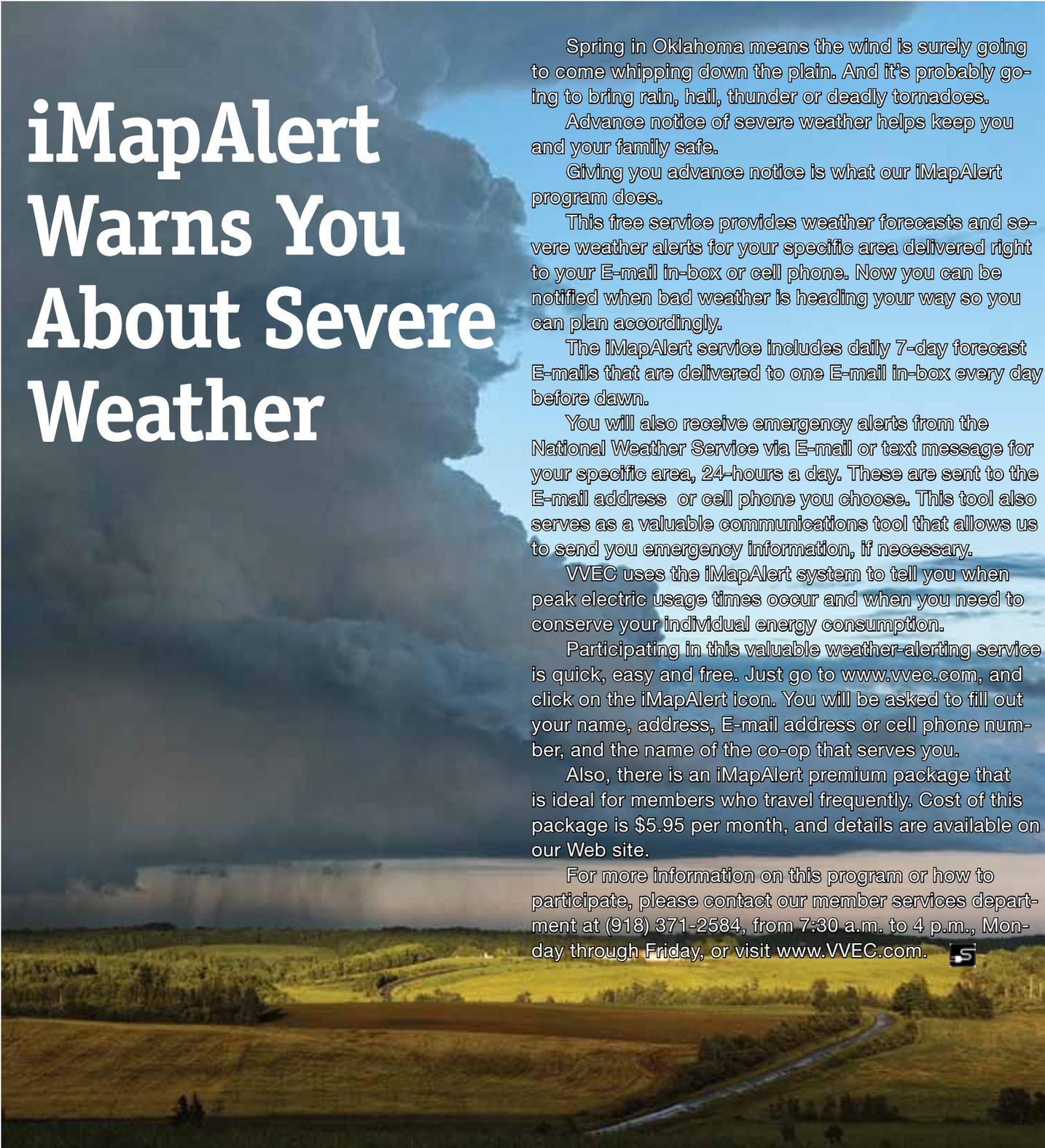


Blinking Lights Mean the Electric System is Working p. 3



iMapAlert Warns You About Severe Weather

Spring in Oklahoma means the wind is surely going to come whipping down the plain. And it's probably going to bring rain, hail, thunder or deadly tornadoes.

Advance notice of severe weather helps keep you and your family safe.

Giving you advance notice is what our iMapAlert program does.

This free service provides weather forecasts and severe weather alerts for your specific area delivered right to your E-mail in-box or cell phone. Now you can be notified when bad weather is heading your way so you can plan accordingly.

The iMapAlert service includes daily 7-day forecast E-mails that are delivered to one E-mail in-box every day before dawn.

You will also receive emergency alerts from the National Weather Service via E-mail or text message for your specific area, 24-hours a day. These are sent to the E-mail address or cell phone you choose. This tool also serves as a valuable communications tool that allows us to send you emergency information, if necessary.

VVEC uses the iMapAlert system to tell you when peak electric usage times occur and when you need to conserve your individual energy consumption.

Participating in this valuable weather-alerting service is quick, easy and free. Just go to www.vvec.com, and click on the iMapAlert icon. You will be asked to fill out your name, address, E-mail address or cell phone number, and the name of the co-op that serves you.

Also, there is an iMapAlert premium package that is ideal for members who travel frequently. Cost of this package is \$5.95 per month, and details are available on our Web site.

For more information on this program or how to participate, please contact our member services department at (918) 371-2584, from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, or visit www.VVEC.com. 

Co-op Connections® Card Goes to the Prom

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Monday through Friday

Editor - Kay Rabbitt-Brower

VVEC offices will be closed April 22 for Good Friday. Please call (918) 371-2584 to report an outage.

Winter Residential Rates

October through March usage,
November through April billing

Customer Charge \$20.00

Energy Charge

1st 1,000 kWh \$0.0731/kWh

Over 1,000 kWh \$0.0671/kWh

A power cost adjustment (PCA) will be applied to all bills when the actual cost of power purchased exceeds or is less than 55.993 mills per kWh.

In addition, a gross receipts tax of 2% of revenue will be included, plus additional taxes if applicable.

It's that time of year when teenagers change their jeans and T-shirts for formal gowns and tuxedos. And they do so gladly, because it's Prom Time!

If you have a young person eagerly anticipating Prom Night, don't forget to take advantage of being a VVEC member by using your Co-op Connections® Card when making your Prom plans and purchases.

You can help your young lady or gentleman look stunning by visiting **Acapulco Golden Tans** in Owasso, or **The Village Salon** in Claremore. Acapulco Golden Tans offers Connection Card holders 10-percent off tanning packages and products (monthly specials not included.) The Village Salon offers 10-percent off retail or hair care service. **Gail's Hairstyling and Spa**, Bartlesville, offers 10-percent off services, and 15-percent off Redken hair care products, Niosin, and OPI retail items, so your son or daughter can continue to look good long after the Prom.

Pat Knotts, independent Mary Kay beauty consultant in Nowata, will help your daughter look 'Red Carpet' ready with Mary Kay cosmetics. She offers a 10-percent discount, and a free gift with a \$40 net purchase.

The Men's Shop in Claremore has what your young man will need to dazzle his date. Show your card and get 25-percent off any regular-priced item.

Corsages and boutonnieres are requirements for Prom night. **Dorothy's Flowers**, Claremore, offers 10-percent off of all in-store purchases and local delivery orders.

Flowerland and **Flowerland Too**, Bartlesville, will take 5-percent off any order of \$30 or more (excludes wire service orders.)

After you have bought just the right gown or rented the perfect tux, drop by **Brown's Shoe Fit** in Bartlesville for the right shoes to complete the outfit. Brown's offers 10-percent off any regular-priced item. 

What to do if Your Power Goes Off

1. Check your fuses or circuit breakers. Every service is different. You may have fuses or circuit breakers in your house, on the side of your house, under your meter, or all three places. Check to see if your neighbors have electricity.
2. Call the Co-op at 371-2584, or 1-800-870-5948 if the call is long distance for you. Have your account number, name as it appears on the account, and address handy to give to the dispatcher. If you should get a recording, please don't hang up; leave your information. It will be retrieved and given to the correct department. Every message is answered.



Power Circuit is published monthly by Verdigris Valley Electric Cooperative, Collinsville, Oklahoma (ISSN 10884378) for its members in Tulsa, Rogers, Washington, Nowata and Osage counties. Periodical postage paid at Tulsa, Oklahoma and other additional mailing offices. Subscription price is \$0.19 per month. POSTMASTER - send address changes to Power Circuit, P.O. Box 219, Collinsville, OK 74021.

VOLUME 70 • NUMBER 4 • APRIL 2011

What Happens When Power Blinks?

Those Annoying Interruptions Actually Prove the Electric System is Working

We have all come home or woken up late for work to find the annoying blinking “12:00” on the electronic devices throughout the house. For the next few minutes, we have to reset the clocks on every one of those items, annoyed that a ‘blink’ in the electrical system caused that state of ‘eternal midnight.’

Granted, the blinks can be annoying, but actually, they indicate the electrical system is working exactly as it is designed. While VVEC has taken steps to reduce the number of blinks on the system, there are measures you can take to help prevent them as well.

What are blinks?

Blinks are momentary interruptions in electric service that can occur anywhere along a power system – from the time electrons are generated at a power plant to the time it travels across transmission lines to substations, or during its distribution from a substation to individual homes.

Why blinks?

Blinks are created when a breaker, or switch, opens along any portion of the power system. The breaker usually opens because of a large, quick rise of electrical current. This large increase, called a fault condition, can occur when a tree branch touches a line, lightning strikes, or a wire breaks.

When this happens, a relay senses the fault and tells the breaker to open, preventing the flow of power to the problem site. After opening, the breaker quickly closes. The brief delay, which allows the fault to clear, usually lasts less than two seconds.

If the fault clears, every home or business that receives electricity from that



power line has just experienced a blink. This could include thousands of accounts if the breaker protects a transmission line or a substation.

Reducing the blink's effects

VVEC has methods to reduce the frequency of blinks. Right-of-way clearing is probably the most effective way, and an area where you can help. Make sure the co-op knows of any trees or limbs located close to a power line. Call our operations department at (918) 371-2584 between 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. to report potential problems.

You can reduce the frustration caused by blinks by purchasing electronic devices with a battery backup. These types of digital electronics offers ‘ride through’ ability for momentary outages. As an added benefit, these devices only use the battery in the event of a power interruption.

An uninterruptible power supply (UPS) on your computer can help prevent information loss if you should experience a blink while on your computer. The UPS incorporates surge suppression

technology with a battery backup and provides you some time to save whatever you are working on and then to shut down your computer properly.

The future of blinks

VVEC operates an active system maintenance program and works hard to identify and fix sources of service interruptions.

Even though blinks can never completely be eliminated, we guarantee we will continue working to minimize the frequency with which they occur, and to minimize the effect of those interruptions. 

Youth Tour and Energy Camp Winners Announced in May *Power Circuit*

This issue of *Power Circuit* went to press before the conclusion of the 2011 Youth Tour and Energy Camp programs.

Winners will be announced in the May issue.

Seal Manufactured Home Air Leaks to Slash Electric Bills

If energy bills for your manufactured home seem too high, the likely culprits are air leaks. Here are some tips from VVEC that can help you stop leaks from your home – and your wallet.

Older manufactured homes, especially those built before 1994, may be plagued by leaking ducts and inadequate insulation. Leaky ductwork can reduce the efficiency of your heating and cooling system by as much as 20 percent. A good time to check for leaks is on a windy day, when you'll be able to find drafty spots.

Experts recommend going after big

leaks first. That means plugging all holes around chimneys, vents, water pipes, and heating system ductwork. Seal any duct leaks with mastic. Avoid the use of duct tape, which can dry out and disintegrate when used. Adding insulation to floor, walls, and ceiling cavities can improve energy efficiency, but may be a job for a professional contractor.

Once you've sealed major leaks, look for smaller ones – around windows, doors, electrical outlets, and light switches. Seal gaps around windows and doors, using caulk on non-moving parts.

And replace any worn weather stripping.

Caulk or expanding spray foam are perfect in spots where plumbing, wiring, vents and ducting penetrate through walls. Installing foam outlet gaskets behind electrical outlets and light switches – especially on outside walls – can save energy, too.

For safety's sake, make sure all combustion appliances, such as furnaces, stoves, and water heaters, are properly vented. 

RECIPE

Caramel Praline Cheesecake



- 66 vanilla wafers, divided
- 1-1/4 cups sugar, divided
- 1/4 cup (1/2 stick) butter, melted
- 3 pkg. (8 oz. each) Philadelphia cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 3 eggs
- 25 caramels
- 3 Tbsp. milk
- 1/2 cup pecan pieces, toasted

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Finely crush 50 wafers; mix with 1/4 cup sugar and butter. Press onto bottom of 9-inch Springform pan. Stand remaining wafers around edge, pressing gently into crust to secure.

Beat cream cheese and remaining sugar in large bowl with mixer until well blended. Add sour cream and vanilla; mix well. Add eggs, 1 at a time, beating on low speed after each just until blended. Pour over crust.

Bake 45 to 50 min. or until center is almost set. Run small knife around rim of pan to loosen cake; cool before removing rim. Refrigerate 6 hours. Microwave caramels and milk on HIGH 1 min. or until caramels are completely melted, stirring every 30 seconds. Cool slightly.

Pour caramel sauce over cheesecake; top with pecans.