As one of the longest tenured members of the Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative Board of Trustees, he had a front-row seat to many changes. Foremost perhaps was the decision to venture into the subsidiary satellite television business as an authorized agent for DirecTV.

"That was quite an accomplishment for us," Seabourn said. "We probably weren't as ready as we thought we were, but people were really happy about it. A lot of people in this area didn't have access to expanded television at that time."

As with any long-term commitment, there were financial challenges to consider.

"In the end, we wanted people in this area to benefit from the technology," said Seabourn. "It helped us bring Internet access to area schools. That translates into teaching programs which help equalize our students with those in bigger cities."

Seabourn served many years as the secretary-treasurer of the NOEC board. He said his experience as an enrolled agent "helped me tremendously" as a trustee.

"It's just good to have different types of people on the board," he said.

On behalf of the entire NOEC organization we would like to send our sincere condolences to the Seabourn family as we honor his dedication and service to the Cooperative.



TOUCHING LIVES FUR REAL

Animals should be considered a gift—provided, that is, you aren't on the wrong end of the food chain. In all seriousness, studies have shown that interaction with animals offers therapeutic benefits many never even knew existed.

We all know from experience that animal companionship can be rewarding in many ways. Pets are often considered treasured members of the family. They bring joy to our lives and ease feelings of loneliness—especially for those individuals who have limited interpersonal contact.

But it goes far beyond mere sentimentality. Did you know that even the simple act of petting an animal has been shown to promote the release of serotonin, prolactin and oxytocin—hormones that play a part in elevating moods and lowering anxiety? It's true. The growing use of animal therapy, either by itself or as part of a treatment plan with other interventions, is proven to effectively support physical, social, emotional, and cognitive function.

For those suffering from cognitive insufficiency, animal interaction can act as a catalyst that increases mental stimulation. It can assist with the recall of memories and help sequence temporal events for patients who have suffered brain injury or from chronic illness such as Alzheimer's disease. Those with physical health issues have experienced lowered blood pressure and improved cardiovascular health.

Oasis Animal Adventures, located in Disney, can certainly confirm the value of animal therapy. Oasis opened in 2016 after owners Bill and Linda Goldner began considering ways to better steward the 200-acre property.

The Goldners are perhaps best known for hosting elaborate faith-based productions every summer at the Picture In Scripture Amphitheater. You are probably familiar with, and may have even attended, live performances of *The Man Who Ran*, *The Elijah Factor*, and *Damascus Road* at the 1,000-seat outdoor venue. Each original production is presented with live actors decked out in colorful costumes, spectacular special effects, state-of-the-art sound, pyrotechnics, and live exotic animals

Events at Picture In Scripture take place each year in June and July. Add another month for rehearsals and set preparation and that still leaves nine months out of the year where the property was largely unvisited.

"We felt it was a shame that we were only utilizing the property a few months a year. So we asked the Lord, 'What can we do here year around?' He opened up the door for us to offer animal therapy," Linda explained. "To begin with we had camels, horses, and donkeys. A friend donated a small herd of mini horses and we were off and running."

She added: "With the addition of Oasis, we now use the property twelve months. While we close public tours during January and February, animal therapy groups come year around."

What began as a faith-based endeavor nearly four decades ago has grown into a different type of outreach altogether. Offering visitors the unique opportunity to experience the animals in a more personal environment was important to the Goldners.

"When we first opened we were only providing animal therapy," Linda explained. "We began receiving requests from people who wanted to meet our incredible animals. The therapy classes serving at-risk youth continue, but now we also provide an opportunity for family groups to visit and meet our one of a kind fur babies. Everyone loves the Oasis animals. Not only do the local individuals visit us, but schools, church groups, and other organizations visit to experience our fun animal adventures."

She added: "Our petting zoo is unique in that we offer a one-on-one experience with our baby animals. Not only do you get to pet the animals, you get to hold them as well."

The four-footed family at Oasis has since grown by leaps and bounds in the six years since the facility opened. Literally. They have a kangaroo now. The assortment of creatures now includes species indigenous to six different continents.

Continued on next page.



"In addition to our regular animals, we have added a menagerie of exotics," said Linda. "We have kangaroos, zebras, lemurs, a spider monkey, zedonk, coatimundi, and more."

She said a few of the animals are rescues. Others are born on the premises.

"The rest we purchase as babies. Raising them makes them very human friendly, loving and cuddly. Our motto is Gateway to the Heart. Our fur babies know just how to make people happy."

Linda said many of the animals participate in the summer productions.

"The teens we work with help us train them for the stage," she said.

Caring for exotic animals can be tricky, but the Goldners say they are in good hands.

"Dr. Clint Gardner at the Pryor Veterinary Hospital is our vet," Linda said. "He and his team are open to taking care of all exotics. If they don't know the answer, they contact doctors who do. They are the best group of veterinarians ever."

Linda added: "The USDA requires two on-site farm visits a year. Dr. Gardner and his veterinary assistant love these visits because they get to interact with animals that are out of the ordinary and oh so much fun."

How do exotic animals handle the sweltering Oklahoma summer heat? The critters at Oasis answered that question during one of the warmest summers on record. With around twenty days of 100-plus degree heat in July alone here in the northeast corner of the state, Linda said careful consideration was given to helping the animals cope with the stretch of unseasonable heat.

"The heat was a challenge, but the animals adapted," Linda explained. "We changed our schedule to allow two morning groups per day, which worked well. We also added fans and small swimming pools so the animals could cool off as needed."



The Goldners have been fixtures here in northeast Oklahoma since moving to the area in 1969. Linda was raised in Michigan and Bill grew up in Texas. They met in Michigan and attended Oklahoma State University together but would both eventually graduate from Northeastern State University in Tahlequah. Bill graduated with a degree in Business Administration and later obtained a degree in Biblical Studies from Central Bible College. Linda has a degree in Communication/Drama. Both are ordained ministers with the Assemblies of God Church and certified with OK Corral Series and ELI for animal therapy.

Linda finished her student teaching at Central High School in Tulsa in 1971, and the Goldners moved to the lake to help Bill's father carve out a homestead on the 200-acre property.

"At that time it was all wooded," explained Linda. "We moved here to help him clear the land and we never left."

The ministry-minded Goldners opened New Lifehouse Girls Home in 1984. The home is now a part of the Teen Challenge of Oklahoma program. It has grown significantly and now includes an accredited school.



“We work with the 32 girls from the school every Tuesday, as well as the 22 boys from Brush Creek Youth Ranch,” Linda said.

It isn’t uncommon to see the Goldner children and grandchildren helping out around the place. They have five grown children—Jenny Goldner Daftari, Becky Fields, Caleb Goldner, Sarah Martin, and Rachael Gilbert. The kids, their spouses, and grandchildren also pitch in to help when schedules allow.

“All of them help in various ways when they have time in their busy schedules,” Linda said. “Our twelve grandchildren also help when they come to visit.”

Linda said part-time employees Lawnie Hess, Colt Hess, Dana Farnelli, and Tammy Enlow, as well as volunteers Hope Cranke, Rhonda Sloan, and Pam Neubauer are valuable members of the Oasis team.



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Both Oasis Animal Adventures and Picture In Scripture have been awarded by the Oklahoma Department of Tourism as outstanding attractions. Oasis was recognized by the state in 2019 as an Outstanding Agri-Tourism Attraction.

For more information about Oasis Animal Adventures, call 918-435-8207, visit online at www.oasisanimals.com, or follow them on Facebook.

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OCTOBER FEATURED RECIPES KID-FRIENDLY HALLOWEEN



Have a recipe to share?

Send it to:
publicrelations@noec.coop

SPOOKY FRUITS

HEALTHY SNACK

INGREDIENTS

- 4 bananas
- 24 chocolate chips, regular and/or mini
- 8 tangerines
- 1 stalk celery

Step 1: Peel the bananas and cut them in half. Place the cut side down so the halves stand up.

Step 2: Use mini chocolate chips to make ghost eyes and large chocolate chips to make ghost mouths

Step 3: Peel the tangerines.

Step 4: Cut the celery lengthwise into thirds and then across into 1/2" pieces. Insert the celery pieces into the tops of tangerines. Enjoy!

DEVILED EGG SPIDERS

HEALTHY SNACK

INGREDIENTS

- 6 hard boiled eggs
- 1 tsp Dijon mustard
- 1/4 cup mayonnaise
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 15-20 whole black olives (black, green, or Kalamata)

Step 1: Slice eggs in half lengthwise. Remove the yolks and place in a bowl. Add mustard, mayonnaise, and salt to the yolks and mash together.

Step 2: Using a piping bag or sandwich bag (with the a bottom tip cut off), pipe the mixture back into the egg halves.

Step 3: Slice 12 olives in half lengthwise for the spider bodies. Slice the remaining olives in half again lengthwise to create the spider legs. Enjoy!

