

NE CONNECTION

A PUBLICATION OF NORTHEAST OKLAHOMA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

OPERATION ROUND UP
RECENT COMMUNITY GRANTS

YOUTH PROGRAMS
APPLY TODAY!

FUDGE CAKE
RECIPE ON PAGE 10

DECEMBER 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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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 IMPORTANCE OF THE LOCAL ECONOMY

Sean Friend
Chief Financial Officer

When I was in college, I remember one of my economics professors talking about the impact of purchasing goods

and services locally. The basic premise held that each dollar spent at a locally-owned store was usually circulated between 6 to 15 additional times before it left the community. That has stuck with me throughout my life.

This is one of the many concepts that has drawn me to work in the electric cooperative industry. Electric cooperatives are staples of the communities they serve. We employ local people, we serve local residents and businesses, we are governed by local directors, and we reinvest the dollars we receive back into the local economy.

I had the privilege of joining the Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative team in August of this year. When my wife and I were considering the move, we spent time in the area and found great people, good communities, and a beautiful area. As CFO, I look for ways to provide value to our members and communities. I am excited to join such a great group of employees in this pursuit.

These last few years have been difficult with the many challenges our communities have faced. The COVID pandemic taught us the importance communication services play in our life. The February 2021 polar vortex taught us the importance energy resources play in our life. We hold responsibility for both of these important assets.

We strive to meet member expectations while helping to support the communities we serve. I am truly excited to have joined an organization that has such an impact on northeast Oklahoma and look forward to serving its members and communities.



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YOUTH PROGRAMS



07

WINTER TIPS



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OPERATION ROUND UP

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 January 1, 2023, to claim a \$100 credit on your electric account.

DECEMBER 2022

Vinita Christmas Parade

Dec 1 | Vinita

Downtown

Journey to Jesus with Oasis Christmas

Dec 2-4 | Eucha

Oasis Animal Adventures

Commerce Christmas Parade

Dec 3 | Commerce

Downtown

Fairland Christmas Parade

Dec 3 | Fairland

Downtown

Miami Christmas Parade

Dec 3 | Miami

Downtown

Chouteau Christmas Parade

Dec 5 | Chouteau

Downtown

Ketchum Christmas Parade

Dec 9 | Ketchum

Downtown

Second Chance Pet Rescue Christmas Breakfast and Dessert Auction

Dec 10 | Grove

Community Center

Jay Christmas Parade

Dec 10 | Jay

Downtown

Grove Christmas Parade

Dec 10 | Grove

Downtown

Grand Lake Family YMCA Dance Recital

Dec 17 | Grove

High School Performing Arts Center

Colcord Christmas Parade

Dec 17 | Colcord

Downtown

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



Youth Tour Community Service Project or Essay | High School Juniors

Area high school juniors can complete a 6-8 hour community service project for a chance to win an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., June 17-22, as part of the 2023 Youth Tour contest. Winning students will also receive \$500 in spending cash. As an alternative form of entry, students can submit a 300-500 word essay on the topic *"Making a Difference Where I Live."* Students who are in the eleventh grade and attend school within cooperative service area are eligible to participate in this contest. Cooperative membership is not a contest requirement. Entry deadline: March 27, 2023.

College/Trade School Scholarship | High School Seniors

High school seniors whose parents or guardians are NOEC members and who live in a household served by NOEC electric are encouraged to apply for a \$1,000 scholarship to a college, university, or trade school of their choice. Four winners will be selected. Entry deadline: May 1, 2023.

Community Service Award | FFA, FCCLA, 4-H

Local FFA, FCCLA, and 4-H organizations can apply for \$200 to assist with program expenses.

Energy Camp Community Service Project or Essay | Eighth Graders

Eighth graders can complete a 3-4 hour community service project for a chance to win a trip to Energy Camp May 30-June 2, 2023. Each of the four contest winners will also receive \$150 in spending cash. As an alternative form of entry, students can submit a 200-300 word essay on the topic *"Making a Difference Where I Live."* Students who are in the eighth grade and attend school within cooperative service area are eligible to participate in this contest. Cooperative membership is not a contest requirement. Entry deadline: April 24, 2023.

Visit **www.noec.coop** and click on the *Community Services* tab for youth programs entry forms and additional information.

Community Service Project Ideas

Pick up trash around your school campus and/or athletic field(s), your church, a park, or your town sports complex. Volunteer time at a local animal shelter, food pantry, or thrift store. Offer to mow, pull weeds, or rake leaves for an elderly neighbor. Collect non-perishable items to donate to a local food bank. Assemble goodie bags and deliver them to a local day center or assisted living facility.

Need more help? Contact the NOEC Public Relations department at publicrelations@noec.coop for a project idea in your area!



SCAN ME!

\$1,000 Scholarship For Area High School Seniors

Deadline: May 1, 2023

Applicants may attend public, private, charter, or home school but must reside in a household served by NOEC, be in the top one-third of his/her graduating class, **submit two letters of recommendation (one school source & one character reference), and an official copy of their high school transcript.** Return this application with the supporting documentation listed above to: NOEC, PO Box 948, Vinita, OK 74301, or email to publicrelations@noec.coop.

I. Personal Information

Full name _____ Date of birth _____

Home address _____

Parents or guardians (*name and address if not the same*) _____

Household account # with Northeast Electric _____

Home phone number _____ Email address _____

Name of high school _____ Year graduating _____

What college/trade school do you plan to attend? _____

What will be your major field of study? _____

II. Financial Information

Annual household income ☐ \$39,999 or less ☐ \$40,000-\$69,999 ☐ \$70,000-\$99,999 ☐ \$100,000 or more

Number in family _____ Number currently in household _____

Factors or circumstances that affect your financial need _____

Other scholarships, grants, or financial awards you have received _____

III. Academic Performance & Potential: *Please Attach High School Transcript*

High school grade point average _____

Most recent ACT and/or SAT score, plus others ACT _____ SAT _____ Other _____

Honors & recognition received _____

Other academic achievements (*advanced placement, vo-tech education, concurrent college courses, etc.*) _____

IV. Other Activities: *List Includes During High School Only*

Participation in extra-curricular activities _____

Participation in school-affiliated organizations _____

Offices held in organizations _____

Work experience _____ Are you currently employed? _____

What type of work? _____ Other types of work? _____

Energy Camp Contest

For Area 8th-Grade Students

Camp Date: May 30-June 2, 2023 | Contest Deadline: April 24, 2023

3-4 Hour Community Service Project or 200-300 Word Essay

Four winners will be selected. Each will receive an all-expense-paid trip to Energy Camp on May 30-June 2, 2023. Each will also receive \$150 spending cash.

Students who are in the eighth grade and attend public, private, charter, or home school within cooperative service area are eligible to participate in this contest. Cooperative membership is not a contest requirement.

Project must be 3-4 hours, documented with photos, and validated by a community representative for whom work is being performed. As an alternative form of entry, students can submit a 200-300 word essay on the topic *"Making a Difference Where I Live."*

Submit entry form and project photos or essay to: publicrelations@noec.coop, or mail this form and supporting documentation to NOEC, PO Box 948, Vinita, OK 74301.

Describe project _____

Why is this project important to you? _____

Community representative signature _____ Phone _____

Student name _____ Age _____ Date of birth _____

Guardian name _____ Guardian signature _____

I give permission for my child to attend Energy Camp if selected.

If you win, are you willing to attend camp? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

School _____

Teacher name _____

If you were informed about this opportunity at school, please provide the name of the teacher so we can thank them.

Youth Tour Contest

For Area High School Juniors

Tour Date: June 16-22, 2023 | Contest Deadline: March 27, 2023

6-8 Hour Community Service Project or 300-500 Word Essay

Four winners will be selected. Each will receive an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., on June 16-22, 2023, as part of the 2023 Oklahoma Youth Tour. Each will also receive \$500 spending cash.

Students who are in the eleventh grade and attend public, private, charter, or home school within cooperative service area are eligible to participate in this contest. Cooperative membership is not a contest requirement.

Project must be 6-8 hours, documented with photos, and validated by a community representative for whom work is being performed. As an alternative form of entry, students can submit a 300-500 word essay on the topic *"Making a Difference Where I Live."*

Submit entry form and project photos or essay to: publicrelations@noec.coop, or mail this form and supporting documentation to NOEC, PO Box 948, Vinita, OK 74301.

Describe project _____

Why is this project important to you? _____

Community representative signature _____ Phone _____

Student name _____ Age _____ Date of birth _____

Guardian name _____ Guardian signature _____

I give permission for my child to attend Youth Tour if selected.

If you win, are you willing to attend Youth Tour? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

School _____

Teacher name _____

If you were informed about this opportunity at school, please provide the name of the teacher so we can thank them.

FROM THE BACK COVER

MEET HomePass®

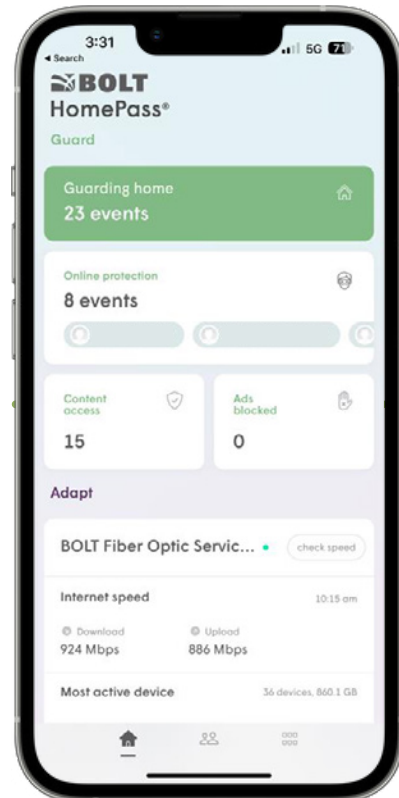
EXCITING NEWS FOR BOLT SUBSCRIBERS!

BOLT Fiber Optic Services is now offering HomePass® from Plume, a first-of-its-kind adaptive WiFi system. HomePass® uses artificial intelligence (AI) to automatically steer signals for faster, more reliable connections in every room—no matter the type of home.

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-Ricky Hignite, NOEC Manager of IT

Powered by
Plume HomePass®



WINTER ENERGY EFFICIENCY & SAFETY TIPS

LOWER HOLIDAY LIGHTING COSTS

- Use light-emitting diode (LED) holiday light strings to reduce the cost of decorating the home for the winter holidays.

COVER DRAFTY WINDOWS

- Use a heavy-duty, clear plastic sheet on a frame or tape clear plastic film to the inside of window frames during the cold winter months. Make sure the plastic is sealed tightly to the frame to help reduce infiltration.
- Install tight-fitting, insulating drapes or shades on windows that feel drafty after weatherizing.

FIND AND SEAL LEAKS

- Seal air leaks around plumbing penetrations, gaps around chimneys and recessed lights in insulated ceilings, and unfinished spaces behind cupboards and closets.
- Add caulk or weatherstripping to seal air leaks around leaky doors and windows.

REDUCE HEAT LOSS FROM THE FIREPLACE

- Keep the fireplace damper closed unless a fire is burning. Keeping the damper open is like keeping a window wide open during the winter; it allows warm air to go right up the chimney.
- Check the seal on the fireplace flue damper and make it as snug as possible.

- **Protect Cords:** To avoid shock or fire hazard, cords should never be pinched by furniture, forced into small spaces such as doors or windows, placed under rugs, located near heat sources, or attached with nails or staples.
- **Candles:** Use battery-operated candles. Candles start almost half of home decoration fires.
- **Live Trees:** Keep trees fresh by watering daily. Dry trees are a serious fire hazard.

- **Electrical Outlets:** Do not overload electrical outlets. Overloaded electrical outlets and faulty wires are a common cause of holiday fires. Avoid overloading outlets and plug only one high-wattage appliance into each outlet at a time.
- **Cooking:** Stay in the kitchen when something is cooking. Unattended equipment is the leading cause of home cooking fires.



SCAN ME!

OPERATION ROUND UP

RECENT LOCAL GRANTS

978224

Few programs anywhere can boast the life-changing impact that NOEC's Operation Round-Up has made upon the lives of people in northeast Oklahoma. To date, participating cooperative members through Operation Round-Up have invested over \$3 million back into their communities by simply allowing their monthly electric bills to be rounded-up to the nearest dollar.

Operation Round-Up Trust Fund Foundation board members meet every other month to evaluate applications and decide which organizations and individuals will receive funds.

During the past 6 months \$52,569 in grant funds were awarded to thirteen different organizations by the Operation Round-Up Trust Foundation Board of Directors. If you would like to sign up to participate in Operation Round-Up, or if you need additional information, contact us at 918.256.6405 or scan the code above with your smartphone.



Chelsea Community Food Pantry



Eastern Trails Museum



First Baptist Church Salina



First Baptist Church Miami



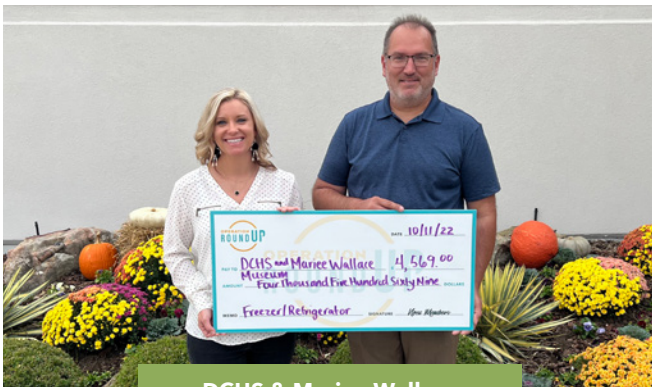
Spavinaw Youth Center



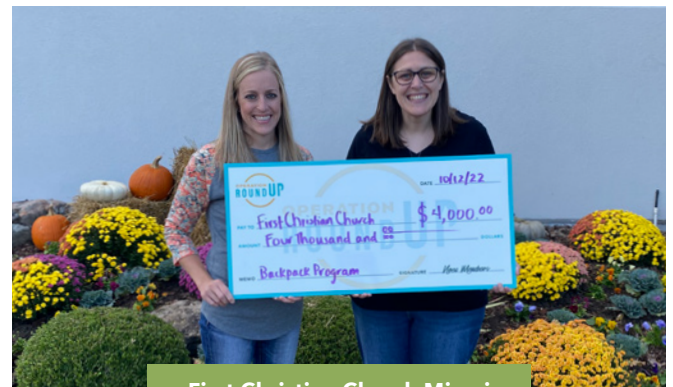
American Legion Post #40



City of Jay Police Department



DCHS & Marilee Wallace



First Christian Church Miami



Salvation Army Miami



Spavinaw Police Department



Wyandotte Food Pantry



Centralia Fire Department



FEATURED RECIPES

HOLIDAY CLASSICS



Bake time: 30-35 minutes
Serves: 12

A note from Pam:

I found this recipe in 1981 while on maternity leave after having my oldest son. I was craving chocolate and, believe me, this solved that craving. It is a moist, chocolaty, fudge cake that is wonderful with or without frosting. Everyone I've made this for has asked for the recipe.

FEATHERY FUDGE CAKE

PAMELA J. WARD | VINITA

INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups flour
- 1 1/4 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 3/4 cups sugar
- 3 squares or 3 oz unsweetened chocolate, melted and cooled
- 2/3 cup butter or margarine
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 2 eggs
- 1 1/4 cups cold water

Step 1: Grease and flour two 9x12 inch round cake pans and set to the side.

Step 2: In a large mixing bowl stir together flour, baking soda, and salt.

Step 3: In another bowl beat butter on medium speed with an electric mixer for about 30 seconds. Add sugar and vanilla; beat well until combined.

Step 4: Add eggs, one at a time, to mixture, beating on medium speed for one minute each. Stir in cooled chocolate.

Step 5: Add dry ingredients and cold water alternately to beaten mixture, beating on low speed after each addition.

Step 6: Pour batter into prepared pans. Bake at 350°F for 30-35 minutes or until cake tests done. Place cakes in pans on wire racks. Remove cakes from pans after 10 minutes and continue cooling on racks.

Step 7: Frost with icing of your choice and garnish as desired.

EASY HOMEMADE ORNAMENTS

GETTING CRAFTY

INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups baking soda
- 1 cup cornstarch
- 1 1/4 cup water

Step 2: Form into a ball and cover with a damp cloth for 15 minutes.

Step 3: Roll out dough to a 1/4 inch thickness. Use cookie cutters to cut out shapes. Gently poke a hole at the top of each ornament. Allow to air dry for 24 hours, flipping them once. Decorate as desired.

Step 1: Combine baking soda, cornstarch, and water in a medium pot. Mix well and cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, until mixture reaches a 'mashed potatoes' consistency.

