



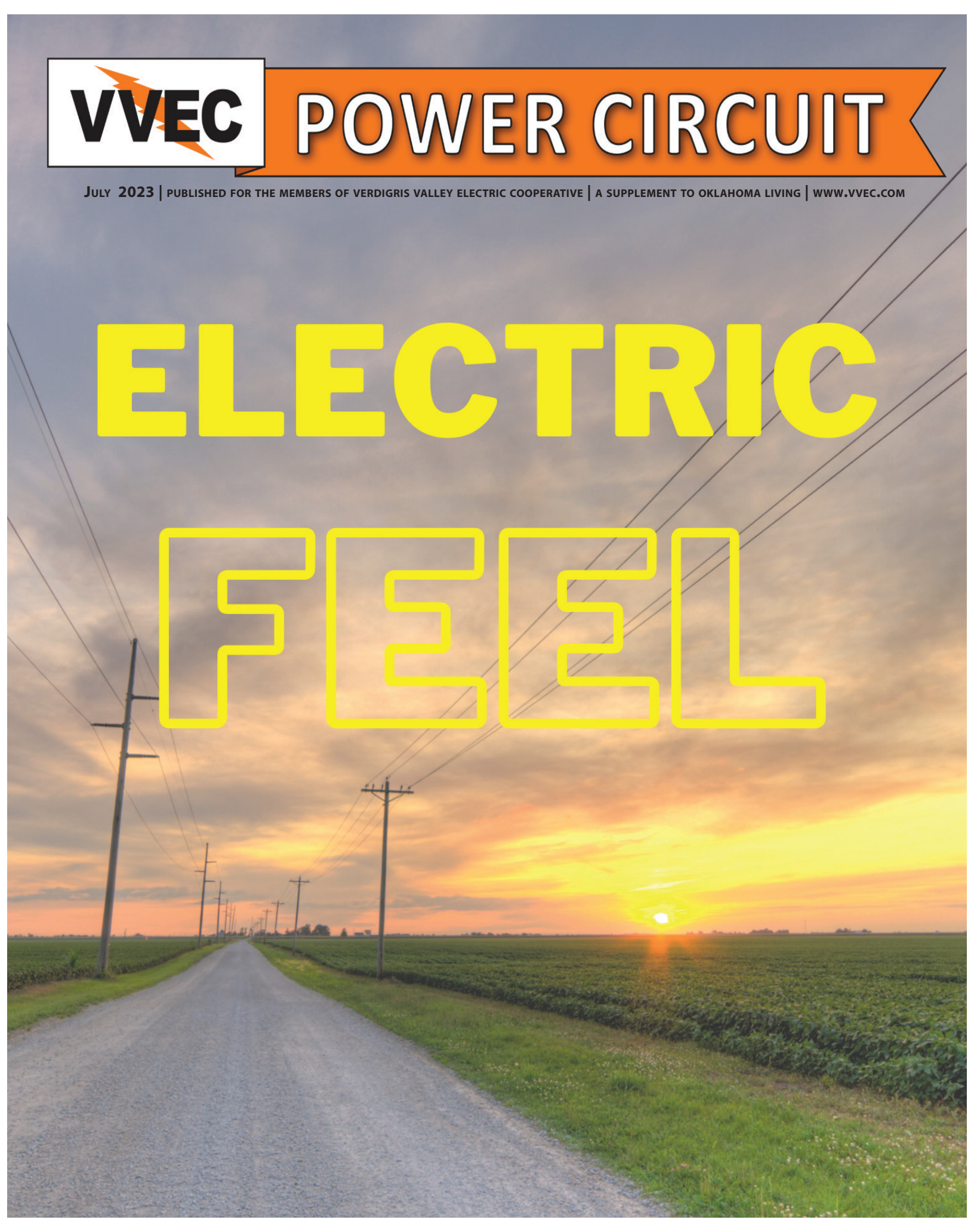
**VVEC**

**POWER CIRCUIT**

JULY 2023 | PUBLISHED FOR THE MEMBERS OF VERDIGRIS VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE | A SUPPLEMENT TO OKLAHOMA LIVING | [WWW.VVEC.COM](http://WWW.VVEC.COM)

**ELECTRIC**

**FEEEL**





**VVEC BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

- District 1:** Jim Brackett - 720-4531
- District 2:** Jack Bogart - 371-9587
- District 3:** Vernon Lewis - 521-5461
- District 4:** John Hibdon - 847-2320
- District 5:** Jimmy Lambert - 760-7029
- District 6:** Dennis Lenox - 289-5961
- District 7:** Charles Huerter - 914-1498
- District 8:** Ken Howard - 724-9965
- District 9:** Buddy McCarty - 272-5134 or 272-5364

**General Manager:** Alice Lawson

**CONTACT US**

**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.

**Power Circuit Editor:**  
McKenzie Loffer

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.

**JULY 2023**  
VOLUME 82 | NUMBER 07

# FREE AND EASY WAYS TO SAVE ENERGY

Here are 10 easy, no-cost ways to save energy this summer:



**1.** Close or lower window coverings during the heat of the day



**6.** Unplug that extra fridge, especially older, inefficient models (they have to work even harder in a hot garage)



**2.** Set your thermostat a few degrees higher



**7.** Optimize your programmable thermostat's features (around 40% of homeowners never program them)



**3.** Take cooler showers (this feels better in the summer, anyway)



**8.** Check the airflow around windows and doors (add weather stripping if needed)



**4.** Use countertop appliances or a microwave instead of your oven



**9.** Unplug all chargers and electronics before leaving the house



**5.** Better yet, grill or smoke food outdoors



**10.** SHUT THE FRONT DOOR (don't air condition the outdoors)

Safe **Electricity.org**® Learn more at:





# Concern for Community



## Jimmy Wilson

Chief Jimmy Wilson is a well-known fixture within the Collinsville area and Rural Fire Department Communities. Recently, VVEC member services department got to visit the Collinsville Rural Fire Department and ask Chief Wilson some burning questions about how he got started, the operations of the department and any advice he has to a new generation looking to get started in the fire service.

Chief Wilson has been with the department for 43 years. Jimmy began his fire service career as a volunteer in 1980 after graduating high school. Over the years, he has served in many roles eventually becoming Captain and has been Chief for the last 30 years. He reminisced about the old days and how he enjoyed hanging out at the station with the guys. When asked what motivates him as fire chief he replied he likes to see the young guys come in and make it. He spoke of how each guy has his own thin...the thing that makes that guy stand out, something they are good at. He smiles and says "it's still fun but I don't want to stay too long. Staying too long makes it stagnant and slows down the progress for the newer guys". Wilson spoke about the department, they have a three-person board, three paid firemen and 21 volunteers with the youngest being 18 years old. Assistant Chief, Scott Felkins has been with the department for 33 years and is also a Tulsa Fireman.



Chief Jimmy Wilson

Captain, Derek Hunt has been with the department for 32 years and both he and Assistant Chief Felkins have delivered babies during a call. The department made approximately 607 runs last year most of which were medical calls. Wilson stated 90% of the calls are medical including car accidents with about 10% being fire. He believes that with newer technology and more accurate safety devices and equipment in the homes there are less fires. When asked how he sees the department evolving in the future he spoke of the department currently in the process of planning to build a new station, possibly North of town, he says it is hard to say how else it will evolve because the city is still growing, they keep adding rooftops which will help with their funding by increasing the dues collected. The department currently provides an approximate protection area of 45 square miles around the city. Chief Wilson wanted to thank VVEC for their Concern for Community and offering the grant program for Rural Fire Departments. Chief Wilson said "the grant money lets us update equipment and buy new equipment. For example, the approximate cost to outfit one guy is \$4500.00. This money could also be used to purchase gloves, it's nice to have an extra set in case one pair gets wet. We run on a tight budget." He also wanted to thank VVEC for offering the dues collection service. He remembers

knocking on doors trying to get dues paid and was only receiving a small portion. He stated the first year that VVEC began the dues collection program for his department, the dues collected went from about \$30,000 collected to \$60,000 collected. He is very appreciative for the program and how it doubled the money coming in, he believes it was the greatest decision financially wise for his department.

Wilson said the department has had openings posted for months with no responses, he is hoping to fill these openings and invites the residents of Collinsville to apply for these positions. He wants the younger generation to know that it takes determination to stay here and serve the community, but the reward is worth it!

VVEC wants to thank Chief Wilson and the Collinsville Rural Fire Department for their participation in the community with the smoke detector program, helping with the installation of smoke detectors, changing out batteries for those who can't figure out where a pesky beeping noise is coming from and visiting some of the local daycares on hot days and cooling the kids off with a spray down and serving as first responders for local rodeos, church functions and other local activities. Chief Wilson welcomes everyone to come by and check out the department and ask questions, they'd love to see you!



Jeremy Smith

**"Jimmy does a lot behind the scenes to make it all work."**

**- Jeremy Smith**



# JULY Calendar of Events



**6<sup>th</sup>** - Wagging Tails: Family Craft for Owasso Animal Shelter, 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm, Owasso Public Library. Create dog toys with the whole family to give to a local dog shelter.

**15<sup>th</sup>** - Skiatook Farmers Market, 4 pm - 8 pm, Intersection of Hwy 20 and Hwy 11. Variety of food, crafts, and produce vendors.

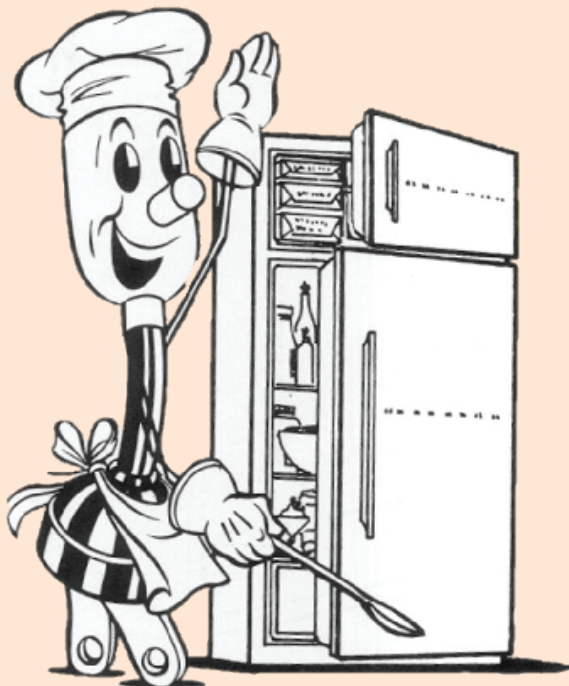
**22<sup>nd</sup>** - Community Movie Night at Redbud Festival Park, 109 N. Main St., Owasso. Movie "The Grinch" will begin at dark.

**8<sup>th</sup>** - Caney Valley Farmers Market, 205 S. Ochelata St; Ochelata, OK from 9 am - 2 pm.

**17<sup>th</sup>** - Summer of Fun, Unity Square, downtown Bartlesville. Free, Outdoor Music beginning at 7 pm.

**22<sup>nd</sup>** - Claremore's Indoor Flea Market, 8 am - 3 pm. Claremore Expo Center.

## Willie's Throwback Recipe



### Brownie Pie

- 2 eggs
- 1 c. sugar
- 1/2 c. soft butter
- 1/2 c. flour
- 3 or 4 T. cocoa
- 1 tsp. Vanilla
- pinch of salt

Place in a small mixing bowl; beat 4 minutes. Stir in 1/2 cup chopped nuts, if desired. Pour into greased pie pan. Bake in 325 degree oven for 30 minutes.

Submitted by: Mary Jones of Owasso  
Published in The Servin' Spoon III

**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.*

■ Professional personalized dog grooming at your home. Over 40 years experience. Most dogs only \$40. Contact 918-381-1170

■ 2006 Four Winds Siesta 24BB, Gas, 1 Owner, Mileage 50,946, 2 slides, generator, backup camera, \$32,000. Contact 918-693-4300

■ 2 section harrow, \$25. Contact 918-335-0684

■ 9 foot Dearborn double disk 3- point hitch, \$185. Contact 918-335-0684

■ 3-point hitch, 2 bottom plow \$35. Contact 918-335-0684

■ 3-point hitch, scrapper blade \$85. Contact 918-335-0684

■ Ford 9N Tractor, runs good, needs rear tires. \$650. Contact 918-335-0684

**5 EASY WAYS TO PREPARE YOUR HOME FOR Vacation**

- 1. Set or program your thermostat to 85 degrees** while you are away.
- 2. Unplug** small appliances and electronic devices including gaming systems so that they don't draw power.
- 3. Adjust your hot water heater.** For a natural gas water heater, turn it to low. For an electric version turn it off at the circuit breaker.
- 4. Shut all your curtains and blinds.**
- 5. Make sure your sump pump is working.**

**Safe Electricity.org**

## Qualifications To Be A VVEC Trustee

Electric cooperatives are governed by a board of trustees, who are each members of the cooperative residing in the districts they represent. They are elected to the board by members of their respective districts, at meetings held in the districts. Each trustee serves a three-year term, and the terms are staggered so three different trustee terms expire each year. Qualifications for trustees can be found in the cooperative's bylaws: Article 4, Section 4. Those qualifications are: "Each year, there shall be elected trustees to succeed all trustees whose terms of Qualifications to be a VVEC trustee

office shall expire at the time of holding such election. All duly elected and qualified trustees shall serve for the term of three (3) years, or until their successors are elected and qualified, subject to the provisions of these bylaws with respect to the removal of trustees. No person shall be eligible to become or remain a trustee of the cooperative who: (a) is not a member and bona fide resident in the area served or to be served by the cooperative; or (b) is any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or

supplies to the cooperative, or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures or supplies to the members of the cooperative; or (c) has been convicted, pleaded guilty, or pleaded nolo contendere to a felony; or (d) is a close relative of an incumbent trustee or of an employee of the cooperative; or (e) is or was an employee of the cooperative during the preceding three years prior to time of filing or being nominated."



# YOU HAVE THE POWER

## Pre-Paid Metering Allows for Money Saving



### Benefits of Pre-Paid

By Tom Tate

Prepaid metering is as simple as it sounds. Consumers pay for electricity before it is used, then use the electricity until the credit expires. A terrific analogy for prepaid metering is putting gas in your car. Say you only have \$30 for the week to pay for gasoline. You drive down to the station, pump in \$30 and drive off. As you drive during the week, what happens? You monitor the gauge and make sure each trip is necessary. If you drive too much, you burn up your \$30 before the week is out. By checking the gauge throughout the week, you became more prudent with your gas use and made informed decisions on when and how much to use.

That's similar to how VVEC's Pay As You Go Prepaid works. The prepaid program is available to new and existing members. As a prepaid member, you pay a \$25 membership fee, a \$25 connect fee, a \$25 deposit, and a \$50 credit for electricity, for a minimum of \$125 to activate your service. Prepaid electric service requires your account to have a credit balance at all times. There are several ways to add credit to your account. (See sidebar for details.)

#### PAYMENT OPTIONS

**PAY ONLINE VIA SMARTHUB,  
FREE OF CHARGE**

**PAY AT KIOSK LOCATIONS IN  
THE GENERAL AREA**

**- NOWATA: HOMELAND AT 813  
E CHEROKEE AVE**

**-BARTLESVILLE: HOMELAND AT  
811 SE FRANK PHILLIPS BLVD  
OR 915 S MADISON BLVD.**

**-----SKIATOOK: MISTER BASS  
AT 4000 W ROGERS BLVD**

**-OWASSO: SUNNY'S KWIK  
STOP AT 11700 E 86TH ST. N**

**-CLAREMORE: 5-ELEVEN AT  
1699 N LYNN RIGGS BLVD**

**-KIOSK IN VVEC LOBBY  
(AVAILABLE 24 HOURS A DAY,  
7 DAYS A WEEK)**



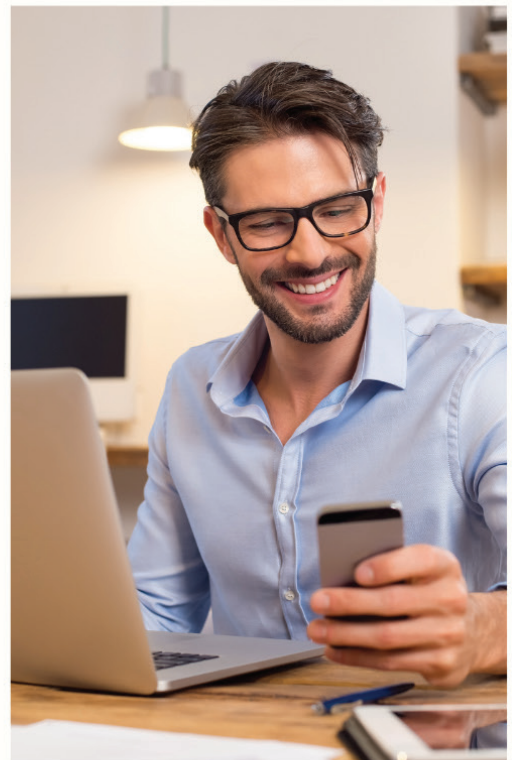


Instead of receiving a paper bill, prepaid users can review account history- such as usage, charges and credit balance- by signing into SmartHub. As you approach "empty", you receive low-balance notifications through a smartphone app, email or text message. Add more money to your account and you are set for the next period. Prepaid metering teaches the value of electricity, what uses watts in your home, and provides absolute control over how much you pay.

Industry studies show that consumers who participate in prepaid metering plans use as much as 10 percent less electricity than their counterparts.

*Tom Tate writes on cooperative issues for NRECA*

A yellow rectangular graphic with the text "Download Smarthub" in large black font. To the right of the text is a green icon of a network node. Below the text, it says "Report Outages, Pay Bill, Review Kilowatt Usage". At the bottom left is a green button with a smartphone icon and the text "SCAN ME". To the right of the button is a QR code.



**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT VVEC'S PAY AS YOU GO PREPAID PROGRAM, PLEASE CONTACT OUR REPRESENTATIVES AT 918-371-2584.**





# Energy Camp Excitement

Lena Prewitt, an 8th grader from Barnsdall recently attended Energy Camp. Seventy-seven outstanding eighth-graders from across the state were chosen to represent their co-ops at Canyon Camp, near Hinton, Oklahoma. While at camp, delegates attended sessions on leadership, electrical safety and potential careers available at rural electric co-ops. Other activities included hands-on electrical safety demonstrations, a pole-climbing demonstration and bucket truck rides from linemen. Energy Camp is coordinated by the Oaec and sponsored by VVEC and Oklahoma’s rural electric cooperatives.



## SUMMER RESIDENTIAL RATES

April through September usage;  
May through October billing

**Customer Charge** | \$40.00  
**Energy Charge** | 1st 2000 kWh | \$.082790/kWh  
| over 2000 kWh | \$.08789//kWh

A power cost adjustment (PCA) will be applied to all bills when the actual cost of power purchased exceeds or is less than 62.088 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.*

## 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.