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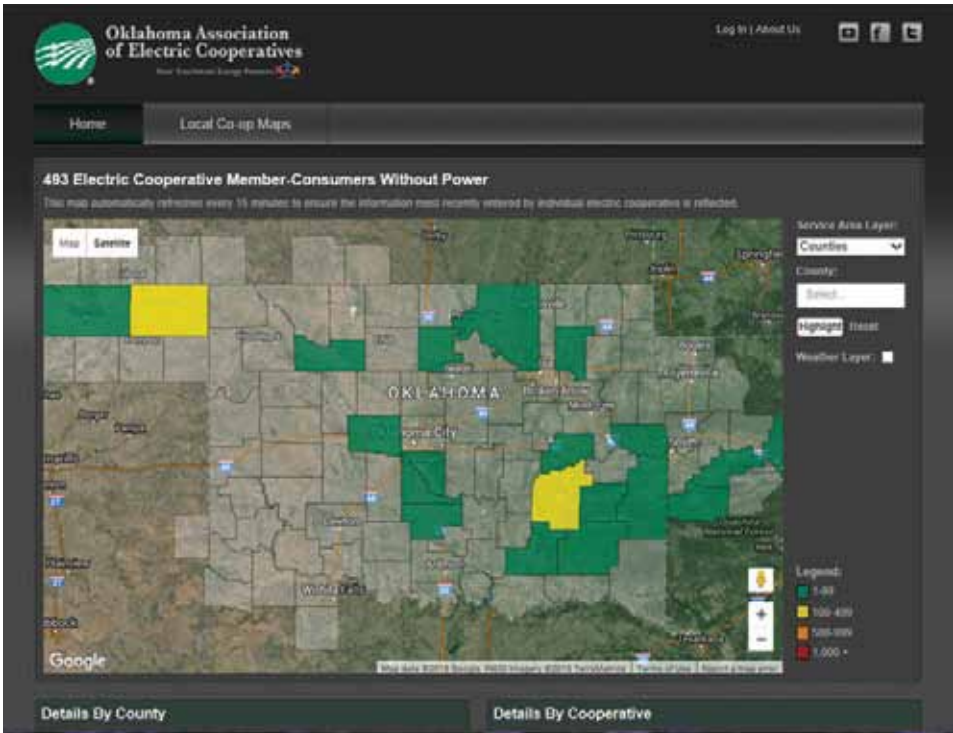
OAEC launches statewide outage map

The Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives (OAEC) has launched an interactive statewide outage map accessible through OAEC’s website. The map, developed by Iowa-based web firm Global Reach, features real-time outage updates from several electric cooperatives in the state.

Refreshed every 15 minutes with new data, the map provides a breakdown of outages per county as well as per co-op service territory. The map is powered by Google Maps and includes a weather radar layer that can be turned on or off at the user’s choice.

“This technology enables OAEC to efficiently communicate outage information and restoration efforts within co-op circles and to entities such as the Oklahoma Corporation Commission, Oklahoma Emergency Management, emergency-response organizations as well as to Oklahoma legislators, media professionals and the general public,” Chris Meyers, OAEC general manager, said.

As an added advantage, the map will assist OAEC Safety & Loss Control personnel to facilitate mutual aid efforts between electric cooperatives. The Mutual Aid program allows electric cooperatives the opportunity to send line crews and equipment to sister cooperatives that have incurred



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significant damage due to a natural disaster event. (5718001)
 Currently, 14 electric cooperatives are feeding outages automatically to the statewide map while 13 cooperatives are reporting outages manually.

Northwestern Electric’s outage map provides automatic updates to the new statewide map.
 “In time, we hope to reach full outage reporting automation for all of Oklahoma’s distribution electric cooperatives,” Meyers said.

The new statewide map is available at www.outages.oaec.coop. You can also access the map, along with our service territory’s map, by going to Northwestern Electric’s website at www.nwecok.coop and clicking on the outages tab at the top of the page.

Co-ops around the world operate according to a core set of principles. Cooperative Principle #6 states cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures. Working with OAEC and other cooperatives across Oklahoma on a statewide outage map is just one more way we are looking out for you.

NORTHWESTERN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Operating In Beaver, Dewey, Ellis, Harper, Major, Woods and Woodward Counties in Oklahoma

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NOTICE

A copy of NWEC Bylaws will be made available for any member upon request.

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NWEC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Mike Hagy, safety and loss control committee chair for the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives (OAEC), presented D. J. Touchstone with his Journeyman Lineman certificate during OAEC's annual meeting held on April 11 in Oklahoma City.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Avoid setting your thermostat at a colder setting than normal when you turn on your air conditioner. It will not cool your home any faster and could result in excessive cooling and unnecessary expense.

Source: energy.gov

March 2016 Operating Report

	2015	2016
Revenue - Billing	2,754,234	2,337,118
Cost of Power.....	1,718,174	1,442,976
Miles of Lines	4,973	4,987
Members Connected	11,892	11,912
Density per Mile	2.39	2.39
Average Member KWH	2,341	2,012
Average Bill	232	196
KWH Purchased.....	28,919,357	25,990,110
KWH Sold.....	27,834,798	23,970,566
Income per Mile.....	557	471
Expense per Mile	547	497

Be energy aware and save money

Have you ever thought about how many devices powered by electricity are switched on in your home right now or at what time of day your household uses the most electricity? These factors not only affect your monthly bill but also what you might have to pay in the future. The times you use electricity—not just what you consume—impact how much NWECC must pay for wholesale power.

That's why we're asking our members to join the Peak Shaver program. The Peak Shaver program is an effort to help members become energy aware and lower their power bills by using energy more efficiently and by reducing the energy consumed during peak periods when prices are higher. The demand for electricity is greater in the hot summer months from June 20 to September 20 between 2:30-7:30 p.m.

To meet the demand for power needed at peak times, electric suppliers

must produce the power themselves or purchase it on the market. Consequently, the costs are greater during peak time when demand is high. These higher costs are reflected in the power cost adjustment applied to the monthly bill for NWECC and its members.

PEAK SHAVES

Here's how the program works. When NWECC determines a peak situation exists, participating members will be notified by phone message,

e-mail or text message. Members will be asked to help conserve energy by turning off lights or appliances that are not needed. (10362001)

Participating members will also be asked to adjust their thermostats a few degrees, delay the use of major appliances such as ovens, dishwashers, washing machines, clothes dryers and postpone hot water usage during these peak hours.

Stop by our Woodward office at 2925 Williams Avenue and sign up to

be a Peak Shaver. You can also visit our Website at www.nwecok.coop or call the member services department at 580.256.7425 to sign up today.

Using electricity wisely and controlling use during peak times will save money, maintain reliability and help the environment.

Four simple ways to be a Peak Shaver

- ▶ Turn your air conditioner thermostat up by three degrees between 2:30 and 7:30 p.m.
- ▶ Wait until after 7:30 p.m. to start the dishwasher, clothes washer or dryer.
- ▶ Use the outdoor grill for cooking instead of the broiler or oven in your stove.
- ▶ Minimize the use of hot water between the hours of 2:30-7:30 p.m.

Hidden account number contest

Last month's hidden account numbers went unclaimed. They belonged to Debbie Stewart and Buck Miller, Jr.

For those of you who aren't familiar with the contest, this is how it works. We have hidden two account numbers somewhere in the articles in this newsletter. The numbers will always be enclosed in parentheses and will look similar to this example (XXXXXX).

If you recognize your account number, all you have to do is give us a call on or before the 8th of the current month and we'll give you a credit on your bill for the amount stated.

This month's numbers are worth \$75 each. Happy hunting!

Country cooking

Crockpot Barbecue Chicken

- 2 lbs. boneless, skinless chicken breasts**
- 1 cup barbecue sauce**
- 1/4 cup Zesty Italian dressing**
- 1/4 cup brown sugar**
- 1 tbsp. Worcestershire sauce**
- salt to taste**



Season chicken breasts lightly with salt and place in crockpot.

In a mixing bowl combine barbecue sauce, Italian dressing, brown sugar and Worcestershire sauce. Stir until well combined. Pour over chicken, cover and cook on HIGH for 3-4 hours.

Serve the chicken whole or shredded. If shredding, let the chicken cook in sauce for about 15-20 more minutes to soak up all the flavor.

Eat a plateful as is, or serve on buns, over rice, in wraps, or on a salad.

Yield: 4-6 servings

Be wary of 3rd party payment sites

There are better ways to pay your bill

These days there are countless ways to pay for goods and services. A new trend that has emerged is third party bill payment services. Some sites may appear to be affiliated with our co-op, but they are not.

While some bill paying services are legitimate, members who use these

should be cautious to pick reputable companies. Often, these third party sites charge additional service fees, and do not always make the payment the same day you pay them, which could result in your bill payment being late and your power being disconnected. Some of these sites/companies include but are not limited

to: doxo.com, prismmoney.com, and chargesmart.com.

To help our members simplify their bill paying experience, we offer a wide range of direct payment options. For details on these services, call the Woodward office at 800.375.7423 or 256.7425. To reach the Buffalo office, call 735.2566 or 800.259.2566.

► **Automatic Bank or Credit Card Draft:** Sign up for NWECE's automatic draft program and your electric bill is paid from your bank account or credit card by the 10th of every month.

► **PaySite Kiosk:** NWECE has a PaySite kiosk at our main office in Woodward. The kiosk is accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and accepts cash, check payments and credit or debit cards. There are no additional fees. Instructions and receipts are available in both English and Spanish.

► **Pay By Phone:** Pay your bill by phone anytime day or night with a debit or credit card by calling 580.377.1414. The automated system speaks both English and Spanish and there are no additional fees.

► **SelectPay:** Our SelectPay program allows you to pay-as-you-go with no deposit, no late fees and no disconnect fees *EVER!* SelectPay puts you in control of your electric account balance and energy use.

► **Mobile App:** Pay your bill using our mobile app. To locate the app, type "NWECE" in the search bar.

► **Online Bill Payments:** Pay your bill online at www.nwecok.coop. For questions about online bill pay, call 800.375.7423 or 256.7425.

► **Average Monthly Payment Plan:** NWECE's leveled payment plan evens out bills by averaging your use over the past 12 months. This can be especially helpful during cold winters and hot summers when your electric use spikes.

► **Pay in Person:** During regular business hours you may pay the cashier in the lobby or drive-thru.

Powering safely with generators during an outage

You can use a portable generator to supply electricity to your appliances if an emergency exists during a power outage. But generators can cause more harm than good if not used properly. Here are a few safety tips to generate safely during an outage.

- Never connect a portable generator to the main electrical supply coming into your house. The power provided by the generator can backfeed along power lines and electrocute linemen working on those lines. To avoid backfeeding, you must have a double-throw transfer switch between the generator and the Cooperative's power lines.
- Portable generators create carbon monoxide—the odorless, colorless gas that can quickly be deadly if the generator isn't exhausted outside. Attached garages with an open door don't count—the carbon monoxide can still seep indoors and poison inhabitants. Keep generators at a safe distance from your home's windows, doors, and vents. How far is safe enough? Even 15 feet can be too close.
- Plug appliances directly into the generator using heavy-duty, outdoor-rated extension cords. But don't overload it.
- Start the generator first before connecting appliances. And shut off the generator before refueling or a fire could start. Keep a fully charged fire extinguisher nearby, just in case.

