

**OAEC Annual Meeting Recap p. 3**

# Youth Tour Finalists Win Trip to Washington, D.C., Scholarships



*Oologah-Talala English teacher Rebekah Askew helps her students prepare to give oral presentations of their essays before the VVEC Youth Tour banquet April 5. Standing next to Askew are (left to right) Colton Hayes, Tucker Nesbitt, Luke Stringer and Luke Sterling.*

For two Oologah-Talala High School students, this summer is going to be a memorable one.

Luke Stringer and Colton Hayes will spend a week in Washington, D. C. as winners of VVEC's annual Youth Tour essay contest.

They were two of four finalists, all of whom are juniors at Oologah-Talala High School and students of Rebekah Askew's advanced placement (AP) English class.

Luke is the son of Dr. Bill and Shelly Stringer. He is the Oologah Stallion Battalion drum major, along with being a member of the National Honor Society, OHS Science Club, Swim and Soccer teams, and serves as secretary of the

History Club. He is captain of the OHS academic team, where he is also a state qualifier. Luke is also a member of the Boy Scouts and Venture Scouts, team and crew #199, and will soon be an Eagle Scout.

He plans to attend college after high school and major in architecture.

Colton Hayes is the son of David and Connie Hayes. In addition to his AP classes at OHS, he is also taking college courses. He is the treasurer of the Business Professionals of America club, and is on the OHS tennis team. He too plans to attend college, and is interested in graphic design.

Rounding out the team of finalists

are Tucker Nesbitt and Luke Sterling, who each won \$500 scholarships.

Tucker is the son of Kenneth and Tonja Nesbitt. He is on the OHS tennis and swim teams, and plans to study some type of engineering degree in college.

Luke is the son of Robert Sterling and Carla Lamberson. His interests lean toward music; he is a member of the high school band, and is worship leader at the Oologah Assembly of God Church. He plans to go to college and concentrate on being a sound engineer or music producer.

"These four young men are outstanding individuals, and accomplished students," says Kay Rabbitt-Brower, VVEC Youth Tour and Energy Camp coordinator. "We are delighted they chose to participate in the competition this year, and feel each of them is a winner."

Rabbitt-Brower goes on to say "We also want to thank their teacher Rebekah Askew for continuing to be a strong supporter of our program. Because of that support and her dedication to her students, we frequently have Oologah-Talala students as finalists and winners."

This year's Youth Tour is June 15 through June 21.

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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.,  
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**Owasso Eighth Graders Tyler Goodman and Delaney Marsh Heading to Energy Camp**

Two Owasso eighth graders are VVEC's delegates to the 2012 Youth Power Energy Camp.

Tyler Goodman, son of James and Shelly Goodman, and Delaney Marsh, daughter of Bryan and Trena Marsh,

are winners of the essay competition designed especially for young people their age.

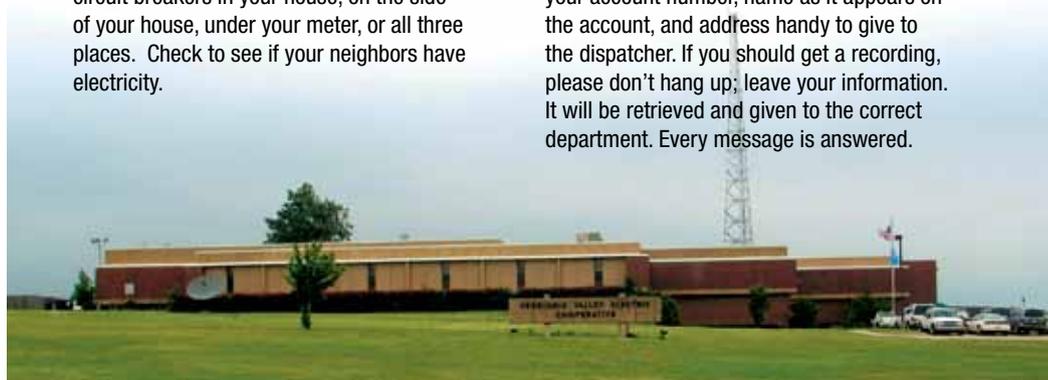
Energy Camp is four days at Canyon Camp near Hinton, where Tyler and Delaney will help form a Coke and Candy co-op, learn leadership skills, climb a utility pole, and take a skyline ride in a bucket truck.

Tyler and Delaney are pictured above with their English teacher Pat Davis, who is a strong supporter of VVEC's Energy Camp essay contest.



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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.

VOLUME 71 • NUMBER 5 • MAY 2012

# 'We Shine as One' is Theme of OAEC Annual Meeting

Just as VVEC has an annual meeting for you to learn about the status of your cooperative, and issues affecting the electric utility industry, so does the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives hold an annual meeting for its member co-ops such as VVEC.

Trustees, managers, and key personnel from each of Oklahoma's 28 distribution co-ops and two generation and transmission (G&T) co-ops attended the two-day meeting in Oklahoma City.

Glenn English, chief executive officer for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, and former Oklahoma Congressman, told the crowd "Our Work isn't Finished." He reminded everyone of "the program," of making life better for our members.

"It's about the quality of life," he said. "That's why this program began. It's about giving people the right to come together and empowering them to improve their quality of life."

Attendees also viewed a presentation on the International Year of the Co-op, as declared by the United Nations, and heard an historical account of the cooperative movement in Oklahoma by co-op member and long-time co-op advocate Larry Derryberry.

Awards were given recognizing co-ops who have earned their safety accreditation, linemen who have completed training programs and become certified, and communicators whose publications

and Web sites were recognized for achievement in excellence.

Following a business meeting the second day, the group adjourned to the state Capitol to

meet with legislators.

The Oklahoma House of Representatives adopted a resolution recognizing the impact made by the cooperative form of business as co-op delegates filled the House gallery. Following the resolution being read on the House floor, the Representatives recognized the large co-op delegation with a standing ovation.



Representatives David Derby, (above center) Dist. 74, and Marty Quinn (below center) Dist. 9, took time during their busy day to visit with VVEC trustees Vernon Lewis (left) and Jimmy Lambert at the Capitol.



## Professional Pats on the Back

VVEC employees were recognized during the OAEC annual meeting for earning journeyman certification and for excellence in communication.

General Manager Alice Houston congratulated lineman Mike McClellan (center) for completing the OAEC journeyman lineman training program. McClellan, who works overhead and underground construction for VVEC, successfully completed the four-year program which provides instruction on all aspects of working in the co-op's operations department. The program meets both national and state certification requirements.

Mike Hall, VVEC director of operations services, engineering and purchasing, says with the exception of four linemen who are currently enrolled in the program, all line personnel have now earned this certification.

Kay Rabbitt-Brower (right) VVEC communications specialist and editor, accepted an award of merit for VVEC's 2010 annual report.



### RECIPE

## Pork Kebobs

- 1/4 cup fresh lime juice
- 2 Tbsp. olive oil
- 1 tsp. red or yellow curry powder
- 1/4 tsp. dried crushed red pepper
- 1 (3-lb.) pork loin, trimmed and cut into 1-inch pieces
- 18 (8-inch) wooden or metal skewers

Whisk together first 4 ingredients. Place pork in a shallow dish or large zip-top plastic freezer bag; pour lime juice mixture over pork. Cover or seal, and chill 1 hour, turning occasionally.

Soak wooden skewers in water 30 minutes to prevent burning.

Remove pork from marinade, discarding marinade. Thread 5 pork pieces evenly onto each skewer, leaving a little space between pieces.

Grill pork, covered with grill lid, over medium-high heat (350° to 400°) 7 to 9 minutes or until done, turning once.