

# NE CONNECTION

A PUBLICATION OF NORTHEAST OKLAHOMA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

**MEMBER RECIPES**  
CELEBRATE STRAWBERRY MONTH

**MEMBER RESOURCES**

**MAY 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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## 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 [ask@noec.coop](mailto:ask@noec.coop)*

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## SUMMER SAFETY

### Tim Mixson

Manager of Safety & Loss Control

Summer means spending time outdoors. School is out and whether that means a vacation or stay-cation, safety should not take time off this summer. As people venture into the "Great Outdoors,"

they need to be thinking electrical safety. Before starting any activity, whether it be work or play, check your

surroundings to make sure you are safe. Look up to see where power lines are located. This includes both high-voltage power lines and service drops to the house. Make sure swimming pools are at least twenty-five feet from power lines. Look up before using a ladder. It is a good idea to keep ladders at least 10 feet from all power lines. Be especially careful with ladders such as aluminum that are conductive.

Look up when trimming, climbing, or cutting trees. Trees near power lines can be dangerous, especially if children climb in them. Look up before flying kites or drones. Look up before operating or installing equipment that could contact a power line. Examples are, but not limited to, flag poles, television antennas, grain augers, grain bins, fuel tanks, and miscellaneous farm equipment.

Look down before doing excavation of any type. Underground (buried) power lines are very common. While still less common than overhead power lines in northeast Oklahoma, they can exist almost anywhere. Above-ground equipment that serves underground facilities is easily located. These are the green boxes such as transformers, junction cans, and switching cans commonly seen near homes and businesses served by underground electrical service.

Children should never play on or near these boxes and items should never be placed on top of them. Underground power lines, however, are not easily located by simply looking. When locating underground power lines, you will need a little help. Oklahoma has the OKIE 811 one-call system in place. All you need to do is call 811 to request an underground line locate. An operator will assist you with your request. You can also request a locate online.

You need to plan well in advance of your project. Oklahoma requires you request a locate no more than ten days or less than forty-eight hours, excluding the date of notification, Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays. After a request is made, OKIE 811 will contact the affected utility operators.

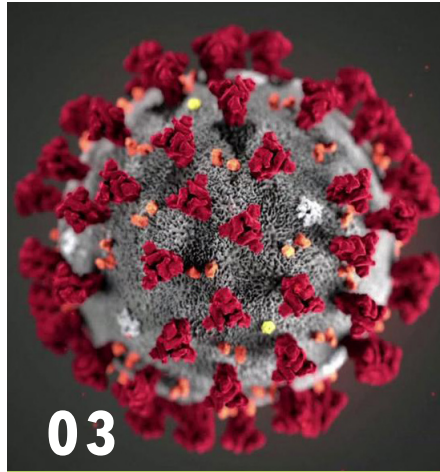
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RIGHT-OF-WAY UPDATE

### \$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 June 1, 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 email to ask@noec.coop.

## FUN THINGS TO DO AT HOME

### • COSTUME PARTY

Host an evening where everyone dresses up at home. It can even be a themed costume party.

### • BRING OUT YOUR ART SUPPLIES

Whether you like clay, watercolor, drawing or something else, set up a little corner to start practicing art again.

### • WORK THROUGH A COOKBOOK

Have recipe books you've only used as table decor? Pick them up and dive in!

### • FLEX YOUR GREEN THUMB

If you're able to safely spend time in your yard, now is a good time to get into gardening.

### • TEACH YOUR COMMUNITY

For example, host a Zoom session in your area of expertise (like taxes if you're an accountant or yoga if you're an instructor) and spread the word on social media.

### • TRY AN AT HOME WORKOUT

There are so many great at-home apps to try. You could opt for a guided class or just look up moves to replicate at your own pace.

### • RESEARCH A NEW TOPIC

Now is the time to educate yourself!





## CORONAVIRUS MEMBER RESOURCES

**Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative and BOLT Fiber Optic Services are here to serve its members through pandemics and good times. If you have difficulty paying your bill due to a loss of income or business disruption as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, please call us at 1.800.256.6405 so we can look at ways to help you. We have plans in place and may be able to delay service disconnection or waive late fees.**

### **Pay by MoneyGram at Walmart**

Pay your bill with cash. Please note there is a processing fee of \$1.50 for this service. You will need the following: Receiver code 15265, your account number, and cash to pay your bill.

### **Pay by Automatic Bank Draft**

Pay your bill using your checking account or credit card. Please contact our office and we will provide the form you need to get started.

## **NEEDING A FORM?**

### **Application for Service & More**

Landlord letter forms, medical certificate forms, auto pay forms and other forms can be found on our website at [www.noec.coop](http://www.noec.coop). Choose the Member Services tab, then the Form Downloads tab. All forms can be found here. You can also contact us at 1.800.2566405. We will be happy to send forms to you.

### **Questions or Concerns?**

Please do not hesitate to reach out to us so we may assist you further, 1.800.256.6405.

## **PAYING YOUR NOEC BILL**

### **Pay On Our Cooperative Website: [www.noec.coop](http://www.noec.coop)**

Choose "Pay Your Bill" from the home page and you will be presented with the option to pay using your 6-digit electric account number and last name.

### **Pay by Phone: 1.800.256.6405**

Give us a call and choose Option 2 to pay with a bank card, credit card, or store-loaded card.

### **Pay By PaySite Kiosk**

Have your account number handy. You will be given several prompts to verify account information. Please note the kiosks do not give change, so the total amount of cash deposited will be posted to your account.

### **PaySite Kiosk Locations**

- Harps Food Store, 300 E Layton, Chelsea, OK
- Harps Food Store, 1120 S Main, Grove, OK
- Homeland, 1629 S Main, Jay, OK
- Harps Food Store, 710 E Main, Locust Grove, OK
- Harps Food Store, 111 E Ferry, Salina, OK
- Shout & Sack, 305 S Wilson, Vinita, OK
- Homeland, 925 S Mill, Pryor, OK
- Reasor's, 1624 N 3rd St, Langley, OK

# VIRUS RAVAGES THE GLOBE

## BRINGS CHANGE TO EVERY ASPECT OF LIFE

**As the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic continues to escalate on a global scale, the repercussions are also being felt closer to home. As of this writing, more than one million coronavirus cases have been recorded worldwide, resulting in 51,000 deaths.**

From the outset of the pandemic, health agencies such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have strongly urged mitigation protocol such as self-quarantine, social distancing, respiratory hygiene, and frequent handwashing.

Reaction from the general public created an initial wave of panic buying that cleared store shelves of everything from shelf-stable foodstuffs to hand sanitizer, although toilet paper may be the most-hoarded item during the frenzied stockpiling.

The virus that now races across the globe is thought to have originated in the Hubei province of China, where a 55-year-old individual may have been the first to have contracted the SARS-CoV-2 strain. That case dates back to Nov. 17, 2019, according to the South Morning China Post.

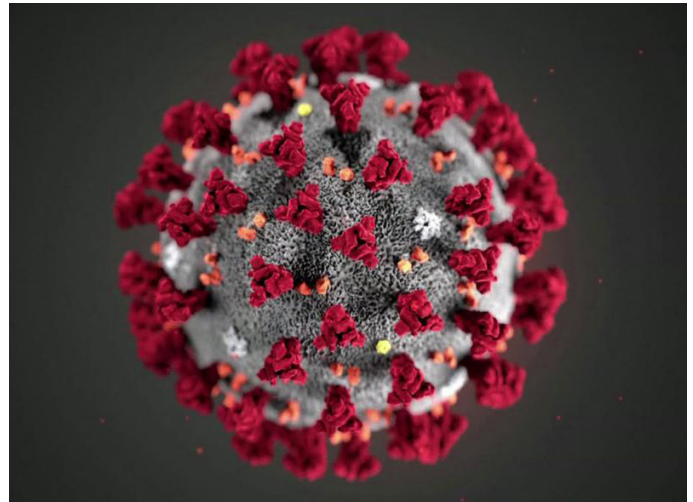
Authorities suspect the virus came from something sold at a wet market in Wuhan, China, a city of 11 million people. Scientists believe a bat was the original carrier and somehow infected another animal, possibly the pangolin, which in turn passed it on to humans. The disease now spreads between people without an animal intermediary.

China has confirmed 81,596 cases and 3,312 deaths from the coronavirus.

Italy and Spain were especially hard hit, each now with well over 100,000 cases and 10,000 deaths. Italy had at least 115,242 confirmed cases and 13,915 deaths from the coronavirus. Meanwhile, confirmed cases in Spain reached 110,238 with 10,096 deaths.

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres warned that the pandemic is the most challenging crisis the world has faced since World War II.

The first case of the coronavirus was confirmed on U.S. soil by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on January 17.



It was a man in his 30s who began to experience pneumonia-like symptoms after returning to Seattle, Washington, from traveling in Wuhan. Based on the patient's travel history and symptoms, healthcare professionals suspected coronavirus. A clinical specimen was collected and sent to the CDC overnight, where laboratory testing confirmed the diagnosis.

The U.S. now leads the world with more than 236,339 confirmed cases. As of April 1, there were 5,648 deaths in the U.S.

Coronavirus infection numbers in Oklahoma continue to grow as tests become available. Statewide there have been 721 cases reported thus far with 30 deaths. Here in the four northeastern-most counties of the state combined, there have been 22 cases reported and one death. As of April 1, Delaware County had eight cases, Ottawa County seven, Mayes County five and Craig County two. The lone death was that of a Mayes County man on...

**There has also been an obvious and direct impact to the local economy as non-essential businesses shutter and those considered essential try to find creative ways to sustain revenue as the rules of doing business seem to change daily. Local churches are relying on social media outlets to livestream services for congregants. Schools are also rallying by reaching out to students through distance learning avenues.**

*Continued on next page.*



**Kenny Guthrie, in his sixth year as Superintendent at Cleora Public School, confirmed the challenge for local educators.**

**"The COVID-19 impact has been monumental," said Guthrie. "We have shut down for the remainder of the school year by order of the OSDE. During this stretch we are required to function at bare minimum with essential staff only. The closure of school will have a direct impact on how we operate and function as a whole."**

Guthrie said all school facilities are closed to both employees and the public. Only essential staff will be present to perform duties considered essential such as cleaning, meal preparation, and conducting front office business. In order to balance the safety and welfare of essential employees, office hours and production times will be reduced and limited.

"We were not allowed to provide instruction to our students during the first two weeks of the closure, however, the restriction has been lifted and we are ready to begin home-based, virtual learning through our Continuous Distance Learning Plan (CDLP)," he said.

Cleora began April 6 to administer its CDLP and will carry it out each week until the last day of school on May 8.

**"Our teachers and staff have worked diligently and with great effort to prepare for this," he said. "Our school board members have been engaged from the beginning and provide superb leadership and support for our school and community. Because of these combined efforts, I have never been more proud than I am right now to be associated with Cleora Public School."**

Cleora will also continue its nutrition program as well. Guthrie said this meal program will be vital during this time of crisis and he hoped it will help families eliminate the cost of extra meals during the day and provide meals to children who may not otherwise have them.

"Over the last two weeks we have been preparing two meals per day for our students," he said. "We offer this service to any family who has a child or children 18 years old or younger, regardless of the school they attend. This service is provided through a grab and go drive-thru at the school, or through delivery, where we take meals throughout our communities to deliver along our bus routes."

Said Guthrie: "We will remain positive and be as prepared as we possibly can be for these uncertain times and the uncharted territory we face," he said. "Although we will not have direct contact with our students and their families, our goal will be to continue the best educational experience that is achievable under these circumstances in order for our students to maintain and build on the current academic growth they have had up to this point. We are fortunate because we already integrate online learning into our daily instruction. All of our students are familiar with some type of online learning, even in our pre-k and kindergarten grades. The amount and level of exposure grows with each grade and our upper grades already conduct the majority of their learning and academic practice through our virtual programs."

He added: "We want our students and families to know that we will still be here for them and will be doing everything we can to make this difficult situation a viable one. We know that throughout this new approach there will be some hurdles and some failures, but we also know that we will overcome these hurdles and the failures will create success. The most important aspect will be that grace is displayed throughout by all of us. In the end, we will get through this together and become stronger as a result."

Another local institution is also making provisions for what some are describing as the "new normal."

**Joy Justice, Business Development Consultant for Northeast Technology Centers, which has campus locations in Afton, Kansas, Pryor, and Claremore, confirmed that all NTC facilities are "closed for the remainder of the academic year."**

**Said Justice: "Instructors are now assessing the lessons students need in order to pass certification tests and are also developing online classes, videos, etc., to address those needs. Business and industry service trainers are developing online training and consultants will be conducting virtual meetings."**

She added: "Northeast Tech is utilizing technology to serve our clients and students as a stop-gap measure in the interim until normal operations can resume."

**\*916218\***

**Todd Harrison, Global IT Manager for Ferra Aerospace in Grove, said the impact of COVID-19 for them is "different in different locations."**

**"The work we do is considered essential, so our operations continue," Harrison explained, adding that "everyone who can work from home is working from home."**

Said Harrison: "We are confident and hopeful—confident that the world will work together to get past the coronavirus situation, and hopeful in the same bright future we had already been working toward."

**Kelly Yulich, Resort Resource Director, said Tera Miranda on Monkey Island has "seen a few room cancellations, however, people are still calling to reserve and we are reassuring them that we are sterilizing each room and making sure they are clean and sanitized."**

Yulich said the resort's Quarterdeck Café Ship Store is open and receiving guests for carryout meals, Friday through Sunday, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"We are confident that our president is doing everything he can to make sure the American people are safe, and we are doing what he is asking as in social distancing, sanitizing, and washing our hands," Yulich said. "We are making sure that no employee is in danger, and we are maintaining a six-foot buffer from each other, and minimizing risks. We are trying to create a new normal so our employees can have some sense of stability in their lives."

**John Bandy, manager at Bandy Ranch Feed Store, located east of Vinita, said the agricultural community hasn't been immune to the effects of COVID-19.**

**"I feel we have seen a slowing in foot traffic and walk-in business," he said. "There has been a slowing in the process of receiving and delivering goods. We have to fill out health declarations in order to pick up products from manufacturers. I see where we have more call-in deliveries than before COVID-19. I believe we are starting to see a drop in spending due to people being laid-off or staying at home while sheltering in place."**

Bandy said even his rural, family-run business is following all CDC guidelines for disinfecting areas, practicing social distancing, and letting customers transact business from their vehicles.

"You have to be prepared to deal with adversity," he said. "In the agriculture industry we face many obstacles from the markets to the weather. We are proud to be a locally-owned family business and we will continue to weather this storm."

**Perhaps no organization has seen activity grind to a halt quite like the Grove Area Chamber of Commerce.**

**"As the voice of the business community in the greater Grove and Grand Lake area, COVID-19 has been our primary focus as we've helped our members traverse these unprecedented times," remarked GACC President Donnie Crain. "It has impacted many of the events and activities we host in the community, from ribbon cuttings to special events, as such activities are not allowed under CDC guidance to help prevent the spread of the virus."**

Crain says the GACC will maintain a positive outlook.

"Our community's economy is healthy and diverse," he said. "Our local residents and visitors alike support our local businesses, and our local businesses are creative and resourceful. Going through an event, we believe, will bring our community together even closer and stronger, just like we came out of the prolonged flooding of 2019. Grove and Grand Lake are resilient communities and folks here treasure their community and one another—a great reason why we are fond of saying that living here is 'living the Grand life.'"

**Chris Hardy has owned The Book Exchange & The Bible Bookstore in downtown Pryor for the past 40 years. Since his business is classified as non-essential, his doors are closed until he hears differently.**

Many who are self-employed, like Hardy, may ultimately find themselves struggling to make ends meet during the shutdown. Hardy says he was blessed that the weeks leading up to and of Spring Break were busy.

For the time being, Hardy says The Book Exchange & The Bible Bookstore "will still take calls, order books, and deliver books locally. We can also send books to people all over the U.S. with just a phone call. Cowboy Short is entertaining the kiddos doing videos on our Facebook page and on YouTube as well."

Said Hardy: "God is ultimately in control we just need to give Him our reins."



## NOEC SELECTS FOUR WINNING ESSAYS

**Four students were recently selected from a field of competitive essayists to represent Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative during the 2020 Washington, D.C., Youth Tour. NOEC's annual essay contest produced winners from across the cooperative's service territory of Craig, Delaware, Mayes Ottawa, and Rogers counties.**

This year's winners are: Shelbie Baker, Seamus Meehan, Tamara Gilmore and Emma Speer. The essay topic for 2020 was "Of The Seven Cooperative Principles, My Favorite Is..."

**Baker, a Bluejacket High School student and daughter of Miami residents Bryan and Shellie Baker, was one of the four contest finalists. Her entry focused on the seventh cooperative principle: Concern for Community.**



Baker wrote: "Former president, Dwight D. Eisenhower said, 'This world of ours must avoid becoming a community of dreadful fear and hate, and be, instead, a proud

confederation of mutual trust and respect.' Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative accomplishes this sense of community described by Dwight D. Eisenhower through each of the seven cooperative principles but especially through the seventh: Concern for Community. NOEC focuses profoundly on putting members first, bringing communities together, and involving everyone, no matter their gender, race, age or social status."

As a former Energy Camp attendee, Baker was able to draw from a unique vantagepoint in writing her essay.

"In the summer of 2017, I was fortunate enough to attend Energy Camp in Hinton, Oklahoma," she wrote. "Those three days at camp impacted me tremendously for the better. I learned so much about the cooperative, like the importance of membership, community, and equality. I also learned how electricity actually works with hands-on experiments. I even put spikes on my shoes to get a little taste of the life of a lineman. Although these are all amazing tools I gained and now possess, the absolute greatest thing to happen to me over those three days was finally coming out of my shell. For years I was the shy kid who had trouble making friends on my own because I couldn't muster up the courage to talk to someone I did not know."

This leadership camp forced me to step out of my comfort zone, talk to people I have never met, and because of it, I made friends from every part of Oklahoma who I am still connected with to this day."

In closing, Baker wrote: "My rural electric cooperative makes promises and sticks to them. Every principle is vital. But I believe Concern for Community is what sets my cooperative apart from others. It is rare to see businesses care as greatly and do so much for their members, and that is what makes the cooperative so special. Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative never fails to go above and beyond for any and every member."



**Meehan is a Pryor High School student and son of Pryor residents Kevin and Kirsten Meehan. Democratic Member Control was his cooperative principle of choice.**

In his essay, entitled "For the People, By the People," Meehan laid a historical foundation for both the cooperative movement and its framing principles.

He wrote: "Cooperatives are not a new thing. With the earliest cooperative society dating back to 1761, cooperatives have been around for centuries, providing mutual help, social equality and brotherhood. Historians recognize Robert Owen, a businessman from New Lanark, Scotland, as the founder of the cooperative movement. By providing a higher wage for fewer hours, as well as providing housing and educational opportunities, he looked after the best interest of his workers, while also making a profit."

Meehan added: "In the 1840s, workers in Rochdale, a working class town in England, began striking to improve wages and working conditions. The workers didn't stop there, however. When the strikes failed to bring about the major changes desired, weavers in the town came together and turned to Robert Owen's idea of the cooperative. This would later become the first successful cooperative enterprise, known as the Equitable Pioneers of Rochdale."

In bringing the past into the present, Meehan stated: "Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative is a modern business based on this model, and its principles correspond very closely to those of the Equitable Pioneers of Rochdale."

He wrote: "Although all of these principles are very important for the cooperative to run smoothly, my favorite principle is Democratic Member Control. This principle is not only fair, but it helps the ever-changing cooperative grow."



Our country is a democracy, so it is a warrant in our society that everyone's voice should be heard. Dictionary.com defines democracy as 'government by the people.' So, just like in our country, these cooperative's run just like a democracy. Through the principle of Democratic Member Control, everyone's voice is heard and new outlooks and ideas are being generated. If there was only one person's limited ideas being voiced, the growing, changing cooperative would not flourish as it needs."

Lastly, penned Meehan: "Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative is a company that follows a flexible model that can be adapted for use in any kind of business. The use of these principles has shown great success in the past and will continue to show great success in the future."



**Gilmore, a student at Oaks Mission High School and daughter of Dylan Gilmore and Karla Welch, also selected Concern for Community as the focus of her essay. She demonstrated a strong understanding of both of her chosen principle and the value**

**cooperatives bring to the business landscape.**

Gilmore wrote: "Cooperatives are community focused and work to improve both the sustainability and well-being of both local and surrounding communities. They return revenues (or margins) to cooperative members in the form of capital credits. In addition to their day-to-day efforts to keep the lights on, electric co-ops support the community through routine actions."

Gilmore asked: "How does a co-op differ from other businesses? In a co-op, membership and joint ownership are open to all who want to use its services. A co-op's not-for-profit status is generally spelled out in the bylaws and sometimes by the state law under which it is incorporated. They address specific needs of customers. They also provide customers with unmatched service and quality of work. Electric cooperatives bring electricity to rural areas because for-profit electric companies are reluctant to serve areas where customers may be miles apart. Where homes and businesses are close together, power companies make more money per line mile. Cooperatives do not ignore the need for a reasonable profit; they focus on customers because the organization exists to provide service."

Gilmore concluded: "The most powerful way electric cooperatives show Concern for Community is through the essential services they deliver every day. Employees and leaders at my local cooperative have a vested interest in doing what is best for my community because they are members of the same community."

The not-for-profit business model also helps co-ops show Concern for Community by keeping more money in the local economy. They help create jobs and educate members about better ways to use and save electricity. They train people for different jobs, including communications, engineering, safety management, supervisory skills and more. Rural electric cooperatives are more than just electric companies; they care about the community."



**Speer attends Vinita High School and is the daughter of Paul and Courtney Speer. She also chose to write her essay on the seventh cooperative principle: Concern for Community.**

She wrote: "Even at a young age, I experienced the many ways my electric cooperative show its Concern for Community. I remember attending REC Day almost every year with my parents in Grove, Oklahoma. It's a day I will always remember. I am always excited to go and try to win a cool prize. My favorite part of the day is getting to do all of the fun activities they have available for us kids. I always cross my fingers in hopes that I would be a lucky winner. There are also many education opportunities on REC Day. My parents and I still go to REC Day every year because of the many opportunities it has to offer."

Speer touched on Operation Round-Up, a benevolent endeavor sponsored by Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative and its membership, to illustrate her point. She also referenced the cooperative's investment in fiber optics

"Our electric cooperative further helps the community through BOLT, a fiber optic services that provides higher quality internet to rural areas," she wrote. "The co-op is showing Concern for Community by teaming up with BOLT to supply fast internet to rural areas where there is usually either no internet, slow internet or is quite costly. This has personally affected my family as we live on the outskirts of Vinita. I remember the day I came home from school and BOLT employees were installing new internet at our house. I was very excited because before we were able to get BOLT, our internet at home was very slow which made it hard for me to do my homework online. Now, with BOLT, it takes much less time to finish my homework which allows me to manage my time more efficiently. This may not be profitable for the electric cooperative now, however, it will allow the community to become prosperous in years to come."

Concluded Speer: "Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative has never failed to help the community, fulfilling the principle of Concern for Community."



MAY IS NATIONAL

# STRAWBERRY MONTH



SUBMITTED BY: KIMBERLY GLOVER, MIAMI

## STRAWBERRY BROWNIES

- **1 Box Strawberry Cake Mix (I Use Duncan Hines)**
- **1/3 Cup Oil**
- **1/2-2 TB Water or Milk**
- **2 Eggs**
- **1 Cup Powdered Sugar**

Preheat oven to 350° F. Line an 8 inch square baking pan with parchment (and spray with Pam). Mix strawberry cake mix, eggs, and oil with hand mixer until well combined. Spread batter evenly into pan. Bake for 15 minutes or until just set; be careful not to overcook. Allow brownies to cool for 10 minutes; lift carefully from pan using ends of parchment to lift. Mix powdered sugar and water until smooth. Pour glaze over brownies, spreading to edges so that glaze will drip down sides. Allow brownies to cool and glaze to set before cutting into squares.



SUBMITTED BY: DONNA HART, GROVE

## EASY LOW-FAT STRAWBERRY PIE

- **Fresh Strawberries**
- **2 Packages Sugar Free Strawberry Jell-O**
- **Fat Free Tru Whip or Cool Whip**
- **Optional, Graham Crackers**

Cut the tops off the strawberries and place them cut side down in a pie plate. In a separate bowl dissolve 2 packages of Jell-O in 3 cups boiling water. Cool down the jello mixture and pour over strawberries in pie plate and place in the fridge for at least 1 hour. Serve in slices topped with Cool Whip then sprinkle graham crackers on top for a garnish.

**SUBMITTED BY: SHERRY WOLF, AFTON**

### **FROZEN FRUIT SALAD**

- 2 lbs Sliced Strawberries
- 2 lbs Fresh or Frozen Blueberries
- 3 Sliced Peaches
- 5 Sliced Bananas
- 1 20 oz Can Crushed Pineapple, Drained
- 1 Small Jar Maraschino Cherries, Drained
- Any Other Fresh Fruit of Your Choice
- 2 Cups Sugar
- 1/8 tsp Salt
- 1 qt Buttermilk
- 1 tsp Vanilla

Mix sugar, salt, buttermilk, vanilla, and crushed pineapple in large bowl. Then add remaining fruit ingredients and stir to combine. Fill 9oz plastic cups about 1/2 and 2/3 full and place in freezer. Take cups out of freezer about 2 hours before serving. Makes 22 servings. 175 calories per cup.



**SUBMITTED BY: DEBBIE SMITH, GROVE**

### **STRAWBERRY CAKE**

- 1 Box White Cake Mix
- 1 Cup Sugar
- 1 Cup Water
- 2 TB Cornstarch
- 3 Drops Red Food Coloring
- 3 TB Strawberry Jell-O Gelatin
- Strawberries, Sliced
- Cool Whip

Bake cake per directions on box and let cool. Combine sugar, water, cornstarch, and red food coloring in a medium pot and cook until thick, then add Jell-O gelatin and remove from heat. Poke holes in cake, layer sliced strawberries on top (the more the better), and pour cooked glaze over the top. Refrigerate until ready to serve. Top with Cool Whip.



**JUNE IS NATIONAL CANDY MONTH!**  
**KEEP YOUR EYE OUT FOR THE NEXT NE CONNECTION.**

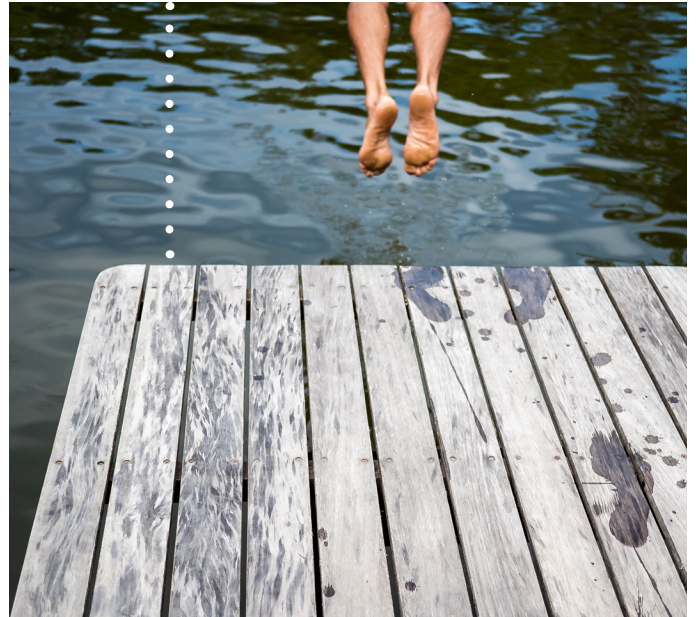


# SUMMER SAFETY

## (CONTINUED FROM INSIDE COVER)

Once NOEC receives notification of a request for a locate, we will send a representative to the property to mark the location of our buried lines. Do not call NOEC directly to locate our lines; instead call OKIE 811. Whether you are digging a ditch, planting a tree, landscaping, setting a fence post, or a mailbox post, stay safe and make the call. In addition to buried electrical lines there could also be fiber, water, cable, phone, and gas lines in your dig site. Hitting any of these lines could be very dangerous and costly.

I hope you have a safe and fun time outdoors. Remember to look up, look down, and make it a priority to check your surroundings for power lines and equipment before you work or play.



## WE'RE STAYING BUSY

**Our NOEC ROW (Right-of-Way) crews have been working diligently to clear this area near Zena.**

NOEC, NRS (Northeast Rural Services), and contract ROW crews will continue to clear in the Zena, Grove, Jay, and Salina areas, and will begin an Herbicide program in late May on the east side of our system.