

[Outstanding Students Win Scholarships p. 3](#)

Co-op Lends Helping Hand to Area Fire Departments, Schools



“Lending a helping hand to our neighbors has a ripple effect,” says VVEC General Manager Alice Houston when talking about the co-op’s Fire Department and Adopt-A-School grant programs. “These grants help area fire departments protect our neighbors, and our schools prepare our youth for tomorrow.”

Each year VVEC reviews applications submitted by area fire departments and teachers, and then awards grants based on those applications.

“The grants are used to purchase

equipment and supplies needed by the teachers and fire departments,” explains Kay Rabbitt-Brower, who oversees the grant programs.

Fire departments receiving grants this year are:

- Avant
- Alluwe
- Barnsdall
- Blackdog Fire Association
- Boulangier
- Collinsville Rural
- Dewey
- Foyil Fire Association

VVEC Member Services Representative Chub Brewer (left) hands a check to Avant Fire Chief Gene Atkins as part of the co-op’s Fire Department grant program. The grant allows Avant to purchase two backpack-style leaf blowers, and assorted rakes and shovels needed to fight grass fires.

Hulah
 Rock Fire Department

Receiving Adopt-A-School grants are:

- Bowring
- Catalayah Elementary, Claremore
- Claremore Christian
- Collinsville High School
- Dewey
- Oklahoma Union Elementary
- Oologah Middle School
- Verdigris Upper Elementary & Jr. High
- Verdigris Lower Elementary

“Helping improve the lives of our members is our first priority,” says Houston. “We are delighted we can offer these grants to help organizations whose sole purpose is to protect each other, and to teach our young people. We want to do our part in achieving a higher quality of life.”

WINNERS

VVEC Board of Trustees

- District 1 - **Jim Brackett, 720-4531**
- District 2 - **Jack Bogart, 371-9587**
- District 3 - **Vernon Lewis, 341-5225**
- District 4 - **John Hibdon, 847-2320**
- District 5 - **Jimmy Lambert, 760-7029**
- District 6 - **Dennis Lenox, 289-5961**
- District 7 - **Charles Huerter, 333-3107**
- District 8 - **Ken Howard, 724-9965**
- District 9 - **Buddy McCarty, 272-5134 or 272-5364**

General Manager - Alice Houston

VVEC Headquarters

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Office hours

7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.,
Monday through Friday

Editor - Kay Rabbitt-Brower

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.



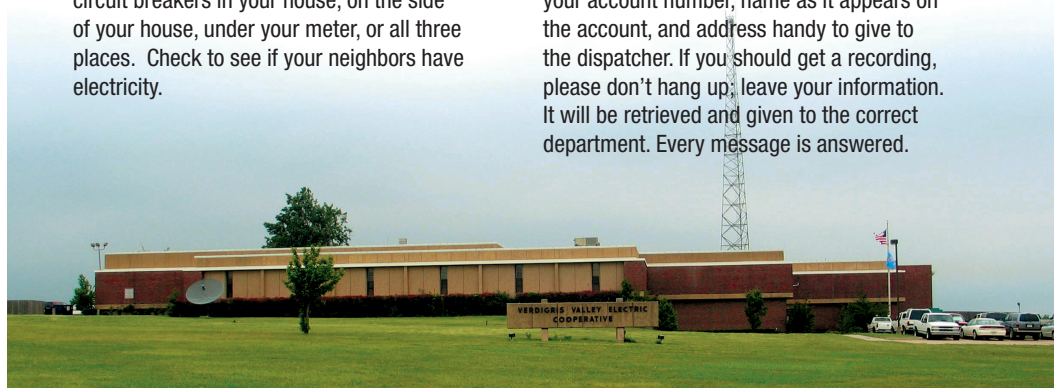
Heading to Energy Camp!

Three Owasso eighth-graders are kicking off their summer in a fun way – by attending YouthPower Energy Camp! Pat Davis, who teaches winners Tess Batchelor (left to right), Carley Jefferson, and Savannah Nelson, is proud of the students and knows what a great experience they will have this year. Batchelor is the daughter of Valerie Batchelor, Jefferson is the daughter of Tamara Jefferson, and Nelson’s parents are Craig and Cheryl Nelson.

Energy Camp is held each year at Canyon Camp near Hinton.

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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Helping with College Expense\$

Four Area Students Win Youth Tour Scholarships



Oologah High School teacher Rebekah Askew (center) congratulates her students Summer Shaffer (left) and Jessi Dunbar.



Clara Guerrero (center) and Larissa Dutton, Catoosa High School, share their good news with teacher Diane Dodd.

Four outstanding area students are winners of scholarships awarded through VVEC's annual Youth Tour competition. Jessi Dunbar, Oologah High School, and Larissa Dutton, Catoosa High School, both won \$750 scholarships, while Summer Shaffer, Oologah High School, and Clara Guerrero, Catoosa High School, won \$500 scholarships.

Dunbar is the daughter of Lori Escalanta, Oologah; Dutton is the daughter of Janeice Dutton, Catoosa; Shaffer is the daughter of Wende Shaffer, Talala, and Guerrero is the daughter of Christy Guerrero, Catoosa.

"Changes to this year's Youth Tour program are allowing us to offer more scholarships," explains Kay Rabbitt-Brower, VVEC youth programs coordinator. "In the past, we have awarded just two \$500 scholarships, but this year we are excited to be awarding two \$750 scholarships also."

The scholarships are awarded to the runners-up in the Washington Youth Tour program, which is open to juniors attending a school in VVEC's service territory or who are home-schooled in the co-op's service territory.

Reminder

Monthly Customer Charges Increase June 1

Beginning June 1, the customer charge on members' monthly electric bills is increasing by about \$5 for residential and small commercial consumers. Large power consumers will see an increase of less than \$10 a month.

Currently, the customer charge for residential consumers is \$20.20. June 1 it will increase to \$25.

Customer charge for small

commercial class members will increase from \$25.25 to \$30.

Large power consumers will see an increase from \$50.50 to \$60.

VVEC Director of Finance Clyde Willard says when customer charges are set too low, it causes a portion of the fixed cost to be recovered in energy charges.

"Rate designs such as this tend to result in members who use large amounts of electricity paying a

greater portion of the fixed costs when compared to the fixed costs being recovered from the smaller electric users.

"Our intent is for there to be equality through each rate class," says Willard.

He adds this change will result in an increase in the co-op's annual revenues of about 3 percent.

Co-op Takes Advantage of Warm Weather to Maintain Rights-of-Way

Beginning in June, VVEC will aggressively target vegetation growing in its rights-of-way.

Contract crews with Progressive Solutions will be spraying trees, brush and vines growing under VVEC's electric lines. They will treat over 1,380 miles in areas near the Collinsville #1, Sequoyah, Owasso, Dome, Hulah, S. Coffeyville, and Elm Creek substations.

According to Lon Lambert, VVEC's right-of-way coordinator, the herbicide is a mixture of Accord XRT II and Tordon K, manufactured by Dow AgroSciences, and Arsenal, manufactured by BASF.

"These are produced and supported by established US manufacturers," he says.

"The contractors carry the herbicide in four-gallon backpacks, which gives them a great deal of control on the amount and where it's being sprayed. It takes just a tiny bit of herbicide to be effective, and the contractors are very selective in where they apply it," he explains.

Lambert goes on to say the crews selectively treat the low-growing brush under the electric lines.

"These products encourage the growth of grasses, flowering broad leaf plants, and other low-growing

vegetation beneficial to wildlife, and that allow the rights-of-way to be reclaimed by natural vegetation.

"Treated vegetation simply dies and crumbles in time," Lambert explains. He adds the herbicide is safe for humans, pets and livestock, but that there won't be any spraying near crops, bees, or vineyards, or when there are high winds.

"We are careful about spraying in sensitive areas, and are considerate of members' property."

Anyone with questions about the right-of-way maintenance program can call Lambert at 918-371-2584, ext. 6208.

RECIPE

Grilled Sausage with Spicy Sauce



- 1 Tbsp. vegetable oil**
- 2 lbs. good-quality kielbasa or other smoked sausage, cut into bite-size pieces**
- 3/4 cup ketchup**
- 3/4 cup spicy brown mustard**
- 1 Tbsp. hot sauce**

Soak 8 to 10 wooden skewers in water for about 20 minutes. Preheat a grill to medium and brush with the oil. Thread sausage onto the skewers, leaving space between each piece. Grill until slightly crisp, 3 to 4 minutes per side. Mix the ketchup, mustard and hot sauce in a bowl. Serve with the sausage for dipping.

YIELD: 6 servings