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POWER CIRCUIT

VOLUME 68 NUMBER 2 FEBRUARY 2009

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Touchstone Energy®



VERDIGRIS VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.®

The Power of One Voice

No matter if your candidate won the election in November or not, I think we have to take pride in the fact our country changed the hands of power in January without any bloodshed, gunfire or violence. The system designed by our forefathers more than 200 years ago continues to work and to be an example of democracy and equality to the rest of the world.

Our government is designed to be responsive to the people. But before that can happen, we have to let our elected representatives know what our concerns are. Simply stated, we need to let them know what is important to us.

That is why the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) created the "Our Energy, Our Future™" campaign. It helps us, as member/owners of electric cooperatives, to tell our representatives we want them to take action now to ensure affordable electricity in the

future. The program also lets them know that being good stewards of our environment is a priority. Read more about this program, the impact it's making and how you can participate, on page 6.

And while the eyes of the world have been on Washington, D. C., see how three former winners of our Washington Youth Tour program view their visit to the nation's capitol. Their comments are on page 5.

At press time we hadn't yet experienced much winter weather, and hopefully, we won't. But if we should, just remember...the first day of spring is March 20. 

Kay Rabbitt-Brower
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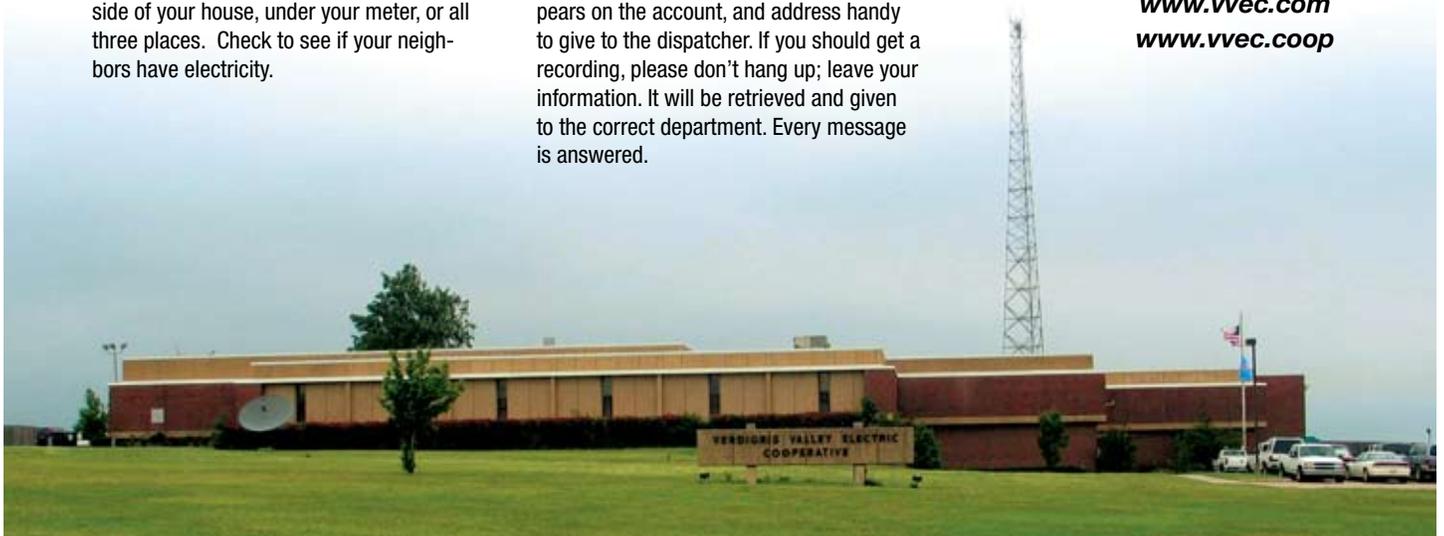
What to do if Your Power Goes Off

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.

Visit us on the Internet at:

www.vvec.com

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Funding Home Efficiency Improvements

The idea of owning a more efficient home – and paying lower utility bills – has widespread appeal, but finding ways to fund needed energy efficiency improvements can be difficult during hard economic times. Fortunately, there are several ways to recover some of your expenses when planning your next project.

Through the federal Energy Improvement and Extension Act of 2008, Uncle Sam offers a personal tax credit of up to \$500 for energy efficiency upgrades made to existing homes this year. You can recover up to 10 percent of the cost of adding insulation materials and exterior doors, windows, and roofs designed to help reduce your home's heat loss or gain.

On October 3, 2008, President Bush signed into law the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008. This bill extended tax credits for energy efficient home improvements (windows, doors, roofs, insulation, HVAC, and non-solar water heaters.) Tax credits for these residential products, which



had expired at the end of 2007, are now available for improvements made during 2009. However, improvements made during 2008 are not eligible for a tax credit.

Installing a new central air conditioner or air-source heat pump could earn you a credit as high as \$300. The benefit covers up to 100 percent of the cost for qualifying heating and cooling units, with a maximum credit of \$500 for all improvements.

In addition, other federal incentives are available. While solar panels, solar water heaters, and geothermal heat pumps are expensive, you may qualify for a tax credit equal to 30 percent of the installation cost if your projects are approved by the Solar Rating and

Certification Corporation or ENERGY STAR, depending on the project's scope. Solar panels do not have a maximum limit for this benefit as of 2009; solar water heaters and geothermal heat pumps carry a \$2,000 limit. Check with VVEC before proceeding with any type of solar project.

Some electric co-ops and state government offices offer further subsidies or rebates to consumers who want to make a home more efficient. For a listing of state and local energy efficiency assistance available, visit the Database for State Incentives for Renewables and Efficiency, at www.dsireusa.org. For details on how the right appliances can help you cut your electric bills, visit www.energystar.gov.

FEBRUARY

Calendar

February 14 Valentine's Day

February 16 Presidents' Day

February

19-22 Green Country Tackle & Hunting Show, Will Rogers Downs Expo

If you have an event you would like to appear in the calendar, send written information to Power Circuit Editor, P.O. Box 219, Collinsville, OK 74021. Include the date(s), time, location, and a telephone number. Information must be received by the 10th of the month preceding the event.

VVEC Appliance Rebate Program

Heat Pumps* **\$100 per ton**
Air-to-air & ground source

Electric Water Heaters	<u>Purchased at VVEC</u>	<u>Not purchased at VVEC</u>
30-gallon	Purchase price, minus	Up to \$179
40-gallon	taxes, is credited to	\$189
50-gallon	member's account.	\$199

All appliance installations must be verified by VVEC personnel within 90 days of purchase before rebates can be processed.

**If the heat pump is being installed as part of a building under construction, then an electric water heater must also be installed for the heat pump to qualify for the rebate. The heat pumps and water heaters must be new electrical load for VVEC and must be installed in a permanent structure.*

Paying Bill Promptly Prevents Interruptions

Interrupting a member's electric service for nonpayment is probably the worst job we have. It has never been our objective to disconnect service in this manner, but to be fair to those members who pay their bills and to keep down bad debt, we must adhere to established policies for non-payments.

During the winter, we make an extra effort to work with members so disconnection isn't necessary. But many times, members fail to respond to the disconnection notice, and don't contact us to make payment arrangements.

If at any time you have difficulty paying your electric bill, please contact our service representatives. We have a deferred payment plan available and if you agree to and abide by the terms of that agreement, your electric service will not be disconnected.

The plan allows you to make monthly payments on the past due amount, after deducting all available government assistance. You will be expected to pay all future bills in full, in addition to the agreed upon payment amount.

If a life threatening situation exists in your home, you may request a postponement of the disconnection of your service. However, within 30 days you must produce a certificate completed by a licensed medical doctor or osteopathic doctor, indicating the nature of the life threatening situation. The certificate is renewable for one additional 30-day period. The Cooperative is not required to furnish service to a member beyond a total of 60 days for a life-threatening condition, without full payment of the account or acceptable payment arrangements on any unpaid balance.

The only way we know about such situations is if you tell us in advance.

Agencies Offering Assistance with Electric Bills

SEAC	Avant, Sperry, Skiatook	396-4108
Community Action	Nowata County	273-2868
DHS	Nowata County	273-2327
DHS	Osage County	287-5800
DHS	Rogers County	283-8300
Salvation Army	Rogers County	341-5000
DHS	Tulsa County	581-2011, 581-2401, 430-2300, 280-3100
Helping Hand	Tulsa County	584-6923
Salvation Army	Tulsa County	582-7201
Owasso Community Res	Tulsa/Rogers County	272-4969
Community Action	Washington County	333-8115
Concern	Washington County	336-4693
DHS	Washington County	336-2655, 338-5700

Please call or write our Customer Service Department if you have such a situation. We will then keep the information on file.

We provide a notice of non-payment before service is interrupted. The notice is printed on your next bill, notifying you we have not received your payment. If we haven't heard from you to make payment arrangements within 10 days, the account is subject to collection. This is the only notice we provide. You must make payment arrangements or your service will be disconnected.

If we make a trip to your home to collect an unpaid bill, you will be charged \$50. There is another \$50 charge for the return trip to reconnect your service when the bill is paid. These charges apply if the trips are made Monday through Friday between the

hours of 7:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. Charges for reconnecting service between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Monday through Friday are \$100, plus an additional \$50 for the initial trip, for a total of \$150.

You can avoid these charges by paying your bill on time, or adhering to payment arrangements you make with us.

Meters disconnected for non-payment will not be reset on weekends, holidays, or weekdays after 7 p.m.

While our lineman is in the process of disconnecting a meter, he will accept payment and leave the meter. You will be charged the \$50 collection trip fee. After a meter has been pulled, our lineman will return and reset the meter only if the entire past due amount plus collection and reset fees are paid. 

OPPORTUNITY

"Amazing! Great!"

"Wonderful. Impressive"

"Inspiring."

These are just a few of the words three former winners use to describe their unique and memorable Youth Tour experiences.

Youth Tour is a program sponsored annually by VVEC and numerous other electric cooperatives throughout Oklahoma and across the country. It is designed to give high school juniors an opportunity to see the federal government 'in action' through a week of site-seeing in the nation's capitol, with all expenses paid.

VVEC's program is based on students writing and submitting essays on a specific cooperative-related topic and then giving oral presentations of their essays before a panel of judges.

Kendall Kurth and Sara Collins, seniors at Oologah-Talala High School, won the competition in 2008.

State Representative Fred Jordan won the competition in 1990 as a junior at Dewey High School.

"I think my favorite thing was seeing the Lincoln Memorial," says Collins. "After seeing it in books and on TV or in the movies, it was cool to see it for myself."

Kurth agrees seeing famous government buildings was fun, but she says she liked the diversity in Washington.

"Just seeing all the different people from around the world who were there, was interesting."

She adds she enjoyed visiting the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

"I've been a dancer for 12 years, so I really enjoyed the Kennedy Center."

She goes on to say visiting Arlington Cemetery was memorable. "I was kind of skeptical at first. But seeing all those headstones and watching the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknowns was inspiring."

Representative Jordan says he visited Washington several times through his affiliation with FFA and the Presidential Classroom. "But the co-ops' Youth Tour was the best Washington trip I went on. It did a good job of combining fun and



VVEC's 2008 Youth Tour winners Kendall Kurth (left) and Sara Collins pause for a photo in front of the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. Both agree Youth Tour was the trip of a lifetime.

legitimate learning activities," he says. "I came away from there thinking everyone needs to see Washington."

Jordan says he always had an interest in politics and government, but visiting the nation's capitol reinforced it.

Even though they visited Washington at different times, Kurth, Collins and Jordan agree the best part of Youth Tour was the friendships they made.

"All the people I met and the friends I made is the best part," says Collins. "I still talk to some of them."

Kurth agrees. "I'm still in contact

with some of the friends I made on Youth Tour too."

"I got to know some good people," says Jordan. "We met on Youth Tour and remained friends through college."

"Youth Tour is frequently described as the trip of a lifetime," says program coordinator Paula Lanni. "That is how we hear so many of the winners describe the experience when they return."

For information on Youth Tour, contact Lanni at (918) 371-2584. Deadline for essays to be submitted is 4 p.m. March 10. 

Speaking Up

Encourage our Congressmen to keep future electric rates affordable

Although over 1,540,000 messages have now been sent to Capitol Hill, the **Our Energy, Our Future™** campaign is not yet over. A responsibility to continue spreading the message is now more important than ever.

Oklahoma now ranks 22nd among state responses; up from 28th, just a short time ago. Almost 7,000 responses have been e-mailed to Oklahoma members of Congress for all three questions. Interest appears to be growing in the overall campaign, with an even stronger commitment being sought in 2009.

As House and Senate members convene for the 111th Congress, now is a good time to remind them of the importance of the affordability of electricity. Those of the Oklahoma Congressional delegation, who were up for re-election this year, were all re-elected for another term. So, we must remind them to continue the fight as a voice for the electric cooperative industry and co-op members.

"It's important for us to send our requests, so those representatives can use the number of communications they receive from their constituents to support their debate with those Congressmen who may not understand. Without giving Oklahoma Congressmen this tool, it is possible legislation could be passed with no regard for the end costs to the consumer," says VVEC General Manager Alice Houston.

To make it easy to contact our Congressmen, there is a NRECA-developed Web site that will send an e-mail for you. Go to www.ourenergy.coop and enter your address, which will help direct your e-mail to the representatives and senators who serve your particular area. You will also be asked to select your cooperative.

The question you should ask your legislators now is:

What will you do to keep electricity rates affordable?

Begin the dialogue with your representatives today.

Visit www.ourenergy.coop.

Verdigris Valley Electric Cooperative
(918) 371-2584.

"Across the country, cooperatives are working together to continue asking questions of our elected officials about what they are doing to solve the electricity crisis our country faces," says Houston. "We must work to ensure Congress reconciles the realities of the nation's electricity needs while working on energy and climate change goals," she adds.

"As electric cooperatives, we are already helping members with energy efficiency and other programs to minimize the cost increases we are being forced to confront. We are informing consumers about the electricity crisis and we are helping them make their voices heard on Capitol Hill as decisions about their future are made," Houston notes.

The **Our Energy, Our Future™** consumer campaign in 2008 laid the groundwork for a more substantial effort to engage our consumers this year in the policy decisions that profoundly affect them and their electric cooperatives' ability to serve them affordable and reliable power. Please help keep the pressure on and the momentum building.

Among the issues and priorities that the **Our Energy, Our Future™** campaign will focus on in coming months include further action for clean coal technology, renewable energy, transmission, carbon capture and storage and the development of nuclear power. A growing awareness of energy efficiency is also becoming increasingly necessary as prices rise.

Far too many Americans' electric bills are already unaffordable. "We must make sure Congress recognizes our nation's electricity crisis," Houston noted. "Please help VVEC do its part in making Congress aware of future potential needs in the cooperative utility industry." 



Our Energy, Our Future™
A Dialogue With America



From a Friend's Kitchen

Chocolate and Valentine's Day Go Hand-In-Hand

I am a life-long, card-carryin' chocoholic. Next to diamonds, nothing says love to me like chocolate.

That's why I think chocolates go hand-in-hand with Valentine's Day.

No matter if it's Godiva, Russell Stover's or Hershey's, most women like to get chocolate for this holiday.

But some people like chocolate with a more personal touch, and that's why I thought I would include this cake recipe this month.

I ran across it in one of the three chocolate cookbooks I got as Christmas presents. It's fairly simple to prepare, and includes ingredients that should be easy to find.

It will make a great Valentine's Day gift no matter if you give it to your favorite Valentine or as a Valentine's Day gift to yourself. 

Italian Love Cake

1 chocolate cake mix
 2 16-oz. containers ricotta cheese
 4 eggs
 1 tsp. vanilla
 ¾ cup sugar
 1 (5.9-oz.) pkg. chocolate instant pudding
 1 cup milk
 1 (8-oz.) container frozen whipped topping, thawed

Prepare cake mix according to package directions. Pour batter into greased and floured 9x13-inch baking pan.

In a separate bowl, combine ricotta cheese, eggs, vanilla, and sugar. Mix well and spoon over top of cake batter. Bake at 350° for 1 hour.

Cake will rise to the top. Cool. Mix pudding with milk; fold in whipped topping. Spread over cooled cake and refrigerate.

Can 'Miracle Heaters' Lower Your Bill?

Portable electric space heaters are created equal, but buyers should beware

Advertisements touting electric bill savings and 'whole house' comfort from portable electric space heaters should raise the consumer antennae of Oklahoma electric cooperative members. Not all claims are necessarily false or misleading. However, expectations should be tempered by knowledge of the real capability of such heaters and how they should be used to obtain maximum benefit at the least cost.

You've seen the ads. Baseboard heaters, cabinet heaters and even electric fireplaces are hawked with guarantees that home heating bills will be miraculously reduced – like last year's ad for the incredible Amish fireplace. The ad resembled a newspaper feature story headlined: "Amish man's new miracle idea helps home heat bills hit rock bottom." If something appears too good to be true, it probably is. In fact, the Amish aren't manufacturing electric heaters. They purportedly craft the wooden mantles and enclosures. You get the 1,500-Watt heater (made in China) free but pay several hundred dollars for the woodwork. All the details were in the ad but overshadowed by the photos of happy Amish folks hard at work.

"Caveat emptor," a Latin phrase meaning "let the buyer beware," applies to all forms of advertising, but especially to attempts to sell products based on understanding of Wattage, British thermal units (BTUs), calculations of radiant or convective thermal effect per square foot and testimonials. Touted electric

bill savings should always be viewed with suspicion because so many factors – home insulation levels, air infiltration and whether a room has an outside wall or window – can make a difference in performance.

VVEC doesn't endorse any portable heating product or brand, nor are we capable of making comparative evaluations of one type of heater over another.

Many co-op members have purchased such heaters and been satisfied with the unit's performance when used for zone heating. Others were disappointed for various reasons.

Anyone who tries to heat an entire home with electric portables will not be happy when the electric bill arrives. Running four 1,000-Watt heaters for 24 hours will add about \$9 per day to your electric bill.

"Zone heating is what portable electric heaters were designed for," says Alice Houston, VVEC general manager. "Energy savings are possible if portables are used correctly. For example, if you lower the central heating system's thermostat and use a portable heater to keep a single occupied room comfortable, you might achieve some savings. Floor plans, insulation and running time are among the factors that will determine if you save or spend more."

Electric resistance heating has been around for a long time. Heat is produced when current passes through material, such as wire coil, with high conduction resistance. It is possible to achieve 100

percent efficiency (power-to-heat conversion ratio) for the unit, but this does not take into account the efficiency of the generation process from which the electricity must be obtained.

Various types of units – baseboard, ceramic, oil-filled, radiant, equipped with fans or using convection – are available from hardware and discount stores at prices ranging from \$10 to \$100. What influences the price tag are Wattage (500, 1,000 and 1,500 Watts are the choices in 120-volt models) and optional equipment such as thermostats, cabinetry and safety features.

All portable electric heaters are created equal, despite advertising claims. Only Wattage rating will make a difference. No matter how fancy and furniture-like the cabinet or compelling the jingle associated with the ad, the same laws of electro-magnetic energy that toast bread, blow-dry wet hair and cook meals apply. The cheapest portable space heater can warm a small space, perhaps a bathroom or an office cubicle, while the most powerful and expensive can heat a large room.

Read up on electric space heaters before investing and know what type is best for your needs. Online sources of information include the U.S. Department of Energy's Web site at www.eere.energy.gov/consumer/. Click on Space Heating & Cooling in the Quick Links section, and then click on Heating Systems to find material on portable heaters. 

Everything Goes

Blue Velvet sofa, \$100; 2 matching high back tufted chairs, \$100; glass top coffee table, \$50; dresser, \$50; chest, \$25; desk w/chair, \$25; scroll lounge chair, \$25; wooden dining room suite, lg. china cabinet w/table & 6 chairs, \$400; glass top rattan dining room table, \$25, 341-7971.

Fresh Jersey milk, \$3.50/gal. 371-4787.

Galloping Horse Jumparoo, for babies, EC, \$50, 728-4236.

Coin-operated late model pool table, w/accessories, \$1,100, 283-1003.

Boy & girl Precious Moments Valentine figurines, \$100/pr.; Kenmore Elite dryer, \$125; oak waterbed, super single, underneath storage plus headboard, \$250; Coca-Cola commemorative bottles, full, variety; John Kennedy collectors picture, speech, 3 coins, 4 stamps in nice frame, \$125, 341-6755.

Hay – about 40 clean, 4x5.5 rnd. bales of prairie hay, 396-3202.

Hay – 4x5 net-wrapped bales of good cattle hay, price reduced, 341-4103.

Firewood – \$40/rick, 260-6687.

Hay – good quality 4x5 bluestem or grass bales, also bluestem square bales, 371-5743.

Hay – square bales, \$4/bale, C'ville area, you load, 504-6264.

Handcrafted Hannah Montana blankets, fleece, 55"x72", others available, 371-3459.

6 14' church pews, \$75 ea., can be viewed online at Craig's List under business/commercial, 857-7451.

Six prom dresses, sizes 12 - 14, \$20 to \$100, 545-2781.

10-gun wood/glass cabinet, w/storage below, 14"x37"x72", EC, \$200, 638-7825, after 4 p.m.

Kolb Firefly untrilight aircraft kits 1 & 2, w/covering kit, includes everything but engine & instruments, \$5,500, 440-0167.

Hay – pure, clean bluestem horse hay, barn-stored, 1,000-lb. bales, can deliver, 724-4674.

Hay – 10 lg. rnd. bales, \$25/bale or all for \$225, Skiatook area, 263-2211.

Whitfield pellet stove, needs control board, \$500 OBO; 26 bags pellet fuel, \$4.25/bag or \$110, 443-2028, 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Early American oak dining table, w/6 chairs, \$150; futon bed, \$50, 272-5524.

Microwavable corn bag warmers, all colors & prints, shoulder warmers, neck, back, lumbar, wrist, \$8 to \$12, oldtimewarmers@yahoo.com, 371-3052 after 6 p.m.

Wolff-Sunquest Pro 16SE tanning bed, 115-volt, 16 bulbs, new bulbs, \$450, 371-9553.

Like new 22"x17.5" Cockatiel bird cage, w/toys, \$30 OBO, 342-8866.

Koala SewMate III, sewing, quilting & serging cabinet, 1 yr. old, will consider any reasonable offer, 333-0574.

Dark oak oval dining table, w/2 leaf extensions & 6 chairs, \$400; dark oak china cabinet w/light, \$225; golden oak computer armoire, \$275; Kenmore sewing machine in light colored cabinet, \$75; sleep Comfort queen-size bed, \$250; solid oak bachelor's chair, \$75, 798-0800.

Wood baby crib w/mattress, EC, \$65; Graco electric baby swing, EC, \$20, 609-5497.

Kenmore heavy duty stacked washer & dryer, about 4 yrs. old, EC, \$350; 2-person sauna, GC, \$700; fiberglass top-per for short wide pickup, \$150, 337-9171.

Hay – 800 small square bales of mixed hay, 500 small square bales of prairie hay, \$3.50/bale, 847-3803.

Hay – top quality native, 4x4 rnd. bales, \$17/bale, 531-2358.

Bassinet w/white liner, EC, \$25; baby swing, plays music, \$10; 2 end tables, \$5/both; baby bumper crib pad w/everything, \$25; numerous VHS tapes, \$1 ea.; boys & girls clothes, 25¢ & up; red metal bunk bed w/mattress, \$45; child table w/2 chairs, \$15; rocking chair, \$10; 4-pc. canister set, \$5; treadmill, \$30; romance books, \$2 for all, 346-7562.

FREE – good chest freezer, runs good; glass & metal end table, \$15, 371-6498.

Hay – good mixed grass or prairie hay, net-wrapped, 4x5' - \$25, 4x5.5'-\$30, 697-6443.

5-ton all-electric air conditioner & heater w/heat pump, \$900 OBO, 396-9940.

15" action roping saddle, \$300; 16" light weight trail saddle, \$200, 396-1722.

St. Croix wood pellet stove, EC, \$850, 341-6495.

Misc. video/audio cables; Sony BVE-910 edit control unit, EC; 1977 Sears solid state compact stereo AM/FM radio, phonograph, cassette tape player & recorder; Ocean Matrix video input selector; Lowell professional studio lights; professional BRG digital clock/timer/counter, 371-8438.

Firewood – seasoned, \$35 - you haul, \$45, 1 haul within a 10-mile area near Ochelata, 693-3527.

Convertible crib, converts from crib to toddler bed to full-size bed, includes headboard, footboard, side rails & baby mattress, \$400; glider-rocker w/ottoman, \$100, 371-5121.

New hand-made Cherokee dress, size L, & ribbon shirt size XL, \$195; mans ribbon shirt, size L, \$30; Winnie the Poo crib set, \$25; baby walker, EC, \$12; metal tube baby bed, \$35; metal horse bench, \$125; new toddler riding toy, \$10; umbrella stroller, \$6; Little Tyke pink playhouse w/pullout rooms, \$10; small enamel table, \$35; twin gingham quilt w/applique flowers, shams & bed skirt, \$65; oak cabinet, \$75; new 4-slice toaster, \$25; checkerboard table, \$20; Coca-Cola 2-liter pop rack, \$35, 396-7004.

Hay – bermuda, 4'x5', \$20/bale, 639-9634.

Ladies snow skis LN w/bindings, poles, case, \$85; mens snow skis, w/poles, straps & case, \$15; folding camp cabinet, 16"x16"x30", GC, \$12; complete burner for Kenmore gas dryer, GC, \$10, 494-2920.

30" gas logs for fireplace, w/glass screen, GC, \$125 OBO; Hide-Away wall-mount ironing board, EC, \$75, \$75 OBO, 645-1899.

Hay – 20 bermuda 4'x5' rnd. bales, in barn, 272-3212.

Firewood – seasoned & green, you haul, \$55/rick, 371-6238.

AK 47, EC, \$500; SK5 Paratrooper, loaded, \$400; 870 Remington Mag Express, 3" 12-gauge pump, EC, \$275, 536-4215.

Red bunk beds, EC, queen mattress w/box springs, cupboard that hangs on wall w/small dishes, oak changing table, 2 infant baths, baby bottles, milk storage bottles, small & med. maternity clothes, toy work bench w/lots of tools, working kitchen w/lots of extras, Play Dough table w/extras, nice walker/push behind with music mobile, outside toy car, car seats, turtle sandbox, portable crib, EC, Stephen King books, 545-2051.

Hay – 5'x5' rnd. bales, prairie hay, cut & baled in Aug. 08, \$30/bale, will load, 344-2446.

Used Bryant central (natural gas) heat & (electric) air units, 3-ton, \$1,000; Winchester model 1893 12-gauge pump shotgun, 30" barrel, 272-5796.

10 dual wheels w/tires, 16.5, \$35; 4-31x10.50R-15 LT, on nice wheels, \$225/set; 265-75-16 ply, on 5-hole wheels, \$195/set, several more new or good ones, 475-2341.

Goodyear Eagle GA, P235/55R16, General Ameri 660-AS P255/70R16, both good rubber; toner cartridges #TN-100HL for Brother printers HC-630/641/645, WL-660, 650, 655m, 660 unopened; JVC KD-S580 AM/FM/CD player, EC; power control center w/6 AC outlets, phone line and 4 USB hub protection, EC, MicroSoft mouse PS2 connection; MicroSoft optical mouse USB/PS2 connection; MicroSoft Trackball mouse PS2 connection; AT&T 1337 digital answering machine, EC; AT&T 1725 digital answering machine, EC, 371-5792.

2001 Yamaha gas golf cart, seats 6, head & tail lights, rear-view mirror, drives very well, \$3,500, 706-6071.

New fiberglass tub-shower combination, \$250; 48" rnd. dining table w/g. leaf & 6 chairs, solid wood, EC, \$300, 255-6508.

Hay – bermuda horse quality hay, 4'x5' rnd. & small square; 13" color TVs, 3/\$85 OBO; Jack Nicklaus golf clubs & bag, \$100 OBO; 12-volt boat dash gauge set & key switch, \$100; life vests & boating items, 283-2777.

Natural gas floor furnace, 105,000 BTU, \$100; Magic Chef LP range, 4 yrs. old, \$75; bull rider chaps, \$100; 1989 Chevy tailgate, \$75; rare 1983 Coca-Cola 26" red & white bike, \$300, 287-4859.

Firewood – seasoned, 275-4776.

17" English saddle, w/3 pads & 48" girth, EC, \$150; genuine Crump show harness, black w/red pinstripe, Arab/Morgan-size, EC, \$1,500 or trade, 845-5978.

Wall-mount 2500 GymPac, \$50; 2 natural gas floor heaters, \$50 ea.; 1 natural gas wall/ceiling-mount fan forced heater, \$150; GM metric body race car cage, \$200, 639-6823.

Cars & Trucks

1989 Honda Accord, auto, clean, 156K miles, \$2,000 OBO, free gas fillup & air condition service w/purchase, 343-6198.

1992 Lincoln Mark VII-LSC, 2-dr. coupe, loaded, 106K miles, EC, \$4,000, 272-6334.

1986 Cadillac Fleetwood Brougham, 68,346 original miles, nice family car, \$6,000, 371-5212.

2001 3/4-ton Dodge 4WD diesel, equipped w/50-gal. diesel fuel tank, 2001 18" PJ gooseneck trailer, 1998 Case 85 XT skid steer w/bucket, shear, & tracks, \$30,000, 333-6251.

2003 Dodge Dakota SXT, V6, auto w/overdrive, 3.9 liter engine w/less than 60K miles, \$9,000, 288-7841.

1996 GMC Sierra 1500 pickup, ext. cab, 350, V8, auto, power windows & locks, bedliner, 106K miles, \$4,500, 333-3107.

CLASSIFIEDS

1998 Ford F-150 Companion conversion van, 4 captain chairs, electric rear bench seat, TV/VCR, rear AC, loaded, 109K miles, \$4,900; 1991 Chevy Camaro Z28, T-tops, high-rise spoiler, TPI, 91K miles, \$5,900, 815-2207.

1989 GMC 3/4-ton truck, 2WD, V8, 350, 4-sp. standard, new diamond plate bed w/hideaway gooseneck hitch, louvered headache rack, GC, \$2,400, 536-4215.

1988 S-10, wrecked, good for parts or could be restored, 371-6238.

1998 Chrysler Concord, 3.2 V6, 137,500 miles, \$2,100, 671-2733.

1990 Buick Gran Sport, 2-dr. coupe, 35 mpg., \$1,650, 697-6112.

2004 Honda Accord, coupe, V6, leather, power seats, locks & windows, sunroof, tinted windows, 6-disc CD player, 48K miles, \$14,000, 637-4891.

1993 Chevy Camaro, V6, 2-dr. coupe, auto, front-end damage, parts car, interior in good condition, 139K miles, make offer, 371-5792.

1994 Chevy Silverado Supercab pickup, EC, 371-3496.

1981 Blazer, 305, V8, 4WD, 74K miles, rough, but ready, \$2,250, 287-4859.

Hard to find 1947 Chevy cab over engine grain truck w/dump bed, restore or install this classic body on modern runnign gear, engine parts, radiator, floor boards, etc., included, \$2,000; 1972 Plymouth Satellite Sebring turned Roadrunner clone, rebuilt 360 w/4 barrel demon carb, Edelbrock alum intake, stock cam, ceramic coated Hedman headers, rebuilt 727 trans., w/shift kit, original 8 & 1/4 rear-end, leaf springs, original torsion bars, air shocks in rear, solid body, no rust, interior is all original except new headliner & carpet, \$8,500, 706-6071.

2002 Dodge Cummins quad cab, 1-ton truck, 6-sp., loaded, 125,200 miles, \$14,500, 855-0105.

1988 GMC 4x4, K 1,500, needs engine work, \$2,000; 1985 F-250 diesel pickup, needs paint, \$2,200; 1974 Chevy C30 crew cab pickup, \$2,200 OBO, 639-6823.

Equipment

2005 Sears Bob Villa mower, 22 hp, 42" cut, 35 hrs., needs motor work, \$225, 396-7004.

2008 Kubota L3240 tractor, front loader, 4x4, shuttle shift, 16 hrs., \$15,500, 740-1881.

John Deere 4430, w/cab & AC, 125 hp, 60% rubber on tires, \$7,500, 630-5832.

Cattle de-horner, \$20, 331-8654.

Briggs & Stratton 11 hp generator, 4 110-volt outlets, 2-14 3 pt. Ferguson plow, \$200, 475-2341.

1994 Wells Cargo 8'x16' enclosed trailer, GC, \$3,250 OBO; 8'x14' U-Haul converted w/ramp, pulls easy, almost new tires, \$3,500 OBO, 284-0056.

3 each 25 PD Power Glides, \$150-\$350; 1993 Ford pickup E40D auto transmission, \$700, 639-6823.

3 pt. 3-14 Ford plow, \$250; John Deere Springtooth, 35' on wheels, \$750; 10' 3 pt. International brush hog, \$2,000; small 2-wheel trailer, \$35; 16'+2 beaver tail gooseneck trailer, \$975; 1990s Chevy long bed pickup bed, \$225, 475-2341.

2001 New Holland TL80, w/cab, radio, heat & AC, 1,385 hrs., always kept under cover, \$26,700; 1988 D-3 Cat, used on farm, good tracks, pads & rollers, EC, \$16,500, 671-2733.

Befco/Eronoise 7' sickle mower, \$1,500; 2705 Massey Ferguson tractor, new injector pump, GC, \$7,000; DW14 Allis Chalmers, GC, runs good, \$3,000, 273-7462.

2-horse bumper pull trailer, tan, solid floor, GC, \$900, 344-2446.

Utility trailer, 5'x8'; 2' sides, EC; garden tillers, 371-3496.

Radiator to fit 1988-1997 Chevy pickup, lg. cattle self-feeder, 275-4776.

Hand miter box, \$20, 494-2920.

10" table saw on stand, \$75; 5th wheel to gooseneck adapter, \$250, 255-6508.

2005 S&H 4-horse slant trailer, extra large tack room, drop down windows, \$10,500, 855-0105.

A. O. Smith shallow well jetpump, \$200 OBO, 283-2777.

Livestock

Chickens, 847-2860.

APHA mare, 16-yr.-old brown tobiano, 14.3 hands, green broke, has been ridden, sweet disposition, 99% color producer, 4-yr.-old Paint gelding, 15.1 hands, not reg. sorrel tobiano, not ridden, but ready, \$500 ea., 341-5455.

Registered half-Quarter Horse and reg. Pinto, excellent barrel prospect or cow horse, broke to ride, gentle, sweet, lives to be petted, will be 3 yrs. old in March, \$3,500 OBO; several AQHA for sale, 808-5309.

AQHA, PHBA 12-yr.-old mare, lots of trail riding, also sound to breed, could show in walk, trot, pleasure, \$2,000, other horses for sale also, 724-9552.

Brangus bulls, fertility tested, very gentle, low birth weights, delivery available, \$1,500, 695-2357.

Longhorn bull, gentle, foundation bred duns, buckskin, paints, grays, 1 yr. to 3 yrs. \$250 & up, 698-0072.

Pets

Great Pyrenees puppies, \$150-\$400, 519-4140.

FREE – kittens of all colors, 341-0388.

FREE to good home – 3-yr.-old neutered male Rate Terrier mix, and a 5-mo.-old female Blue Heeler mix, spayed, 704-1708.

AKC Pembroke Welsh Corgies, sable & tri-colored, 5 females, 3 males, ready 2-20-09, 342-5717.

Full-blood Pit Bull puppies, 1 male, 1 female, no papers, \$50, 693-3527.

1-yr.-old Black Lab, \$25, 698-0072.

Real Estate

2006 16'x60' Legacy mobile home, 2 BDR, 2 BA, new paint & carpet, kitchen has center island & all appliances included, EC, \$19,000, 697-9657.

3 BDR, 2 BA, brick home on 5 acres w/ new 1,600 sq. ft. metal building, sheds, pond, nut & fruit trees, fenced pasture, garden, no restrictions, 7979 CR 2145 just S. of Hwy. 60, 4 miles west of Bartlesville, \$189,000, www.TheClays.com/fsbo, 841-6066.

3 BDR, 2 BA home on 1 acre, 2-car garage, 30'x30' shop w/electric, attached covered carport, n. of Owasso, 4.5 miles east of Hwy. 169, 1.5 miles n. of Hwy. 20, \$137,500, www.18427.info, 933-9564.

45 acres, 5 miles west of Oologah on 4050 Rd., 371-5211.

6 home building sites in new development overlooking Skiatook, sizes vary, utilities & covenant restrictions, WiFi service & lawn care available, developer builds energy-efficient custom homes, 214-1664.

2001 Solitaire 16'x80' mobile home, 3 BDR, 2 BA, new wood flooring in kitchen & living room, all appliances included, to be moved, \$27,500, 637-4891.

Updated comtemporary 3/2/4 home on 20 acres, includes income-producing Christmas tree and daylily farm, several outbuildings, farm/tree equipment, gift shop, irrigation system, & livestock acreage, \$349,900, 396-0215.

2.5 acres, 2.5 miles east of Hwy. 169 on 106th N. in Owasso, utilities, no trailers, \$95,000, 232-8665.

RVs & Boats

1986 Ranger 350-V, 150 hp OMC w/2 ss props, 2 new locators, new MinnKota Maxum 54 T.M., new tires, new batteries, hot foot, keel guard, well maintained, \$5,500; Motor Guide TM, 30-lb. foot control, EC, \$150, 693-0682.

1987 19' Glastron, I/O Bowrider, 135 hp, \$3,500, 396-3490.

2003 Bass Tracker Super Guide boat, V-14 w/console, 25 hp Mercury, kept in garage covered, \$5,200, 638-7825.

2004 Four Winds 190 Horizon Bowrider boat, w/swim platform & Volvo V-8 Penta engine w/about 120 hrs., includes tandem axle trailer w/collapsible tongue, 10 life vests, Bimini top, CD player, depth finder, custom winter boat cover & summer boat cover, garage kept, \$16,500, 396-1063.

2000 Suzuki 4-wheeler, 80cc, speed controlled by governor, new battery, well maintained, runs great, \$1,000, 695-2357.

Kids single-seat GoKart, 3 hp Briggs & Stratton engine needs work, 371-5792.

2003 Honda CRX 150 dirt bike, GC, \$1,400, 697-6112.

Honda 4-wheeler, GC, \$1,200, 475-2341.

Valvoline body GoKart, \$475, 639-6823.

Services

Professional carpet cleaning, 33 years experience, free estimates, 283-2777.

Tractor work, brush hogging, box blade & snow removal; livestock hauling in & out of state, 2 trucks and 32' trailers, 814-4944.

Auction service, consignment auction 2nd Saturday of each month, fund-raising, estate, farm & liquidation, 5 mi. west of Oologah on 4050 Rd., 371-5211.

House cleaning, bonded & insured, references, free estimates, 519-4140.

Repair work on farm tractors, semi-trucks & various types of equipment, engine overhauls, brakes & clutch jobs, over 30 yrs. experience on all types of equipment, free estimates, 273-7462.

Brush hogging, gravel work, Ditch Witch work, chainsaw sharpening, 639-6823.

Certified Home Health aide/nurses aide available to assist in daily activities, errand service, companionship & personal care, lots of references available, 545-2051.

Health insurance, let me shop for you, 899-9222.

CLASSIFIEDS

Mary Kay Cosmetics, skin care & glam-our products, free delivery, call about free samples, 273-8016, pknotts@fullnet.net.

2 dependable, caring caregivers w/17 yrs. experience, AVX to provide in-home care, CNA, Home Health licensed & CPR certified, 24-hr. high-quality activities of daily living w/personalized care, 371-4252 to schedule appointment & view presentation.

Take concealed gun classes, learn how to protect your family and yourself, 694-2250.

Register for a free Gourmet Candle and soap, visit www.naturallygourmet.scent-team.com, and check out awesome products & business opportunities, 396-9766.

Box blade, dozer work, 724-9589.

Brick, rock work, new or repair, mailboxes, cracks, flowerbeds, etc. 282-9927.

Commercial & residential tractor work, all seasons, bucket, box blade, brush hog & mowing services, free estimates, 695-1943.

Portable welding, 15 yrs. experience, free estimates, also, construction work, 255-3298.

10-15 people who desire immediate relief from asthma & allergies, to try & evaluate a new certified space technology, no cost or obligation, free gift for participants, www.freshairliving.com/thankins, 639-4356.

Above-ground steel safe rooms, 629-2707.

Brick, rock, patch, cracks, mailboxes, flowerbeds, small jobs, free estimates, no job too small, 720-1820.

Home repair, remodel, add-ons, decks, includes daily clean-up, references available, reasonable rates, free quotes, 20 yrs. experience, 396-7437.

Carpet installation & repair, 40 yrs. experience, vinyl, faux wood, 343-1845.

RV service & repair, heater, hot water, AC, plumbing, electrical, etc., specializing in roof repair & replacement, shop & mobile service, High Definition TV conversions, 704-8329, www.greencountryRVdoctor.com.

Photographer for team photos, portraits, events, jeanieyork.webs.com, 341-8361.

Get rid of ugly tree stumps, call 694-2297 for fair prices & quick access.

Fun, educational, award-winning books for all ages, www.startkidsreading.com, 371-0401 for personal shopping consultation.

Sewing, mending, alterations, customer provides pattern & fabric, reasonable prices, south of Claremore, 281-9306.

Wanted

Old costume jewelry, colored-stone type, old tractors dead or alive, 536-4215.

Good, nice Mustang wheels, 697-6112.

20' steel sides for grain truck; Hamermill screen for Gehl 65 grinder/mixer, 275-4776.

Stock trailer, cattle panels, buffalo calf, old pony, 845-5978.

Winchester shotgun, model 9410, w/ chokes, 342-1199.

Hard top for 1997 Jeep Wrangler, 396-2226.

Classified Ads

PLEASE NOTE: Deadline for all ads is the 10th of each month. Ads will be accepted in writing only and are a free service to VVEC members only. Send them to the attention of Power Circuit Editor, P. O. Box 219, Collinsville, OK 74021.

Your account number, name, address, and a phone number is required on all ads.

As many ads as space allows will be included in each issue. VVEC reserves the right to delete or shorten items or descriptions.

High-Tech Thermostats offer Potential Savings

Keeping your home hot or cold – depending on the season – accounts for a big chunk of your annual budget. In fact, the average U.S. homeowner spends \$2,500 a year on home energy with 56 percent, or \$1,400, going toward heating and cooling costs.

Not surprisingly, savings can add up in a hurry when heating and cooling systems are tweaked for maximum efficiency. You can easily trim your energy bills in winter by setting the thermostat at 68°F while you're awake and back a few degrees when to go to sleep or are away from home.

Even better, turning your thermostat back 10° to 15° for eight hours can save about 5 percent to 15 percent a year on your heating bill – about 1 percent for each degree.

The location of your thermostat can greatly affect its performance and efficiency. Place thermostats away from direct sunlight, drafts, doorways, skylights, and windows.

Read the manufacturer's instructions to prevent "ghost readings" or unnecessary furnace or air conditioner cycling.

Installing a programmable thermostat can take the thought out of saving energy. Your heating and cooling system will ramp up or switch off according to a preset time of day or even day of the week. Most models let you manually override the schedule without affecting the rest of the daily or weekly program.

Programmable thermostats are generally not recommended for heat pumps. In cooling mode, a heat pump operates like an air conditioner, so turning up the thermostat will save energy and money. But when a heat pump works in its heating mode, setting back the thermostat can cause the unit to operate inefficiently, thereby canceling out any savings achieved by lowering the temperature. Maintaining a moderate setting is the most cost-effective practice. 

NEWS

Members Owed Capital Credits Listed on Co-op Web Site

A list of members who have not collected their Capital Credits can now be found on our Web site – www.vvec.com.

Frequently, members don't give us a forwarding address when they move off of co-op lines, so we don't know where to send their Capital Credit checks.

If you know a former member, please encourage him or her to visit the Web site to see if their name is on the list. Or call us if you have information on how to reach someone on the list.

Why Energy Efficiency is so Important

Have you ever heard the fable about the ant and the grasshopper? On a sunny summer day, a grasshopper was flitting about, and came across an ant toiling under the weight of a kernel of corn.

“Why all the hard work?” the grasshopper asked.

“I’m collecting this corn for winter, and recommend you do the same,” the ant replied.

“Why bother storing corn now? There’s plenty to go around!” the grasshopper scoffed, hopping off into the sun.

Well, we all know how that winter went for the grasshopper, who never did get around to storing any corn.

That valuable lesson also applies to the electricity we use every day. VVEC and electric cooperatives across the country stand at a crossroads. At the moment, we are able to power our homes with the mere flip of a switch, as safe, reliable, and affordable electricity remains readily available. The grasshoppers of the world are happy.

But in recent years, several factors – increasing demand for electricity, rising fuel and construction costs, and decisions limiting what types of power plants we can build – place our energy future in limbo. The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) predicts that our need for electricity will climb by 30 percent between now and 2030. Unfortunately, the power available may not be able to keep up with this growth as construction of new generation capacity is being put on hold while Congress reworks national energy policy.

However, we do have a powerful resource to tap in the meantime: energy efficiency. With widespread energy efficiency measures in place, including those we’ve implemented on our distribution lines as well as measures you can take at home, annual growth in electricity demand could drop by almost half of 1 percent, to 2.2 percent, according to the

Arlington, Va.-based Cooperative Research Network.

In other words, saving electricity now will both reduce your current utility bills and soften the blow against future power supply shortcomings. And being energy efficient doesn’t mean being flat-out stingy with energy use. It means doing things in your home you normally would, but in a smarter way. Compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs) are a great example. By simply changing an old incandescent bulb to a swirled CFL equivalent, you can get the same light while using 75 percent less electricity.

VVEC is on your side in this effort, and we have a long history of helping members get the most out of the power coming down our lines. The vast majority of electric cooperatives across the nation – 92 percent – join us in these efforts.

Please contact us if you would like to learn more about making your home more energy efficient. Or go online at www.energysavers.gov, a valuable Web site maintained by the U.S. Department of Energy. Together we can save those “kernels of power” for an uncertain future, and reduce our electric bills in the meantime. 

