

P.O. Box 967, Pratt, KS 67124
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www.ninnescah.com



NINNESCAH RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Watts Ahead

Ninnescah Rural Electric Co-op, Inc.

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In Case of an Outage

If your electricity is off for more than a few minutes, please call 800-828-5538. The office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday–Friday. After hours, calls will be answered by dispatch and forwarded to our on-call personnel.

We Love Our Community

“To move forward, you have to give back.” This quote from Oprah Winfrey reflects the special bond and obligation that ties Ninnescah Electric to the community we serve. With Valentine’s Day approaching, we can’t think of a better time to express how much we love this community and serving you, the members of the co-op.

We know when we helped bring electricity to rural Kansas many years ago, the quality of life improved for all. Through the years, other issues needed to be tackled, and we have been at the forefront of helping to address some of those issues. Most recently, we asked for your help in convincing our elected officials in Washington, D.C., to pass the RURAL Act. Because of these grassroots efforts, the bill was signed into law protecting more than 900 electric co-ops throughout the nation from losing their tax-exempt status. We want to continue to help meet the long-term needs of our community to ensure it continues to thrive – because just like you, we live here too.

While our top priority is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you, equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of the consumer-members (that’s you!) we serve. This focus to benefit the larger community is central to the way we operate as a cooperative. Ninnescah Electric knows electricity is a critical need for modern-day life, but it

takes more than poles and power lines to make a community.

Over time, our co-op has evolved to meet the changing needs of our community, thereby improving the quality of life for everyone. And that can mean many different things. It can mean programs for Kansas’ youth, such as education scholarships, the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, where we take our community’s brightest young people to Washington, D.C., for a weeklong immersion to experience democracy in action, or Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp, where students learn about the cooperative structure while gathering leadership lessons. It means supporting organizations like local schools, 4-H clubs and other worthy programs.

We all benefit from these programs because of you and your neighbors. You empower Ninnescah Electric through your membership.

As a local business, we are proud to power your life and bring good things to our community. We hope you will continue to guide our efforts by sharing your perspective as we plan for the future. The energy landscape is undergoing dramatic change fueled by evolving technology and consumer desires for more options. While the larger environment in which we operate is constantly changing, one thing remains the same. By working together, I’m certain we can continue to do good things for our community.

YOU Can Help STOP Scams



Our increasingly connected world is giving scammers more opportunities to connect with unsuspecting consumers, and local authorities, utilities and other businesses are working overtime to keep people informed. They suggest 'if you see something, say something,' is a vigilance adage that can help prevent you, your family or your business from being victimized.

"The Federal Trade Commission has been hearing about scammers impersonating utility companies in an effort to get your money," said Lisa Lake, a federal consumer education specialist. "Your reports help us fight these scams."

Electric cooperatives are among the businesses and consumer organizations supporting Utilities United Against Scams (UUAS), the international consortium of electricity, natural gas, water and sewer providers, and trade and industry associations sharing information on payment scams, identity theft, sales and service schemes.

Mike Morley, director of corporate communications and government affairs for Midwest Energy headquartered in Hays, led the effort to bring the Midwest on board with UUAS to help prevent future scams for their consumer-members. Morley says part of the reason utility scammers are so successful is that they hop around, calling different locations and pretending to be a variety of utility companies. Because the scams were

varied by company, they were hard to connect. "Now companies involved with the UUAS bring their reports together, making it easier for law enforcement to link the scams and scammers," Morley said.

Imposter scams are the most common type of fraud reported to the Federal Trade Commission, according to UUAS officials. The frequency of the incidents picks up during peak heating and cooling seasons, in part because consumers are most concerned when temperature extremes increase the urgency of maintaining utility service.

"Never give banking information over the phone unless you place the call to a number you know is legitimate," wrote the FTC's Lake in an FTC blog.

There has also been an uptick in door-to-door scams by individuals claiming to represent utility providers like your electric co-op. Representatives knock or ring the doorbell offering to replace or repair a meter or other device, or solicit personal information to sign a consumer up for programs that could reduce their energy bills.

They may try to charge you for the phony service, sell you unnecessary products, collect personal information for use in identity theft or simply gain entry to steal valuables, officials said.

High-pressure demands are a common tactic in many of the schemes, urging immediate decisions or actions, like

immediate payment. Specific payment options like a gift card, wire transfer, cell phone or third-party computer app should raise serious concerns.

"The way a scam works is someone calls saying 'Hey, I'm going to turn off your electricity in 30 minutes unless you pay me \$550' or pick a number and usually it's somewhere above \$300," said Morley. Scammers will then likely inform their targets to purchase a money pack card and call back with the 16-digit pin code located on the back of the card.

"Once you give somebody that 16-digit pin code, that money is gone," said Morley. "They can take it, deposit it into a bank, they can load it to a pre-paid visa card. They can do anything they want with it and at that point, the money basically becomes untraceable."

Utility-connected scams are common because utility services are so common. Lighting, heating, water and sewage services are all essential to modern living, so any threat of service disconnection can provoke a lot of anxiety.

Your first defense is personal awareness of your account status, including knowing your co-op will never call you to get banking information over the phone. According to Morley, it takes three steps to complete this scam: the initial call, the purchase of a card and finally providing payment information.

"If you interrupt the scam at any of those three points, it doesn't work," Morley said. "The scam fails. The most important thing in that three-part triangle is knowing these scams exist and to be skeptical."

The most important thing ... is knowing these scams exist and to be skeptical — MIKE MORLEY, MIDWEST ENERGY

82nd Annual Meeting March 19



Join us for a FREE dinner!

At the Pratt
Municipal Building

Ninnescah Electric
Cooperative's

**2020
Annual
Meeting**

Tuesday, March 19

Registration at 5 p.m.

Dinner at 6 p.m.

Meeting to follow

Kyra Dauner Celebrates 40th Anniversary

Kyra Dauner recently
celebrated 40 years at
Ninnescah.



KYRA DAUNER'S 40th Anniversary at Ninnescah was celebrated with a surprise party. She began working for Ninnescah on January 8, 1980 in our billing department.

Kyra shared with us – this has been and continues to be a challenging job and I have enjoyed meeting those challenges. I appreciate all the people I have worked with and am currently working with. I still look forward to coming to work each day.

She is currently the Senior Billing Clerk for Ninnescah. Thank you Kyra for your dedicated years of service to Ninnescah!

You Have a Voice at YOUR

CO-OP

— attend annual meeting to use it.

**JOIN US AT
YOUR CO-OP'S
ANNUAL MEETING.**

Your electric cooperative exists to provide **SAFE, RELIABLE** and **AFFORDABLE** energy, but they do more than that. Mark your calendar to attend the annual meeting.



CONNECT

with neighbors and
co-op employees.

ENGAGE

in discussions to learn
about safety, energy
efficiency and more.

ELECT

consumer-members
just like you to
represent your
interests in the co-op.

Welcome New Members

Mid Continent Mkt Ctr LLC – Pratt
Johan Redecop – Mullinville
Connie McCammond – Woodruff, SC
Cory Zenger – Wamego
Harold Kruckenberg – Douglass
Toby Eshelman – Harper

Recipes

from Our
Members' Kitchens

Baked Burritos

- ▶ 1 Tbs. olive oil
 - ▶ 1 onion, chopped
 - ▶ 2 garlic cloves, minced
 - ▶ 2 cups shredded chicken (rotisserie)
 - ▶ 1 cup enchilada sauce, mild or medium
 - ▶ 1 lime, juiced
 - ▶ Salt to taste
 - ▶ Black pepper to taste
 - ▶ 1 can black beans, drained
 - ▶ 2 cups cooked white rice
 - ▶ 1 cup cheddar cheese, divided
 - ▶ 1 cup Monterey Jack cheese
 - ▶ 6 large flour tortillas
- Optional items**
- ▶ sour cream
 - ▶ hot sauce
 - ▶ chopped cilantro
 - ▶ jalapeños

Preheat oven to 350 F. Heat olive oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add onion and sauté until tender. Stir in garlic and cook until fragrant, approximately 30 seconds. Add chicken, half cup of enchilada sauce or until the chicken is completely coated. Toss to evenly coat chicken. Add the lime juice. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Continue tossing until it is mixed well. Take a tortilla and place on clean work surface. Add a scoop of both rice and beans. Place some chicken mixture on top of rice and beans and top with a little bit of both cheeses. Reserving about a half-cup of cheese to place on top of burritos before baking. Roll tortillas tightly and place in a large baking dish. Repeat with the remaining tortillas. Pour remaining enchilada sauce over the top of burritos and top with the rest of the cheese. Cover and bake until hot and the cheese is melted, approximately 15 – 20 minutes. Serve with your favorite toppings.

In memory of Marilyn Foster, Pratt

Want to share your recipe?

To submit your recipe please send or e-mail the following information:

- ▶ Your name, contact information and Ninnescah account number
- ▶ The recipe (clearly printed or typed)

Send your entry to: Ninnescah Electric, Attn: Recipes, P.O. Box 967, Pratt, KS 67124 OR email to: naschenbrenner@ninnescan.com

We hope you are enjoying the recipes from your neighbors.

Chalupa Supreme

- ▶ 1 lb. ground beef
- ▶ ¼ cup flour
- ▶ 1 Tbs. chili powder
- ▶ 1 tsp. paprika
- ▶ 1 tsp. salt
- ▶ 1 Tbs. dried minced onion
- ▶ ½ cup water
- ▶ Flatbread (pita will work)
- ▶ Oil for deep-frying
- ▶ Sour cream
- ▶ Shredded lettuce
- ▶ Shredded cheddar/jack cheese
- ▶ Diced tomatoes

Mix dried onion with water in a small bowl and let stand for five minutes. Combine ground beef, flour, chili powder, paprika and salt. Mix well. Add onions and water. Mix again. In skillet, cook beef mixture until browned. Stir often while cooking so no large chunks form; it should be more like paste. Remove from heat and keep warm. In a deep-fryer (or you can use a skillet) deep fry the bread for 30 seconds. Let drain on paper towels. Build chalupas starting with the meat, sour cream, lettuce, cheese and tomatoes in that order. Top with hot sauce or salsa if desired.

Brenda Head, Byers

Jell-O Cookies

- ▶ 3 ½ cups flour
- ▶ 1 tsp. baking powder
- ▶ 1 ½ cups salted butter, softened
- ▶ 1 cup sugar
- ▶ 1 egg
- ▶ 1 tsp. vanilla
- ▶ 4 – 3 oz. packages Jell-O (any flavors you want)

Beat butter in large bowl with mixer until creamy. Add sugar and beat until light and fluffy. Blend in egg and vanilla. Mix flour and baking powder in a separate bowl. Gradually beat in flour mixture. Divide dough into 4 separate sections. Sprinkle 2 Tbs. of Jell-O onto each section. Knead into dough. You may add a few drops of food coloring to make dough more vibrant. Shape dough into 1-inch balls. Roll balls of dough in the extra Jell-O. Place 2 inches apart on baking sheets. Flatten with the bottom of a glass. Bake 8-10 minutes at 350 F on lined baking sheets. Cool on baking sheets 2 minutes, then remove to wire rack to cool completely.

Brenda Head, Byers