



the COOPERATOR

FEBRUARY 2022 | For the members of Kay Electric Cooperative
A supplement to Oklahoma Living



Kay Electric employee Grace Vargas happily donated blood at the Oklahoma Blood Institute Blood Mobile hosted by Kay Electric on December 13. Thank you, Grace!



The mobile unit from the Oklahoma Blood Institute offers safe, easy access for donors.

Rolling Up Our Sleeves To Help Others

KEC Blood Drive helps replenish dwindling supplies

Kay Electric Cooperative was no place for the squeamish on December 13. On that day, the Oklahoma Blood Institute mobile unit rolled into the co-op parking lot for the Oklahoma Blood Institute (OBI) Blood Mobile. The event encouraged local residents, as well as co-op employees and trustees, to roll up their sleeves and donate blood.

victims of serious accidents, and surgery patients. According to the American Red Cross, the pandemic canceled many blood drives so blood supplies are critically low.



The OBI Blood Mobile provided a safe and easy way for local residents to donate blood. According to cooperative staff, the event was well attended.

A special thanks to the volunteers who helped with the event and the many donors who gave the all-important drops of life! 🇺🇸
2335100

DID YOU KNOW?

1 blood donation can potentially save up to **three** lives.

SOURCE: AMERICAN RED CROSS

For hospitals and clinics across the state, blood donations are necessary to save lives. The blood given by local donors is used by individuals undergoing cancer treatments,



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 2,400 miles of line and more than 5,800 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. | PO Box 607
Blackwell, OK 74631
www.kayelectric.coop

REPORT AN OUTAGE

Call 800-535-1079 or use Kay Electric's SmartHub at www.kayelectric.coop or download the SmartHub app for smartphone or tablet.

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EASY WAYS TO PAY YOUR BILL

- Pay online using SmartHub at www.kayelectric.coop or download the SmartHub app for smartphone or tablet.
- Pay over the phone: 800-535-1079.
- Pay in person at Kay Electric or use our 24-hour payment drop box located at 300 W. Doolin Ave. in Blackwell.
- Pay via automatic draft of your checking or savings account or major credit card. Sign up for auto-pay online at www.kayelectric.coop.

MANAGER'S MESSAGE

Balancing Act

SPP acts as the air traffic controller of the grid

BY JASON BOESCH, CEO

The unprecedented 2021 Storm Uri captured all our attention. While it was a devastating and costly event, it also highlighted how our national electric grid operates. Just as your house is on a larger grid of electric service with Kay Electric, electricity providers are on an even larger grid spanning across entire states. For the State of Oklahoma, we are part of the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) regional electric grid. Large electric grids support redundancy, efficiency, and lower power costs.

SPP is a regional transmission organization (RTO) granted certain responsibilities and authorities by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to ensure the reliability of the bulk electric system on behalf of a diverse group of utilities and transmission companies.

SPP has members in 14 states: Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Wyoming. SPP also provides contract reliability coordination services in Arizona, Colorado, and Utah.


Their membership includes investor-owned utilities, municipal systems, generation and transmission cooperatives, state authorities, wholesale generators, power marketers, independent transmission companies, and a federal agency. SPP ensures a reliable supply of power, adequate transmission infrastructure, and competitive wholesale electricity prices for a 552,800-square-mile region, including more than 70,000 miles of high-voltage transmission lines. SPP is



one of nine independent system operators (ISO) and RTOs in North America.

As a balancing authority (BA), SPP balances electric supply and demand, ensuring sufficient generation to meet the demand for electricity. This is why energy conservation in one place, such as North Dakota, can have a meaningful impact on electric reliability in another region, such as the panhandle of Texas. In addition, by consolidating its entire 14-state service territory into a single, large BA area, SPP has a diverse fleet of hundreds of generating units with different characteristics to serve load under varying conditions.

Think of SPP and other RTOs as the air-traffic controllers of the electric grid. RTOs do not own the power grid; they independently operate it minute-by-minute to ensure that power gets to customers and eliminate power shortages. Likewise, SPP does not control or direct the distribution networks that serve homes and businesses.

We can all hope to never see another Polar Vortex event with record low prolonged freezing temperatures. However, when the electricity generation market adds more and more renewables, which are not always reliable, dependent on the wind blowing and the sun shining, the grid will likely see an increased vulnerability to potential supply and demand shortfalls. SPP conducted a comprehensive review of the Polar Vortex event, implemented many improvements from that review, which we can all hope makes enough impact to prevent a similar future event. 

LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS



Kay Electric will be keeping it green at the upcoming Annual Meeting—as in John Deere green. Co-op members who register at the drive-thru event on April 8 could go home with one of the following grand prizes:

- John Deere Gator
- Zero Turn Mower
- Power Washer

The co-op will also give away \$20 to every member who registers at the meeting.

Please save the date and plan on joining us for our special celebration! 🇺🇸

KEEPING IT GREEN Deere Prizes At Annual Meeting



In The Spirit

The Kay Electric Cooperative team added a special co-op touch to the Christmas season by participating in holiday parades in Newkirk, Ponca City, Tonkawa, and Blackwell.

The co-op's Christmas float features an imitation bucket truck and electric lines. The float is pulled by a real bucket truck.

Kay Electric believes in supporting the local area by participating in events and activities that promote a strong sense of community and strive to ensure the best possible quality of life for residents. From volunteering at local events to coaching Little League and more, your electric co-op is committed to its members and communities. Kay Electric also offers financial assistance to local organizations through the K-UP grant program. For details, please visit www.kayelctric.coop. 🇺🇸 112503

Save the
Date!

DISTRICT MEETINGS

Monday, February 7
District 7 Meeting
6:30 pm, NOC Renfro Center
Tonkawa

Tuesday, February 8,
District 8 Meeting
6:30 pm, Carolyn Renfro
Event Center
Ponca City

Thursday, February 10
District 9 Meeting
6:30 pm, Fairgrounds
Women's Center
Perry

GOOD COOKIN'



Chicken Tetrazzini

Ingredients

Sauce

- ¼ cup unsalted butter
- 1 cup chopped mushrooms
- ½ medium onion finely diced
- 1 tsp minced garlic
- 1 tsp Italian seasoning
- ¾ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon black pepper

- ¼ cup all purpose flour
- 2 cups chicken stock
- 2 cups cream
- 2 cups cooked, chopped chicken
- 1 cup frozen peas

To Assemble Tetrazzini:

- 13 oz. dry spaghetti
- 1 cup shredded mozzarella

Instructions for Sauce

In a large skillet, melt butter. Add mushrooms and onion. Sauté over medium heat until onion is softened and mushrooms are browned, about 5 minutes. Add garlic, Italian seasoning, salt, and pepper. Cook 1 minute. Stir in flour until completely absorbed by the butter. Add chicken stock and cream and whisk until smooth. Continue cooking over medium heat, whisking often, until slightly thickened (it won't be super thick in the end). Stir in cooked chicken and peas.

Instructions for Chicken Tetrazzini

Preheat the oven to 400°F. if baking immediately. Place spaghetti in a large pot of boiling, salted water and cook just until al dente. Drain. Place cooked pasta in a 9x13-inch greased baking dish. Pour sauce over top and spread with a spatula over pasta so that it soaks down into the spaghetti. Sprinkle with cheese and bake for 20 minutes or until golden and bubbly.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

J.D. SOULEK

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

J.D. Soulek began his co-op career in 1999 when Kay Electric hired him as director of accounting. He served in that position for 15 years before becoming chief operating officer, a job he has enjoyed for the past eight years. J.D. says the best part of his work is "helping members enjoy rural living in any way I can." He and his wife, Jaylene, live south of Nardin where they raised two sons, Jay and Jaron. In his down time, J.D. enjoys working cattle, spending time with his wife and five grandkids, and watching OSU sports. J.D. says his biggest inspirations in life were his neighbors, Gene and Coleen Hedrick, who "showed us how to live and love one another and their fellow human beings." Thank you, J.D., for your service to Kay Electric!



OSU COWBOYS
FAN



DREAM VACATION:
ALASKAN CRUISE



FIVE
GRANDCHILDREN

\$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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