

NE CONNECTION

A PUBLICATION OF NORTHEAST OKLAHOMA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



YOUTH PROGRAMS
CAMPS, TOURS, & SCHOLARSHIPS

JANUARY 2020



Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives

NE CONNECTION

A PUBLICATION OF NORTHEAST OKLAHOMA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Northeast Connection is published monthly to communicate with the members of Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative.

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Larry Cisneros - Engineering
David Cusick - NRS-ROW
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Lindey Leforce - Member Services
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Nick Sutton - Operations

VINITA HEADQUARTERS

27039 South 4440 Road, Vinita, OK 74301

GROVE OFFICE

212 South Main, Grove, OK 74344

BUSINESS HOURS

Monday-Friday, 8am to 4:30pm

Offices are closed Saturday, Sunday and holidays.

AVAILABLE 24 HOURS AT

1.800.256.6405

If you experience an outage:

1. Check your switch or circuit breaker in the house and on the meter pole to be sure the trouble is not on your side of the service.
2. When contacting the cooperative to report an outage, use the name as it appears on your bill, and have both your pole number and account number ready.

Please direct all editorial inquiries to Public Relations at 800.256.6405 or email publicrelations@noec.coop

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A LITTLE HISTORY OF

Our Subsidiary...

Northeast Rural Services, Inc.

David Cusick
Manager of NRS-ROW

I am in my 36th year with the cooperative and have seen many changes over the years. I was thinking many of you might like to

know a little history about Northeast Rural Services, Inc.

Northeast Rural Services, Inc., was established in 1986 as a subsidiary of Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative, Inc. In addition to providing electricity to the rural areas, your cooperative saw a need to get television out to the rural areas. Rural areas were accessing television by antennas only. Initially the subsidiary provided C-Band satellite services. Remember those large dishes that used to be in yards across the rural areas? When the C-Band technology started to fade and DBS satellites were taking the industry by storm, the subsidiary upgraded and moved to providing DirectTV DBS satellite services. As the satellite industry began to grow, more services began popping up in rural areas, at which time the cooperative opted to sell its DirectTV franchise.

The cooperative has always provided right-of-way maintenance on its system, but a growing need from our sister cooperatives expanded our right-of-way program. NRS, also known as the right-of-way services piece of the subsidiary, was formed in 1997. NRS began providing right-of-way mechanical clearing and herbicide application services for our sister cooperatives in Oklahoma. We later included Missouri, Kansas and Arkansas.

Another service we offer at the cooperative is Stihl sales and service. We have a MasterWrench Certified Gold Technician who maintains all of the subsidiary and cooperative Stihl equipment, while also providing sales and service to the public. Our sales and service shop is located out of our office in Vinita, Oklahoma.

Another piece of the subsidiary is RECtec Technology and Communications (RECtec). RECtec was established to provide paging and two-way radio services in our area. It mainly aided police, sheriff, and fire departments as well as some residential customers. In addition, RECtec started providing dial-up Internet services to communities in Northeast Oklahoma, along with dedicated broadband to rural schools and hospitals. NRS eventually sold the dial-up business as more and more dial-up options became accessible to rural communities.

Continued on Page 03.



08

SLOW COOKER RECIPES

ON OUR COVER

A Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative line crew supplies power to a new church in the Delaware County community of Twin Oaks. Engineering Fieldman Nick Koger said that the crew upgraded and repositioned a 200 Amp overhead secondary service that was currently located on southeast portion of the property to a 400 Amp underground primary service closer to the church building. The NOEC crew working here included Adam Carter, D. J. Troyer, Daniel McCann, Jasper Smith, and intern Cody Daniels.



10

YOUTH PROGRAMS

\$100 IS HIDING!

Search the pages of NE Connection for a 6-digit account number with an asterisk on each side. For example: *XXXXXX*. Compare it to your account number, which appears on your monthly electric bill. If they match, contact the cooperative at 918.256.9332, by February 3, 2020 to claim a \$100 credit on your electric account.

Events are published as space allows and must be submitted at least 60 days in advance. Send information, including phone number for publication, to Northeast Connection Events Calendar, PO Box 948, Vinita 74301 or to sarah.wilhelm@noec.coop.

JANUARY 2020

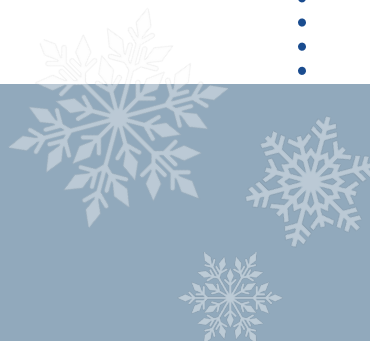
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- **FIRST DAY HIKE**
Jan 1 | Afton
 54101 OK-85A
 918.786.9079
- **BEARSKIN SOCCER CAMP**
Jan 20-21 | Wyandotte
 1 Turtle Drive
 918.678.2282
- **POOL TOURNAMENT**
Jan 8 | Grove
 33450 S 620 Road
 918.786.2375
- **METROPOLITAN WEDDING EXPO**
Jan 26 | Quapaw
 69300 Nee Road
 888.396.7876
- **NJCAA WRESTLING DUALS**
Jan 10 | Miami
 200 I Street NE
 1.888.GO.GO.NEO
- **NEO A&M COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT**
Jan 23-25 | Miami
 200 I Street NE
 1.888.GO.GO.NEO
- **MYSTERIOUS FOUR STATES**
Jan 18 | Miami
 103 N Main Street
 918.540.2425
- **TULSA BOAT, SPORT & TRAVEL SHOW**
Jan 27-Feb 2 | Tulsa
 4145 E 21st Street
 918.519.1210

TIPS & TRICKS

WINTER ELECTRICAL SAFETY

- **Make sure your home is equipped with functioning carbon monoxide detectors.** Carbon Monoxide (CO) is an odorless gas that kills at high concentrations and causes serious and irreversible injuries at lower levels. Deaths from carbon monoxide poisoning increase during the winter months due to the use of common fuels like natural gas, wood and coal. Installing an inexpensive carbon monoxide detector can save your family's life.
- **Keep outdoor outlets closed.** Check your outdoor outlets regularly to ensure that they don't have an accumulation of ice and snow on them. Keep them cleared off and closed to avoid moisture from invading the receptacle box and causing an outage.
- **Practice outdoor extension cord safety.** Extension cords are often used during the winter months to power snow blowers and other equipment. If you use an extension cord, ensure that its wattage and voltage are compatible with your power equipment. Your extension cord should also be equipped with a ground fault interruption device to avoid electrical shock. ***970671***
- **Use caution with electric blankets.** Never use an electric blanket while you're sleeping. Make sure the plug and cord are in good shape; otherwise it can pose a fire hazard. Be sure to dispose of electric blankets that have worn or damaged areas.
- **Be careful with your kitchen appliances.** While crockpots and other slow-cooking devices get a lot of use in the winter, you should never leave them turned on when no one is home. Leaving them unattended is a major fire risk. And be sure to check electrical kitchen appliances for frayed or damaged cords and plugs before use.



WINTER ENERGY EFFICIENCY

- **Lay down a rug for more heat. You'll not only help insulate your floors, but you'll cut down on the noise too.**
- **Don't heat unnecessary places. Avoid heating areas of your home that are not insulated such as a garage, crawlspaces, attic, or storage sheds.**
- **Protect your windows - clear plastic sheeting on your windows can add more insulation and reduce icy drafts with minimal effort and cost.**
- **Heat your home responsibly. Cranking up the heat to warm the house quickly doesn't work. The house will warm up at the same rate, regardless of the temperature setting.**

COOPERATIVE OFFERING

'KID-FRIENDLY' SAFETY PRESENTATIONS

Thanks to a program available from Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative (NOEC), area students can receive an introduction to electrical safety.

NOEC is offering traveling safety presentations upon request to elementary school classrooms and local youth organizations like Boys & Girls Clubs. Presentations utilize visual aids and are geared toward a younger audience.

"Children are naturally curious, of course, and there are many hazards that can be encountered during their exploration," remarked NOEC Youth Programs Coordinator Clint Branham. "The purpose of this safety program is to create an awareness of certain basic electrical dangers that children can avoid before a mistake is made that cannot be undone."

For more information, contact Branham at 918.256.9340 or email: clint.branham@noec.coop.



Added Branham: "We also want to emphasize with this program that learning about electrical safety doesn't have to be a boring experience. It is our hope that conveying safety information in a fun environment will help children retain it for a lifetime."

A LITTLE HISTORY

CONTINUED FROM INSIDE COVER

As technologies improved, RECtec no longer provided paging and two-way radio services, but still provides fiber optic Internet service to schools, which takes me to the newest venture—BOLT Fiber Optic Services. BOLT Fiber is the Fiber to The Home (FTTH) project that the subsidiary launched several years ago. BOLT recently reached 10,000-plus customers and continues to grow. BOLT Fiber provides high speed

Internet, television services, and VOIP (Voice Over Internet Protocol) telephone service.

Northeast Rural Services, Inc., was founded to provide additional services not previously available to our membership. That goal is still what drives the subsidiary and will continue to help rural members access new technologies.

NOEC REWARDING OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative is inviting area students to participate in its 2019-2020 school year youth programs and in return receive some much-deserved recognition.

The cooperative is sponsoring two essay contests, as well as a college scholarship opportunity. Information can be found online at www.noec.coop under the Community Services tab. Interested individuals can request information by emailing clint.branham@noec.coop or by phone at 1.800.256.6405, ext. 9340. Please use the forms on the following pages to participate.



COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP

High school seniors whose parents or guardians are Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative members and who live in a household served by NOEC electric are encouraged to apply for a \$1,000 college scholarship. Application deadline is March 20, 2020. Four winners will be selected. Scholarship applications are available upon request.

YOUTH TOUR

NOEC will be sending four high school juniors from its service area on a week-long, all-expense-paid tour of our nation's capital in 2020 as part of its annual Youth Tour essay contest. If you are in the eleventh grade and attend school within the cooperative service area of Mayes, Delaware, Craig and Ottawa Counties (or Chelsea High School in Rogers County) you are eligible to enter this contest. Youth Tour hopefuls can submit a written essay of 500 words or more on the topic: "Of The Seven Cooperative Principles, My Favorite Is...". Submissions must be received on or before March 6, 2020. Youth Tour winners will visit Washington, D. C., June 19-25, 2020.

ENERGY CAMP

Four eighth-graders from the cooperative service area will enjoy a week-long adventure at Canyon Camp near beautiful Red Rock Canyon in Hinton, Oklahoma, during the 2020 Energy Camp. A winning essay will earn these eighth-graders an opportunity to take part in a fun and educational trip that comes around only once. A written essay of 500 words or fewer on the topic: "What I Can Do To Save Energy" may be submitted between now and April 3, 2020. Energy Camp runs May 26-29, 2020.

CLASSROOM INCENTIVE

NOEC is encouraging area teachers to get involved and incorporate the essay contests into classroom curriculum. If an instructor whose administration of an essay as part of classroom curriculum produces a contest finalist, he or she could be rewarded with as much as \$200 toward the purchase of classroom materials or equipment.

Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative Application for \$1,000 Scholarship

For Area High School Seniors | Deadline: March 20, 2020

I. Personal Information

Full Name _____ Date of Birth _____
Home Address _____
Parents or Guardians: *Name and address if not the same.* _____
Household Account # with Northeast Electric _____
Home Phone Number _____ Email Address _____
Name of High School _____ Year Graduating _____
What college or university do you plan to attend? _____
What will be your major field of study? _____

II. Financial Information

Household Income -\$20,000/yr \$20,001 - \$37,999/yr \$38,000 - \$69,999/yr \$70,000/yr+
Number in Family _____
Factors or circumstances that affect your financial need _____

Other scholarships, grants, or financial awards you
have received _____

III. Academic Performance & Potential: *Please Attach High School Transcript*

High School Grade Point Average _____
Most Recent ACT and/or SAT Score, Plus Others ACT _____ SAT _____ Other _____
Honors & Recognition Received _____

Other Academic Achievements: *i.e. advanced placement course work, Vo-Tech education, etc.* _____

IV. Other Activities: *List Includes During High School Only*

Participation In Extra-Curricular Activities _____

Membership In Organizations _____

Offices Held In Organizations _____

Work Experience Are You Currently Employed? _____
What Type of Work? _____ Other Types of Work? _____

All applicants must reside in a household served by NOEC, be in the top one-third of his/her graduating class, submit two letters of recommendation (one school source & one character reference), and submit an official copy of their high school transcript. Return this application with the supporting documentation listed above to: Scholarship Coordinator, Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative, PO Box 948, Vinita, Oklahoma 74301. For more information about NOEC's college scholarship please contact Clint Branham at 918.256.9340 or clint.branham@noec.coop **All information submitted is confidential.**



Youth Tour Essay Contest

For Area High School Juniors

Tour Date: June 19-25, 2020 | Contest Deadline: March 6, 2020

Win an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. Submit a 500-word (or more) essay on the topic: **"Of the Seven Cooperative Principles, My Favorite Is..."**

Name _____ Age _____ Date of Birth _____

Names of Both Parents/Guardians _____

Home Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email Address _____

School _____ Name of Instructor _____

If essay is administered as part of a classroom assignment.

If selected, I will attend Youth Tour Yes No

I agree to abide by the rules of the contest and decision of the judges* Yes No

Signature of Student _____ Tee Shirt Size _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____

**Essay winners are required to provide a Social Security # and birth date for purchase of airline ticket. Photo ID will be required at airport.*

Mail or Deliver:

Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative, c/o Youth Tour, PO Box 948, Vinita, OK 74301

For More Information Contact:

Clint Branham, Youth Programs Coordinator, at 918.256.9340 or clint.branham@noec.coop



Energy Camp Essay Contest

For Area 8th-Grade Students

Camp Date: May 26-29, 2020 | Contest Deadline: April 3, 2020

Win an all-expense paid trip to Energy Camp in Hinton, Oklahoma, by submitting a 500-word (or fewer) written essay on the topic: **"What I Can Do to Save Energy."**

Name _____ Age _____ Date of Birth _____

Names of Both Parents/Guardians _____

Home Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email Address _____

School _____ Name of Instructor _____

If essay is administered as part of a classroom assignment.

If selected, I will attend Energy Camp Yes No

I agree to abide by the rules of the contest and
decision of the judges Yes No

Signature of Student _____ Tee Shirt Size _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____

Mail or Deliver:

Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative, c/o Energy Camp, PO Box 948, Vinita, OK 74301

For More Information Contact:

Clint Branham, Youth Programs Coordinator, at 918.256.9340 or clint.branham@noec.coop



JANUARY IS NATIONAL **SLOW COOKER MONTH**



SUBMITTED BY: MITZI LOVE

MISSISSIPPI POT ROAST CROCK-POT

- **1-3 lbs Chuck Roast**
- **1 Packet Dry Ranch Dressing**
- **1 Packet Dry Au Jus Gravy**
- **1 Stick of Butter**
- **8 Pepperoncini Peppers from Jar**
- **1 Bag of Carrots**
- **2 Cups of Water**
- **Salt & Pepper to Taste**

Put roast in slow cooker and add 1 stick of butter. Sprinkle dry ranch dressing and au jus packets over roast. Add pepperoncinis and juice, 2 cups of water, carrots, and salt and pepper. Cover and cook for 6 hours or longer on high heat.

Serve with mashed potatoes, vegetables, or hot dinner rolls.

FEBRUARY IS NATIONAL CHOCOLATE LOVERS MONTH!
KEEP YOUR EYE OUT FOR THE NEXT NE CONNECTION.



SUBMITTED BY: SARAH WILHELM

SLOW COOKER BEANIE WEENIES

- 28 oz Canned Pork & Beans
- 8 oz Hot Dogs or About 5 Dogs
- 1/2 Onion
- 1 Tbl Yellow Mustard
- 3 Slices of Cooked & Chopped Bacon
- 1/4 Cup Light or Dark Brown Sugar
- Salt & Pepper to Taste

Cut the hot dogs into pieces then add all ingredients to slow cooker and stir to combine. Cover and cook on low for 6 to 7 hours.

Serve as a side or main dish! This recipes serves about 6 people.

SUBMITTED BY: RON & MERILYN PARKER

CROCK-POT CANDY

- 16 oz Dry Roasted Salted Peanuts
- 16 oz Dry Roasted Unsalted Peanuts
- 12 oz Package Semi-Sweet Chocolate Chips
- 4 oz German Chocolate Bar
- 32 oz White Almond Bark

Put peanuts in the bottom of your slow cooker. Add other ingredients (break up chocolate bar and almond bark).

Cook on low for 1 1/2 to 2 hours then stir. Place rounded spoonfuls onto wax or parchment paper to cool. Serve once cooled.

Ron & Marilyn's note: Don't peak until candy is cooked!



CO-OP CONNECTIONS CARD

DELIVERS DISCOUNTS TO MEMBERS



Use the Co-op Connections card you already have, download the app, or print out your own card at www.connections.coop.

For more than 10 years, NOEC members have enjoyed discounts on local, regional and national offers with the Cooperative Connections Card.

You can still present your card to merchants and businesses to obtain valuable savings.

Use the card you already have or print one at the connections.coop website. You can even download the app and use the card from your phone. While you are at the website, check out all the money-saving offers from a list of local, regional, and national merchants and businesses.

JANUARY 2020 DEALS

BLESSINGS IN BLOOM FLOWERS & GIFTS

247 W 6th St, Chelsea, OK | 918.789.3691

Offer 10% off all in-store purchases (excluding wire service orders)

PARKS PORTABLE BUILDINGS

315 Walnut St, Chelsea, OK | 918.789.2694

Offer Free mower ramp with any building purchase.

CHELSEA FAMILY PHARMACY

600 Walnut St, Chelsea, OK | 918.789.2241

Offer 25% off any \$25 over-the-counter or gift purchase.

DR. BUTNER FAMILY EYE CARE

529 N Wilson St, Vinita, OK | 918.256.5543

Offer 30% off any in-stock frame & prescription lenses. Some restrictions apply.

ANGELA'S RESTAURANT

109 W Canadian, Vinita, OK | 918.256.6965

Offer 10% off purchase.