

June 2011

Northeast Connection

Route 66 Roadtrip
The Amazing Andy Payne



Andrew Hartley Payne (1907-1977) won the 1928 Great Transcontinental Footrace, began in Los Angeles 3/4/28, ended 5,422.5 miles later in NYC 5/26/28.

Andy, of Cherokee ancestry, graduated from Foyll High School, served 36 years as Clerk of Oklahoma Supreme Court, earned law degree from Oklahoma City University, served in the U.S. Army.

COVER:

Andy Payne's likeness is cast in bronze along Route 66 in his hometown of Foyil. Payne's legacy of accomplishment as the winner of the first-ever Transcontinental Footrace in 1928 will forever stand as one of the most remarkable athletic endeavors in human history. Payne's achievement is relived during the first leg of our Route 66 Roadtrip across northeast Oklahoma.

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Events are published as space allows and must be submitted at least 60 days in advance. Include a telephone number for publication. Send information to Northeast Connection Events Calendar, P.O. Box 948, Vinita, OK 74301. Email: clint.branham@neelectric.com, or fax: 918-256-9380. Please call ahead to confirm dates and times.

JUNE 3-4 • Miami

Miami Nation Tribal Pow-Wow
Miami Tribal Pow-Wow Grounds
918-542-1445

JUNE 4 • Grove

Lendonwood Gardens Fundraising Gala
Lendonwood Gardens
918-786-2938

JUNE 4 • Pryor

Thunderbird Youth Academy Foundation 5K Run
Thunderbird Youth Academy
918-381-1191

JUNE 4-5 • Bernice

Hook, Line & Sinker Free Fishing Weekend
Bernice State Park Nature Center
918-257-8330

JUNE 6-12 • Wyandotte

Oklahoma D-Day 14 Paintball Event
D-Day Adventure Park
918-666-3411

JUNE 8 • Miami

Vinita Chamber Classic Golf Tournament
Peoria Ridge Golf Course
918-256-7133

JUNE 9-11 • Grove

American Heritage Music Festival
Grove Civic Center & Snider's Camp
918-786-8896

JUNE 10-12 • Route 66

International Tri-State Route 66 Festival
Various locations
918-542-4435

JUNE 11 • Langley

Adair Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament
Grand Cherokee Golf Course
918-785-4242

JUNE 11 • Afton

2nd Annual Dutch Oven Cookoff
Grand Lake RV Resort
918-782-2920

JUNE 13-17 • Grove

Music Fest
Cedar Oaks RV Resort
918-786-4303

JUNE 17-18 • Grove

24th Annual Grovefest
Downtown Grove
918-786-9079

JUNE 18 • Jay

Huckleberry Pageant
Jay Elementary School Cafeteria
918-253-8698

JUNE 18 • Langley

GRDA Rush for Brush
Grand Cherokee Golf Course
918-256-0852

JUNE 18 • Oaks

Annual Benefit Car & Bike Show
Oaks Volunteer Fire Department
918-868-7544

JUNE 24 • Grove

Grove Rotary Club's LobsterFest & Charity Auction
Grove Civic Center
918-786-9053

JUNE 24-26 • Miami

Peoria Tribal Pow-Wow
Peoria Tribal Pow-Wow grounds
918-540-2535

JUNE 26 • Adair

Annual Adair School Reunion & Potluck Dinner
Adair School cafeteria
918-825-4377

JULY 1-4 • Salina

Salina Carnival
Main Street
918-434-5026

JULY 2 • Jay

44th Annual Huckleberry Festival
Downtown Jay
918-253-8698

JULY 2 • Grove

Arts, Crafts, Music & Cajun Festival
Grove Civic Center
918-786-8896

JULY 2-4 • Grove

Grand Lake O' The Cherokee Quilt Show
Grove Community Center
918-786-2573

Northeast Connection is published monthly as an effective means of communicating news, information and innovative thinking that enhances the profitability and quality of life for members of Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative.

Please direct all editorial inquiries to Communications Specialist Clint Branham at 800-256-6405 ext. 9340 or email clint.branham@neelectric.com.

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A representative is available 24 hours at:
1-800-256-6405

If you experience an outage, please check your switch or circuit breaker in the house and on the meter pole to be sure the trouble is not on your side of the service. If you contact us to report service issues or discuss your account, please use the name as it appears on your bill, and have both your pole number and account number ready.

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Summer vacation checklist

Power down for peace of mind


Summer vacations can be difficult to pull off these days, so it's important that trip-takers have peace of mind while away. Fires can start when lightning storms strike electronics or small appliances, and burglaries tend to increase because folks aren't at home.

The electrical safety checklist below will help you decrease the risk of problems occurring while on vacation:

1. Turn off all electrical appliances, including toaster ovens, stoves, and curling irons.
2. Unplug television sets and computers. These items are especially susceptible to lightning and power surges.
3. Use a timer on indoor lights. Look for one that can be set to a random pattern rather than regular times throughout the day.
4. Install motion-detecting lights outdoors.
5. Set the thermostat to 80 degrees in the summer and 55 degrees in the winter if you plan to leave for an extended period of time.
6. Give your house key to a trusted neighbor and make sure he or she has a phone number where you can be reached. 



Top Honors

Vinita High School junior Clay Decker was recognized for having submitted the highest scoring Youth Tour essay in 2011. For his efforts, Clay received \$150 in prize money, as well as special recognition in the form of a resolution passed by the Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative board of trustees. NEOEC Youth Programs Coordinator Amy Claborn presented Clay with the well-deserved award. 

Adventure awaits

Cooperative announces essay contest winners for 2011

Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative's proud tradition of supporting youth activities throughout its service territory continues in 2011 with the sponsorship of two essay contests. Four deserving winners were selected in each of the two contests and were awarded a unique opportunity to spend a week of their summer vacation participating in an enriching, once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Youth Tour

NEOEC is sending four area high school juniors on a week-long tour of our nation's capital, June 10-16.

Youth Tour is celebrating 48 years of sending young people to Washington, D.C., and our cooperative has always sponsored the best and brightest students from northeast Oklahoma on this all-expense-paid, educational trip.

The 2011 Youth Tour will get underway Friday evening, June 10, with the traditional "Get Acquainted Banquet" at the Airport Holiday Inn in Oklahoma City. The Oklahoma contingent of kids (there are over 60) will leave bright and early the following morning.

The trip will include stops at the Kennedy Center; Arlington Cemetery; Smithsonian Museum; Air & Space Museum; Ford's Theater and Peterson House Museums;

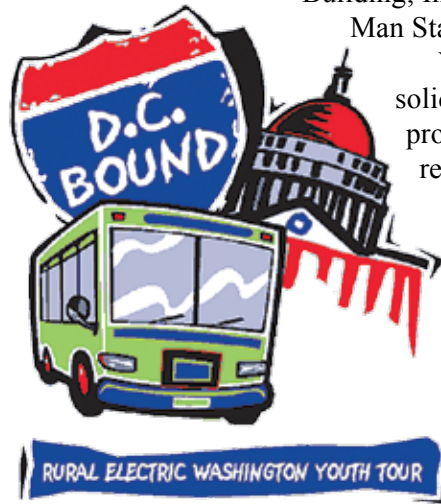
Lincoln, Vietnam and Korean War Memorials; White House; Jefferson and Roosevelt Memorials; Library of Congress; World War II Memorials; Holocaust Museum; Ronald Reagan Building; International Trade Center; Mount Vernon; Old Alexandria Christ Church; National Cathedral; Iwo Jima Memorial; U.S. Marine Sunset Parade; Pentagon; U.S. Botanical Gardens; U.S. Capitol Building; International Spy Museum; Awakening Man Statue; and more.

Youth Tour will be comprised of six solid days of activities from 7 a.m. until approximately 10 p.m. before wrapping up and returning home on Thursday, June 16.

As selected by the Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative board of trustees, 2011 Youth Tour qualifiers from our area included: Wyandotte High School's **Alex Lyons**, daughter of Carla Lyons of Vinita; Vinita High School's **Clay Decker**, son of LeCreatia Decker of Vinita; Colcord High School's **Emily Farris**, daughter of Will and Becky Farris of Colcord; and Adair High School's

Madaleine Ruiz, daughter of Leslie Ruiz of Adair.

Decker was also awarded an additional cash prize for having the best overall Youth Tour essay, while Wyandotte High School's Samantha Scheib of Miami and Grove High School's Charlie Brewer of Jay were selected as Youth Tour alternates and received cash prizes for their efforts.



Alex Lyons



Clay Decker



Emily Farris



Madaleine Ruiz



Trystan Welch



Madelyn Cherry



Collin Dawson



Julia Armstrong

Energy Camp

The cooperative is also sending four eighth-grade students from its service territory on a week-long adventure at Canyon Camp in Hinton, Oklahoma, May 31-June 3, 2011.

At Energy Camp, students will enjoy a number of activities that combine fun and education. Not only will they be able to swim and play volleyball, they'll also experience the life of a cooperative lineman first-hand with a ride in a bucket truck and some electric pole climbing.

Kids at Energy Camp will have fun while building valuable leadership skills that will last a lifetime. They'll hear speakers address topics such as: *Life Before Electricity*, *Managing a Rural Electric Cooperative*, and *Being a Co-op Board Member*. They'll tour Caddo Electric Cooperative, witness a pole-top rescue demonstration, and visit Western Farmer's Electric Cooperative for a facilities tour.

A group trip to Celebration Station for a round of go-carts, batting cages, video games and pizza will give kids a break from the camp experience Wednesday afternoon and evening.

Activities will begin winding down Thursday, which is highlighted by an evening pizza party and Kickin' Karaoke & DJ dance. Kids will load up and return home late Friday morning.

Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative will be sending four to Energy Camp this summer. Winning essays qualified the following students for the trip:

Will Rogers Middle School's **Trystan Welch**, daughter of Laura Norton of Miami; Adair Middle School's **Madelyn Cherry**, daughter of Marcus and April Cherry of Adair; Quapaw Middle School's **Collin Dawson**, son of Butch and Belinda Crockett of Quapaw; and Ewing Halsell Middle School's **Julia Armstrong**, daughter of Barry and Christina Armstrong of Vinita.


NEOEC recognized the instructors who assisted the Energy Camp qualifiers with their winning essay entries. Checks in the amount of \$200 (to be used toward the purchase of classroom materials and equipment) were issued to: **Laura Eddington** of Miami Schools, **Darlene Brandon** of Adair Schools, **Aaron Thompson** of Quapaw Schools, and **Janie Sutton** of Vinita Schools.

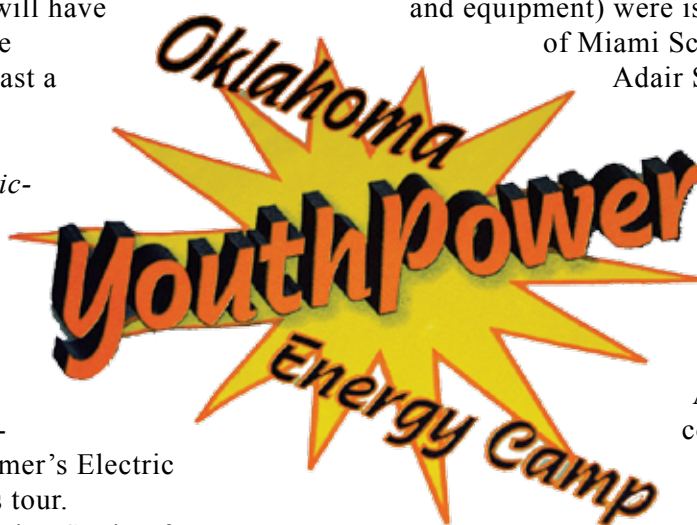
"We have been impressed by the effort put forth by all participants—not just the winners—in our youth programs essay contests this year," remarked Amy Claborn, youth programs coordinator for the cooperative.

"There were many quality entries and our board and panel of judges had a difficult time narrowing down the list

of finalists."

Added Claborn: "It is also important to recognize the teachers in the classrooms where these essays were produced. Without instructors, the timely completion and submission of these entries would have been more challenging.

"We have a good group of students this year. I'm sure they will all make the most of their Youth Tour and Energy Camp experiences." 





Foyil man forges a legacy on foot

Travel historic Route 66 through northeast Oklahoma, and you may notice a bronze statue of a young man in a running pose in a particularly quiet spot along the roadside in Foyil.

The monument commemorates the achievements of one Andrew Payne, whose inspirational story is the stuff of which blockbuster Hollywood movies are made.

Born in Chelsea of Cherokee descent and raised on the family farm in Foyil, Andy Payne was a country kid with an iron will and an irrepressible sense of quest. So adventurous was Andy that he struck out for California in search of gainful employment after graduating high school, only to return home a short time later to announce his plans to compete in the first-ever-of-its-kind transcontinental footrace.

Andy ran everywhere. Rather than ride horses to school as did other children, he preferred to simply run the five-mile distance from the family farm. He competed in track while in high school, where it was said “he always carried off the mile honors in the county meets.”

However gifted, Andy’s high school accolades were his lone notable achievements in the field. Against top competition, he was both unknown and untested.


While in California, Andy read a newspaper article detailing the First Annual Transcontinental Footrace. Organized by sports promoter Charles C. Pyle to draw attention to the new Route 66, the race was to begin March 4, 1928, in Los Angeles and finish in New York City. The prize money offered totaled \$48,500. The contestant with the best time would receive a first prize purse of \$25,000.

Andy returned home to Oklahoma to announce his desire to participate in the event and secure financial backing for his endeavor. He received a \$75 sponsorship from the Claremore Chamber of Commerce. His family tried in vain to discourage Andy’s participation

Route 66 Road Trip series underway

They say you can get your kicks on Route 66. But did you know you can also get a pretty darned good chicken fried steak?

There are countless sites to see over the entire 2,500 miles of the historic highway, which traverses eight states and three time zones. There are also plenty of things to see and do along the approximately 80 miles of Route 66 right here in northeast Oklahoma.

This month in the Northeast Connection we unveil a new series that will explore some of what Route 66 has to offer in our little corner of the state. We’ll start our journey this month in the small Rogers County town of Foyil. 

in the race and agreed to cover his remaining expenses.

Andy’s motivation was simple.

“I want to clear the mortgage (on the family farm), and I can accomplish more in three months than it will take years to do otherwise,” he said.

“This enthusiasm and determination to (compete in this race) ruined a formerly good Oklahoma farmhand,” said Andy’s father, Doc Payne.

Andy returned to California three months before the race and embarked on a training regimen that saw him run as much as 30 miles each day.

An unknown Andy Payne counted himself among 275 contestants to toe the starting line at the First Annual Transcontinental Footrace on March 4, 1928. The field held a who’s who of international running talent—from long distance champions like Finland marathoner Nestor Erickson, to Olympic competitors like Juri Lossman of Estonia. And then there was young Andy, with little more than his experience on the byways and backroads of rural Oklahoma on which to rely.

Doc Payne described his son’s running style as “a machine-like jog trot that





keeps him moving but don't hurt him."

Andy's determination would be tested during the grueling 3,400-mile odyssey from Los Angeles to New York City. He would endure desert heat, wind, cold, torrential rains, and steep mountain elevation along the way.

Seventy-seven runners dropped out during the first stage. Less than 400 miles into the race, only 102 contestants remained.

Andy took the lead roughly 99 hours into the race. He became ill between Arizona and New Mexico and lost the lead but persisted. In a wire sent home, Andy wrote: "Am feeling better. Will get back to my stride in a day or so."

Andy would recover in time for the jaunt into Oklahoma. He led through Claremore and his hometown of Foyil, which, ironically, marked the halfway point of the race.

An article in the April 14, 1928, edition of the *Tulsa Tribune* regaled the reception Andy received when he entered Oklahoma City.

There is commotion down at the gate. Four men enter abreast. Abreast they jog down the track. Inside, nearest the grandstand is a little man, whiskers apparently uncut since Los Angeles, with long woolen drawers under his running trunks. On his breast and back are numerals 103. That's Peter Gavuzzi, the Italo-Englishman from Southampton.

Next to him is a bronzed figure of a young man, jogging easily along, his black mane scarcely disturbed. He wears number 43. It's Andy, sure enough. Again on another long grind on the road to New York he has held his nearest rival even.

Andy was taken to the speaker's stand for the ceremonies honoring him.

"Hello home folks," greeted Andy. "I'm glad to be back. Hope to see you in New York."

By the time the race had passed Oklahoma, only 80 runners remained. Gavuzzi overtook Andy in Missouri but fell out in Ohio with an infection. Heavy traffic would add to the competitors' woes in the northeast and some were even struck by vehicles.



Andy would regain the lead for keeps 444 hours into the race. He held a 16-hour edge over his next closest competition, John Salo of Passaic, New Jersey. With four stages remaining and having completed the hilly, 75-mile leg between Wavely to Deposit, New York, the Oklahoman was weary yet still battling.

"Those miles seemed unending—the most maddening that I've covered so far," he told a New York Times reporter.

More than 20,000 spectators watched as the 55 survivors left for the final lap into New York City. Andy was the winner by over 15 hours when the coast-to-coast marathon ended in Madison Square Garden on May 26, 1928.


It took Andy five pairs of rubber-soled canvas shoes to cover 3,422.3 miles, in a total of 573 hours, four minutes and 34 seconds. Salo collected the \$10,000 second prize. As a finale, the runners had to do a 20-mile lap on a board track at Madison Square Garden.

The kid from Oklahoma became a national hero. After being honored by Congress in Washington, he returned home to pay off the note on the family farm and build a new home.

Andy retired from competitive running after the summer of 1928. He got married, worked as a newspaper editor for a while, and in 1934 won the office of Clerk of the Supreme Court of Oklahoma, a post he held for 38 years. He left only for two years to serve in the Army during World War II.

After turning 40, Andy attended law school and earned a law degree. Shortly before his retirement in 1972, when asked about his philosophy, Andy said, "One can't be an athlete all his life, but he can use the same desire that made him. For clean living, For love of God and country."

Payne died suddenly in 1977. Oklahoma City still honors him each year with the Andy Payne Memorial Marathon.

The statue in Foyil was erected in 1992, and an original painting commissioned by the Oklahoma State Senate Historical Preservation Fund depicting Andy graces the walls of the State Capitol. He was unanimously selected to be among the first inductees into the Oklahoma Long Distance Running Wall of Fame. He was posthumously inducted in Tulsa on October 30, 1998. 

Ducts in a row

Could the cure for those high energy bills be hiding in your attic?

Energy efficiency experts believe that as many as one out of every four homes may have disconnected ductwork in their attic crawlspace. It is estimated that 25 cents out of every dollar spent on air conditioning may be lost through leaky ducts.

Ducts can become accidentally disconnected during cable installation or when attic insulation is blown in. Or, it could have been installed incorrectly in the first place.

“Disconnected ducts are very common and can be a big problem,” explained Craig Hendrickson, Home Energy Auditor for Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative. “If an attic or crawlspace duct works loose from a vent or connecting duct and goes unrepaired, you can lose a tremendous amount of air conditioning. In essence, you could be paying hundreds of dollars each year to heat and cool the outdoors.”

Hendrickson said disconnected ducts also create an imbalance in the recirculation of air.

“If you have a room that never reaches the desired temperature, check behind vents or in crawlspaces for disconnected or crushed ducts,” he said.

In addition, if a return duct in your attic is disconnected you’re drawing heated attic air—up to 140 degrees—into your system. This forces your system to work even harder, and may cause system failure.

The good news is that ductwork problems are relatively easy to correct. Depending on the extent of the damage, homeowners may want to leave repairs to HVAC professionals. However, they may be able to perform inspections and minor repairs themselves.

DIY duct inspection

Check first to see if the joints of the ductwork are taped with duct tape. This could indicate problems in the past.

Examine ductwork for cracks, splits or bad connections. Turn on your system and feel for escaping air. Look for tell-tale black marks on duct insulation, especially

around joints. These marks are caused by dirt collecting around air leaks.

Sealing leaks

If re-taping, keep in mind that the use of traditional duct tape should be avoided since it deteriorates quickly and allows leaks to form at joints and seams. Instead, use metallic tape to repair fiberboard ductwork and mastic sealant to repair metal ductwork.

Insulating ducts

Duct work exposed to extreme temperatures in attics and crawlspaces must be insulated using R-4 or higher

insulated duct wrap or duct liner. The most efficient ducts are covered with at least 2 inches of insulation and have a reflective jacket. Insulation with a black or white jacket is not as efficient and will deteriorate quicker.



Repairing or replacing leaky ducts can save you a bundle.


Flex ducts

Flex ducts are not necessarily the best ducts, but they are by far the most popular since they are very easy to install. The downside is that they are fragile and can develop holes and tears over time. Care should be taken

during installation to not pinch flex ducts or bend them at sharp angles. A professional can help determine when they should be replaced.

Air quality

Dirty filters can make it more difficult for your system to draw adequate air, so it may pull air from weak points in the duct work. Consider using filters that allow air to flow freely and remember to change it every 30 days.

If your furnace is located in the garage, make sure that all possible leaks in the return-air path are sealed. Otherwise, unwanted fumes can be sucked into the house through those openings. Some furnaces sit on a raised platform in the garage. Extra care is needed to seal this type of return air path. 

Four more graduate from apprenticeship

Four more employees from Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative recently earned their stripes following graduation from apprenticeship training.


Kenny King of Eucha, Adam Riley of Vinita, Daniel McCann of Pryor and Ryan Brown of Grove were officially recognized on Tuesday, April 12, 2011, during the 69th Annual Meeting of the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives held at the Marriott Hotel in Oklahoma City.

King, Riley and McCann completed the requirements for graduation from apprentice linemen to journey linemen. Brown, meanwhile, fulfilled the conditions of the powerline staking technician apprenticeship program.

Our cooperative takes a great deal of pride in having a skilled labor force. An important tool for training employees is the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives' Power Line Training Program. This is an intensive, four-year apprenticeship program that certifies line personnel. The program was developed in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training.

In order to achieve certification as a journey lineman or staking technician, apprentices must complete twelve sections of curriculum, including homework, on-the-job training, specialized time tracking, classes and testing. Before certification, a final exam is administered. Then, signed approvals from instructors and supervisors must be obtained. In order to satisfactorily pass a test, the apprentice must receive a grade better than 75 percent.

The powerline staking technician program is a three-year program, requiring three week-long courses followed by testing.

To date, 25 cooperative employees have graduated from apprenticeship training. 



Pictured at right, Kendall Beck, Chairman of the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives Safety and Loss Control Committee (in dark suit jacket) and Kenny Guffey, Director of Loss Control & Cooperative Services (in light suit jacket) recognize Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative employees Adam Riley (top, middle), Daniel McCann (second from top, middle), Kenny King (second from bottom, middle), and Ryan Brown (bottom, middle) for having completed the requirements necessary for graduation from apprenticeship training. Beck and Guffey presented the certificates during the 69th OAEC Annual Meeting held April 12, 2011, in Oklahoma City.



Whether you're heading out to the lake, going to catch a movie or grabbing a bite to eat this summer, be sure and keep your CO-OP CONNECTIONS® Card handy and take advantage of some sizzling summer deals.

Visit www.neelectric.com

and click on the card to view all the deals in our area.



Patronage capital

Our success is your success

Cooperative businesses are unique because they are owned by the members they serve and because they are guided by a set of seven principles that reflect the best interests of those members. One of the seven guiding principles is **Members' Economic Participation**.

Members' Economic Participation means simply that members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. The cooperative does not issue stock—and surpluses are margins, rather than profits.

Margins exceeding what is required to operate the cooperative are allocated to member patronage accounts.

The success of the cooperative is shared with its members through an annual patronage allocation.

The directors of your electric cooperative recently allocated 2010 margins totaling **\$4,737,969** to member patronage accounts. To the average member using 1,200 kWh per month during 2010, this amount represents an annual allocation of **\$105.38**.

To calculate your 2010 allocated capital credits, simply multiply the allocation factor of **.0073183788** by your total annual kilowatt-hours of service for 2010. This will give you the 2010 margins allocated to your member patronage account.

Current members of the cooperative will also find the amount of their allocation displayed on their June 2011 electric bill under the *account details* section. This amount will remain in your patronage capital account until a future patronage retirement is made.

Your cooperative management is honored to serve you and to have the opportunity to share the success of 2010 with you. If you have questions about how capital credits are allocated, or if you would like to know the total amount in your member patronage account for this year and previous years, feel free to contact a member service representative toll-free at 1-800-256-6405.



Automatic bank draft perfect pay tool for busy schedules

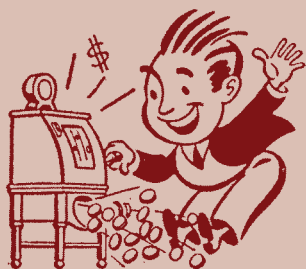
Co-op members have options for managing accounts and paying monthly electric bills. One such option works especially well for those planning a summer vacation or who just keep a busy schedule.

Automatic bank draft is an easy, safe and convenient way to pay your bill each month. The service is free. You can have your electric bill automatically paid from your checking or savings account at any participating financial institution. You will save time, money and paperwork while conserving checks, gas and postage. And, you'll worry no longer about forgetting to pay your bill on time.

Call 1-800-256-6405 and speak with a member services representative about automatic bank draft or one of the other available payment options.

Lucky Account Number

CHECK your copy of the Northeast Connection each month and see if you are the lucky winner of a \$25 electric credit. Match the number in the box below to the account number on your monthly statement and then call 1-800-256-6405 ext. 9340 to claim your prize.



This month's winning account number is:

938310

Watts for Dinner *with*

THE MODOC TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA

Native to the upper Pacific coast, the Modoc Tribe of Oklahoma once occupied lands in present day California and Oregon.

Modoc were skilled hunters, surviving on fish and game. They also lived off the native fauna of seeds, roots and berries. By expertly weaving together tule reeds, Modoc crafted a variety of items important to their existence such as rafts, baskets, moccasins and summer huts. In harsh winter months they made their homes in earthen dug-out lodges.

Many Modoc were removed to Indian Territory in 1873, following a six-month fight against government armed forces. Leading up to the conflict was a treaty signed in October of 1864 requiring Modoc removal from ancestral lands to a small area in Oregon's southern cascades. The treaty area was then "opened by right of way for public roads and railroads across the reservation by and for citizens of the United States," resulting in incursion and conflict.



Chief Bill G. Follis

Over 150 men, women and children were designated as prisoners of war and loaded into four railroad boxcars to transport cattle. These cars were coupled between two other cars filled with soldiers. Modoc men and boys thought capable of bearing arms were shackled. The Modoc were the only Indians in American history to be tried by a military commission for war crimes. Modoc Chief Kintpuash, better known as "Captain Jack," was hanged for his part in the resistance.

A 2,000-mile trip brought the Modoc to the railroad terminal in Baxter Springs, Kansas. They were then relocated to land purchased from the Eastern Shawnee in Oklahoma Indian Territory. Sixty-eight Modoc eventually accepted allotments there. The remainder of the tribe either eluded capture or did not participate in the fight against government troops and were allowed to remain on Oregon's Klamath Reservation.

In 1909, the Oklahoma Modoc were permitted to return to Oregon if they desired. Federal relations with the Modoc ceased prior to 1924 and recognition was terminated in 1954. The Modoc reorganized and created an informal tribal government in 1967. They were again federally recognized in 1978. The tribe's constitution was adopted in 1991.

With a current enrollment of 243 members, the Modoc today is the smallest of the recognized tribes in Oklahoma. Tribal headquarters are located in Miami. Leadership of the tribe is under the direction of Chief Bill G. Follis. The tribe is governed by an elected council that consists of Chief Follis, Second Chief Judy Cobb, Secretary-Treasurer Ramona M. Rosiere and council members Phil W. Follis and Theodore O. McCullum, all enrolled members of the Modoc Tribe of Oklahoma.

The Modoc tribe has several economic projects at the current time. These include: Red Cedar Recycling (opened in 1996); The Stables Casino; Red Cedar Enterprises, LLC; and a smoke shop. In addition, the tribe has reintroduced the bison and maintains a herd of approximately 100 head.

Services available to Modoc members include: housing, homeowner assistance, child care assistance, child support enforcement and educational assistance. The tribe also administers numerous federal and state programs that benefit tribal members as well as other Native Americans in the area. An annual meeting is held each May at the tribal administration office.

For more information about the Modoc Tribe of Oklahoma, visit online at www.modoctribe.net.

BISON (BUFFALO) BURGERS

1 pound ground bison (buffalo)
1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce



Mix ingredients and allow meat to "marinate" 5-10 minutes before forming into patties. In a large frying pan, cook patties on medium heat until thoroughly cooked (about 10 minutes), flipping occasionally. Serve as you would any beef burger (on a bun with cheese, tomato, lettuce and onion).

FRY BREAD

5 cups flour
2 teaspoons salt
5 teaspoons baking powder
3 ½ cups milk
Oil for frying



Mix first four ingredients to form soft dough. Roll ¼-inch thick and cut into four-inch squares. Fry in oil until golden brown, turning once.

This recipe is from the collection of Modoc tribal member Wilma Walker (deceased).

The American bison, also known as buffalo, has always held great meaning for American Indian people. To Indian people, buffalo represent their spirit and remind them of how their lives were once lived—free and in harmony with nature.



**NORTHEAST OKLAHOMA
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Cooperative leadership supports ACRE

Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative's board of trustees and senior management understand the importance of political representation for the fundamental principles of rural electrification. This belief has led NEOEC leadership to unite with other cooperative leaders from across the nation in forming ACRE, the Action Committee for Rural Electrification.

ACRE boasts more than 34,000 members nationwide, each of whom personally contribute an average of \$44 per year. It's a true grassroots program, made up of voluntary activists who understand that involvement is a necessary ingredient for success in the political process. Members come from all backgrounds and regions of the country. They represent the interests of the nation's nearly 1,000 not-for-profit electric cooperative systems and their 42 million consumers in rural, suburban and ex-urban areas of the country.

ACRE supports congressional candidates, regardless of party, who share public policy goals that are consistent with the mission of member-owned electric cooperatives. Half of the contributions to ACRE are returned to the statewide associations for use in state elections.

While ACRE supports candidates for the United States House and Senate, it does not contribute to presidential campaigns. 



NEOEC General Manager Robert Echenrode (right) accepts a certificate signifying the participation of co-op leadership in ACRE from NRECA board director Max Ott during the 69th Annual Meeting of the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives held April 12, 2011, in Oklahoma City.