

# Northwestern Electric News

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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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## Collier helps electrify remote village in Guatemala

Thanks to 13 Oklahoma linemen, about 65 households in the rural Guatemala village of Chiis have electricity for the first time.

Jake Collier, lineman for NWECC, was one of the 13 volunteers who traveled 1,300 miles to the remote village of Chiis. Their mission was to set poles, string wire, install light fixtures and bring power for the first time to the villagers. They ended up building 1.74 miles of primary lines and 1.2 miles of secondary line.

Bringing electricity to the village was exceptionally challenging. Jake said it took them back to the 30s and 40s when linemen didn't have trucks and modern equipment. The NRECA International, the humanitarian arm for the National Rural Electric Co-

operative Association (NRECA), did a great job of preparing the linemen for the trip, but Jake said he didn't think they could ever be fully prepared. They experienced mudslides, protests and all sorts of obstacles everyday. "We decided before we left we were going to embrace any and all challenges. The first mudslide we came to was one of the most enjoyable times we had just because of our attitude and willingness to joke about it."

The villagers caught on quickly as to how they could help. They carried equipment up and down the mountains and assisted with wiring the houses. The children liked to pick oranges and bring them to the volunteers for a snack. When the children said "much," that meant they wanted some of the guys to lean down so they could touch their beards.

Damon Lester, lineman for Indian Electric Cooperative, had traveled to an Amazonian village in Bolivia in 2016. He warned the other linemen about the bond they would develop with the village children. Jake remembers thinking to himself they would be so busy scaling the mountains he doubted they would have much time to get to know anyone in only three weeks. "I was wrong," he said. "The children followed us around everywhere, eager to help. We built personal relationships with all of them. The last day at inauguration is the first time I've seen 13 tough men cry. Saying goodbye to the villagers was hard."



**Sitting high atop a utility pole, Jake Collier has a bird's eye view of the beautiful mountain scenery in Guatemala. He was selected by the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives International Committee to help bring power to the remote village of Chiis. Photo: Damon Lester**



**The children of Chiis found a special place in Jake Collier's heart during the 17 days he spent in Guatemala. Photo: Matt Montgomery**

In retrospect, Jake said the villagers had nothing that we value, yet they were so happy it was truly life changing to see it. "I still wonder who the 'poor' people are. It made me question some of the things that we who are spoiled value in this life."

The linemen also built relationships with each other. He still keeps in contact with the other volunteers. They built a bond that is hard for people who haven't experienced their situation to understand. "We left as friends and returned as brothers."

The trip was made possible thanks to the Oklahoma Energy Trails Foundation, a not-for-profit established by Oaec in 2016 to support international electrification projects. To learn how you can help support future projects, visit: <http://tinyurl.com/energytrails>.

**NORTHWESTERN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.**

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

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**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

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**WOODWARD, OK 73802**  
**2925 WILLIAMS AVENUE**  
**WOODWARD, OK 73801**

**NOTICE**

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

**Web page: [www.nwecok.coop](http://www.nwecok.coop)**  
**E-mail: [nwec@nwecok.coop](mailto:nwec@nwecok.coop)**



**“NWECC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.”**

**Improved service for Williams Addition**

Over the past three to four years, members living in the Williams Addition have experienced an increased number of outages. Outdated wire is the major culprit.

The Williams Addition was built almost 40 years ago. NWECC installed the best underground wire available at that time. The wire, rated for up to 25 years, lasted longer than expected.

Because of its age, the cable has started failing. Typically, when underground wire fails, the crews splice it back together to restore power as quickly as possible.

With the significant increase in cable failures over the past few years, NWECC started upgrading the service by installing new underground wire in pipe. The wire is rated for approximately 50 years.

According to Brent McDowell, NWECC director of safety and loss control, the upgrade will improve the reliability of the service to Williams Addition. “The old wire has outlived its life,” he explains. “By upgrading the underground service to a higher rated wire and putting it in pipe, mem-



**NWECC is upgrading the service to the Williams Addition by replacing old wire. Crews are hand-digging some areas that can't be reached with the trucks.**

bers in the Williams Addition should experience improved service and reliability.” (324701001)

In order to make the necessary improvements, NWECC has to schedule planned outages for the area to switch power from the old wire to the new. NWECC sends out a robo-call to let members know when the power is going to be off. If you live in the Williams Addition and aren't receiving the calls, please let us know.

**— District Meeting Dates —**

| <b>District 1</b>           | <b>District 3</b>                | <b>District 5</b>       |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Tues., Feb. 20, 2018        | Thurs., Feb. 15, 2018            | Mon., Feb. 12, 2018     |
| Meal at 6 p.m.              | Meal at 6 p.m.                   | Meal at 6 p.m.          |
| Meeting at 6:30 p.m.        | Meeting at 6:30 p.m.             | Meeting at 6:30 p.m.    |
| Arnett First Baptist Church | Mooreland Assembly of God Church | Lenora Methodist Church |

**October 2017 Operating Report**

|                          | <b>2016</b> | <b>2017</b> |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Revenue - Billing .....  | 2,565,552   | 2,470,631   |
| Cost of Power .....      | 1,557,355   | 1,464,347   |
| Miles of Lines .....     | 4,995       | 5,004       |
| Members Connected .....  | 11,927      | 11,871      |
| Density per Mile .....   | 2.39        | 2.37        |
| Average Member KWH ..... | 2,179       | 2,134       |
| Average Bill .....       | 215         | 208         |
| KWH Purchased.....       | 27,299,118  | 26,711,000  |
| KWH Sold.....            | 25,988,633  | 25,329,000  |
| Income per Mile.....     | 517         | 497         |
| Expense per Mile .....   | 514         | 572         |



## Northwestern Electric sponsors annual youth contests

Northwestern Electric will send five students to Energy Camp at Canyon Camp in Hinton, Okla., May 30-June 2, 2017. While at camp, the students will form a coke and candy cooperative, climb a utility pole, watch safety demonstrations, and tour a generation plant, among many other exciting activities.

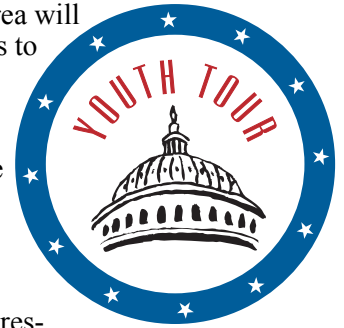


Students who wish to enter the contest must meet the following criteria:

- 1) Students must be in the 8th grade.
- 2) Submit an essay of 200 words or less on "What I would miss the most without electricity and why."
- 3) Include a cover sheet with your name, your parents' or legal guardian's name, home address, telephone number, and name of your school.
- 4) Mail the essay and cover sheet to:  
Jonna Hensley  
Youth Tour Coordinator  
Northwestern Electric Cooperative  
P.O. Box 2707  
Woodward, OK 73802-2707

**Entry deadline is Mar. 23, 2018.**

Three students from this area will win all-expense-paid trips to the nation's capital, June 8-14, 2018, and two others will win \$500 scholarships and the opportunity to participate in the Touchstone Energy Leadership Summit.



The thrill packed days in Washington, D.C., will include lunch with the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation, tour of Mount Vernon, a boat trip on the Potomac River, and many other points of interest.

Northwestern Electric representatives will select the winners for the contest from students who take a written test over materials furnished by Northwestern Electric about rural electrification.

Based on the test scores, the top five students will compete in a final judging which will be held at Northwestern Electric's headquarters in Woodward. A panel of judges will select three students for the trip based on subject knowledge, originality, appearance and personality.

NWEC representatives will visit with interested juniors at their schools during January and February. For more information, contact the youth tour coordinator, Jonna Hensley, at 256.7425 or 800.375.7423.

### Hidden account number contest

Congratulations goes to Jerry and Linda Pollard for recognizing their account number in last month's newsletter. The other number belonged to Jason Sprague.

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 \$25 each. Happy hunting!

### Attention seniors! Apply now to get cash for college

Northwestern Electric offers the opportunity for graduating seniors to apply for the Fanning-Fussell Scholarship. The \$1000 scholarship is for one year. To be eligible, students must reside in a household served by NWEC.

For a complete list of eligibility requirements and an application, contact Jonna Hensley at 580.256.7425 or 800.375.7423. You can also access the information at [www.nwecok.coop](http://www.nwecok.coop) under the Youth Programs tab. The deadline to apply is Fri., Feb. 2, 2018.

### Member Appreciation Day winner

Esther Fields was the lucky winner of the \$100 gift card NWEC gave away during Member Appreciation day. (14354001)

Thank you to all our members who stopped by to enjoy the hot Wassail, cookies and sign up for our drawing.

We also want to thank those who donated to our Give a Watt Energy Tree program. Your generous donations helped make the holidays a little brighter for others who are struggling financially.



**Esther Fields**

## Looking for missing members

If your name is on our missing member list for capital credits, please submit a Capital Credit Update Form. If you are the heir or executor for someone listed below, please submit the Estate Refund Form. Some of the estates listed have already received their capital credits from NWECC. They are listed again because the estates are due capital credits from Western Farmers Electric Cooperative. Forms are available at [www.nwecok.coop](http://www.nwecok.coop). Click on the Capital Credit tab under Account Services, or you can request a form by contacting our office at 800.375.7423, 580.256.7425 or emailing [cc@nwecok.coop](mailto:cc@nwecok.coop).

|                                |                              |                              |                           |                        |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| MARTINI B C                    | PAGE IRENE ESTATE            | RAMSIER MILDRED              | SHUMAN WALTER A           | THOMAS WESLEY          |
| MATHESON MONTE                 | PALMER CHESTER               | RANDALL VIRGINIA             | SHUYLER MYRON             | TINDELL BILL           |
| MAXWELL DONALD L               | PARIS VERNON                 | RAY MIKE                     | SIMMONS R L               | TOBIN JERRY            |
| MCBRIDE SUE                    | PARKER D P                   | RAY STEVE                    | SLOAN JEANE               | TORRANCE F ERMA        |
| MCGEACHY LINDA M               | PARKEY H R                   | REDINGER DON                 | SMITH ARLON               | TORRANCE INEZ I        |
| MCINTIRE EARL                  | PARRY FRANCES                | REED JOHN A                  | SMITH BUSTER              | TRIPLETT G M           |
| MCKEON R C                     | PARRY JACK                   | RICE NORMA                   | SMITH KEITH ESTATE        | TRUITT BILLY J         |
| MCKINNEY SUSAN                 | PARRY JACK L                 | RICHARDS HAL                 | SMITH LETA F              | TUNE ROBERT L          |
| MCNEAL JOHN                    | PARSONS BUD H                | RICHARDS JOHN C              | SMITH NORMAN J            | TURNER DALE            |
| MCPHAIL BRYAN D                | PARVIN ED                    | RICHARDSON M K               | SNIDER MARY MRS           | ULLRICH ELVIN G        |
| MEIER EARNEST                  | PATRICK CHRISTOPHER          | RICHARDSON MERLIN            | SOBER JOHN                | ULLRICH W H            |
| METZ MARY ESTATE               | PATTERSON DALE               | RIDENOUR C A                 | SOUTHERLAND ALBERTA       | UPCHURCH DAVID         |
| MILLER BEV B                   | PATTERSON FRANK SR           | RIDENOUR GEORGE              | SPAKE ORLEY D             | WADDLE DON             |
| MILLER D D                     | PAYNE MRS ELIGE              | RIGGS TOMMY                  | SPANGLER ALFRED           | WALTERS PEARL ESTATE   |
| MILLER EARLENE                 | PECK CLAUDIE                 | ROBERTS FLORENCE             | SPANGLER IRENE            | WALTON ROGER OR        |
| MILLER ETHEL                   | PECK PAM                     | ROBERTS TINA                 | SPENCER JIM ESTATE        | DEANNA                 |
| MILLER JAY H                   | PEOPLES W H                  | ROBERTS WALTER W             | STAATS G O                | WARD BLANCHE           |
| MILLER JOSEPH B                | PEREZ MORCERRATT             | ROGERS ARTHUR                | STAATS JACK               | WEBB GEORGE            |
| MILLER WILLIAM<br>(DARROUZETT) | PERRIN A L                   | ROGERS L J                   | STANDLEY JOHN             | WEEKS TERRY L          |
| MILLIKAN F W                   | PERRUSSEL GRACE              | ROHRER NETHA                 | STANEV NICKOLAI           | WEIDEMANN GEORGE       |
| MILLS SAM A                    | PETERS HARRY                 | ROMAN RAYNALDO &<br>NUMBERTA | STANLEY BLAKE             | WHITE HARLAN D         |
| MINER LEE MRS                  | PETERSON MERWIN D            | ROSS IRENE                   | STASTKA STEPHEN L         | WILCOXEN BILL          |
| MINTON O C                     | PETTY AMY ESTATE             | ROY ARLETA                   | STATES HARLEY             | WILCOXSON FRED         |
| MIX EDNA                       | PETTY FERN                   | RUCKER GARY                  | STEELE SONNY              | WILDMAN DONALD ESTATE  |
| MOORE DEAN                     | PFEIFFER STEVE W             | RUDY DAN R                   | STEPHENS COY              | WILLIAMS RAY ESTATE    |
| MOORE PAULINE                  | PHELPS JACK                  | RUTLEDGE HAROLD A            | STEVENS RICHARD<br>ESTATE | WILLS MAX W            |
| MOREY G S                      | PHILLIPS GRACE               | SALISBURY PETE               | STILL ROY C               | WILSON DENNY           |
| MUNSELL LAMONT                 | PHILLIPS J D                 | SANDERS STEVEN               | STORER RAY MRS            | WILSON JACK D          |
| MURRAY BURNS                   | PHILLIPS JASON               | SANGER GLEN                  | STRANDBERG H S            | WILSON ROBERT M        |
| MURRAY RUTH 1999 REV<br>TRUST  | PHILLIPS TRAVIS              | SANGER ROBERTA REV<br>TRUST  | STRECKER LEO G            | WINCHESTER RUTH        |
| MURROW MELANIE A               | PHILLIPS WILLIAM             | SARABIA ERMA                 | STUART RAYMOND            | WOOD LOUISE            |
| MYERS JAMES V                  | PINCKARD KENNETH A<br>ESTATE | SAWYER SID                   | STUCKER ERNEST E          | WOODS A J              |
| NEILL LILY ANN                 | PITTMAN BILL                 | SCHICKEDANZ G M              | SULLIVAN BETTY            | WOODS MRS EVA          |
| NEILSEN LAWRENCE               | PORTER EUGENE R              | SCHOENHALS R J ESTATE        | SWEET RALPH               | WREATH JAMES           |
| NEW SHAWN                      | PORTER INITA                 | SCHULTZ MIKE                 | SWIGART KATHRYN<br>MARTIN | WRIGHT ROBERT          |
| NEWELL LAVONN                  | POULSON C W                  | SCOTT MARK A                 | TAH LINDSEY               | WYNN WILLIAM C         |
| NEWMAN JIM                     | POULSON DAVID L              | SCOVILLE TERRY               | TAYLOR DEAN               | YANTZ MARVIN           |
| NORMAN GEORGIA                 | POULSON DEAN ESTATE          | SHARP OLETA ESTATE           | TAYLOR E A                | YAUK EMIL              |
| NORMAN TRUST                   | POWDERS V L                  | SHAUGER JOYCE                | THOMAS ANNA MAE           | YOUNG B LEE            |
| OATES MOLLIE                   | PREWETT C H ESTATE           | SHEFFIELD MRS G              | THOMAS CHARLIE L          | YOUNG WILLIAM J ESTATE |
| OBERMILLER R G                 | PRICE LESLYN                 | SHELTON W R                  | THOMAS CLAUDE             | ZIMMERMAN P F          |
| OLIVER PHILLIP                 | PRIDE KENNETH                | SHERRILL ATWELL ESTATE       | THOMAS EDDIE E ESTATE     | ZOLLINGER LOLA         |
| OWEN W J                       | PROPHET GLEN                 | SHORT VIDA P                 | THOMAS LEONA              | ZOOK HOWARD (PETE)     |
| OYLER ALBERT                   | PROPHET NELLIE               | SHUMAN JIM                   | THOMAS RAY (BUFFALO)      |                        |
|                                | PUNYAI SUREE                 |                              |                           |                        |