



the COOPERATOR

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



In the photos, from left: KEC Director of Communications Desiree Master-son-Whitehead, Zoe Sterling, Natalie Newland and Jace Whitehead at Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

Empowering tomorrow's leaders

Local students shine at Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp


Earlier this summer, Kay Electric sponsored Zoe Sterling and Natalie Newland for an unforgettable week at Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp.

The weeklong camp, July 12-18, brought together more than 100 high school students from Oklahoma, Colorado, Kansas and Wyoming. Students stayed at the Glen Eden Resort in Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

Leadership Camp attendees were immersed in activities designed to enhance their leadership skills, public speaking and understanding of the electric utility industry and the cooperative business model. Highlights of the camp includ-

ed a tour of the Craig Power Station, daily membership meetings simulating cooperative governance and various team-building activities.

Participants also enjoyed a range of recreational activities such as white water rafting, indoor skydiving, a gondola ride up Mt. Werner and a visit to Fish Creek Falls. The camp experience was rounded out with a talent show, volleyball tournament and a live raptor presentation.

For incoming high school juniors interested in this enriching experience, applications for next year's Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp open soon! For details visit www.kayelectric.coop/youth. 

Youth contests open in September!

Kay Electric's 2025 Youth Contests open in September. Get the details on our Youth Program site: www.kayelectric.coop/youth.

The deadline to apply is January 10, 2025.





LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS

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 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 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.



KAY COUNTY FREE FAIR

SEPTEMBER 10-14

STOP BY THE KAY ELECTRIC BOOTH FOR GOODIES & PRIZE DRAWINGS!

Protect yourself from energy scams

by CEO Jason Boesch

Consumers with water, gas and electricity connections have long been targets for utility scams. With our digital world today, every swipe and click increases scam risks.

Scammers are more sophisticated than ever before, and they understand our increasing reliance on technology. With their sharpened digital knives, scammers have adapted their tactics to trick unsuspecting consumers through a variety of methods.

Kay Electric wants to help you avoid energy scams, whether from financial loss or leak of your personal information. This month, I'd like to share updates on some of the latest utility scams, as well as tips to help you stay safe from even the craftiest scammers.

Recent Utility Scams

Scammers typically disguise themselves—either physically or digitally—as utility employees or representatives to steal consumers' money or personal information. A common trick is to claim a consumer's bill is past due and threaten to disconnect service if payment isn't received immediately. Scammers approach consumers through a variety of means, including phone calls, text messages, emails and even in-person visits. However, the digital line of attack is increasingly more common.

For example, new capabilities disguis-

ing caller ID or "spoofing" can make the phone number you see on caller ID appear to be from a trusted source. Spoofing makes it easier for scammers to deceive you because it's more difficult to immediately verify the call. Another recent scam uses fraudulent websites that are identical to a utility payment web page—and what's worse, these pages are often promoted on search engines to trick consumers into clicking and making a payment.

Another recent scam involves phone calls, text messages or emails claiming you overpaid your electric bill and will receive a cash or banking refund. This offer may seem too good to be true, and it is—it's likely a scam aimed to steal your personal information.

Spotting a Scam

There are several red flags you can watch for to identify an energy scam. Scammers often use high-pressure tactics to create a sense of urgency, like claiming your electricity or other services will be disconnected if a payment isn't made immediately. Additionally, scammers may ask for unusual payment methods such as gift cards or cryptocurrency. If someone is pushing for an unusual payment method, it's likely a scam. You've probably noticed that many digital scams, like emails or text messages, include poor grammar, spelling errors and odd email addresses. These are red flags, so when


you see these dodgy forms of communication, consider them a potential scam.

What Kay Electric Will (and Won't) Do

Kay Electric will never demand an instant, immediate payment and threaten to disconnect your service without prior notices or warnings. We strive to resolve challenging situations and work with our members to avoid disconnects. Kay Electric will never ask for your social security number or banking details over the phone or through email. We offer several secure payment options, including in-person, www.kayelectric.coop, scheduled payments or SmartHub.

Avoiding Scams

Whether in-person, over the phone or online, always be suspicious of an unknown individual claiming to be a Kay Electric employee requesting banking or other personal information. We will only send you billing text messages if you have opted in for important alerts from SmartHub.

If you're ever in doubt about a potential energy scam, just give us a quick call at 580-363-1260 so we can assist. Kay Electric wants to help protect you and our community against utility frauds, and by notifying us about potential scams, you can create the first line of defense. We encourage you to report any potential scams so we can spread the word and prevent others in our community from falling victim. 

BEWARE OF UTILITY SCAMS

- Recognize red flags like high-pressure tactics.
- Kay Electric won't request personal information via phone or email.
- When in doubt, hang up and call Kay Electric at 580-363-1260.
- Please report suspicious activity to Kay Electric.



GOOD COOKIN'

Tri-Colored Pasta Salad

Ingredients

- 16 ounces tri-colored pasta spirals
- ½ cup finely chopped red onion
- 1 cup broccoli florets
- 2 cups multicolored cherry tomatoes, halved
- 1 red bell pepper, small diced
- 1 yellow bell pepper, small diced
- 2.25-ounce can sliced black olives
- 1-ounce packet salad seasoning mix
- 16-ounce bottle Italian salad dressing

Instructions

Cook the pasta according to package instructions. Drain and rinse with cold water to stop the cooking process. While the pasta is cooking, chop vegetables. In a small bowl, combine the salad dressing mix with the Italian salad dressing. Pour the dressing mix into the bowl with the cooked pasta. Add the chopped veggies and toss until well combined. Refrigerate for at least 2 hours.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Now is the time to schedule annual maintenance for your home's heating system. During fall months, HVAC technicians are typically less busy, making this an excellent time for maintenance and any necessary repairs before the winter months. A qualified technician can clean filters, check for leaks and ensure all system components are working efficiently to keep your home cozy and warm when the temperatures begin to drop.

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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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 or download the smart-phone or tablet app.

