

# NE CONNECTION

A PUBLICATION OF NORTHEAST OKLAHOMA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

**MEMBER FEATURE**  
JOHN'S TRACTOR WORKS



OCTOBER 2023



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

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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## A THREAT THAT'S EVEN WORSE THAN IT SOUNDS

**Ricky Hignite**  
**Manager of Information Technology**

As manager of information technology here at Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative

(NOEC), it is my duty to ensure the integrity and security of our organization's data. That responsibility also encompasses the safekeeping of YOUR data.

I would like to call to your attention an emerging threat of which we all need to be aware and guard ourselves against: *smishing*.

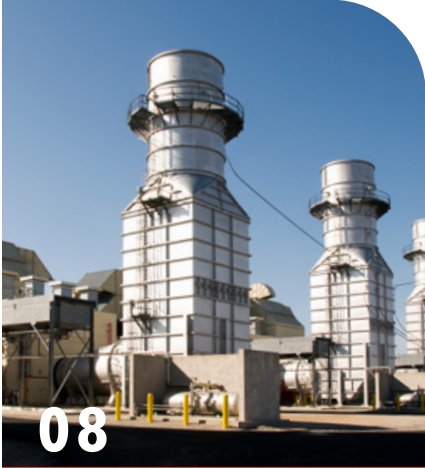
Smishing certainly doesn't sound favorable, but what is it exactly? Well, the ugly truth is that smishing is a form of phishing that takes place through text messages (SMS) or other messaging platforms. These deceptive messages are designed to trick individuals into revealing personal information, such as account credentials, Social Security numbers, or financial details. Smishing attacks often create a sense of urgency or fear, coercing victims into responding hastily without questioning the authenticity of the message itself.

At NOEC, protecting and preparing our employees from smishing attacks is of paramount importance. By extension, we aim to safeguard your data and privacy. Here are a few key points to remember in order to stay safe:

Be suspicious of unexpected messages. Exercise caution when receiving unsolicited text messages, especially those that ask for personal or financial information. Legitimate organizations will never request sensitive data via text message.

Verify the source. If you receive a suspicious message claiming to be from NOEC, contact us directly through official channels to confirm the legitimacy of the message. Do not use the contact information provided in the message itself, as it too could be fraudulent.

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

**FUN FACT!**

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



**OCTOBER EVENTS** .....

**Chair Yoga**

**October 2 | Grove**

Grove Public Library

**40th Annual Pelican Festival**

**October 5-8 | Grove**

Wolf Creek Park

**Chuckwagon Dinner Under the Stars**

**October 7 | Grove**

Har-Ber Village Museum

**Bushyhead Farm Fall Festival**

**October 12-15 | Kansas (OK)**

Bushyhead Farm

**Beaded Empire Expo**

**October 13-15 | Vinita**

Craig County Fairgrounds

**36th Annual Oktoberfest**

**October 14 | Vinita**

Holy Ghost Catholic Church

**Farmer's Market**

**October 14 | Locust Grove**

Main Street

**Brush Creek Bazaar**

**October 14-15 | Tulsa**

10900 S Louisville Ave

**Old Time Gathering & Music Festival**

**October 21 | Grove**

Har-Ber Village & Museum

**QueenScary Renaissance Festival**

**October 29 | Vinita**

438415 E Highway 60

**Corley Customs 1st Annual Halloween Car Show**

**October 28 | Afton**

201 SE 1st Street

**Sweet Street**

**October 31 | Miami**

Downtown Main Street

# A THREAT THAT'S EVEN WORSE THAN IT SOUNDS

CONTINUED FROM INSIDE FRONT COVER

Think before you click. Avoid clicking on links or downloading attachments from unknown sources. These links or attachments may contain malicious software or direct you to fake websites that aim to steal your information.

It's sad that we even have to worry about things like smishing, but we all know the world is full of shady characters who try to take advantage of others. If we team up, maybe we can put these unseemly types out of business. At the very least we can make them work a little harder.

**Stay safe, NOEC members.**

## TIPS & TRICKS DIY: SEALING ATTIC AIR LEAKS

Sealing attic air leaks will enhance the performance of your insulation and make a more comfortable home. Air infiltration is fairly easy to correct, the process requires a careful inspection of your home.

- Identify potential leakage areas, such as dropped soffits over kitchen cabinets or bath vanities, where walls (both inner and outer) meet the attic floor, slanted ceiling over stairways and any other dropped ceiling areas.
- Gather supplies and use flashlights or drop lights to create a well-lit working area.
- Wear lightweight coveralls, a hat and gloves to keep insulation off your skin, a mask to avoid inhalation of hazardous substances, and knee pads to prevent pain from crawling on attic joists.
- Walk on trusses or joists you trust and watch for nails.
- Utilize inexpensive weather-stripping, caulking, and filler material.



# NOEC ANNOUNCES NEW KIDS PROGRAM



energy**KIDS**



## SIGN UP TODAY!

**Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative, Inc. (NOEC), is excited to announce an energyKIDS program for children from birth up to the age of 18 years old.**

The goal of energyKIDS is to create **excitement** while helping foster an **understanding** about electric cooperatives. The program will connect with children throughout different stages of their childhood with **birthday cards, gifts, and invitations to cooperative events!**

Benefits of the energyKIDS program are open (and free of charge) to all NOEC member children and grandchildren residing within NOEC service territory. Members must maintain membership for the child or children to remain in the energyKIDS program.

**To register your child visit :  
[noec.coop/community-services/energyKIDS](https://noec.coop/community-services/energyKIDS).**



**SCAN ME**

to sign up online!

# JOHN'S TRACTOR WORKS



## 38 YEARS STRONG

### IN NE OKLAHOMA

We've all heard the term *power couple* used to describe a husband and wife team with a reputation for getting things done. Power couples are typically driven. They're go-getters. Movers and shakers. They're smart, hard-working, and influential. Each half of this dynamic duo usually possesses a skill—or skills—that complement the other partner perfectly.

**If you've never met a power couple, here's your chance. John and Julia Sellmeyer are the power couple behind John's Tractor Works.**

Located five miles east of Vinita along Route 66, John's Tractor Works has been a fixture here in northeast Oklahoma for nearly four decades. The business has built a solid reputation since opening its doors back in 1985 as an authorized dealer for several popular ag equipment lines.

The couple's two daughters believe the power couple description of their parents to be fitting.

**"Watching my parents grow the business they have today is an inspiration," remarked Jaimie Sellmeyer. "I am always proud to let people know who they are. They are my role models and biggest fans, and I am blessed to call them parents."**

"Words cannot express the gratitude and love I have for my parents," said Heather Cox. "I am beyond proud of what they have accomplished. They taught us the most valuable lessons in life: to love Jesus, work hard, never be lazy, have morals, and never give up."

John's familiarity with farm equipment developed at an early age. After his father relocated the family from Tulsa to Vinita in 1962, John found himself learning to repair tractors and other ag implements on the family dairy farm. The dairy evolved into a ranch operation over the years with no shortage of responsibility for a young boy.

John was adept at turning a wrench and he stuck with it. After graduating from high school, he enrolled at OSU IT in Okmulgee and pursued a degree in diesel technology. It was there—during a government class—that John met Julia Woods. Julia was working her way toward an accounting degree at OSU IT. The two hit it off and married in 1981.

The Sellmeyers called Owasso home initially. John hired on as a service manager at Tulsa Farm Equipment and Julia was employed at Mapco, a local oil and gas industry company.

John's dream was always to move back home to Vinita and start his own business. That dream came to fruition in 1984 when he and Julia pulled up stakes and headed to Craig County. Within a year's time, the Sellmeyers had a growing family—Heather was the first to arrive in 1985; Jaimie came along in 1988—and a growing business. John built a shop at the family home and began working on equipment for local farmers. It wasn't long that he began carrying Belarus and Zetor tractor lines, as well as Bush Hog equipment.

Growth would eventually necessitate another move, so in 1998 the Sellmeyers went big. They purchased acreage along Route 66 five miles east of Vinita and opened John's Tractor Works. Julia joined forces with her husband at that point, bringing her accounting expertise to the venture.

**"I have always told her that was the main reason I married her—so that she could be the accountant in the business," John laughed.**

Thirty-eight years later you'll still find the Sellmeyers teaming up to bring customers dependable ag equipment and an approach to service that is second to none. The 10-acre property on which the business sits has approximately five acres reserved for outdoor display. In addition to an 1,800-square foot showroom and a parts room to match, the store has 5,400 square feet dedicated to service and set-up, and a 1,200 square foot outside platform for display.

**"Everyone who steps foot into our dealership is personally greeted, and to us a handshake still matters. We go the extra mile for our customers," John said. "It is an honest commitment to our customers that has brought us the success we have today."**

## STAYING PUT

Northeast Oklahoma has been abuzz in recent weeks with news of the coming *American Heartland Theme Park and Resort*. John's Tractor Works is located near the planned development. While excited about the many possibilities for the area, John is assuring customers that his store has no intention of moving from its current location.



**John's Tractor Works is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. and on Saturdays from 8 a.m. until noon.**

**To learn more, follow on Facebook, visit [johnstractorworks.com](http://johnstractorworks.com), or call 918.256.5774.**

If you are in the market for a Kioti tractor, John's Tractor Works carries models up to 90 horsepower. You'll also find McCormick tractors at 110 horsepower and up, the entire Bush Hog line, Kuhn hay equipment, Durabilt equipment, Shaver post drivers, UTVs, and implements for homeowners, farmers, hobby farmers, landscapers and a variety of other end users.

If you are ready to step up your lawn care game with a quality zero-turn, be sure and check out the selection of mowers from Bobcat, Kioti, Walker, and Maruyama. The dealership is eagerly anticipating the arrival of the new Kioti's new compact skid steers and has also been gearing up to offer rental equipment in the very near future.

The partnership with Kioti equipment has been steady since the new store opened. For each of the last eight years, John's Tractor Works has been one of Kioti's 5-PAW certified dealerships and consistently ranks in the top ten percent of the country for Kioti sales.

"Customers really like the features Kioti tractors offer including the convenient placement of controls for the operator and the 3-point hitch on the rear," states Sellmeyer. "People like having many options to choose from and Kioti gives them more choices than many other brands." Sellmeyer says his success with the Kioti line is largely due to the desirable features and the availability of more models. He anticipates growth continuing for Kioti's market share in northeast Oklahoma and says customers come to him specifically looking for Kioti products. Sellmeyer believes the Kioti name is recognized now more than ever.

**\*909302\***



**John is rightfully proud of his entire staff and said customers appreciate not only the quality equipment but the service after the sale as well, especially when it comes to handling diesel equipment.**

"Good diesel equipment technicians are getting harder to find," he said. "And we have some of the best around."

Added Sellmeyer: "We don't just preach service, we practice it. When a tractor is under warranty, it goes to the front of the line for service, regardless of the time of the year it goes down. When customers have a new tractor, they have an expectation it will work. We make sure that's the case. We do what's necessary to keep the customer happy and maintain their business."

To better serve the growing Rogers County market, the Sellmeyers opened a second location in Oologah in 2016. That store, **4 Seasons Ag & Lawn**, offers all the same lines as the Vinita location.





## BEWARE OF ELECTRICAL DANGERS WHEN DECORATING FOR HALLOWEEN



Christmas is no longer the only holiday where lights and yard decorations are used to show our festive spirit. Halloween has become a time to string up lights, plug in fog machines, light up those electric powered decorations and create a yard that is scare-worthy to any trick-or-treater that may stop by. But beware of the hidden electrical dangers that could spoil your holiday.

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### Use tips to make your Halloween safe & fun:

- Carefully inspect each electrical decoration. Check for cracking, fraying or bare wires; they may cause a serious shock or start a fire.
- Replace any damaged decorations.
- Make sure any lights, animated displays, or other electrical outdoor products are Underwriters Laboratory (UL) approved and marked for outdoor use.
- Follow the care and instructions that accompany your electrical decorations.
- Don't overload extension cords or allow them to run through water on the ground.
- Plug outdoor electric lights and decorations into outlets protected by ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). If your outlets don't have them, either contact a qualified electrician to install them or use portable GFCIs instead.
- Keep electrical cords out of walkways to avoid tripping hazards.
- Turn off all electrical decorations and lights before leaving home or going to sleep. Consider using a timer.
- When decorating outside, always make sure to look up and check that you and any equipment, such as ladders, are at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines.

*Avoid any dangerous "tricks" this Halloween by enjoying your treats and decorating safely.*



# RELIABLE ELECTRICITY AT RISK

## POWER GENERATION TYPE MAKES A DIFFERENCE



Chouteau Power Plant

In Washington, D.C., decisions made by policymakers now will determine if reliable electricity remains a key advantage for America, or rolling blackouts become a way of life. Currently, the policies requiring a speedy transition from reliable fossil fuel generation to weather-dependent renewable sources risk taking our nation down an energy path that prioritizes fast change over keeping the lights on.

So, what are the different types of generation and how do they ensure a reliable power supply for rural America? Let's take a look at how your electricity is produced.

### Baseload Generation: Backbone of reliability

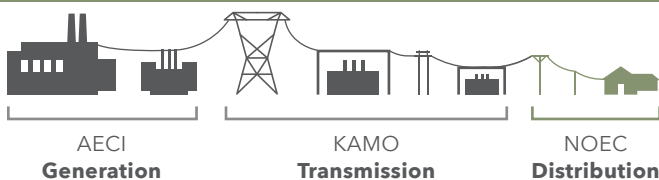
Baseload generation refers to power plants that provide a steady and constant production of electricity to meet the minimum level of demand. Simply put, baseload generation is the backbone of the electricity supply. Baseload power plants, such as coal, natural gas or nuclear, operate continuously and provide a constant amount of electricity to the grid. They are dependable workhorses that generate power consistently, day and night, regardless of the fluctuations in electricity demand.

### Intermediate Generation: Dovetailing with demand

Intermediate generation refers to power plants that can be ramped up or down relatively quickly to meet changes in electricity demand that go beyond the baseload. These power plants function as a bridge between constant baseload power and fluctuating demand. Natural gas power plants are often used for intermediate generation because they can start up and shut down quickly. They provide more electricity during periods of higher energy use.

## ENERGY FLOW

Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc. (AECI) generates the energy that powers your life. AECI in turn provides wholesale power to KAMO Power who provides that power to Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative (NOEC).



### Peaking Generation: Serving sudden surges

Peaking generation refers to power plants designed to meet the highest levels of electricity demand, typically during short periods of time. These power plants are called upon when there is a sudden surge in electricity use, such as during hot summer days when air conditioners are running at full capacity or freezing winter days when electric heating ramps up. Like intermediate generation, peaking power plants, often powered by natural gas or sometimes fuel oil, start up and shut down very quickly. However, peaking plants cost more to operate, so they provide the extra electricity needed during peak use periods to ensure a reliable supply.

### Peaking Generation: Serving sudden surges

Renewable power generation, such as solar and wind power, has an intermittent nature. This means the amount of electricity they produce can vary depending on factors such as weather conditions. Solar power relies on sunlight to generate electricity.

It works best when the sun is shining directly on solar panels. On cloudy days, the amount of sunlight decreases, resulting in lower electricity production and no production takes place overnight. This is why solar power is considered intermittent – because it is not consistently available during the day, at night or in all weather conditions.

Wind power relies on wind blowing to spin the turbine blades and generate electricity. However, the wind does not always blow at a consistent speed. Sometimes it is strong, and other times it is weak or not present at all. Therefore, the amount of electricity generated by wind turbines can vary depending on the wind conditions. This makes wind power intermittent as well.

In contrast, baseload power generation, such as coal, natural gas or nuclear power, are more consistent and reliable in their electricity production. They can provide a steady and constant supply of electricity because they are not as dependent on weather conditions.

Hydropower generation is a way of producing electricity using the power of moving water, such as rivers, dams or waterfalls. It is a renewable energy source because water is continuously replenished by the water cycle.



White Cloud Wind Farm

### What about batteries?

Advancements in energy storage technologies, like batteries, are being developed to store excess renewable energy when it is produced and release it later when there is high demand or when renewable sources are not producing electricity. However, the duration of stored power needed for a large electric system, at an affordable price, is not a reality now or near-term with current technologies.

### A balance of energy supply sources delivers reliable power to members

To overcome the inconsistent production of renewable power generation, Associated Electric Cooperative and its member-owners incorporate a balance of different energy sources. By using traditional sources as the foundation, wind when it is producing electricity and hydropower, it creates a more reliable and balanced electricity supply.



# FEATURED RECIPES

## OTTAWA COUNTY | COMFORT CASSEROLES



### HIGH PROTEIN FOOTBALL MEXICAN CASSEROLE

CAROL PHILPOTT

#### INGREDIENTS

- 1 lbs ground beef
- 1 onion, chopped
- 2, 4 oz cans chopped green chiles
- 1 1/2 cups shredded cheddar cheese
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1 tbs flour
- 4 eggs, beaten
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp pepper
- 1/2 tsp garlic powder

**Step 1:** Brown beef and onion in a skillet then drain.

**Step 2:** Fill the bottom of an 8x8 pan with one can of chiles and one cup grated cheese then top with meat mixture. Pour remaining can of chiles on top.

**Step 3:** In a separate bowl combine milk, flour, eggs, salt, pepper, and garlic powder and beat until smooth. Then pour mixture over meat and chiles. Top with remaining cheese.

**Step 4:** Bake at 350°F for 45 to 50 minutes until a knife inserted comes out clean.

### CHICKEN OLÉ

GAYLE GRAHAM

#### INGREDIENTS

- 2-3 boneless chicken breasts, boiled and cubed
- 1, 10.5 oz can cream of chicken soup
- 1 can Ro-Tel tomatoes
- 1 lb Velveeta cheese, cubed
- 1 large bag tortilla chips
- 10-12 oz shredded cheese

**Step 1:** Combine chicken, cream of chicken soup, Ro-Tel, and cubed Velveeta cheese.

**Step 2:** Crumble tortilla chips and layer in bottom of a 9x13 pan. Follow with layer of chicken mixture. Continue layering until all ingredients are used. Top with shredded cheese.

**Step 3:** Bake at 350°F until cheese has melted.

