



Happy Independence Day!

Please remember the reason we celebrate July 4th

Every year July 4 is celebrated with a boom, sparkle and flash, however, amidst all the hoopla we often fail to recognize the real reason for all our celebrating.

Over 200 years ago, leaders of our fledgling nation, battling for freedom from an oppressive monarchy, approved the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.

Drafted by Thomas Jefferson in June of 1776, the Declaration of Independence embodies core American values and beliefs. The words espoused in the document united a country outgunned by the British government, yet driven by the belief that freedom and equality are worth dying for. These beliefs still hold true, and many men and women have since fought and died for our right to freedom.

As you attend your favorite July 4 celebration this year, or blow off a few firecrackers with your kids, please remember there's a reason for all that noise. We celebrate our nation's core values and salute

FUN FACTS:

- The U.S. Continental Congress formally adopted the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.
- In 1781, Massachusetts became the first state to declare July 4 an official state holiday.
- In 1870, the U.S. declared July 4 a federal holiday, however, it wasn't until 1941 that it granted a paid holiday to federal workers.

those who serve, and who have served, to protect our democracy.

From your Kay Electric employees, staff, and trustees, we wish you a very safe and happy Independence Day!

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www.kayelectric.coop



Convenient Bill Paying Options

- Pay online using our secure site at www.kayelectric.coop
- Pay via telephone during office hours by using a major credit card at **800-535-1079**
- Pay in person at KEC or use our 24-hour payment drop box in Blackwell



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Tim Rodriguez

Mind That Peak!

When summer temperatures climb, it's time for Kay Electric members to watch their electricity use. When the potential exists for heavy systemwide electricity use, Kay Electric will issue a peak alert. Peak alerts encourage members to use less electricity during peak periods. For your co-op, peaks tend to occur on extremely hot days between 4 pm and 7 pm.

To be aware of Kay Electric peak alerts or receive peak notices:

- Like KEC's Facebook page so you can view daily posts, including peak alerts.
- Follow KEC on Twitter or Snapchat
- Watch for alerts at www.kayelectric.coop.
- Sign up for text alerts by texting "peakdays" to 55000.
- Listen to radio stations 100.7 FM or 99.3 FM.

Lowering your electricity use during peak periods helps your co-op control wholesale power costs and helps you save on your electric bill. Your cooperation is appreciated.

\$25 is hiding in this issue!

Please read your newsletter carefully. If you spot your account number hidden in these pages, please contact Kay Electric immediately 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.

800-535-1079

contact@kayelectric.coop

Efficiency Translates To Savings

New rate will reward you for wise energy use

Some of us like to drive faster than others. If you and your spouse drive the same distance to work with the same type of vehicle, yet one goes 80 mph and the other goes 50 mph, one of you is paying more to get there. The vehicles may be doing the same work and accomplishing the same tasks, but one spouse spreads the trip over more time and saves money. If getting to work faster is your goal, and you don't mind paying extra for gas, then no problem.

The same is true with the use of electricity. If we spread our usage over an extended period of time rather than using the energy all at once, we'll save money. At Kay Electric, we are billed by our power supplier, Western Farmers Electric Cooperative (WFEC), not only for the amount of energy we buy and resale to members, but also for the efficient way that energy is used. For example, Kay Electric pays more for energy used at our highest "peak hour."

Like many folks, my wife likes to get things done and over with. However, if we come home after a long day of work and within a couple of hours we wash two loads of laundry, run the dishwasher, cook a meal, and run the vacuum while the air

conditioner runs at a cool 70 degrees, we get a lot done, but we're setting a high "peak usage" of electricity.

WFEC monitors Kay Electric's peak usage and bills the cooperative based on that peak. Beginning in 2018, Kay Electric will monitor and bill each member's peak usage. In conjunction with charging a peak usage amount, Kay Electric will lower its kilowatt-hour (kwh) rates. By using less electricity during peak periods, we can lower that usage peak and take advantage of the lower per kwh charge. In other words, being more efficient will save you and your cooperative money.



By Tim Rodriguez, CEO
KAY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

"As members and users of electricity, we need to rethink how we use energy to power our homes and businesses."

As Kay Electric members and users of electricity, we need to rethink how we use energy to power our homes and businesses. Understanding our usage habits and using less electricity during peak periods can translate into lower bills for all of us.

We can also be more energy efficient by making sure we have well insulated homes, good windows, and efficient appliances. If you need to add insulation or convert to a high efficiency electric water heater, Kay Electric offers rebates to help make these choices more affordable. Give us a call.

Cash Rebates Available From Your Co-op!

- Insulation • Electric Water Heaters • Geothermal Heat Pumps

Visit www.kayelectric.coop for details, or call **800-535-1079**.



Kay Electric employees, above, worked an entire year without a single lost time accident.

KEC Celebrates No Lost Time

Each June, Kay Electric Cooperative (KEC) recognizes employees who have worked a year without a lost time accident. KEC's priority is to provide reliable electricity to its members and it is committed to safety. Working accident free helps KEC's productivity remain high. It also saves the co-op money on insurance and workers compensation costs.

KEC holds safety meetings every month to ensure co-op employees are educated on safety practices, whether they work

on the line crew, tree crew, or inside the office. Director of Operations Jim Maupin and Right of Way Manager Paul Epperly stress safety to KEC linemen and members of the tree crew every day to empower them to be safe.

KEC is honored to recognize the employees who keep our power on and our right-of-way cleared, as well as those working behind the scene to ensure our members have electricity when they flip the switch.

LIVING *by our* PRINCIPLES

5. EDUCATION, TRAINING & INFORMATION

Co-ops offer education and training for members, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperative. Members also inform the general public about the nature and benefits of cooperatives.

Understanding Your Home's Peak Energy Usage

Under KEC's new rate, savings await members who know their energy use habits



The chart below shows Kay Electric's monthly systemwide usage peaks in 2016. If you study these peaks, you'll notice they tend to occur in the morning as many people prepare to go to work, and in the early evening when people return home.

As Kay Electric transitions to a new rate structure, every member should become more aware of their home's peak usage periods. Knowing when your home uses the most electricity will help you learn to spread your usage over a longer time frame so you can save on your electricity

bill. Remember, every household uses electricity differently. Due to lifestyle differences, number of occupants and so on, your usage peak may be very different from your neighbor's.

To view your home's electricity use by month, day, and hour, please log on to Kay Electric's Smarthub at www.kayelectric.coop. By using Smarthub, you will learn when your usage typically peaks. With that information, you can make adjustments to become a more efficient user of electricity.

If you're not signed up for Smarthub, please contact Kay Electric at **800-535-1079** or visit our website at www.kayelectric.coop.

Acct# 1224310

KAY ELECTRIC 2016 SYSTEMWIDE USAGE PEAKS

January	8:00 - 9:00 AM	July	5:00 - 6:00 PM
February	7:00 - 8:00 AM	August	5:00 - 6:00 PM
March	7:00 - 8:00 AM	September	4:00 - 5:00 PM
April	8:00 - 9:00 PM	October	4:00 - 5:00 PM
May	5:00 - 6:00 PM	November	6:00 - 7:00 AM
June	5:00 - 6:00 PM	December	8:00 - 9:00 AM



Kay Electric's 2017 YouthPower Energy Campers (l-r) Nathan Darst; Amber Watts; Madisyn Wilson; Karlie Tucker; Kaylee Williams; and Lukas Steinert.

Home From Energy Camp

The arrival of summer meant a fun-filled, four-day trip to Canyon Camp in Hinton, Oklahoma for six local eighth graders. The teens, winners of Kay Electric's YouthPower Energy Camp contest, learned about the life of a lineman with a ride in a bucket truck. The teens also formed their own cooperative, held district meetings, and elected trustees. They heard firsthand about "Changing the World, One Light at a Time" from some of the Energy Trails linemen who traveled to Bolivia to electrify two villages. A trip to Celebration Station to swim and ride go-carts and bumper boats, plus a pizza picnic and a dance, rounded out their camp experience.

Kay Electric's Energy Campers included Madison Wilson and Kaylee Williams, Shidler Middle School; Kayleb Darst and Lukas Steinert, Garber Public Schools; Home schooled Karlie Tucker from Nardin; and Amber Watts, Blackwell Middle School.

These students were among 80 eighth graders chosen from across the state to represent Oklahoma's electric cooperatives at camp. Acct#106604

YouthPower Energy Camp is coordinated by the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives and Kay Electric Cooperative. For more information, please visit www.kayelectric.coop or call 800-535-1079.

Recipes

Blueberry Cream Cheese Jello Salad

INGREDIENTS

Blueberry Jell-O Layer

- 1 (6 oz) package raspberry Jell-O
- 2 cups boiling water
- 1 (20 oz) can crushed pineapple
- 1 (21 oz) can blueberry pie filling

Cream Cheese Topping

- 1 (8 oz) package cream cheese – softened
- 1 cup sour cream
- ½ cup granulated sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla

DIRECTIONS

Mix Jell-O and hot water as usual making sure it is completely dissolved.

Add pineapple with all juice and the can of blueberry pie filling. Stir gently to dissolve. Put in serving container and chill.

Topping:

Beat soft cream cheese until smooth. Add sour cream, sugar and vanilla. Mix until well incorporated and smooth.

Spread evenly onto set up Jell-O. Refrigerate until ready to serve. Note: Makes a large salad.

STORM TROOPERS

When a tornado plowed over parts of Elk City on May 16, Kay Electric Cooperative employees were quickly dispatched to the area to help Northfork Electric Cooperative restore power to affected members. The storm crew included Payden Day; Brad Unruh; Codie Perry; Terry Grace; James Walker; and Jim Rigdon.

