

NE CONNECTION

A PUBLICATION OF NORTHEAST OKLAHOMA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



BACK FROM YOUTH TOUR
FUN TIMES IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 2024



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

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GENERATOR SAFETY

Tim Wilson

Vinita Operations Superintendent

Here at NOEC we strive to provide our membership with safe and reliable power. This has been our priority since day one.

As we all know, Mother Nature

occasionally has other ideas.

When a storm blows through and the power goes out, many people turn to generators for a back-up electricity source. There are various styles of generators, all of which need to be installed and maintained properly for optimal safety. Today, I'd like to take a few minutes to discuss some general generator safety.

There are several hazards to consider when using a generator. The main hazards are carbon monoxide poisoning, fire, and electrocution. To avoid these dangers, never operate a generator inside your home or in any other type of enclosed space (such as a garage). Once you find an appropriate outdoor location for your generator, it is recommended that it always has 3-4 feet of clearance above and on all sides for proper operation. While we're on the subject, make sure your home is equipped with carbon monoxide detectors as an added safeguard.

Always connect appliances to your generator using heavy-duty extension cords and inspect those cords for any damage prior to use. Store fuel outside in properly labeled, non-glass containers and only refuel when the generator has cooled down sufficiently.

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FOOD PANTRY MAKES IMPACT



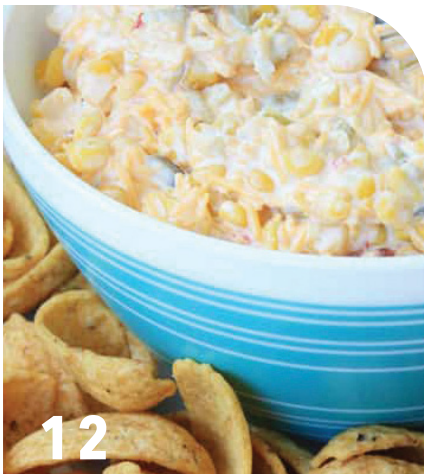
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CRAIG COUNTY RECIPES

\$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 September 1, 2024, to claim a \$100 credit on your electric account.

August Events

The True Story of Florence Foster Jenkins, the Worst Singer in the World by Peter Quilter

Aug 1-4 | Grove

Playmakers Community Theatre

Food Truck Friday

Aug 2 | Grove

Community Center Lawn

Woodstock on the Water

Aug 10 | Disney

Lawhead Hollow

National 811 Day

Aug 11

Chamber Connect Luncheon

Aug 22 | Miami

Miami Chamber of Commerce

Crackin' Crab 2024

Aug 29 | Miami

Miami Civic Center

Bull Fest

Aug 30-31 | Grove

Wolf Creek Park

Rocklahoma

Aug 30-31 - Sep 1 | Pryor

1421 West 450 Road

2024 Grand River Dam Paddle

Aug 31 | Langley

Below the Pensacola Dam

Jana Jae Fiddle Camp & Music Fest

Aug 30-31 - Sep 1 | Grove

Free Will Baptist Church

Save the Date





Generator Safety

CONTINUED FROM INSIDE COVER

The area of concern with the greatest potential to impact me and my NOEC co-workers is the correct connection of your generator. Never “reverse engineer” a power cord (with two male ends) so that you can plug a generator into a household outlet. If a generator is directly connected to your home’s power supply, electrical current can travel back through utility lines. When this happens, voltage can increase once it reaches the transformer and main distribution powerlines.

This is a deadly process known as backfeed and could potentially electrocute or injure an electrician, lineman, tree trimmer, or neighbor.

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Not only can backfeed injure a worker or neighbor, it can also damage your home’s electrical infrastructure. To prevent backfeed, it’s important to have a transfer switch installed by a licensed professional. There are two types of transfer switches: automatic and manual. An automatic transfer switch is an excellent investment for seamless power transition and can also protect line workers and other electricity consumers.

Understanding the safe operation of your home generator and correctly using a transfer switch to prevent backfeed are critical components of generator safety. By following these guidelines, you can do your part to protect our communities and ensure a reliable backup power system during emergencies. Stay safe by always prioritizing proper generator use.



National 811 Day

YOUR REMINDER TO DIG SAFELY



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

An underground utility line is damaged **every six minutes** in the United States, meaning that ten times an hour, a potentially dangerous and costly incident causes a utility outage for one customer or an entire neighborhood.

Don't be a statistic. National 811 Day is August 11, serving as an important reminder that everyone, whether a homeowner with a shovel or a professional excavator with an earthmover, must **Call Before You Dig**.



NOEC Board Approves 2023 PATRONAGE ALLOCATION

Cooperative businesses are unique. They are owned by the members they serve and guided by seven principles that reflect the interests of those members. One of those seven principles is *Member Economic Participation*.

Economic participation simply means that members contribute equitably to—and democratically control the capital of—the cooperative. Unlike investor-owned utilities, cooperatives do not issue stocks. Surpluses are *margins*, not profits.

Margins represent an amount that exceeds what is required to operate and are allocated to member patronage accounts. The success of a cooperative is shared with its members through annual patronage allocation.

The Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative (NOEC) board of trustees recently approved the allocation of 2023 patronage capital totaling \$1,863,350.

For 2023 usage, an allocation factor of **\$0.0024561855** per kilowatt-hour (kWh) will be used. For example, a member consuming 1,233 kWh per month would accumulate \$36.34 in patronage for the year.

To calculate the capital credit allocated to your member patronage account for 2023, simply multiply the allocation factor of **\$0.0024561855** by your total kWh of usage for the year.

If you are an active member of the cooperative, you can find the allocation amount in the upper right-hand corner of your August 2024 statement. This amount will remain in your patronage capital account until a future patronage retirement is made.

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FORMULA EXAMPLE

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------|----------|--------------|----------|-----------|----------|----------------|
| \$0.002456 | x | 1,233 | x | 12 | = | \$36.34 |
| allocation factor | | kWh | | months | | patronage |

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NOEC is honored to serve and share its success with you. If you have questions about how capital credit is allocated or if you would like to know the total amount in your member patronage account for this or previous years, feel free to contact us 918.256.6405, ext. 9313.



Food Pantry

MAKING AN IMPACT IN CHELSEA COMMUNITY

Volunteers Hallie Nelson (left) and Paula Sanders (right) assist a pantry visitor.

Operation Round-Up is impacting communities across northeast Oklahoma. You can find grant dollars hard at work in those communities on any given day.



Pantry helper Arieus Captain pitches in by loading food.

One of those communities is Chelsea, where evidence of Operation Round-Up's impact can be found weekly on Wednesdays from 4-6 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church. It's from that location—at 444 West 6th Street—that the Chelsea Community Food Pantry has been making a difference for the last twenty-plus years.

A grant from Operation Round-Up totaling \$3,000 recently helped the pantry replenish non-perishable food items needed for community distribution. The pantry serves approximately 150 individuals (around 50 families) each week in the Chelsea community.

A total of \$17,695 in grants was awarded to seven different organizations during the most recent meeting of the Operation Round-Up Trust Foundation Board of Directors. Other recipients included Big Cabin Senior Center, Disney Fire & Police, Friends of the Grove Library, Harvest House Food Pantry in Salina, Ketchum Volunteer Fire Department, and Salina Senior Citizens.

Volunteer Cherry Roberts expressed gratitude for the generosity the Chelsea Community Food Pantry has received from NOEC members through Operation Round-Up.



► **"Thanks to Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative members and the grant from Operation Round-Up, we have been able to do even more in our community. We greatly appreciate the help and support from NOEC and the Operation Round-Up program as we work to meet the needs of others here in Chelsea."** -Cherry Roberts

To participate or for additional information, contact Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative at 918.256.6405.

NOEC introduced the Operation Round-Up program in 1998 with the slogan *Small Change that Changes Lives*. That description is no less fitting today. Over the past 25 years, Operation Round-Up has allocated more than \$3.5 million to needy causes throughout its service territory of Craig, Mayes, Delaware, Ottawa and Rogers counties.

Operation Round-Up does just what its name implies. Each month, electric bills of participating members are simply rounded up to the next highest dollar. The average contribution is 50 cents per month and totals around \$6 on an annual basis. For example, a bill of \$52.73 would be rounded up to \$53 with the additional 27 cents going to Operation Round-Up.



Youth Tour

NOEC SENDS TWO TO NATION'S CAPITAL



2024 Oklahoma Youth Tour Group

Two local students visited our nation's capital this summer as part of the 2024 Oklahoma Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.

Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative was represented on the trip by **Lynlee McCurry** of Locust Grove (Salina High School) and **Addison Asher** of Kansas (Kansas High School). McCurry and Asher were joined by 64 other students from 25 other cooperatives across the state, as well as ten adult chaperones. On a national level, a total of 1,659 delegates from 44 different states participated in the 2024 electric cooperatives Youth Tour.

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The two NOEC delegates qualified for the trip by working a community service project and/or submitting an essay that satisfied the contest prompt *Making a Difference Where I Live*.

"It's a great honor for these students to have been selected to represent their cooperatives and communities during this once-in-a-lifetime experience," remarked Amber Himle, Advocacy Coordinator for the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives and coordinator of the Youth Tour trip.



Addison Asher (left) and Lynlee McCurry (right)

► This year's Oklahoma Youth Tour contingent departed from Oklahoma City early on June 15 and enjoyed five full days' worth of activities before returning home June 20. They took in a number of sights and sounds during the busy week including visits to the White House, Arlington National Cemetery, WWI Memorial, WWII Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Korean War Veterans Memorial, Iwo Jima Memorial, MLK Memorial, FDR Memorial, Washington Monument, Jefferson Memorial, Pentagon 9-11 Memorial, Mount Vernon, Christ Church, Holocaust Museum, Smithsonian Museum, National Archives Museum, and Ford's Theatre. They enjoyed Youth Night, a boat dinner cruise, a congressional summit as guests of Congressman Frank Lucas and Senator Markwayne Mullin, a private tour of the U.S. Capitol with Senator Mullin, a visit with Senator James Lankford on the steps, Old Town Alexandria, Toby's Dinner Theatre, and the Oklahoma Reflection Party.

"As you can see, we saw just about every monument, memorial, and museum possible," Himle said. "It was a jam-packed week of visiting sights that lots of people have only heard about or seen in a book or on television. We prepared for this trip for about a year and were excited to lead our students on this adventure. They will share this mission with 74 other people, to whom they will be forever connected by these experiences. Oklahoma's electric cooperatives are proud to sponsor this journey."

"Oklahoma Youth Tour was not only an amazing experience, it also gave me greater perspective on how to become a better leader. I am so grateful for the staff, coordinators, and directors that made this trip possible. I made friendships that will last a lifetime and memories I will never forget."

-Addison Asher

"Oklahoma Youth Tour was an encounter like no other. Having the opportunity to visit our nation's capital, network with other young leaders, learn more about our country's history and the importance of our local electric cooperatives was such a unique and impactful experience. I will forever be thankful for the memories made, knowledge gained, and bonds formed, and I owe it all to Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative."

-Lynlee McCurry



Lincoln Memorial



Washington Monument

SUMMER OFFICE INTERNS

Getting to Know You



Abbie Schlatter

My name is **Abbie Schlatter** and I am ecstatic to be an engineering intern here at NOEC for the summer. I am originally from Altamont, Kansas. In 2021 my family moved to **Ketchum**, where I graduated high school in 2022 as valedictorian of my class. During my time in high school, I participated in a wide range of activities, including FFA, Math Club, Pep Club, Student Council, volleyball, basketball, and cheer. I served as president of our National Honor Society chapter and was co-captain of the varsity softball team.

I am currently a junior at **Oklahoma State University**, majoring in **electrical engineering** with a focus on power at the College of Engineering, Architecture, and Technology (CEAT). I am also a member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and have been inducted as a member of the Tau Beta Pi engineering honor society. During the school semester, I also work as a math tutor for students in grades 7-9 for the Oklahoma Department of Education in the Oklahoma Math Tutoring Corps. As a tutor now for four semesters, I have helped students improve on their math skills and build math confidence.

I got into engineering because of my parents' support and how they raised me. My mom taught me to work hard for what I wanted and to never give up in the face of adversity. Today, she works at a generation and transmission cooperative and gave me a better understanding of and desire to work in the power industry. My dad taught me the basics of electronics and passed down to me his knack for being hands-on. Today, they still push me to be better and always stay humble.

I plan on spending my entire summer here, sharing time with family and being on the lake. I hope to learn as much as I possibly can during my time here at NOEC so I can use that knowledge of the industry in the future. I'm excited to experience new things here and gain a new perspective of how NOEC can help others.



Alison Vaughn

My name is **Alison Vaughn** and I'm excited to be spending my summer as an intern in the public relations department here at NOEC. I was lucky enough to be raised near Grand Lake, in the small town of **Ketchum**. During my time as a Ketchum Warrior, I stayed busy playing softball and cheering, as well as being involved in many other school organizations.

I graduated high school in 2022 as a valedictorian of my class and am currently a junior at **Oklahoma State University**. I am majoring in **business marketing** with a focus on communications from the Spears School of Business. During the school year, I am employed by OSU as a marketing assistant and help run three of the school's social media accounts: Student Union, Campus Life, and University Dining. My responsibilities include taking pictures around campus, editing those pics, creating graphics, writing captions, and scheduling posts so that students can stay informed with what's happening daily.

I love what I do for OSU because it allows me to use my passion for photography and videography. This love was developed while traveling with my family and being able to experience some of our country's most beautiful sights. I distinctly remember going to Yellowstone when I was about ten years old and trying to capture everything on my mom's old camera. Ever since then I've fallen in love with capturing the world in ways that others often overlook.

I've done everything from shooting weddings to marketing photoshoots for a lake apparel business. I do a lot more photography these days, but my creative passion is videography. I have created a small business out of it and have even sold some of my travel footage to Netflix for a documentary.

I am enjoying my time in Stillwater, where I live in a small apartment in the middle of campus. There is always something fun going on, but nothing compares to coming home to sixty acres of pasture with cows and chickens. It is a unique experience and at times it feels like I'm living two completely different lives. I love being home for the summer and am excited to see where this internship takes me next.

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Featured Recipes

FROM CRAIG COUNTY



PINEAPPLE SHEET CAKE | SHIRLEY HAYES



INGREDIENTS

For cake

- 2 cups flour
- 2 cups sugar
- 2 tsp baking soda
- 2 eggs
- 1 (16oz) can crushed pineapple
- 1 tsp vanilla
- Dash of salt

Step 1: Put all cake ingredients into a bowl. Mix with an electric mixer and pour into a greased 11x16 inch pan.

Step 2: Bake cake at 350°F for 20 to 25 minutes.

For icing

- 8 oz cream cheese
- 2 cups powdered sugar
- 1/2 stick margarine
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 1 cup pecans

Step 3: Combine icing ingredients and pour over cake while still warm. Enjoy!



SHOE PEG CORN DIP | CAROL BRISCO



INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 3/4 lb grated sharp cheddar cheese
- 2 (11oz) cans drained shoe peg corn
- 1-4 chopped jalapeño peppers
- 1 cup chopped white onion
- 1 tsp garlic salt
- Dash of cayenne pepper
- 2 tbs fresh, finely chopped cilantro

Step 1: Mix all ingredients together in a large mixing bowl. Cover and chill overnight.

Step 1: Serve cold with Fritos Scoops.

Have a recipe to share? Send it to publicrelations@noec.coop for a chance to be featured in an upcoming edition of *Northeast Connection*.