

## 2022 Youth Tour Winners:

### 3 Area Juniors Prepare for Trip to Washington D.C.

Three area Juniors will join over 70 outstanding students that were chosen to represent Oklahoma in Washington, D.C. They will be joining more than 1,800 other students from cooperatives across the nation to experience a weeklong, all expenses paid trip, packed full of fun and learning. There will be tours of national landmarks, meeting with congressional representatives and hearing dynamic speakers, however, the life long friendships that will form is the best part of this once in a lifetime experience!

Kaitlyn Brackett of Oklahoma Union High School, Emery Edgar of Sperry High School, and Jackson Wells of Oologah-Talala High School were selected to represent VVEC on the leadership trip to Washington D.C., June 17-23, 2022.

"Meeting new people and the opportunity for independent travel..." This is what Emery Edgar is most excited for about the trip. Jackson Wells is ready for the tour itself and all of the sight seeing. "The new experience..." is what Kaitlyn Brackett is looking forward to. VVEC is proud to sponsor Youth Tour and invest in tomorrow's leaders.

**VVEC would like to thank all students and schools who participated in this year's contest, and congratulate all of our winners!**



2019 Oklahoma Youth Tour



Kaitlyn Brackett



Emery Edgar



Jackson Wells



### VVEC BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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**District 9:** Buddy McCarty - 272-5134  
or 272-5364

**General Manager:** Alice Lawson

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McKenzie Loffer

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#### MAY 2022

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## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

# The Voice of VVEC

## Meet Your Member Service Representative

For the past twenty years, our members have been greeted by the voice of Regina Morris as she has served the cooperative in many roles. Beginning in January of 2002, Regina was welcomed into the billing department where she served in several different capacities. She has worked as the A/P clerk, an engineering secretary and assisted with dispatching. She now assists our members and communities within our service area as a member services representative in the VVEC member services department. She has enjoyed working in various departments and said it feels like family. Regina strives to work with members and **ensure their needs are met**. Her hobbies include horseback riding, water and snow skiing, gardening, spending time outdoors daily and loves time with her grandchildren. Thank you Regina for serving the cooperative and our membership.

# Home Safe Home

## May is Electrical Safety Month



According to the U.S. Fire Administration, faulty home electrical wiring causes 26,000 residential fires a year, hundreds of deaths, and thousands of injuries. Unfortunately, electrical hazards often go unaddressed until it is too late. Safe Electricity has the following tips to help you find and correct hazards that may be lurking around the home:

- Check electrical outlets for loose-fitting plugs that can cause shocks or start fires. Replace missing or broken wall plates, so the inner wiring components are not exposed.
- If you have young children, use safety covers on unused outlets. Consider installing tamper-resistant receptacles with a built-in shutter system that prevents hairpins and other small objects from being inserted into the outlet.
- Check the cords of the appliances in your home, as well as the plugs and connectors. Make sure they are not frayed, cracked or damaged, placed under rugs or carpets, resting on furniture, or in high traffic areas. Do not nail or staple cords to walls, floors, or any other objects.
- Extension cords should be used on a temporary basis only. They are not a permanent wiring solution. Have additional outlets

installed where you need them. If you are using extension cords, make sure they have safety closures to protect young children from shocks or mouth burns. Never use an indoor extension cord for outdoor use. Use an extension cord specifically for outdoors; they are heavier and less likely to be damaged.

- Check your electric panel to make sure the breakers and fuses are properly rated for the circuit they are protecting. Have a qualified electrician identify and label the correct size to be used if you are unsure. When replacing a fuse, use the same size.
- Check light bulbs and appliances to make sure the wattage matches fixture requirements. Do not replace bulbs with higher wattage than recommended. The bulb should be securely screwed in to prevent overheating.
- If an appliance repeatedly blows a fuse, trips a circuit breaker, or gives you an electrical shock, immediately unplug, repair, or replace it.
- Check for or install ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). A GFCI is an inexpensive electrical device that shuts off power instantly if there is a problem.
- GFCIs should be installed in all “wet” areas of the home, such as bathrooms, kitchens, and basements.

- GFCIs should be tested monthly to ensure they are working properly. The Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates GFCIs could prevent more than two-thirds of the roughly 300 electrocutions that happen each year in the home.
- Consider installing arc-fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) on bedroom circuits, have smoke detectors in all bedrooms and in hallways within 15 feet of bedrooms, and at least one smoke detector on every level. Carbon monoxide detectors should also be within 15 feet of each bedroom.

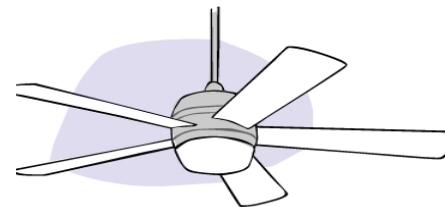
As always, check with your local electrical inspector if you have questions or concerns. Inspect all outdoor connections, appliances, and tools for frayed cords, broken plugs, and cracked or broken housings. Repair or replace damaged cords and appliances.



source: safe electricity

# Keep Comfortable With A Ceiling Fan

Save Some Extra Money This Summer



**Before air conditioning, electric fans kept us cool. They're still a practical and inexpensive alternative to air conditioning.**

Ceiling fans are popular because they not only add to a room's comfort but also to its décor at relatively little cost. According to [www.homeenergy.com](http://www.homeenergy.com), ceiling fans use only the energy of a 100-watt light bulb, and the air movement they create is equivalent to a 4-degree or 5-degree Fahrenheit decrease in temperature.

## Here are some tips for getting the most from a ceiling fan:

- Turn it off when not at home – Remember, a fan doesn't cool a room, it cools the people in it. So turn the fan off if no one is in the room.
- Turn the blades correctly – For summer, blades should turn in a counterclockwise direction –

when you stand under the fan, you should feel a cool breeze. In winter, adjust the blades to clockwise and set the fan on its lowest speed. This will drive warm air near the ceiling to lower levels.

- Adjust the thermostat – If you use both a ceiling fan and air conditioning, raise the thermostat setting 4 degrees to 5 degrees to lower your energy bill. The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy suggests setting the thermostat at 78 degrees Fahrenheit; each degree you are able to raise the thermostat will save 3 percent to 5 percent on air conditioning costs.
- Position proper distance – Ceiling fans work best when their blades are 7 feet to 9 feet above the floor, 10 inches to 12 inches below the ceiling and 18 inches or more from a wall. Anchor the fan to a ceiling joist

in the center of a room.

- Start with ENERGY STAR – If you're buying a new fan, go with an ENERGY STAR model; it will be 50 percent more efficient than conventional fans. But even conventional fans can save on your energy bills in summer.
- The larger the better – It makes sense that larger fans can move more air than smaller ones. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, a 36- or 44-inch diameter fan will cool rooms up to 225 square feet while fans of 52 inches or more should be used in larger rooms. You also can run fans with larger blades at a lower velocity.
- Buy efficient lights - Buy efficient light bulbs for your fan if it has a light feature, or if you use the fan a lot, you may use more electricity than equivalent air conditioning.

Which way should I circulate my fan?



Run your ceiling fan in a **counter-clockwise** direction in the **summer**.



Run your ceiling fan in a **clockwise** direction in the **winter**.

Ceiling Fans vs. Air Conditioners:  
Which uses more energy?



Uses about **75 watts** per hour



Uses **500-1,400 watts** per hour

## 2022 Youth Tour Scholarship:

### 2 Area Juniors Receive Awards

Each year in addition to the Youth Tour Washington Trip, VVEC awards two scholarships to the runners-up to use toward college expenses.

This year, a \$1,000 scholarship was

awarded to Jace White of Skiatook High School. A \$750.00 scholarship was awarded to Jason Malone, Jr. of Nowata High School. VVEC wishes both winners the best in their educational journey!

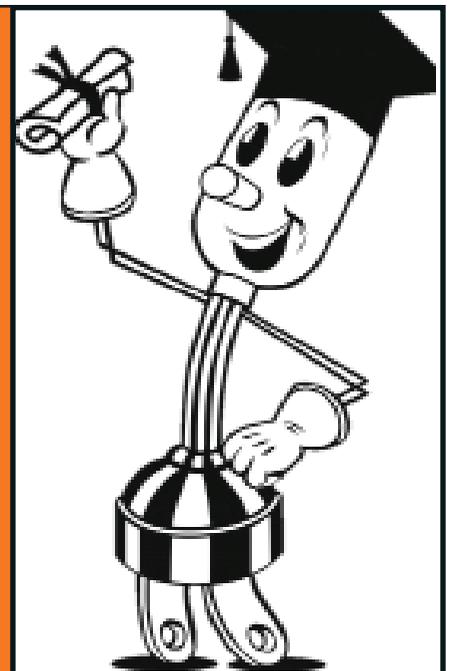


# CONGRATULATIONS!

## *Class of 2022*

VVEC's warmest congratulations to the Class of 2022 and best wishes in your endeavors!

*"Learning is the only thing the mind never exhausts, never fears, and never regrets." — Leonardo da Vinci*





May

# Calendar of Events



**5<sup>th</sup>** - Owasso Gathering on Main, 6:00 PM, Redbud Festival Park, 109 North Main Street, Owasso.

**19<sup>th</sup>** - Third Thursday in the Park, 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM, Skiatook Central Park.

**26<sup>th</sup>** - Boots On the Boulevard, 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM, Downtown Claremore

**7<sup>th</sup>** - Ward-Wiseman Animal Haven Wild West Murder Mystery, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM, Contact Ward Wiseman to purchase tickets, Collinsville.

**14<sup>th</sup>** - Mountain Man Camp at Woolaroc, 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM, Bartlesville.

**28<sup>th</sup>** - 69th Annual Bigheart Day 2022, Barnsdall.

**12<sup>th</sup>** - Summerfest 2022, 6:00 PM, Collinsville City Plaza (12th & Main).

**21<sup>st</sup>** - Will's Cowboy Trader Days at the Ranch, 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM, Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch, Oologah.

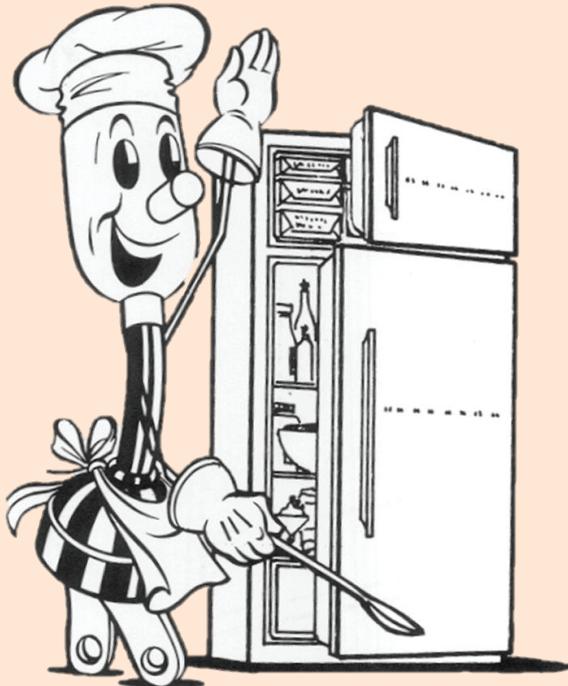
**SUBMIT EVENTS to:**  
classified@vvec.com or send to  
Attn: Event, P.O. Box 219, Collinsville,  
OK 74021.

Events submitted by the 1st of the month will run in the following month's newsletter.

*VVEC reserves the right to delete events.*

## Willie's Throwback Recipe

### Ham and Cheese Quiche



- 9 inch pie shell
- 1 T. cornstarch
- 1/2 c. milk
- 1 1/2 c. ground cooked ham
- 1/2 c. mayonaise
- 1/2 c. chopped green pepper (optional)
- 1/4 c. chopped onion (optional)
- 1 1/2 c. grated cheese
- 2 eggs

Mix all ingredients and pour into the pie shell. Bake in 350 degree oven for about 40 minutes or until set.

Easy to double recipe.

Submitted by: Susan Baldwin of Owasso,  
Published in The Servin' Spoon III

# 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.*



- Queen size sofa bed \$400.00 Contact 918-857-1362
- 14 Porcelain Dolls \$25.00 each Contact 918-857-1362
- Old chest with silk lined tray, \$150.00 Contact 918-857-1362
- 1954 Allis Chalmers tractor, \$1,200.00 Contact 918-857-1362
- 1939 Tractor WD, \$800.00 Contact 918-857-1362
- 6' Box Blade, \$375.00 Contact 918-406-8742
- Youth Saddle, \$150.00, Assorted tack (list and prices available upon request) Contact 918-406-8742
- Professional personalized dog grooming at your home. Over 40 years experience, most dogs \$40.00. 918-381-1170
- Native Bluestem Prairie Hay, no chemicals. SQ. Baled. \$8.00 Contact 918-504-6264
- 3-point Quick Hitch by Haul Master, with 3 pairs of adapters for Cat 2. Like new, \$150.00 Contact 918-766-2986
- Box Blade, Scraper, Brush Hog; all for \$600.00 negotiable Contact 918-371-3668
- NH 1465 Haybine, works very good, stored inside, comes with extra cutters and guides, \$1,500.00 Contact 918-288-6802

**Talk to  
your family  
about  
lightning  
safety!**

**64% of lightning fatalities occur during outdoor recreation activities**



research collected from the National Weather Service



**VVEC offices will be closed on Monday, May 30, 2022 in observance for Memorial Day. Offices will resume regular hours on Tuesday, May 31, 2022 at 7:30 AM.**

**Service personnel will be on duty throughout the holiday weekend. If you should experience an interruption in your electric service, please call (918) 371-2584 or 1-800-870-5948. You can also report outages using the SmartHub app on your smart phone or tablet.**

Don't become part of a tragic fishing story. Keep an eye on weather conditions and know when to call it a day.

## SEEK SHELTER

If you see or hear signs of weather rolling in, stop fishing and retreat to a four-sided building or hard-top car. If you ignore the signs and keep fishing, it could cost you your life.



## WAIT 30 MINUTES

Wait 30 minutes after you see or hear lightning before heading back outside.

## REMEMBER

Always look up for overhead power lines before casting.



## SUMMER RESIDENTIAL RATES

April through September usage;  
May through October billing

**Customer Charge** | \$30.00

**Energy Charge**

1st 2,000 kWh | \$.08272

Over 2,000 kWh | \$.08782

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.

## 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.



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