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Two Oologah-Talala Juniors Win VVEC-Sponsored Trip to Washington, D.C.

Two Students Win \$500 Scholarships

Two Oologah-Talala High School juniors will be part of Youth Tour's 50th trip to Washington, D. C., as winners of VVEC's annual essay contest.

They were two of four finalists, all of whom are students of Rebekah Askew's advanced placement (AP) English class at Oologah-Talala.

The other two finalists, and winners of \$500 scholarships, are Ethan Williams and Travis Kepler.

Stapleton is the daughter of Cathy Stapleton; Fletcher is the son of Ann Fletcher; Williams is the son of Brianna Godwin, while Kepler is the son of Jackie Baumgartner.

Students were asked to write an essay on the topic "Who Owns VVEC and What the Advantages of Cooperative Ownership?" The essays were judged on knowledge of subject, strength of ideas, style, and writing, grammar and punctuation. The four students whose essays scored the highest were named finalists.

They attended a banquet in their honor at the VVEC pavilion, where they gave oral presentations of their essays before a panel of three judges. They were also quizzed about electric cooperatives based on information VVEC provided. The judges then selected which two won the trip to Washington, D. C., and which two won the scholarships.

"Each of these young people is an outstanding individual, and ac-




Finalists in the annual Youth Tour essay competition are (left to right) Kierstin Stapleton, Ethan Williams, Chance Fletcher, their teacher Rebekah Askew, and Travis Kepler. They are juniors at Oologah-Talala High School.

complished student," says Kay Rabbitt-Brower, VVEC Youth Tour and Energy Camp coordinator. "We are delighted they chose to participate in the competition this year, and feel each of them is certainly a winner."

Rabbitt-Brower goes on to say "We also want to thank their teacher Rebekah

Askew for continuing to be a strong supporter of our program. Because of that support and her dedication to her students, we frequently have Oologah-Talala students as finalists and winners."

This year's Youth Tour is June 15 through June 20. 

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Editor - Kay Rabbitt-Brower

VVEC offices will be closed Monday, May 27 for the Memorial Day holiday. Please call (918) 371-2584 to report an outage.

Summer Residential Rates

April through September usage,
May through October billing

Customer Charge \$20.20

Energy Charge

1st 2,000 kWh \$0.0809/kWh

Over 2,000 kWh \$0.0860/kWh

A power cost adjustment (PCA) will be applied to all bills when the actual cost of power purchased exceeds or is less than 55.993 mills per kWh.


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



Energy Camp Bound!

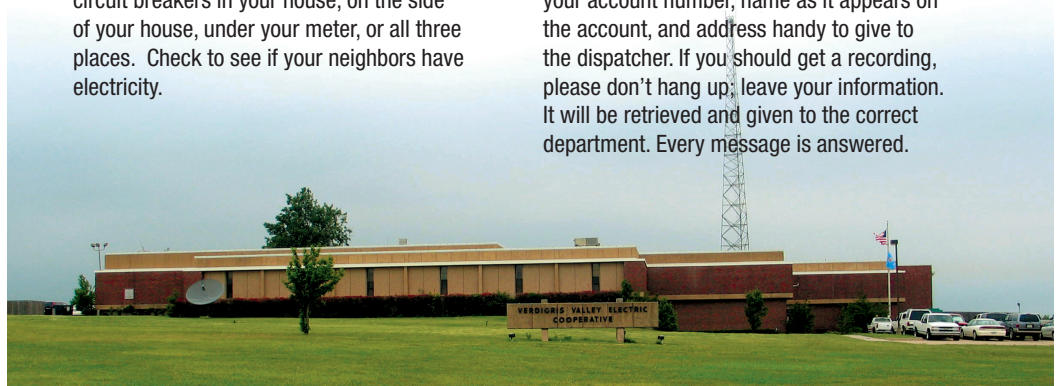
Pat Davis, teacher at Owasso’s Eighth Grade Center, discusses her students’ essays before they presented them at a banquet in their honor at VVEC’s pavilion. The students (left to right) Noah Johnston, Bryant Hall and Victor Zavala, wrote the winning essays in VVEC’s YouthPower Energy Camp contest. The trio will get to spend three days at the camp near Hinton in late May.

Noah is the son of Carrie and Mathew Johnston, Bryant is the son of Daniel and Andrine Hall, while Victor’s parents are Orlando and Maria Magana, all of Owasso.

YouthPower Energy Camp is designed for eighth graders, and teaches them leadership skills, along with learning about electric co-ops and electrical safety in a fun and memorable manner. 

What to do if Your Power Goes Off

1. 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.
2. Call the Co-op at 371-2584, or 1-800-870-5948 if the call is long distance for you. 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, please don’t hang up; leave your information. It will be retrieved and given to the correct department. Every message is answered.



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Remember April's Temperatures When Electric Bill Arrives


Those who know about such things say we normally experience the last frost of the season in late March or early April.

Those folks missed it this year.

We were still battling Old Man Winter as late as April 11.


That is something you are going to want to remember when you get your electric bill.

Because cold weather was here so late in the year, many of us were still using heaters, furnaces, and electric blankets. That is going to affect electric usage.

If you have questions about your electric bill or need to make payment arrangements, contact our consumer services representatives at 918-371-2584. 

Linemen Complete Journeyman Certification Program

Four VVEC linemen were recognized recently for having earned journeyman certification.

They completed the four-year program sponsored by the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives (OAEC.) The program provides instruction on all aspects of working in the co-op's operations department. It meets both national and state certification requirements. 

Pay • as • you • go

New Pre-Pay Program Coming This Summer

Would you:

- Like to choose when to pay your electric bill?
- Purchase electricity when it is convenient?
- Monitor your electric consumption?

Then you may be interested in our new 'Pay•as•you•go' pre-payment program.

"This option for pre-paid electric service offers the flexibility of purchasing electricity when a member wants, in the amount chosen by the member," explains VVEC Director of Finance Clyde Willard.

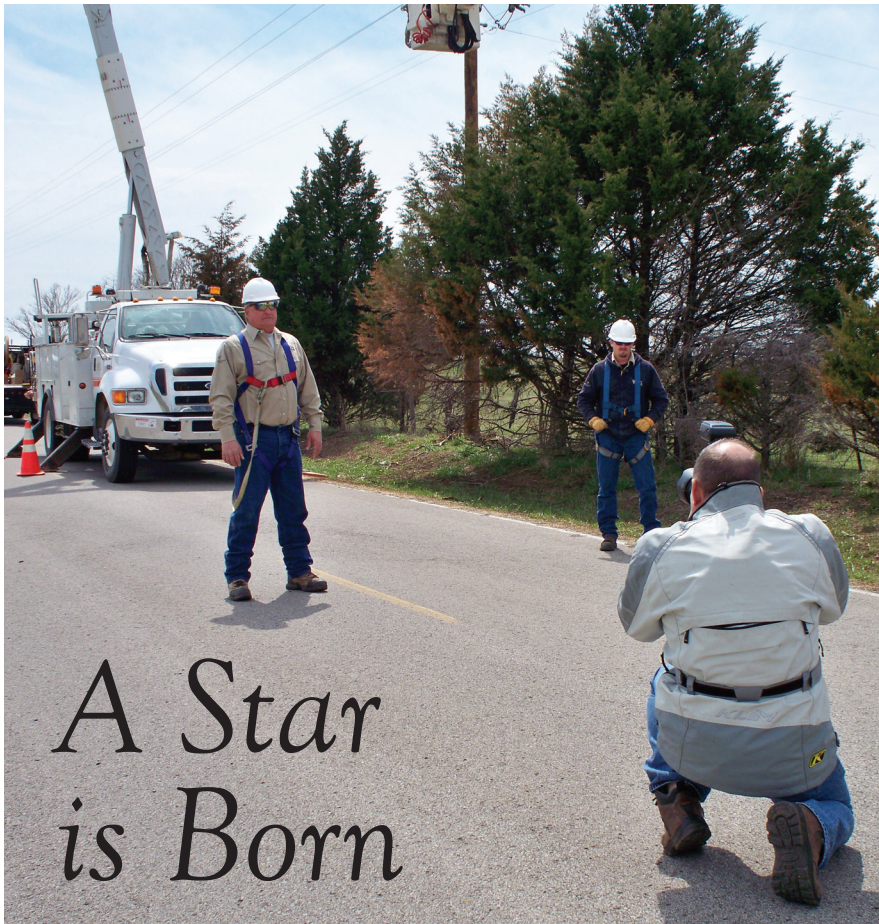
Details on the program are being finalized, including the kick-off date. So be sure to watch future issues of VVEC *Power Circuit* for more information.

Congratulations!



VVEC General Manager Alice Houston congratulates linemen (standing left to right) Thomas Martinez, Jacob Gibbs, Clint Tallant and Nathan Day (front row) for earning journeyman linemen certification. Randy Riddle, (standing far right) VVEC manager of operations and technical services, was also on hand for the presentation at OAEC's annual meeting in Oklahoma City, April 8.

SPOTLIGHT




James Pratt, a professional freelance photographer, (above) takes photos of VVEC lineman Danny Lemke for the cover story in the June issue of Oklahoma Living. Anna Politano (bottom photo) interviews Lemke for the article.

His fellow linemen are sure to tease him about wanting his autograph, but it will be in good fun.

Danny Lemke is one of two linemen featured in the cover story of the June issue of Oklahoma Living. Danny is featured because of his almost 36 years with VVEC; most of that time as a journeyman lineman. The article is about what it takes to become a lineman, and Oklahoma Living editor Anna Politano is spotlighting Lemke, and a lineman-in-training from Northwestern Electric Co-op, who has been with the co-op less than one year.

Lemke agrees being a lineman is a dangerous profession and can be hard work, but he enjoys his job.

“I’ve always said if you like your job, you’ll never work a day in your life,” he says. 



RECIPE

Aztec Salsa

- 2 avocados - peeled, pitted, and chopped**
- 1/4 cup red wine vinegar**
- 1 (15-oz.) can black beans, rinsed and drained**
- 1 (11-oz.) can Mexican-style corn**
- 3 tomatoes, seeded and chopped**
- 3 green onions, sliced**
- 1 small red onion, chopped**
- 1/4 cup olive oil, or as needed**
- 1 (.7-oz.) pkg. dry Italian-style salad dressing mix**

Lightly combine the avocados with red wine vinegar in a salad bowl. Stir in the black beans, corn, tomatoes, green onions, and red onion.

Whisk together the olive oil and Italian dressing mix in a bowl, pour over the salad, and toss lightly.

YIELD: 50 4-oz. servings.