



# the COOPERATOR

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



## Co-ops Power Communities with Purpose

Communities come in all shapes and sizes. Some are based on geographical proximity, some are based on shared interests or hobbies, and some communities can even be found in virtual spaces like social media groups. Regardless of where or how they are formed, communities can bring people together and create a sense of belonging.

Kay Electric Cooperative is deeply committed to our consumer-members, and we're glad you are part of the electric cooperative community.

In October, more than 30,000 cooperatives across the U.S. are celebrating National Co-op Month. It's a time to reflect on all the aspects that set cooperatives apart from other types of businesses, but more importantly, it's a time to celebrate


the power of co-op membership.

Electric cooperatives are not-for-profit utilities that are built by the communities they serve. For Kay Electric, our mission has always been to provide you with reliable power. We care about your quality of life, and because we are locally operated, we're uniquely suited to meet our members' evolving energy needs. On Page 3, you'll see an invitation to participate in a consumer satisfaction survey. As a valued member of Kay Electric, we hope you'll take a few moments to offer feedback so we can continue to offer you the best service possible.

Beyond the business of electricity, our employees and directors are equally invested in our local community. Why? Because we live here, too. That's why we

work hard to support local economic development projects, youth programs and scholarships, charitable giving initiatives and additional programs that make our community a better place to call home.

All co-ops, including Kay Electric, are guided by seven cooperative principles that embody the values and spirit of the cooperative movement. These seven principles are a framework to help all co-ops navigate challenges and opportunities while remaining true to our purpose.

This October, as we celebrate National Co-op Month and the power of membership, we hope you will recognize the many aspects that set electric cooperatives apart. Our mission is reliable power. Our purpose is people—the local communities we're proud to serve. 



# K-UP FOUNDATION UPDATE

## 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

## 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).

## K-UP board members recognized for years of service

Kay Electric Cooperative recognizes the contributions of two dedicated K-UP Foundation board members, Candy Oller (left) and Barbara Regier (right).


Oller, who served as secretary, and Regier, vice president, both joined the board in 2016 and retired in July. Their leadership and commitment have played a vital role in shaping the Foundation's success, and their presence will be missed. Thank you for your service. We wish you all the best in your future endeavors! 



Visit <https://kayelectric.coop/k> to learn more about the K-UP Foundation. The next grant application deadline is **Oct. 7**.



## Prepare for winter with a whole-home generator

Kay Electric offers Generac whole home automatic standby generators. A standby generator provides automatic backup power to protect your home in case of an outage this winter. We can cover the entire install process from start to finish. A variety of generator sizes are available. For more information, call KEC at 580-363-1260 or visit [www.kayelectric.coop/generators](http://www.kayelectric.coop/generators). 

# LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS



## Applications now open for 2025 student contests!

Get ready for an unforgettable experience with Kay Electric's 2025 student contests. We're inviting local eighth-graders and high school juniors to compete for some exciting opportunities.


**Eighth-graders:** Four lucky winners will head to Energy Camp in Hinton for an action-packed adventure.

**High school juniors:** Two students will win a trip to Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. Two others will embark on an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington,

D.C., as part of the National Rural Electric Youth Tour.

**Plus:** Four runners-up will receive cash prizes.

Apply today at [www.kayelectric.coop/youth](http://www.kayelectric.coop/youth). Applications are due by January 10, 2025. Students attending school within KEC's service territory, including home-schooled students, are eligible—no co-op membership required.

Questions? Reach out to Desiree Master-son-Whitehead at 580-363-1260 or email [dwhitehead@kayelectric.coop](mailto:dwhitehead@kayelectric.coop). 

Apply at [www.kayelectric.coop/youth](http://www.kayelectric.coop/youth) by Jan. 10, 2025.

## Your feedback makes us better!

Help us continue to offer the best service we can by sharing your opinion and experience



Scan the QR code or visit [www.surveymonkey.com/r/KayElectric](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KayElectric) to complete the survey!

## Electrical safety tips for spook-tacular Halloween fun

As Halloween approaches, it's time to embrace the season with candy, costumes, and festive decorations. Whether you're lighting up your yard with eerie lights or setting up inflatable ghouls, keeping safety in mind is crucial. Here are some electrical safety tips to ensure your Halloween is both thrilling and safe:


**Check Decorations Thoroughly:** Before plugging in those spooky lights and animated displays, inspect each item for signs of damage. Look for cracked or frayed cords, exposed wires and damaged plugs, as these can lead to shock or fire. Replace any damaged decorations.

**Opt for Safety-Approved Decor:** Be sure your decorations are approved by a reputable laboratory, like Underwriters Laboratory (UL) for outdoor use.

**Avoid Overloading:** Don't overload extension cords and keep them away from water. Overloaded cords can overheat and become a fire hazard. 202101

**Use Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters:** Plug outdoor lights and decorations into GFCI-protected outlets. These devices can prevent electrical shock by shutting off power when they detect a ground fault.

**Stay Safe Around Power Lines:** When decorating outside, always look up. Keep yourself and any equipment, like ladders, at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines. Carry ladders and long tools horizontally to avoid accidental contact.

Enjoy your Halloween and make sure your spooky setup is as safe as it is spectacular! 



# GOOD COOKIN'

## Rice Krispie Pumpkins

### Ingredients

- 1/4 cup butter
- 40 large marshmallows
- Red & yellow food coloring
- 6 cups crispy rice cereal
- Oil for greasing hands
- Mini Rolos
- Green M&Ms

### Instructions

In a large pot, melt the butter over low heat. Add the marshmallows and stir until melted. Remove from heat. Add yellow food color (about 12 drops), mix, and add red food color, one drop at a time (about 4 drops). Mix well. Add the crispy rice cereal and stir to combine. Grease hands with oil and roll the cereal mixture into small balls. Set on parchment paper. Re-grease hands after each ball. While the balls are still warm, press a mini rolo into the top of each pumpkin for the stem and add a green M&M beside it as the leaf. Cool until firm.



## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

**Madison Quillin**

**Marketing Intern**

Madison Quillin is KEC's new marketing intern. Originally from Lamont, she lives in Blackwell and attends Oklahoma State University, pursuing a degree in marketing. She's engaged to Tobyn, and has two dogs. Madison says her great-grandma was an inspiration in her life and always encouraged her to go after her dreams: "No matter her age or what was going on in the world, she was always her best self." Welcome, Madison!



CHAMPION  
POLE VAULTER



DREAM VACATION:  
EUROPE & IRELAND



ENJOYS FRIENDS &  
GREY'S ANATOMY

**Efficiency Tip of the Month:** If you recently made or plan to make energy efficiency improvements to your home, you may be eligible for federal tax credits. The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) of 2022 empowers homeowners to save money on energy efficiency improvements and upgrades. Homeowners can save up to \$3,000 annually to lower the cost of efficiency upgrades by up to 30%. A few upgrades covered through the IRA include new exterior doors, windows, insulation, heating/cooling equipment and other major appliances. If you completed an upgrade this year or you are considering one, visit [www.energystar.gov/federal-tax-credits](http://www.energystar.gov/federal-tax-credits) to learn if you qualify for a tax credit. *Source: energystar.gov*

**\$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

Pay your bill, report outages, view your usage, all via SmartHub. Access SmartHub through [www.kayelectric.coop](http://www.kayelectric.coop) or download the smart-phone or tablet app.

