



the COOPERATOR

AUGUST 2024 | For the members of Kay Electric Cooperative
A supplement to Oklahoma Living



Left: 2024 Oklahoma Youth Tour delegates pose in front of the White House. Right: Kay Electric delegates Brylen Liberton & Jackson Weibling.



Watt a trip!

Kay Electric powers unforgettable Washington, D.C., adventure

Since its inception in 1964, the Youth Tour has been the pinnacle of opportunities for rural electric cooperative students, offering them an unforgettable journey to Washington, D.C. This year, Kay Electric sponsored two representatives: Brylen Liberton from Ponca City and Jackson Weibling from Garber. They joined over 2,000 young leaders from across the country in our nation's capital, creating memories and forging connections. 1007103

From June 14-20, these delegates embarked on a whirlwind adventure, exploring iconic national monuments, renowned museums and historic landmarks. They had the unique chance to engage with Oklahoma legislators, gaining firsthand insights into the responsibilities and impact of active citizenship.

Curious about Youth Tour? Discover more at <https://www.kayelectric.coop/youth!> 



OUR MISSION

Founded in 1937, Kay Electric Co-operative remains focused on our primary mission: to provide safe, affordable and reliable power for our member-owners. Today, our service territory includes 2,263 miles of line and more than 5,900 meters located in Kay, Grant, Noble, Osage and Garfield counties.

CONTACT US

Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 580-363-1260 | 800-535-1079
 300 W. Doolin Ave.
 Blackwell, OK 74631
www.kayelectric.coop

REPORT AN OUTAGE

Call 800-535-1079 or report via SmartHub at www.kayelectric.coop or download the SmartHub app for smartphone or tablet.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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EASY WAYS TO PAY YOUR BILL


- Pay online using SmartHub at www.kayelectric.coop or download the SmartHub app.
- Pay by phone: 800-535-1079.
- Pay in person at Kay Electric or use our 24-hour payment drop box at 300 W. Doolin Ave. in Blackwell.
- Pay via automatic draft of your bank account or credit card. Sign up at www.kayelectric.coop.

Powering education

Co-op tax dollars contribute nearly \$1.2 million to area schools

Though electric cooperatives are not-for-profit businesses, it does not mean they are tax exempt. In fact, in 2023, electric cooperative gross receipts tax provided \$1,199,982.33 to 16 area school districts.

The way co-ops are taxed is different than for-profit businesses. According to Oklahoma statutes, in lieu of ad valorem tax, electric cooperatives in Oklahoma pay a 2% gross receipts tax on revenue at both the wholesale and retail levels. 95% percent of the money collected from co-op members goes directly to local schools. The remaining 5% is retained by the Oklahoma Tax Commission to cover administrative costs associated with collecting and distributing the money.

Gross receipts tax disbursements are determined by the number of miles of co-op power line within a school district. More than 2,200 miles of Kay Electric power lines are located within 16 local school districts. The chart below shows tax disbursements to local schools in 2023 from Kay Electric and our power supplier, Western Farmers Electric Cooperative. 

2023 TAXES PAID TO LOCAL SCHOOLS			
School District	KEC Tax	WFEC Tax	Total
Billings	\$66,841.51	\$18,030.10	\$84,871.61
Blackwell	\$47,509.90	\$24,838.94	\$72,348.84
Covington-Douglas	\$7,863.71	\$152.16	\$8,015.87
Deer Creek-Lamont	\$82,896.58	\$9,509.55	\$92,406.13
Frontier	\$36,041.99	\$0	\$36,041.99
Garber	\$19,986.92	\$0	\$19,986.92
Kildare	\$50,131.13	\$7,607.64	\$57,738.77
Medford	\$63,564.97	\$152,989.57	\$216,554.54
Newkirk	\$118,610.92	\$60,556.79	\$179,167.71
Peckham	\$38,007.92	\$35,679.83	\$73,687.75
Perry	\$27,195.32	\$43,858.03	\$71,053.35
Ponca City	\$34,731.37	\$15,291.36	\$50,022.73
Pond Creek-Hunter	\$34,076.07	\$13,313.37	\$47,389.44
Shidler	\$55,045.95	\$55,459.67	\$110,505.62
Tonkawa	\$60,943.73	\$16,280.34	\$77,224.07
Woodland	\$0	\$2,966.97	\$2,966.97
TOTALS	\$743,448.01	\$456,534.32	\$1,199,982.33

LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS

Congratulations, JD!

After 25 years of hard work and dedication to Kay Electric, JD Soulek retired on May 31. We appreciate JD's unwavering dedication to Kay Electric. We wish him, and his wife Jaylene all the best!

Beat the summer peak


Five ways to stay cool and save

As temperatures rise and summer activities heat up, a reliable flow of electricity is essential to ensure Kay Electric members stay cool and connected. August brings some of the most extreme summer temps, which means people will be spending more time indoors to avoid the heat, and air conditioners will be working overtime. This increased use of electricity will cause spikes in demand, also known as energy peaks. During peak times, KEC must work closely with Western Farmers Electric Cooperative (WFEC), our wholesale power provider, to ensure a balanced supply of electricity is always available to meet our community's energy needs.

The electric grid is essentially a giant network that connects power plants, utility poles and power lines to homes and businesses across the country, throughout Oklahoma and to our local communities. All parts of the network must work together to ensure the flow of electricity stays balanced 24/7.

When the demand for electricity is high-

er than usual, power providers must ramp up electricity production—whether from coal, natural gas, wind, solar or other energy sources—and utilities will pay more for electricity produced during the peak. These higher prices along with the general increase in electricity use are why you typically see higher bills during the hottest months. In extreme cases, demand can overpower the available supply, causing electricity shortages. During these times, utilities are required to implement rolling power outages to reduce the demand for electricity and re-balance the grid.

When our area experiences extreme summer heat and higher demand for electricity, WFEC may call a peak day. On these days, you can help by conserving energy between 3-7 p.m. When we all work together to reduce energy use during peak times, KEC can lock in lower electricity rates so everyone in our community saves. Conserving during peak times also eases pressure on the grid and helps balance the supply and demand of electricity. 

5 WAYS TO SAVE THIS SUMMER



Adjust the thermostat up a few degrees.



Use a fan & turn it off when you leave the room.



Unplug unnecessary appliances & devices.



Run large appliances early or late in the day.



Close curtains or blinds to keep heat out.

GOOD COOKIN'



Braised Beef Street Tacos

Ingredients

- 1 teaspoon vegetable oil
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 Triple S Farms sweet potato, peeled and chopped
- 1 teaspoon red pepper flakes
- 2 pounds Peach Crest Ranch sirloin roast
- 2 teaspoons Head Country Championship Seasoning
- 1 cup Coop Ale Works Spare Rib Pale Ale
- 1/2 cup shredded carrot
- 1 green onion, thinly sliced
- 1 tablespoon finely chopped fresh ginger
- 1/2 cup rice wine vinegar
- 1 cup Head Country Chipotle Bar-B-Q Sauce
- 16 flour tortillas (small/street size)
- 3 tablespoons Hiland butter
- 1/2 cup Scissortail Farms cilantro
- 1 cup Scissortail Farms arugula
- 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 jar Ace in the Bowl salsa

Instructions

In a lightly oiled large sauté pan, sear the onions and sweet potatoes until the onions are translucent and slightly browned. Add the pepper flakes, and place mixture in the slow cooker or roasting pan. Return sauté pan to heat, and sear the roast until brown on all sides (5-8 minutes). Remove and place in slow cooker or roasting pan, then season with the Head Country dry seasoning. Carefully deglaze the pan with Coop beer, and allow it to reduce slightly. Be careful that you don't add the beer too quickly as it could overflow the pan. Add to slow cooker and cook on high for 4 hours. Or, roast in the oven at 350 degrees for 2 hours. Meanwhile, combine the topping ingredients (carrot, green onion, ginger, rice vinegar) in a small bowl; set aside. Using two forks, break apart the roast, shredding the meat. Add the Bar-B-Q Sauce, and mix well. Add butter to a sauté pan, and brown tortillas one at a time. Assemble the tacos and with topping mixture, cilantro, arugula, cheese and salsa.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Placing heat sources, such as lamps, computers or TVs, near your thermostat can result in false temperature readings, increased energy use and inconsistent cooling/heating. Make sure your thermostat is installed in an area clear of obstructions, electronic devices, direct sunlight and drafts. Ensuring your thermostat is free from these types of interferences optimizes energy efficiency, improves indoor comfort and reduces wear and tear on your cooling/heating system.

PEAK ALERT REMINDER

Peak energy hours may be called between June 20 and September 9, from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Be sure to check our Facebook page and our website for when our power supplier calls a peak day. It's important that members limit electricity use on those days as it helps keep our rates down.

\$25 is hiding in this issue!

If you spot your account number hidden in these pages, please contact Kay Electric to claim a \$25 credit on your electric bill. If no account numbers are claimed, the prize money will carry over to the next month for a maximum bill credit of \$50. Call 800-535-1079 or email contact@kayelectric.coop to claim your prize.

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