



# the COOPERATOR

**MAY 2025** | For the members of Kay Electric Cooperative  
A supplement to Oklahoma Living



## Power up your safety this spring

May is National Electrical Safety Month, making it the perfect time to refocus on electrical safety—especially as storm season is in full swing in Oklahoma.

### Downed Power Lines

Spring storms often bring high winds, heavy rains and tornadoes that can damage power lines and electrical equipment. If you see a downed power line, stay away and immediately notify Kay Electric. Even if a line is not sparking or arcing, it could still be live. Avoid contact with anything that may be touching the downed line, such as fences, trees or metal objects, as they could be energized.

If you are in a vehicle that comes into contact with a power line, stay inside. Call for help and wait until utility crews confirm the line is de-energized. If you must exit due to fire, jump clear of the vehicle with both feet together and shuffle away to minimize the risk of electrical shock.


### Generator Safety

Portable generators can provide backup

power during outages, but they must be used correctly. Never plug a generator into a household outlet without disconnecting from the grid, as this can cause backfeed, endangering utility workers. Always operate generators outdoors in well-ventilated areas to avoid deadly carbon monoxide poisoning.

### Everyday Electrical Safety

Electrical safety is essential all year long. Whether you're doing yard work or using household appliances, always be mindful of electrical hazards. Simple habits like inspecting cords for damage and avoiding overloading outlets can help prevent electrical fires. Ensure that electrical appliances and equipment are turned off when not in use. When working on outdoor projects—especially when using a ladder—be mindful of overhead power lines and maintain a safe distance.

Your safety is our priority. Stay aware, take precautions, and know that Kay Electric is here to help. Learn more at <https://kayelectric.coop/safety>. 

## Storm Season Safety Tips

- During stormy weather, unplug appliances or use surge protection. Replace aged surge protectors to ensure your electronics are safe.
- If using a generator, be sure it is installed correctly to prevent backfeed into power lines, which is dangerous to KEC crews.
- Never plug a generator into a wall outlet or operate a generator indoors.
- When venturing out after a storm, be aware of possible downed lines and assume they are energized. 1221502
- Don't walk into a flooded area where electrical equipment or outlets could be in contact with the water.





## OUR MISSION

Founded in 1937, Kay Electric Cooperative 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](http://www.kayelectric.coop)

## REPORT AN OUTAGE

Call 800-535-1079 or report via SmartHub at [www.kayelectric.coop](http://www.kayelectric.coop) or download the SmartHub app for smartphone or tablet.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

District 1 - Jake Olsen  
District 2 - Chad Otto  
District 3 - Sec./Treas. Ron Shoffner  
District 4 - President Max Hohmann  
District 5 - Mike Lebeda  
District 6 - Brady Hostetler  
District 7 - Bart Cardwell  
District 8 - Dr. Tim Blanton  
District 9 - Vice President Verl Brorsen  
General Manager/CEO - Jason Boesch

## EASY WAYS TO PAY YOUR BILL

- Pay online using SmartHub at [www.kayelectric.coop](http://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](http://www.kayelectric.coop).



## Members re-elect board directors

In February, Kay Electric held district meetings for members in District 7, 8, and 9. Members voted to retain their respective board directors for another three-year term. Congratulations to District 7 Director Bart Cardwell (above left), District 8 Director Dr. Tim Blanton (above center) and District 9 Director Verl Brorsen (above right). 🇺🇸



## KEC linemen assist neighboring co-op after wildfires

In March, high winds and wildfires wreaked havoc throughout Central Rural Electric Cooperative's territory in central Oklahoma. Kay Electric sent a mutual aid crew to help CREC with restoring power. We are proud of our lineworkers (from left) Jacob Barr, Cody Johnson, Matt McConnell and Chris Young

who embodied the spirit of cooperation that is one of our cooperative values. By working together, we can overcome challenges more effectively and ensure that everyone has the power they need. A huge thank you to this team for their hard work to help CREC in the co-op's time of need. 🇺🇸

## LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS



## Kay Electric awards 2025 youth contest winners

In February, Kay Electric selected the winners of our 2025 student contests, recognizing outstanding local high school juniors and eighth-graders.

Eight junior students participated in interviews with a panel of three judges as part of the Youth Tour contest. First place went to Emmie Harnden from Tonkawa High School, and second place went to Brianna Payne from Garber High School—both earning an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., for

NRECA Youth Tour.

Third place went to Derby Darling from Deer Creek-Lamont, and fourth place went to Avery Boyer from Garber High School, winning an all-expense-paid trip to Steamboat Springs, Colorado, for Co-operative Youth Leadership Camp.

Fifth-place winner Kylie Keller of Medford High School and sixth-place winner Addyson Harmon of Tonkawa High School each received a \$300 cash prize.

Seventh-place winner Valeria Ochoa of Tonkawa High School and eighth-place winner Lily Herrera of Medford High School each received a \$200 cash prize.

In the eighth-grade contest, winners included Carlos Cabrera and Addison Reinschmiedt from Garber Middle School, Ava McAninch from Tonkawa Middle School, and Reid Schneeberger from Newkirk Middle School. These students will enjoy a four-day trip to Energy Camp in Hinton, Oklahoma. 🇺🇸

**Pictured above** are KEC's 2025 student contest winners. **Left:** Junior winners. (Front row, from left) Emmie Harnden, Brianna Payne, Derby Darling and Avery Boyer. (Back row, from left) KEC Board President Max Hohmann, Kylie Keller, Addyson Harmon, Valeria Ochoa, Lily Herrera, and KEC CEO Jason Boesch. **Right:** Eighth-grade winners. (Front row, from left) Carlos Cabrera, Addison Reinschmiedt, Ava McAninch and Reid Schneeberger. (Back row, from left) KEC Board President Max Hohmann and KEC CEO Jason Boesch.

### Blue skies now, backup power for later!

We offer Generac whole home automatic standby generators that protect your home during outages. Call 580-363-1260 to learn more.



Scan for  
more info!



## GOOD COOKIN'

### Parmesan Crusted Chicken

Serves 4

#### Ingredients

- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 4 boneless, skinless chicken breast halves (about 1 1/4 pounds)
- 4 teaspoons Italian seasoned dry bread crumbs

#### Instructions

Preheat oven to 425°F. In a small bowl, combine mayonnaise with Parmesan cheese. Arrange chicken on a parchment-lined baking sheet. Spread mayonnaise mixture evenly over breasts and sprinkle with bread crumbs. Bake 20 minutes or until the internal temperature of the chicken is 165°F.



## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Routine maintenance is important to keep your refrigerator running efficiently. Lint and dirt should be cleaned from the refrigerator coils every six months to a year, and more often if there are pets in the home. When coils are coated with lint, dust or pet hair, your refrigerator works harder than it's designed to, which can prevent the appliance from cooling properly and efficiently. The additional work can increase the energy costs of the refrigerator by as much as 35% and shorten the life of the appliance. *Source: energy.gov*

**Scam Alert!** If you suspect you're dealing with a utility scam, it's crucial to slow down and take your time before taking any action. Scammers will often pressure you to make quick decisions or immediate payments. Instead, take the time to verify the legitimacy of the communication by contacting your utility directly. Use a phone number from a reliable source, such as your bill or the KEC website. Taking this simple step can help protect you from falling victim to utility scams.

*Source: Utilities United Against Scams*

## \$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](mailto:contact@kayelectric.coop) to claim your prize.

## FOLLOW US!

for community highlights, contests, outage restoration updates and more



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