

# VVEC LINE LIFE

JANUARY 2026 | PUBLISHED FOR THE MEMBERS OF VERDIGRIS VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE | A SUPPLEMENT TO OKLAHOMA LIVING | WWW.VVEC.COM

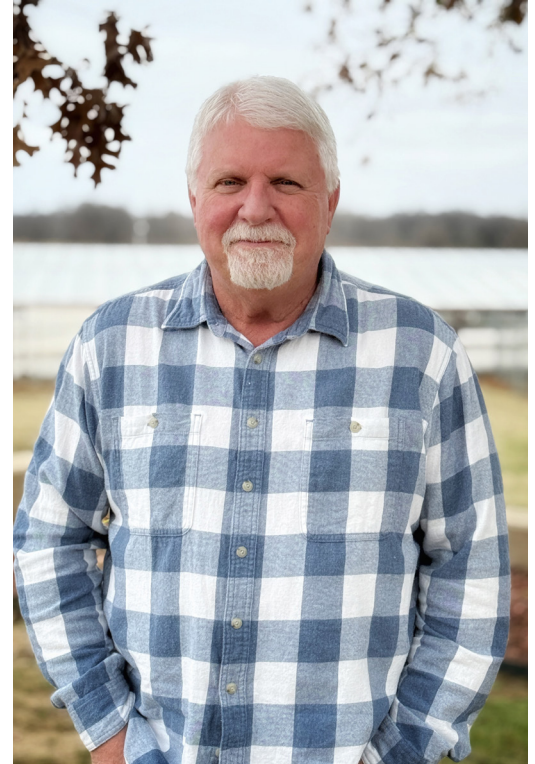
## 2025 EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR GARY YARBROUGH

Gary Yarbrough was voted the 2025 Employee of the Year by his fellow colleagues - an honor announced during VVEC's employee Christmas dinner.

With 34 years at VVEC, Gary's dedication and versatility have made a lasting impact. He began his co-op career in 1991 as a drilling rig operator and has since served in multiple roles: Marketing, hot water tank promotions, Youth Tour and Energy Camp involvement, Safety and Loss Control, Staking Engineer, and now Mapping/GIS. His broad experience and steady commitment have strengthened the co-op in each chapter of his service.

Gary and his wife, Noonie, have been married since 1985 and share two children and two beloved grandchildren, Lincoln and Hallie. Faith and family remain central in their lives, and the Yarbroughs stay active in their church and community.

Humbled by the recognition, Gary said, "It's an award that's hard to accept because there are so many other employees who are far more deserving. I know what other people around here do." He added, "I've got a great job and I'm so appreciative of Verdigris Valley. I know God gave me this job, and I'm so thankful."



Each year, the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives presents the Shining Star Award to co-op employees who go above and beyond the call of duty. This year, two of our own, Lineman Logan Wells (left) and Lineman Adam Prickett (right), were selected for this honor, and for good reason.

Earlier this year during storm restoration, Logan spotted a car off the road on his way to work and stopped to investigate. He found a man trapped inside with no way to call for help, climbed the embankment to reach a signal, contacted 911, and returned to render aid. Moments later, Adam arrived and immediately joined him, staying with the driver until emergency responders reached the scene.

Their quick thinking, compassion, and willingness to act helped a Silver Alert subject receive lifesaving care - and prevented a potentially tragic outcome.

We couldn't be more proud of our linemen for the service they show both on and off the job.

VVEC encourages the safe, efficient use of electricity and actively supports community initiatives that benefit our members and the public.

### 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](http://www.smarthubapp.com) to report outages from your smartphone.

### WINTER RESIDENTIAL RATES

October through March usage;  
November through April billing

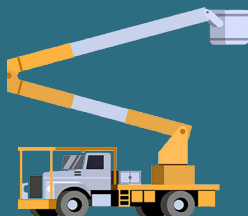
Customer Charge	\$40.00
Energy Charge	\$.08279/kwh

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.

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

Brush Coordinator:  
Chub Brewer  
918-586-6208



# APPRENTICE Graduation



**A**ustin Cobb was recognized in December for successfully completing the OAEC Journeyman Lineman Program.

Linemen who complete this program have met or exceeded the following national and state certification requirements:

- 6,400 hours of on-the-job training
- 4 years of education with Northwest Lineman College

*Congratulations on your outstanding accomplishment  
and all your hard work in achieving it!*



Pictured left to right are: VVEC Lineman Superintendent Josh Jackson, Lineman Austin Cobb, OAEC Director of Safety & Loss Control Derec Janaway



# EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

## BRYAN STICKLES



Bryan Stickles recently returned to VVEC after spending time working in his family's business, but his connection to the co-op stretches back more than a decade. He previously spent 10 years serving in the Mechanic Shop, gaining valuable hands-on experience and building relationships that made coming back feel like returning home.

Today, Bryan works in the Warehouse, where he says the best part of the job continues to be the people he works alongside each day. Their teamwork, reliability, and camaraderie are what make VVEC feel like more than just a workplace.

Outside of the co-op, Bryan enjoys an active life filled with riding dirt bikes and making memories with the people he loves most. He and his wife, Dana, share a daughter, Zetta, who is the one thing guaranteed to make him smile no matter what kind of day it's been. Bryan also picked up a new skill, sailing, and loves spending his time at the lake, where he can relax, recharge, and enjoy the outdoors with family and friends.

Congrats on a job well done, Bryan!

## Stay safe during severe winter weather



Winter weather can be beautiful, but it can also bring dangerous conditions like icy roads, high winds, and extended power outages. If your power goes out during a storm, report it to your utility right away so crews know you're without service.

Know the National Weather Service alerts: A Winter Storm Warning means hazardous winter weather is expected or occurring. A Winter Storm Watch means severe winter conditions are possible. A Winter Storm Outlook signals the potential for a storm in the next three to five days. A Blizzard Warning is issued when winds over 35 mph and blowing snow reduce visibility for at least three hours.

Staying informed and prepared helps keep you safe during unpredictable winter weather.

# Years of Service

Employees celebrating Years of Service milestones in 2025 were honored during the Employee Christmas Dinner. We are deeply thankful for their continued commitment, steady leadership, and the countless ways they contribute to Verdigris Valley Electric Cooperative each day. Their service reflects the heart of our co-op and the members we proudly serve.



**5 Years** Pictured left to right are Kyle Gerber, Talon Coulter, Chaz Brewer, Megan Jackson, Archie Agnew, Kendall Curtis



**10 Years** Pictured left to right are Edy Rodriguez, Jennifer Michael, Cynthia Talbert, Vickie Thurman

## 2025 Service Awards

### 5 YEARS

Archie Agnew  
Chaz Brewer  
Talon Coulter  
Kendall Curtis  
Kyle Gerber  
Megan Jackson

### 10 YEARS

Jennifer Michael  
Edy Rodriguez  
Cynthia Talbert  
Vickie Thurman

### 15 YEARS

Clint Tallant

### 20 YEARS

Jason Adair  
Collin Creech  
Tracy Horner  
Blake Leibovitz  
Lori Prock



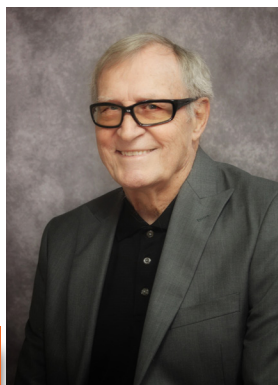
**15 Years** Pictured: Clint Tallant



**20 Years** Pictured left to right: Blake Leibovitz, Tracy Horner, Lori Prock, Collin Creech, Jason Adair



## Trustees Retain Positions on Board



Chuck Huerter - District 7



Ken Howard - District 8



Buddy McCarty- District 9

Members in Districts 7, 8 and 9 met in November to elect trustees; however, a quorum was not reached at any of the meetings and, therefore, the trustees will retain their positions for the upcoming three years. Cooperative bylaws require that at least 5 percent of the members in any district must register their attendance in order for business to be conducted.





# LOOK! A NEW WAY TO PAY!

BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2026, MEMBERS WILL BE ABLE TO CALL:

## (855) 941-3586



- TO MAKE A PAYMENT, WITHOUT FEES. NO MORE THIRD-PARTY PAYMENTS!
  - TO CHECK YOUR BALANCE
  - TO SIGN UP FOR AUTO-PAY
- ...AND SO MUCH MORE!

## WAYS TO PAY

IN OFFICE | BY MAIL | AT KIOSK  
AUTO-PAY | SMARTHUB  
BY CALLING 855-941-3586  
ONLINE AT [WWW.VVEC.COM](http://WWW.VVEC.COM)



Scan the QR code to the left  
on a mobile device to  
download the SmartHub App.





# CAMP

## MAY 26-28, 2026

FOR 2025-2026 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS

**A FUN & INTERACTIVE LEADERSHIP  
CAMP WHERE STUDENTS BUILD  
LASTING FRIENDSHIPS WHILE DIVING  
INTO THE CORE VALUES & OPERATIONS  
OF ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES.**

**CAMPERS WILL GROW THEIR  
CONFIDENCE AND COMMUNICATION  
SKILLS WHILE DISCOVERING THE  
POWER OF WORKING TOGETHER.**



Verdigris Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

QUESTIONS?  
Contact Misti at 918-371-2584,  
mfrazier@vvec.com or scan the QR  
code to learn more!

SCAN ME



SPONSORED BY OKLAHOMA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES



# How will you MAKE YOUR MARK?



*A week of building memories, skills, leadership  
and friendships that will last a lifetime!*

## EXPERIENCE THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME WITH YOUTH TOUR!

- Explore Washington, D.C. through historic monuments, world-class museums, and visits with elected officials.
- Build leadership skills and discover how you can make your mark on the future.
- Connect with students from across the country and form friendships that last a lifetime, all sponsored by your local electric cooperative.



**QUESTIONS?**  
Contact Misti at 918-371-2584,  
[mfrazier@vvec.com](mailto:mfrazier@vvec.com) or scan the QR  
code to learn more!



**Do you know an 11th grader  
who would jump at the chance  
to spend a week in Washington,  
D.C.?**

**Youth Tour offers students  
an unforgettable trip filled  
with history, leadership  
opportunities, and once-  
in-a-lifetime experiences.  
Encourage them to apply and  
represent VVEC in our nation's  
capital!**

**Keep a look out for reminders  
on Facebook too! Like and  
share the post and let's spread  
the word!**







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## VVEC BOARD OF TRUSTEES

District 1:	Jim Brackett	720-4531
District 2:	Jack Bogart	371-9587
District 3:	John Brogan	810-7131
District 4:	John Hibdon	847-2320
District 5:	Jimmy Lambert	760-7029
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

## CONTACT US

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918-371-2584 | 800-870-5948

### Office Hours

7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Mon-Fri

### Line Life Editor:

Megan Jackson

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# CLASSIFIEDS

**SUBMIT ADS** to [classified@vvec.com](mailto: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
- Handyman service to repair and remodel; affordable plumbing and electric. Call or text for free estimate; references available. 918-231-6385
- Stanley Portable Jump Starter 500 Instant amp w/ 1000 peak battery amps with built in 120 psi air compressor. 12 v DC and USB outlet for phone charging & LED light. \$100 918-344-6374
- Boito -BR7 20 ga dbl bbl 2-3/4" chamber \$375. 918-497-6989
- S&W SD9 VE, Laser sight, LN \$275 918-497-6989
- Diamond Back Trail Bike and Infinity Boss Three 6061 Aluminum trail bicycle 29" w/Shimodo gearing 7 speed. \$150 918-344-6374
- Free: large black walnut tree; free to cut into slabs. 918-344-6374
- Miscellaneous tools for sale in portable building; some possibly antique. 918-714-3426
- 2 Cemetery plots in Collinsville's Ridgelawn Cemetery. \$2,000 for both. 918-261-5634
- Marlin 336RC .30 cal lever action with sling \$650. 918-497-6989
- Savage 30 – Series B 12 ga pump 3" chamber \$300. 918-497-6989

## Wrapped in Warmth

Thanks to your generosity, dozens of cozy blankets were collected and will be delivered to nursing home residents throughout December.

Your kindness continues to make a meaningful difference in the lives of our neighbors.



## JANUARY MYSTERY PICTURE

Think you recognize the location? Call Megan Jackson at 918-586-6241 **starting JAN. 1** to submit your guess. The **first** correct answer wins a \$50 bill credit!

*Contest runs through the end of January.*

Dec. Mystery Location:  
Victory Baptist Church; Lenapah, OK.