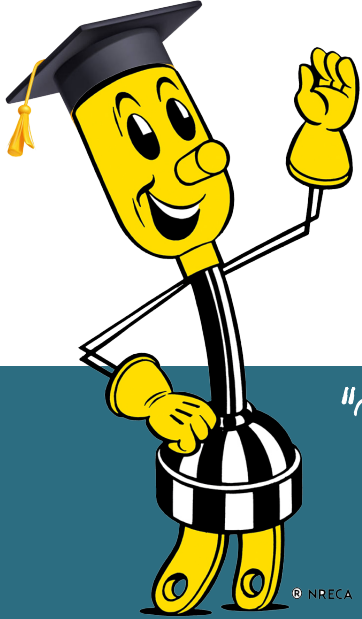


VVEC LINE LIFE

MAY 2025 | PUBLISHED FOR THE MEMBERS OF VERDIGRIS VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE | A SUPPLEMENT TO OKLAHOMA LIVING | WWW.VVEC.COM



Congratulations

GRADUATING CLASS OF 2025

"What lies behind us and what lies before us are small matters compared to what lies within us."

RALPH WALDO EMERSON



Pictured left to right are: Logan Limbocker, Collinsville High School;
Kendall Bement, Oologah High School; Josh Rimpley, Collinsville High School

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

TIP OF THE MONTH

Routine maintenance is important to keep your refrigerator running efficiently. Lint and dirt should be cleaned from the refrigerator coils every six months to a year, and more often if there are pets in the home.

When coils are coated with lint, dust or pet hair, your refrigerator works harder than it's designed to, which can prevent the appliance from cooling properly and efficiently. The additional work can increase the energy costs of the refrigerator by as much as 35% and shorten the life of the appliance.

Source: [energy.gov](https://www.energy.gov)



MAY

IS ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH



ELECTRICAL SAFETY

Don't always believe what you hear

MYTH

VS

FACT



Electricity always takes the path of least resistance

Although the path of least resistance is the easiest to take, an electrical current can take any conductive path.



Voltage has to be high to kill

Although the voltage plays a role in how strong the current flows, exposure to the current itself is what's deadly. Even lower voltages can kill.



Heavily insulated tools will always protect against shock and electrocution

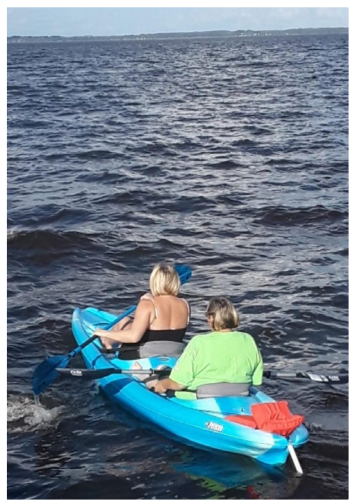
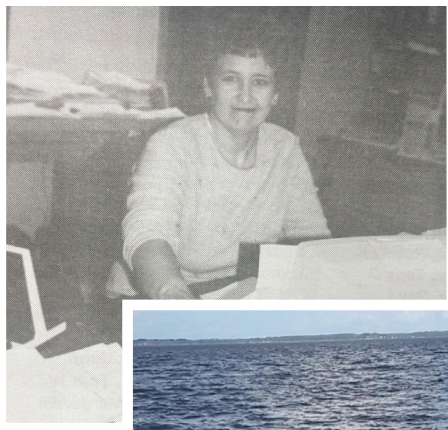
Don't let a tool give you a false sense of security; take all precautions even if a tool is marketed as safe or insulated.

LEARN MORE AT

 **Safe
Electricity.org®**

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

SHARON MENDELL



Nearly thirty one years in the cooperative family and the spotlight is shining brightly on Sharon Mendell! Sharon has worked in Data, Dispatch, Office Services and Engineering in her time at VVEC.

Sharon enjoys her time here and credits the people she works with as a big part of it. "I love everything here. Where else can you get a job like this? I can't say enough good things about this place... The people, our linemen -- it's all good. They really take care of us."

Outside of work, she continues to take care of everybody - whether it's Tim, their eight grandchildren, animals, or her church family... She stays busy! She's also the rodeo secretary - something she's been involved in her whole life! She enjoys sewing and traveling and would love to see more of the country when she retires!

Congrats on a job very well done, Sharon!

"In everything, just hang tough and you'll make it."



May Mystery Picture! Do you know where this is? Be the first to correctly guess the location during the month of May and receive a \$50 bill credit! Call Megan Jackson at 918-586-6241 to submit your guess!

April's Location correctly guessed by Debra - City of Tulsa water line gate at 137th E Ave

Tree crews are working to clear right-of-way on the Keetonville, Tallant, Ramona and Elm Creek substations.

Brush Coordinator:
Chub Brewer
918-586-6208



IS YOUR
ACCOUNT
NUMBER
2431200400?

If so, call Megan Jackson at 918-586-6241 during the month of May and claim your \$50 bill credit! **CONGRATS!**



05.11
05.14-16
05-26

Happy Mother's Day!
Special Olympics
Memorial Day

Our offices will be closed on Monday, May 26, 2025 in observance of Memorial Day.

We will re-open on Tuesday,
May 27, 2025 at 7:30 AM.

WATCH *VS* WARNING

At any moment, 1,800 thunderstorms occur worldwide, according to the National Weather Service. That is 16 million storms a year! In an average year, 1,200 tornadoes cause 60 to 65 fatalities and 1,500 injuries in the U.S. alone.

To protect yourself, your family and your property from seasonal thunderstorms and tornadoes, you need more than a flashlight and a few cans of food (although they are essential parts of your emergency kit). Beyond the items in your preparedness kit, it is a good idea to fully understand how dangerous storms can be and how to interpret weather alerts to minimize risk.

WATCH VERSUS WARNING

When bad weather is approaching, people typically turn on the TV, pull up a weather app or look online for information. If you see a severe weather watch or warning, something bad could be heading your way. However, many people do not consider the differences between the two.

A watch means there is a significant chance of a severe thunderstorm or tornado. Watch and wait for more information while taking precautionary measures, like unplugging electronics and checking the contents of your emergency preparedness kit.

A warning means that a severe thunderstorm or tornado has been spotted or seen on radar. The moment you get a warning, take shelter in the safest part of your home, which is usually in your basement or the interior part of your home.

THUNDERSTORMS

Thunderstorms are some of the most common yet destructive weather events on Earth. Most of the damage comes from flooding caused by heavy rains, lightning strikes and high winds. Some storms also deliver hail and can even spawn tornadoes. Bad weather systems, such as those that cause thunderstorms, can cause broken windows, extreme water damage, fallen trees, serious fires, downed power lines and more.

Do not ignore the potential hazards of thunderstorms. Keep flashlights or battery-operated lights well supplied with batteries or charge them regularly. Keep a supply of nonperishable food and drinking water on hand. Turn off and unplug electronic equipment to protect it from power surges. Move valuables out of the basement or other locations that may flood. If a power outage occurs, never use a portable generator in your home, enclosed structure or garage. Do not step into a flooded basement or area since the water could be electrified.

The infographic is set against a dark, stormy background with lightning. It is divided into two main sections: 'WATCH' on the left and 'WARNING' on the right. Each section features a large yellow and red warning triangle with an exclamation mark. Below the triangles, the text explains the meaning of each alert and the required action. At the bottom center, the logo for 'Safe Electricity.org' is visible.

WATCH	WARNING
A watch means there is a great chance of a severe thunderstorm or tornado.	A warning means that a severe thunderstorm or tornado has been spotted or seen on radar.
"Watch" and wait for more information while taking precautionary measures.	The moment you get a warning, take shelter in the safest part of your home.

Safe Electricity.org®

TORNADOES

The central part of the United States is sometimes referred to as Tornado Alley because it is the most common geographic location for these disastrous storms. The Great Plains have the perfect environment and climate for severe storm creation. While tornadoes can happen in any month, they are much likelier in the spring and summer than in other seasons. April, May and June have more than twice as many reported tornadoes as any other time of the year.

To stay safe during a tornado, be aware of weather conditions during thunderstorms that could breed tornadoes. Know the best place to shelter both indoors and out, and always protect your head, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

Understanding severe thunderstorm and tornado watches and warnings can help keep you and your family safe. Do not underestimate the potential power of these weather systems. Take steps to protect yourselves and your property before a storm hits.

For more information about storm preparedness and electrical safety, visit safeelectricity.org.



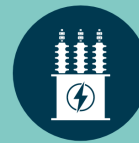
STAYING SAFE DURING AN OUTAGE

We work hard to provide the most reliable service possible. Rest assured, if the power is out, we are on it!

The length of time it takes to restore your power depends on several factors, including the:



Extent of
the storm's
destruction



Severity of
utility
equipment
damage



Number and
extent of
outages



Accessibility
to damaged
equipment

STAY SAFE UNTIL POWER IS RESTORED

- Stay far away and keep others away from downed power lines, which could be live and deadly.
- If you come across a downed line, immediately call 9-1-1 to report it.
- Never enter a flooded room; the water could be energized.
- If you are standing in water, do not turn on/off power or flip a switch.



Prepare for a storm by gathering these items:



Bottles of water



Non-perishable food



Prescriptions



Battery-operated radio

Flashlights



Extra batteries



Pet supplies



Blankets



Warm clothing



First-aid kit



Hand sanitizer

THANK YOU for your patience during outages. When the lights go off, we are working safely and efficiently to restore power. The safety of our employees, as well as those we serve, is our TOP priority.



Electric S•A•F•E•T•Y



Stay safe while spending time outdoors!

As temperatures increase and sunny days abound, it is easy to be footloose and fancy free. As you spend more time outdoors, keep these safety tips in mind to have a great summer.

POOLS AND HOT TUBS

Before opening your pool or hot tub for the season, ensure there is ground fault circuit interrupter protection on underwater lighting circuits, as well as for lighting around pools, hot tubs and spas. Have your pool's electrical system inspected. Faulty wiring can cause swimmers to experience electric shock drowning.

BOATING AND SWIMMING

When boating or swimming, know that faulty wiring can cause the water to become energized.

Never go swimming near boats plugged into shore power or docks with an electrical source. Energized water can cause electric shock drowning.

WHILE RECREATING

Unfortunately, individuals die from lightning strikes each year. Nearly two-thirds of those deaths occur when people are engaging in outdoor activities. Around one-third of the fatalities occur during water-related activities such as boating, spending time on the beach and swimming, while others happen during sporting activities such as fishing, soccer and running.

WHEN PLAYING

When flying drones, remote-controlled planes, toys or kites, fly them in a wide-open area free from overhead power lines. If a toy or object gets stuck in an overhead power line, do not try to remove it. Instead, call your electric utility and a crew will address the issue safely.

Ensure that overhead power lines do not run through or over a tree before your child starts to climb. Select trees that are in a wide-open space without overhead power lines nearby.

If kids are playing with a ball and it goes inside a substation fence, teach them to never touch or climb the fence to attempt to retrieve it or any other item. Instead, call your electric utility to safely take care of it. The same precaution applies to a pet or animal inside the fenced area of a substation.



PREVENT ELECTRIC SHOCK DROWNING

Ensure there is GFCI protection on underwater lighting circuits, as well as lighting around pools, hot tubs and spas.

 Safe
Electricity.org®

Keep them safe.

ELECTRICITY AND WATER DO NOT MIX!



As you enjoy water fun around the pool, lake or even with a garden hose, keep electricity and water away from each other. Mixing them can cause serious injury and even death. Remind kids to keep electronics away from water and make sure they are dry before plugging or unplugging any electrical equipment.

Putting Members First by keeping you safe.



Verdigris Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.®

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative



VVEC BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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District 2: Jack Bogart - 371-9587

District 3: John Brogan - 810-7131

District 4: John Hibdon - 847-2320

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District 6: Dennis Lenox - 289-5961

District 7: Charles Huerter - 914-1498

District 8: Ken Howard - 724-9965

District 9: Buddy McCarty - 272-5364

General Manager: Alice Lawson

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Statement of Non-Discrimination

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You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Director: Office of Adjudication
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410
Fax: 202-690-7442
Email: program.intake@usda.gov

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CLASSIFIEDS

SUBMIT ADS to classified@vvec.com or send to ATTN: Classified, P.O. Box 219 Collinsville, OK 74021. Ads must be in writing. Your account number, name, address and a phone number is required on all ads. The deadline for all ads is the 1st of the month. Ads submitted by the 1st of the month will run in the following month's newsletter. *Classified ads are a free service to VVEC members only. As many ads as space allows will be included in each issue. VVEC reserves the right to delete or shorten items or descriptions.*

•Professional, personalized dog grooming at your home. Small dogs only. Most dogs only \$40.00. Over 40 years experience. 918-381-1170

•Brown wood stereo / TV console with glass front doors. Approx. 4' wide and 2' tall. \$40. 918-381-1170

•Dog crates: Metal, plastic, soft; from X Large to Mini - great condition. Call 918-688-6949

•Handyman service to repair and remodel; affordable plumbing and electric. Call or text for free estimate; references available. 918-231-6385

•5 x 12 ft pipe deer stands with chain for tree attachment; All 5 for \$250. 620-252-8810

•S&W M&P15 with flash suppressor and 1 magazine. 5.56mm/.223 \$750. 918-497-6989

HAS YOUR STATUS CHANGED?

If you recently tied the knot, got divorced or were widowed, please let us know so we can update your account. We need up-to-date, accurate information for your capital credit account but also to make it easy for you to conduct business with us.

Federal legislation enacted after Sept. 11, 2001, prevents us from discussing an account with anyone not listed on it.

If you have been widowed, your account will be placed in your name, but we need you to update your application. If your parents or another family member were VVEC members and have passed away, we need to be aware of that because we cannot have an account in the name of a deceased person.

We will be glad to work with you on updating your account! Please call our Office Service Representatives at 918-371-2584.

IN CASE OF AN OUTAGE

•First, check your fuses or circuit breakers. Every service is different. You may have fuses or circuit breakers in your house, on the side of your house, under your meter, or all three places. Check to see if your neighbors have electricity.

•Then, call the co-op at 371-2584 or 1-800-870-5948. Have your account number, name as it appears on the account, and address handy to give to the dispatcher. If you should get a recording, leave your information; every message will be answered.

•Download the SmartHub app at www.smarthubapp.com to report outages from your smartphone.

SUMMER RESIDENTIAL RATES

April through September usage;
May through October billing

Customer Charge | \$40.00

**Energy Charge | 1st 2000 kWh | \$.08279/kWh
| over 2000 kWh | \$.08789/kWh**

A power cost adjustment (PCA) will be applied to all bills when the actual cost of power purchased exceeds or is less than 62.088 mills per kWh.

In addition, a gross receipts tax of 2% of revenue will be included, plus additional taxes, if applicable.