

**INSIDE THIS EDITION**

- 2** | Electrical Safety
- 3** | Scholarship Winners
- 4** | Recipe & Energy Tip



VVEC lineman Robert Rouse presents an interactive electrical safety demonstration to a group of fifth-graders in Dewey, Oklahoma. Photo by Mike Mattox

## PLUG IN TO SAFETY DURING ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

**M**ay is Electrical Safety Month. This month, we take time to reflect on the importance of safety. We all depend on electricity to power our lives, but accidents can happen when electricity is improperly used. Verdigris Valley Electric Cooperative is committed to safety—both in educating our consumer-members about the dangers of electricity, and in ensuring a culture of safety in our operations.

### Our responsibility to you

VVEC's concern for safety extends beyond our employees. We care deeply about the safety of our members, and this month, we encourage you to plug into safety. According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI), thousands of people in the U.S. are critically injured and electrocuted as a

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**



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Power Circuit is published monthly by Verdigris Valley Electric Cooperative, Collinsville, Oklahoma (ISSN 10884378) for its members in Tulsa, Rogers, Washington, Nowata and Osage counties. Periodical postage paid at Tulsa, Oklahoma and other additional mailing offices. Subscription price is \$0.19 per month.

POSTMASTER - send address changes to Power Circuit, P.O. Box 219, Collinsville, OK 74021.

## SAFE ELECTRICITY

### ELECTRICAL SAFETY: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

result of electrical fires, accidents and electrocution in their own homes.

To promote safety education in our local communities, we present safety demonstrations in local schools and at community events. We provide electrical safety content via *Oklahoma Living* magazine, and we encourage the public to contact us if they see a downed power line or any other type of dangerous electrical situation. We strive to provide our communities with safe, reliable and affordable electricity and to serve as your trusted energy adviser, now and well into the future.

### Our responsibility to employees

It is no accident that safety is a top priority at VVEC. We are committed to a culture of safety that is integral to our daily operations. In fact, VVEC is part of the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program (RESAP) that follows specific guidelines and protocols for electrical safety that are considered leading practices. (Read more about RESAP in this month's edition of *Oklahoma Living*.) Our lineworkers



VVEC linemen participate regularly in safety trainings as part of our co-op's culture of safety.

are required to wear personal protective equipment at all times when on the job. This includes special fire-resistant clothing that will self-extinguish, limiting potential injuries from burns and sparks. Insulated and rubber gloves are worn in tandem to protect from electrical shock. Our safety team regularly discusses important safety issues pertaining to work within the building as well as out in the field.

This month, take a moment to plug into safety. Visit [www.esfi.org](http://www.esfi.org) for tips on how to keep you and your loved ones safe. ■



VVEC's headquarters in Collinsville, Oklahoma

## SCHOLARSHIPS

# VVEC SELECTS YOUTH TOUR AND ENERGY CAMP SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

**E**ach year VVEC sponsors scholarship opportunities for students through its Youth Tour and Energy Camp essay contests.

This year, students from five local high schools—Barnsdall, Claremore, Skiatook, Collinsville and Verdigris High Schools—participated in the Youth Tour essay contest. A total of 14 essays were submitted. VVEC selected the following four winners:

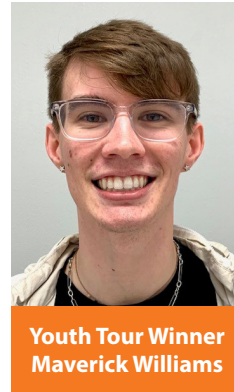
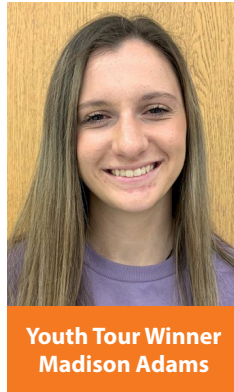
**First place grand prize winner:** Madison Adams, Verdigris High School.

**Second place grand prize winner:** Maverick Williams, Skiatook High School.

**\$750 scholarship winner:** Phallen Clark, Barnsdall Public Schools.

**\$500 scholarship winner:** Kathleen Wilken, Claremore Public Schools.

Forty-three students from four local schools submitted essays for this year's Energy Camp contest. The schools represented were South Coffeyville, Owasso Eighth Grade Center, Newman Middle School in Skiatook and Barnsdall.



VVEC selected two winners:

**First place winner:** Hali Anderson, Newman Middle School in Skiatook.

**Second place winner:** Sam Seratte, Newman Middle School in Skiatook

Youth Tour and Energy Camp contests are open to all high school juniors and eighth-graders, respectively, in VVEC's service territory. For more information, visit <http://vvec.com/content/community-programs>. ■

## VVEC CONTRIBUTES TO LOCAL AG PROGRAM



**I**n March, VVEC District 1 Trustee Jim Brackett and VVEC Member Services Representative Chub Brewer presented Nowata High School Vo Ag Teacher Ryan Harrington with a donation to the Nowata High School 4H & FFA Youth for the 2020 Nowata County Spring Livestock Show. ■

## OFFICE CLOSED NOTICE

VVEC offices will be closed Monday, May 25th, in observance of Memorial Day.

## 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. Or, download the SmartHub app to report outages from your smartphone.

## 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% of revenue will be included, plus additional taxes if applicable.

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider & employer.*

**VOLUME 79 | NUMBER 5**  
**MAY 2020**

# CARROT CAKE

SERVES 12

**For the cake:**

- 2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 1 1/4 cups granulated sugar
- 3 eggs
- 1 1/2 cups shredded carrot
- 1 cup crushed pineapple with juice
- 2/3 cup walnuts

**For the frosting:**

- 2 8-ounce packages cream cheese
- 3/4 cup butter, softened
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 5 1/2 cups powdered sugar

Preheat oven to 350°F. In large bowl, sift flour, baking soda, salt, cinnamon and baking powder. In mixing bowl, cream together oil and sugar. Add eggs one at a time. Gradually add in carrots and crushed pineapple. Add dry mixture to wet ingredients and beat until smooth. Fold in walnuts. Pour batter into two greased 8-inch round cake pans and bake 25 to 30 minutes, or until knife inserted in center comes out clean. Allow cakes to cool completely. Remove cakes from pans and slice off tops to level cakes. To make frosting: In mixing bowl, cream together cream cheese, butter and vanilla. Gradually add in powdered sugar and mix until smooth. Spread two large spoonfuls of frosting over top of one cake and stack second cake on top. Frost entire cake with remaining frosting.

Recipe courtesy of Culinary.net

## OKIE EATS



When the weather is nice, put your grill to use! During summer months, cooking outdoors is a great way to save energy and eliminate unwanted heat from cooking indoors.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



Carrot cake. Photo courtesy of Culinary.net