

NE CONNECTION

A PUBLICATION OF NORTHEAST OKLAHOMA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



Small Town
BRIGHT LIGHTS, BIG CITY
THE FAMILY BEHIND GRAND LIGHTING

JANUARY 2025

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, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Offices are closed Saturday, Sunday and holidays.

DISPATCHING 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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UNSCRUPULOUS ACTIVITY

Eric Stites
Director of Dispatch

Utilities and telecommunications companies across the country find themselves dealing with a similar problem these days.

Vandalism is an unsettling issue and isn't something we enjoy discussing. An increase in this type of activity and the sabotage of electrical and broadband facilities in the U.S. is disturbing, to say the least. Even though utility vandalism can take many forms, the most common is **copper theft**.

Unscrupulous copper thieves are nothing new for electric utilities; however, incidents have **tripled** over the last five years. There were 13,000 copper thefts reported between 2006-2008. Occurrences jumped to 32,000 between 2010-2012. The amount of copper that is successfully stolen and redeemed today exceeds \$1 billion annually.

Theft of copper is once again making headlines as it spreads like an epidemic throughout the United States. The FBI has long warned that it is a threat to the nation's **critical infrastructure**. The valuable metal is being ripped out of electrical substations, stolen from homes, and lifted from construction sites across the country, and the trend shows no sign of slowing down. These crimes are most common in Texas, Ohio, California, Georgia, and Illinois.

According to the National Insurance Crime Bureau, stolen copper accounts for a staggering 96 percent of all reported metal thefts, more than half of which occur on commercial property. Copper scrap is difficult to track, and the metal is in high demand, making it a very attractive prospect for any thief seeking fast cash. Thieves are stealing copper wire so they can sell it to recycling centers who may not know what they are buying has been stolen.

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BRIGHT LIGHTS, SMALL TOWN

\$100 IS HIDING!

Search the pages of *Northeast 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 918.256.6405, by February 1, 2025, to claim a \$100 credit on your electric account.

JANUARY EVENTS

First Day Hike

Jan 1 | Bernice

Bernice Area at Grand Lake

Bingo

Jan 1 | Miami

Miami Public Library

Friends of Grand Lake

Audubon Society January Meeting

Jan 11 | Grove

Grove Public Library

Booklahoma 2025

Jan 17-18 | Pryor

Graham Community Center

Big Read "Where We Live" Creative Writing Workshop

Jan 18 | Wyandotte

Wyandotte Nation Cultural Center

Mayes County Trails Alliance Meeting

Jan 22 | Pryor

115 S Adair Street

Murder Mystery Night

Jan 25 | Pryor

American Legion Post 182

On the cover: Adam Tahaney, wife Lindsay and daughter Hartley of Grand Lighting

Events are published as space allows and must be submitted at least 60 days in advance. Send information to Northeast Connection Events Calendar, PO Box 948, Vinita, OK 74301 or email: publicrelations@noec.coop

UNSCRUPULOUS ACTIVITY

CONTINUED FROM INSIDE COVER

Fiber vandalism, on the other hand, is carried out for entirely different reasons. Fiber lines are often damaged by careless dove hunters or by misinformed vandals who think the cables contain copper.

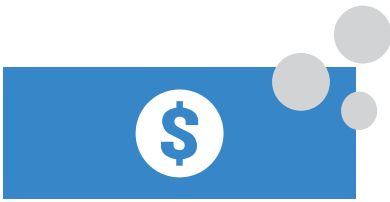
Replacing and repairing vandalized assets can be costly, and outages caused by these actions can be lengthy, depending on the severity of the damage.

Intentionally damaging electric infrastructure is a serious offense. At Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative, providing reliable electricity and broadband service is a **priority**. Anything that disrupts these services is taken very seriously. We work closely with local law enforcement to intercept and prosecute vandals and keep the public safe.

When vandalism occurs, it affects every co-op member because we end up footing the bill for the repair. Utility vandalism is not just a petty theft crime. Perpetrators of these offenses are impacting public safety and creating numerous other issues.

Please join us in the fight against vandalism and theft by reporting any suspicious activity to your local authorities.





UNCLAIMED DOLLARS COULD BE YOURS!

NOEC makes every effort to ensure members receive **patronage capital** that is rightfully theirs. To accomplish this, it is important for NOEC to have a **current mailing address**. Checks are often returned marked "undeliverable." Many of these do not have the correct 911 address. A partial listing of unclaimed checks is provided here. Future issues of *Northeast Connection* will contain additional listings. If you see your name, claim your check by calling 800.256.6405, extension 9313. A complete list of returned checks is available online at www.noec.coop. Scan the QR code on the following page with your smartphone camera to access the full listing.

Checks totaling \$10 or more have been mailed to eligible members. Checks were not mailed to members whose **patronage capital accounts** totaled less than \$10. These accounts will continue to accumulate funds with each retirement. When an account reaches \$10 or more, a check will be issued following the next retirement.

A

ALKIRE, TATE - ROSE OK
ALLEN, RAY B - JAY OK
ANDERSON, GLENN N - DISNEY OK
ANDREWS, JULIE - CHELSEA OK
ANDREWS, LENA - JAY OK
ARTHURS, DONA - SALINA OK
AULT, DEBORAH E - DECATUR AR
AYRES, TOM J - TROY MO

B

BAILEY, DURUS N - EUCHA OK
BAKER, F E - AFTON OK
BARRET, JAMES - GROVE OK
BARROWS, CHARLES R - JAY OK
BDK MARINA LLC - GROVE OK
BEASLEY, SANDRA M - KANSAS OK
BEATY, GARY D - JAY OK
BECK, LEVI C - JAY OK
BIRD, JIMMY - COLCORD OK
BLAINE, TRACY - PARK HILL OK
BLEVINS, JOSHUA D - SALINA OK
BOOKOUT, ERNEST E - WYANDOTTE OK
BRADEN, JOSHUA P - LOCUST GROVE OK
BRATCHER, AARON - GROVE OK
BROWN, RONALD W - SPAVINAW OK
BUCK, CAROLE - SILOAM SPRINGS AR
BUCKMASTER, CHARLES D - EUCHA OK
BUMP, JAN - CHELSEA OK
BURCHETT, CHIQUITA - SALINA OK
BURROWS, JAMES - NORTHGLENN CO
BURTON, GRACE V - DISNEY OK
BUSBY, KEVIN R - DISNEY OK
BUSSE, CLIFFORD - PERRY OK
BUTLER, GLENDA - KANSAS OK

C

CACKLER, KEVIN S - GROVE OK
CACKLER, VIVA - GROVE OK
CAMP, GERALD - CLAREMORE OK
CAMPBELL, JACK B - DECATUR AR
CHANEY, CAROL R - VINITA OK
CHARETTE, WILLIAM A - JAY OK
CHERRY, ROBERT J - MIAMI OK
CHRISTIE, LISA - COLCORD OK
CITARELLA, LINDA - NAPLES FL
CLAYPOOL, MIKE L - TULSA OK
COOPER, IRIS E - TULSA PK
COWHERD, MIKE - KANSAS OK
CREEK, JIM - GRANBURY TX

D

DANDRIDGE, BRENDA - WATTS OK
DANIELS, THOMAS W - JAY OK
DAVIES, TYRA M - CANAAN NH
DAVIS, CECILIA - COLCORD OK
DAVIS, JENNIFER L - JAY OK
DEMARANVILLE, MICHAEL - KETCHUM OK
DOLLARHYDE, PATRICK - ROSE OK
DOUGHTIE, EDWARD E - VINITA OK
DUNN, LARRY A - COLUMBUS KS
DURBIN, PAUL - FAIRLAND OK

E

EATON, HOMER - VINITA OK
EDWARDS, CLELAND - TULSA OK
EGNOR, BARBIE - APO NY
EHRlich, ASHLEY D - EUCHA OK
ENSTEN, DIXIE L - WYANDOTTE OK

F

FARNAM, NANCY G - BROKEN ARROW OK
FDIC RECEIVER - OKC OK
FLANDERS, CHERI R - CHELSEA OK
FOREMAN, VIRGINIA L - COLCORD OK
FORMBY, RAY - GROVE OK
FOSTER, TERESE - GROVE OK
FOWLER, DALE - AFTON OK
FOX, LORETTA D - JAY OK
FREEMAN, JUSTIN C - AFTON OK
FRITCHEY, MITCH - JOPLIN MO
FRYE, CLEVE A - SW CITY MO
FUSER, JAMES E - AFTON



SCAN ME!

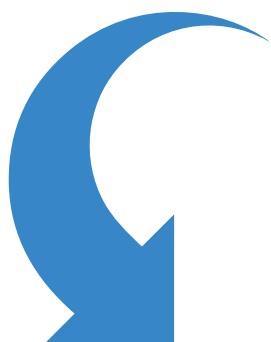
To view the full list please visit our website: www.noec.coop or scan the code with your phone.

914604



ELECTRIC SAFETY

RESPECT SUBSTATIONS



REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY.

Only authorized utility workers should approach a substation, touch the fence, or enter the gate.

Paying attention to activity in or near substations and other utility equipment helps keep everyone safe.

Suspicious activity includes individuals in street clothes who are:

- Near or inside a substation fence.
- Tampering with equipment, such as power poles, meters, and padmount transformers.

Report anything unusual to the electric utility. Examples include:

- An open or unlocked gate.
- A damaged fence.
- Obvious damage inside the fence.

Call 9-1-1 and then the electric utility if you see:

- Smoke or fire.
- Non-utility workers inside the substation fence
- Non-utility workers on a pole or tampering with a meter

QUESTIONS?

Give us a call at 918.256.6405

TRADITIONAL DESSERTS



STEAMED SUET PUDDING | DOROTHY DANIELS OF BIG CABIN

INGREDIENTS

Pudding

- 1 cup suet, finely chopped
- 1 cup molasses
- 1 cup millet
- 3 cups flour
- 1 tsp soda
- 1 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp cloves
- 1/2 tsp mace
- 1/2 tsp allspice
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1 1/2-2 cups black walnuts, lightly floured

Sauce

- 1/2 cup softened butter
- 1 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- Cinnamon to taste
- Or substitute the above with heavy whipping cream or whipped cream

Step 1: Combine suet, molasses, and millet in a large bowl.

Step 2: To suet mixture add flour, soda, salt, cloves, mace, allspice, and cinnamon and mix thoroughly. Then stir in black walnuts.

Step 3: Place mixture in a greased, water-tight pudding mold, then cover and steam in a water bath for 3 hours.

Step 4: For topping you can use heavy whipping cream, whipped cream, or create your own hard sauce by creaming butter and sugar together then adding your vanilla and cinnamon to taste.

Note: A family tradition during the holidays.



DUMP COOKIES | DIXIE KIRBY OF VINITA

INGREDIENTS

- 1 box butter cake mix
- 1 box chocolate cake mix
- 1 cup oil
- 3 eggs
- 1/4 cup water
- 2 tsp vanilla

Optional

- 1 1/2 cup nuts
- 1 1/2 cups chocolate chips

Step 1: Preheat oven 350 degree

Step 2: Combine cake mixes, oil, eggs, water, and vanilla.

Step 3: Mix by hand.

Step 4: Add nuts and chocolate chips

Step 5: Drop a scoop by spoon onto a cookie sheet. Press down for easier baking.

Step 6: Bake for 8-12 minutes.



BRIGHT LIGHTS, BIG CITY *Small Town*

The move to small-town Oklahoma was 'now or never' for Adam and Lindsay Tahaney

Making it big typically means packing your bags, leaving the small town, and heading for the big city.

For Adam and Lindsay Tahaney, just the opposite was true. For the Tahaney's, achieving their dreams meant leaving a large-market metroplex and putting down roots in the fertile soil of northeast Oklahoma.

The Tahaney's are the owners of Grand Lighting and are an authorized exclusive dealer in northeast Oklahoma for **Trimlight**, specializing in permanent, exterior, LED lighting for homes and business that is low voltage, low impact, and programmable. Adam developed a familiarity with **Trimlight** products as the owner of *Calm Water Construction*.

The Tahaney's arrived in northeast Oklahoma four years ago from Dallas, Texas. While Adam hails from the metroplex, Lindsay is from Vinita and still has family in the area. She graduated from Vinita High School and continued her education at the University of Oklahoma, where she earned a bachelor's degree in marketing and communications. Her first job took her to New York, where she interned for fashion mogul Betsey Johnson.

Another employment opportunity brought Lindsay to Dallas. It was there that she met Adam, who grew up in Texas before moving to Florida as a teenager with his family. He attended Orlando's Olympia High School and later college at Florida State, where he earned a bachelor's degree in business. He made his way back to Dallas, where he worked as a project manager for a home builder and architect.



Once wed, the Tahaney's would often leave the hustle and bustle of the big city to visit Lindsay's family in northeast Oklahoma. The area drew them more with every visit. Eventually they chose to make it their permanent home. The pandemic ultimately helped cast the deciding vote.

"Being in a city during the pandemic, we found ourselves asking what was next for us and that brought us back to the Grand Lake area," Lindsay said. "Having family here also opened up opportunities that allowed us to relocate and get our new life started."

She added: "Growing up in Vinita, I always thought I wanted to move away and live in a big city. I loved it, and I thought I was going to be a city girl forever. But coming back here, I feel like I appreciate it more. I appreciate my upbringing and living here. It's been really nice, especially since we have a one-year-old daughter now. It makes such a difference raising her in such a close-knit community. It's something you can't get anywhere else. We are very thankful and appreciative of our surroundings, family and friendships."

Adam hit the ground running here in northeast Oklahoma with his construction business, starting with remodeling projects. That quickly evolved into homebuilding. Alongside the construction work itself, exterior lighting was becoming increasingly popular among homeowners. Growing demand kept bringing Adam back to one vendor in particular that shines bright in the exterior lighting market. The Tahaney's decided in 2022 to purchase a **Trimlight** franchise. They completed the required training in Salt Lake City, Utah, and returned ready to illuminate this corner of the state as an authorized Trimlight dealer.



► **“Shortly after settling here, I started my own construction business and that’s what led us to lighting,” he said. “We started to look at lighting business options and it led us to Trimlight. After researching the product and warranty, we bought a franchise and became a dealer.”**

Adam and his crew take care of product installations and service while Lindsay handles sales and marketing.

“We were looking for something to do in addition to Adam’s construction business—something we could do together as family,” said Lindsay. “The lighting business excites both of us, especially since it’s a business we get to do and grow together.”

Adam added: “Construction is my passion, and the lighting business is for our family. It’s a business that has a faster turnaround than construction. This is also a product we believe in, so it means a lot to us. When construction slows down, the lighting business keeps us busy with light installations. It helps keep us all fed.”

Think outdoor lights are only for the holidays? Think again. **Trimlight** may change the way you think about exterior lighting. That exterior lighting is only seasonal is a misconception that *Grand Lighting* and **Trimlight** are clearing up one project at a time.

“Of course, **Trimlight** is great for Christmas and holiday lighting, but it’s so much more,” Adam explained. “It’s a permanently-installed, year-round lighting solution for homes and businesses. It’s also app-based so you can change the colors for a holiday or event. You can use them for accent lighting or security lights. Not only can you change the colors, you can block different sections to be certain colors, change the pattern, layout, sequence of movement, and they can operate to music. Lighting types range from globe lights to disc lights to down lights.”

Adam said the company is continuously upgrading product capabilities. A recent release allows a thirty-three percent change in brightness.

“The next big goal is expanding to landscaping,” he said. “The company is consistently evolving with plans to add more products down the road.”

Trimlight products are also backed by a lifetime product warranty. When used properly the components in the **Trimlight** system should last up to forty years depending on usage. The lights have a 50,000-hour lifespan.



▶ **“They are built to last,” Adam said.**

As its name implies, **Trimlight** features a piece of trim that blends with any structure.

“It uses a patented, aluminum track channel system that can be matched to the color of the building or guttering. Or, you can select an accent color,” Adam said. “We have over fifty different colors of track from which to choose and it’s installed to look like a piece of the building. Our lights go inside that track system, and they’re invisible by day. The track also protects the lights and wiring from outside elements, so it lasts much longer than anything else on the market.”

Customers will appreciate not only a quality product but also *Grand Lighting’s* professional installation. Sales and service are all handled locally by Adam, Lindsay, and their team.

“We are the ones who will answer your calls if you have a question or need maintenance,” Adam assured.

One of *Grand Lighting’s* largest projects to-date was partnering with the City of Grove to light its entire downtown shopping district. This project was completed just in time for the 2024 holiday season.

“We are very excited for this partnership and having *Grand Lighting* be a part of downtown Grove. It’s actually something that’s been on my bucket list for our business,” Lindsay said.



Lindsay said she noticed lights up on the buildings in downtown Grove year-round and began asking some of the store owners. She discovered that a gentlemen named Ron Lay had donated all of the lights. Sadly, Lay passed away in June 2023. Prior to his passing, however, Lay began a tradition that brought holiday cheer to downtown Grove.

“I assumed they weren’t looking to get new lights and didn’t inquire further,” she said. “Turns out the city was looking for something similar to our product and contacted us. They were wanting to honor Mr. Lay’s memory by purchasing permanent lights that didn’t require as much upkeep.”

Grand Lighting finished the project in November 2024. On December 6, the city hosted an honorary tree lighting that also included a reveal of the downtown lighting project.

“The city’s goal is to get as many businesses as possible to add our unique lighting,” Lindsay explained. “We continue to receive requests from other local businesses, including ones not in the immediate downtown area. The project is encompassing a larger area of Grove.”

Of course, the project is excellent advertising for *Grand Lighting*.

“We know we have a great product,” said Adam. “We like to think of ourselves as the Cadillac of lights here and they saw that value as well. We’ve since had other towns inquire, and we’ve done several houses and businesses in the area, but this project has certainly amplified what we do and has given us tremendous exposure.”

For Adam especially, the move to northeast Oklahoma has been a welcome change. Having spent most of his life in larger cities, he appreciated the sense of community he experienced here. He felt it immediately.

"I was always unhappy in big cities and was looking for a place that felt like home," he said. "This is that place. Being able to start a business in this area has been great for us, and I'm glad we can bring something to the community."

Adam added: "Coming here for the first time and seeing what it was all about, enjoying the sense of community, and also having Lindsay's childhood friends and family here, we were able to kind of integrate ourselves pretty quickly. It felt like home. It was a different vibe here that we appreciated. We started looking at homes for fun with the possibility one day moving here. Once COVID hit, they shut down most of Dallas so I couldn't work for several weeks. We didn't want to just sit around in our apartment so we said let's go to Oklahoma and be with family. Our lease was going to be up soon in Dallas so it was one of those things, like we just felt at home here and said 'it's now or never.'"

Website: trimlight.com

Phone: 918.260.5807

Email: info@grandlightingok.com

Facebook: Grand Lighting - Trimlight
Grand Lake & NE Oklahoma

