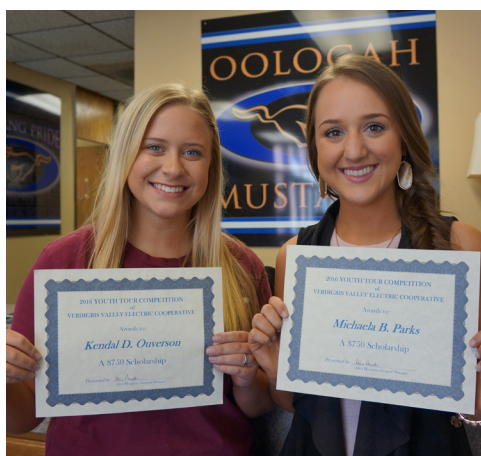


Energy Camp and Youth Tour Winners Selected

YouthPower Energy Camp & Youth Tour

Each year, VVEC invests in area students through its YouthPower Energy Camp and Youth Tour programs. Energy Camp is a leadership development camp for eighth-graders held at Canyon Camp in Hinton, Okla., May 31-June 3. Youth Tour is a program that brings high school juniors from across the country to the nation's capital to learn first-hand about American history and government. Two students will represent VVEC on the all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., June 10-16.



2016 Winners, from top left: VVEC Member Services Representative Chub Brewer and Youth Tour winner Katelyn Shearhart of South Coffeyville, daughter of Rhonda Shearhart; Youth Tour winner Michael McGill of Barnsdall, son of Bobbi McGill; \$750 scholarship winners Kendal Ouverson of Oologah, daughter of Scott & Christy Ouverson and Michaela Parks of Oologah, daughter of Dallen & Heather Parks; \$500 scholarship winner Janine Shinn of Claremore, daughter of Karin Shinn; \$500 scholarship Libby Maple of Oologah, daughter of Angela Maple; Energy Camp winner Riley Hedges of Collinsville, son of Jeff Hedges; and Energy Camp winner Charles Fink of Owasso, son of Jeff & Rebecca Fink, with his teacher Pat Davis. Photos by Misti Frazier

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VVEC Headquarters
8901 E. 146th Street N., Collinsville

Mailing address
P.O. Box 219, Collinsville, OK 74021

Phone number
918-371-2584 or 1-800-870-5948

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

Editor - Laura Araujo

VVEC offices will be closed Monday, May 30 in recognition of Memorial Day. Please call 918-371-2584 or 800-870-5948 if you need to report an outage.

Summer Residential Rates

April through September usage,
May through October billing

Customer Charge \$30.00

Energy Charge

1st 2,000 kWh \$.08272/kWh

Over 2,000 kWh \$.08782/kWh

A power cost adjustment (PCA) will be applied to all bills when the actual cost of power purchased exceeds or is less than 59.87 mills per kWh.

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

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

VVEC Member Wins Electric Smoker

A smoker had been on Shelley Warren’s to-buy list for some time. The Owasso, Okla., resident has family members who are cattle ranchers and hunters and she had always wanted to try smoking those meats.

“We’d talked about getting a smoker, but we’d always put it on the back burner because they’re kind of expensive,” Warren said.

In March 2016, Warren attended the Tulsa Home & Garden Show where she stopped by the Green Country Electric Cooperatives booth. While there, the Verdigris Valley co-op member entered her name into a drawing. A couple days later, she received a call from VVEC letting her know she had won an electric smoker.

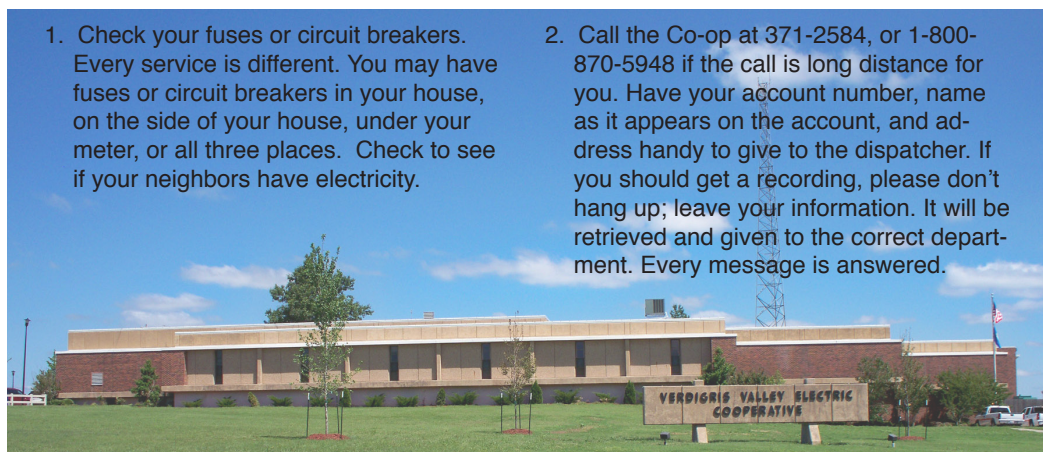
“I was so surprised when I heard I had won,” she said. “I’m so excited and I’m very grateful.”



VVEC member Shelley Warren is looking forward to warmer weather so she can try out her new electric smoker. Photo by Misti Frazier

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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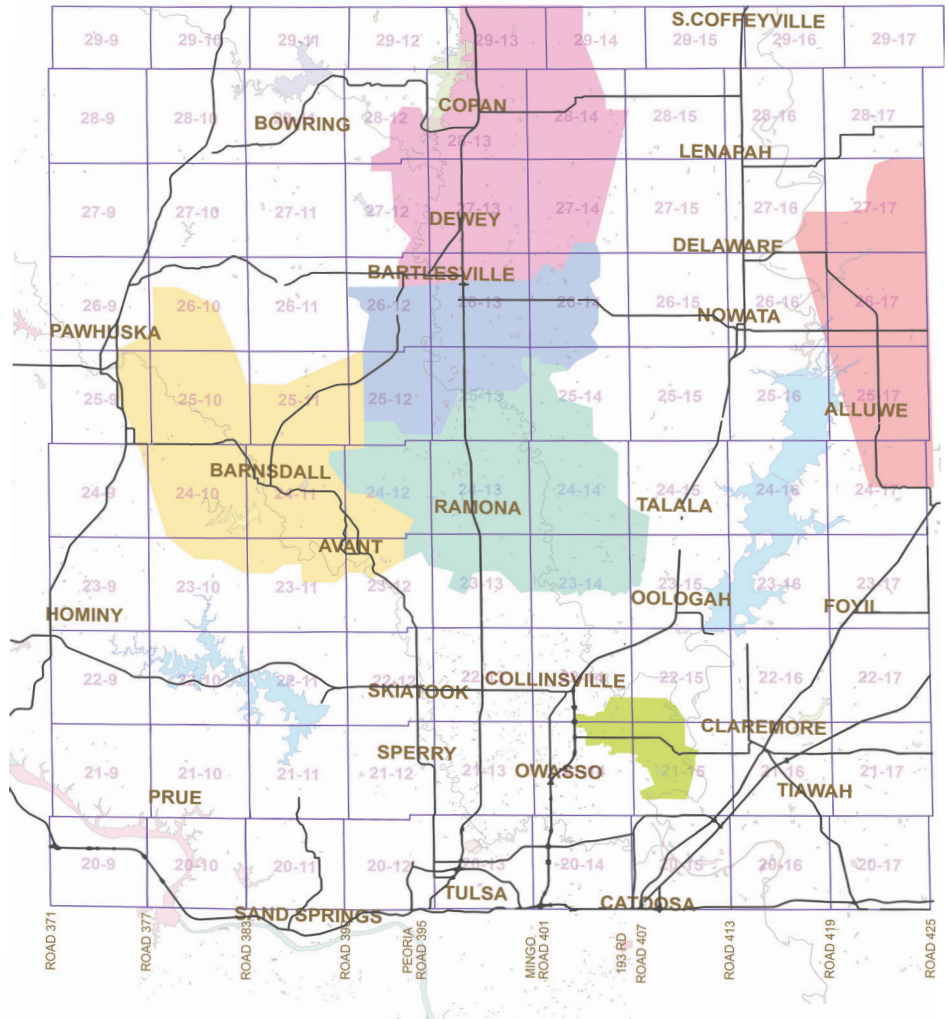
VOLUME 75 • NUMBER 5 • MAY 2016

Brush Control Helps With Right-of-Way Maintenance

Maintaining a clear right-of-way—the area beneath and around power lines—is important for your electric cooperative. By doing this we ensure there’s an operational safety zone between power lines and any trees or vegetation. It also ensures the area is accessible in case a line crew needs to perform repairs or maintenance.

This June, contract crews with Progressive Solutions will apply herbicide to right of ways in VVEC’s service territory. The crews will walk the right of ways with 4-gallon backpack sprayers and low volume spray targeted to trees and brush. The spray is never broadcast with heavy equipment or high volume sprayers. The herbicide is EPA approved and safe for humans, pets, livestock, wildlife and fish.

Crews will spray more than 1,100 miles of line near the Bartlesville, Rice Creek, Tallant, Childers, Keetonville and Ramona substations.



This June, Progressive Solutions crews will be spraying herbicides in the shaded areas to help maintain the co-op’s right-of-ways.



VVEC Offers Rebates for Energy Star-Rated Appliances

VVEC offers rebates on electric water heaters, ground-source, air-source, mini-split and dual-fuel heat pumps, and air conditioners. All appliances must be Energy Star rated.

Electric water heaters for new construction or gas conversions, and which have an energy factor of .90 or greater, are rebated up to \$199. These units must be installed and available for an on-site verification within 90 days of the purchase date. We also offer \$50 rebates on 40-gallon or larger replacement units when the old unit has less than a .90 efficiency rate and the new unit is .90 efficiency or greater. The replacement rebates are limited to services using 6,000 kWh or more per year. Tankless and hybrid heat pump water heaters are not eligible for rebates.

A \$50 rebate is available for Energy Star-rated room air conditioners. The rebate will apply toward the purchase of one new unit or for the replacement of an existing unit.

Ground-source heat pumps for new construction or gas conversions are rebated at \$300 per ton and must be Energy Star rated with an EER value of 19.1 or greater. Replacement units will be rebated at \$150 per ton, but must meet the same EER criteria and be a gain of at least 3 EER over the old unit. Replacing an air-to-air heat pump with a ground-source heat pump meeting the above requirements will also be eligible for the \$150 per ton rebate.

Air-to-air heat pumps (with electric resistance backup) meeting a 16.5 SEER or

greater, will be rebated at \$150 per ton for new construction or gas conversions only.

Replacement units are not eligible for rebates. Dual-fuel heat pumps (using natural gas, propane, or fuel oil for supplemental heating) and mini-splits meeting the above ratings will be rebated at \$150 per ton for new construction or replacement units.

If you are interested in participating in this program, please contact our member services department at 918-371-2584 or download a rebate form from www.vvec.com/content/rebates. **The completed form must be submitted to us within 90 days of purchasing the appliance.** Rebates are subject to change and certain restrictions apply. New units are subject to on-site verification.

RECIPE

Southwest Chicken Pasta

Serves 8

- 8 ounces spiral pasta
- 2 tablespoons canola oil
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 1 green bell pepper, diced
- 10-ounce can Rotel
- 8 ounces Velveeta, cubed
- 3 cups cooked, chopped chicken
- 10 ounces cream of chicken soup
- ½ cup sour cream
- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- ½ teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 ½ cups shredded cheddar cheese

Preheat the oven to 350°F. Cook the pasta according to package directions; drain. Heat the oil in a large, oven-safe skillet; add the onion and bell pepper and cook over low until tender. Stir in the Rotel and the Velveeta and cook, stirring constantly, until the cheese melts. Stir in the chicken, soup, sour cream, chili powder and cumin. Mix in the cooked pasta. Top with shredded cheddar cheese. Bake for 30 minutes.

