



Inside

Page 4

Board Report - September/
October

OMPA MEMBER CITIES

Altus, Blackwell, Comanche, Copan, Cordell, Duncan, Edmond, Eldorado, Fairview, Fort Supply, Frederick, Geary, Goltry, Granite, Hominy, Kingfisher, Laverne, Lexington, Mangum, Manitou, Marlow, Mooreland, Newkirk, Okeene, Olustee, Orlando, Pawhuska, Perry, Ponca City, Pond Creek, Prague, Purcell, Ryan, Spiro, Tecumseh, Tonkawa, Walters, Watonga, Waynoka, Wetumka, Wynnewood, Yale. Also serving Clarksville, Arkansas, Paris, Arkansas, and Electra, Texas.

A member of the American Public Power Association, Municipal Electric Systems of Oklahoma and Southwestern Power Resources Association.

2701 West I-35 Frontage Road
Post Office Box 1960
Edmond, Oklahoma 73083-1960
Phone: 405-359-2500
Fax: 405-359-1071
www.ompa.com

OMPA is a wholesale power company owned by 42 municipal electric utilities. OMPA provides economies of scale in power generation and related services to support community-owned electric utilities. The members of OMPA serve approximately 250,000 Oklahomans. This publication is issued by OMPA as authorized by the OMPA General Manager. 425 copies have been prepared and distributed at a cost of \$700. [74 O.S. § 3105(B)]

Rodeo Results

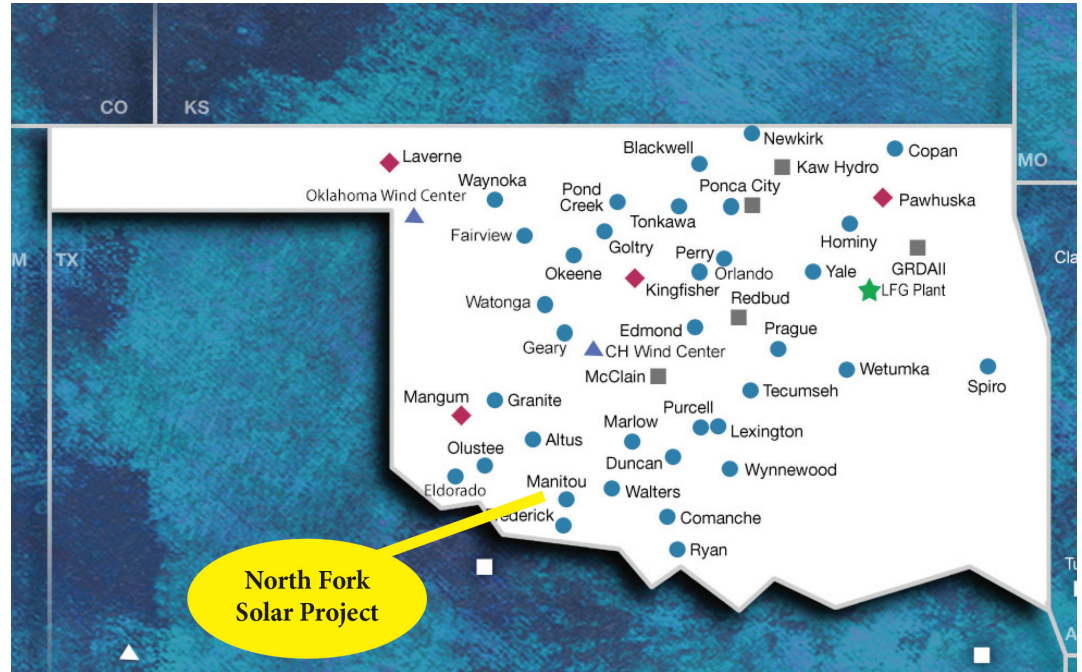
Page 8



outlet

news from your Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority

Project to add solar to resource mix underway in Oklahoma



• 120 megawatts of solar in southwest part of the state will be a first for OMPA

The Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority (OMPA) has announced a project is in development to add solar to the Authority's generating resource mix for the first time ever.

The North Fork Solar project will add 120 megawatts of capacity to OMPA's power supply. The solar farm will be located in Kiowa County in southwest Oklahoma off U.S. Highway 62 near OMPA members Frederick and Altus. It is expected to go online in 2024.

Recurrent Energy, a subsidiary of Canadian Solar Inc., is the developer for

the project. OMPA has reached a 15-year power purchase agreement for 100 percent of the generation produced by the project.

"OMPA is extremely excited to add North Fork Solar to our portfolio of energy resources. This will continue to diversify our energy mix and increase the amount of non-carbon resources for the benefit of our member cities," OMPA General Manager Dave Osburn said.

OMPA's resource mix in 2022 was led by natural gas at 46 percent. Its combined renewable generation equaled 27 percent of the mix, with energy coming from wind, hydro and landfill-to-gas. Three different coal plants the Authority owned a share in closed in the last five years, as coal dipped to 15 percent of the resource mix in 2022.

Continued on Page 3

Turn Down the Watts program to be offered to customers of OMPA members

In Brief

- Turn Down the Watts provides demand response incentives, Smart Thermostat rebates
 - Free program does not require action by OMPA members
 - Customers of member utilities must opt-in to participate, and can opt-out at any time

OMPA is set to begin a new demand response program for customers of member cities and towns, starting in November.

The Turn Down the Watts program will not only offer eligible customers a rebate on the purchase of a Smart Thermostat, it will provide them an opportunity to sign up for a demand response program that offers incentives for participation.

OMPA members are not required to take any action for their customers to participate. The programs are being offered free to end-use residential customers who must opt-in to participate.

Smart thermostat rebates are \$50.00 per installed qualifying smart thermostat and require them to be operational and connected to the internet via Wifi. OMPA will provide the smart thermostat rebate in the form of a gift card that will be chosen by the customer from an online marketplace.

Rebates are limited to eligible residential premises that purchase more than 4,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity from the electric service provider on an annual basis.



The demand response program would entail customers agreeing to allow their thermostat settings to be adjusted during peak events, which are typically called during the hours of 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Customers will receive a notification via SMS, from the smart thermostat manufacturer via a mobile app, or by the thermostat prior to a called peak event. They would then have their demand curtailed for no more than three hours. The customer can opt out of the program at any time.

If the thermostat functionality allows for pre-cooling, the house will be pre-cooled by two degrees prior to a called peak event. Once the called peak event is over the thermostat will resume normal operation and return to its normal temperature setting.

OMPA staff will administer the program in conjunction with Virtual Peaker, a software-based company designed to manage distributed energy resource programs for electric utilities.

Customers who participate in the program will receive a financial incentive at the time of enrollment and are then eligible for more incentives after following through on participation. For more on Virtual Peaker, go to www.virtual-peaker.com.

Smart thermostats eligible for the program include those manufactured by Google Nest, Honeywell, Emerson, Sensi and Ecobee Wi-Fi.

Demand response programs have been growing in popularity across the U.S. Their main benefit comes from utilities being able to shift electricity usage during peak periods when demand is high to other times of the day. They have the ability to not only save participating customers money, but to also flatten the peaks of both utilities and their power suppliers, saving each of them on power costs.

For more information on OMPA's demand response program, contact Steve Mathena at smathena@ompa.com.

SWPA announces cost increase for upcoming year

The Southwestern Power Administration (SWPA) has announced a revenue-requirements increase that is scheduled to impact rates and take effect in 2024.

SWPA has said that its revenue requirements have increased 22.8 percent for 2024. It is unknown at this time exactly how that will be recouped through the rates, but OMPA members with a SWPA allocation should expect a significant rate increase.

OMPA members with SWPA allocations include: Copan, Hominy, Yale, Goltry, Wetumka, Spiro, Purcell, Lexington, Ryan, Comanche, Duncan, Walters, Manitou, Granite, Olustee and Eldorado.

This will be SWPA's first rate increase since 2013. It is expected to become effective in the spring of 2024 after Southwestern issues a Federal Register Notice and allows a period for public comments.

The most notable drivers of the increase, according to SWPA, are:

- Army Corps of Engineers expenses, particularly labor costs
- A recent increase in interest rates
- Inflation in the cost of materials for projects
- Increased transmission costs

If members have further questions, please contact Jennifer Rogers Smith at jrogers@ompa.com or Ryan Piersol at rpierisol@ompa.com.

Solar farm: Continued from Page 1

OMPA's demand has remained high, as its 2022 peak was the highest of the last decade and its overall energy delivered was third-highest during that same time period. The Authority serves 42 municipal-owned electric systems in Oklahoma, as well as two in Arkansas and another in Texas.

Recurrent Energy selected Blattner Energy as the engineering, procurement and construction partner for North Fork Solar. Once construction is completed, Recurrent Energy will own and operate the project through its Power Services business as a part of its commitment to growing the number of renewable

energy projects in its operating assets portfolio.

"Oklahoma has long been known for its rich wind resource, and now OMPA's customers will benefit from low-cost solar energy to complement the wind energy in their portfolio," Canadian Solar Chairman and CEO Dr. Shawn Qu said.

OMPA Resource Mix



Public Power promotion the whole year

October was the time public power cities across the nation celebrate Public Power Week. It is the opportunity to remind citizens of all the benefits of owning their own electric system.

It is not unusual for many people in the community to forget that they own their electric utility. Past surveys have shown several still identify their utility as privately-owned or as a coop. Much too often community leaders and utility officials seem reluctant to promote the locally-owned nature of the utility.

Public Power brings many benefits to its communities. Several years ago, OMPA started performing Value Reports for member cities that identify the benefits and express it in actual dollars. These have always shown the community benefits from owning their utility, even if the rates are higher than neighboring systems.

I encourage you to educate your customers on the benefits of public power. Let's go beyond Public Power Week, and have a Public Power Year.

General Manager's Report

David W. Osburn



Board Reports



Highlights From September 2023 Board of Directors Meeting



- Approved CUP recertification awards to Blackwell Public Works Authority and Mooreland Public Works Authority with three awards at 2.5 points and two awards at 1.5 points, respectively
- Approved CUP Interim Review Award to Marlow Public Works Authority with four awards at 3.5 points
- Approved resolution recognizing Public Power Week the first full week of October
- Approved resolution increasing behind-the-meter solar allowance for members from 1 percent to 5 percent

Highlights From October 2023 Board of Directors Meeting

- Approved CUP recertification award to Purcell Public Works Authority for two awards valued at 1.5 points
- Approved CUP Interim Review award to Frederick Public Works Authority for one award valued at 0.75 points
- Approved the replacement of the Kaw Excitation System to Basler Service, LLC in the amount of \$556,396

The next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled to be held at 10 a.m. on Nov. 9 at OMPA offices in Edmond.

Five Years On the Board

The OMPA Board of Directors recognized Duncan City Manager Kimberly Meek, middle, at its October meeting for her five years of service on the Board. Meek, who was named the Oklahoma Municipal League's Woman of the Year in 2021, recently accepted a position to become City Manager at the City of Stillwater, which also owns and operates a Public Power utility.



Member city annual surveys concluding

The Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority has been working with third-party vendor GreatBlue Research this fall to conduct its biannual survey of customers in all 42 of the member cities and towns served by The Authority. Surveys in some member communities have concluded, while others will be ongoing into November.

OMPA members have been provided a link to monitor the progress of their individual surveys. All member cities and towns are encouraged to continue sharing the link and/or QR code provided them that takes customers to the survey, regardless of whether or not the quota has been met.

Unlike in previous years, this



survey is being done solely with digital methods and no phone calls.

The online survey asks residential customers about topics including satisfaction with the electric utility, time of use rates, electric vehicles, and solar power. OMPA along with its members will use the survey data to help plan for future programs and

services. Every member city or town has its own dedicated webpage link that enables customers to fill out the survey.

In recent years, OMPA members have been able to use these survey results to assist them in fulfilling eligibility in the Competitive Utility Program (CUP). Data from the survey results is typically available to members in the weeks following the conclusion of the survey and after a presentation has been made to the OMPA Board of Directors at its monthly meeting.

Any member city or town with questions about the survey should contact Palma Lough at plough@ompa.com.

Public Power Week 2023

OMPA members around the state used the first week of October to promote their local ownership and operations by participating in Public Power Week.

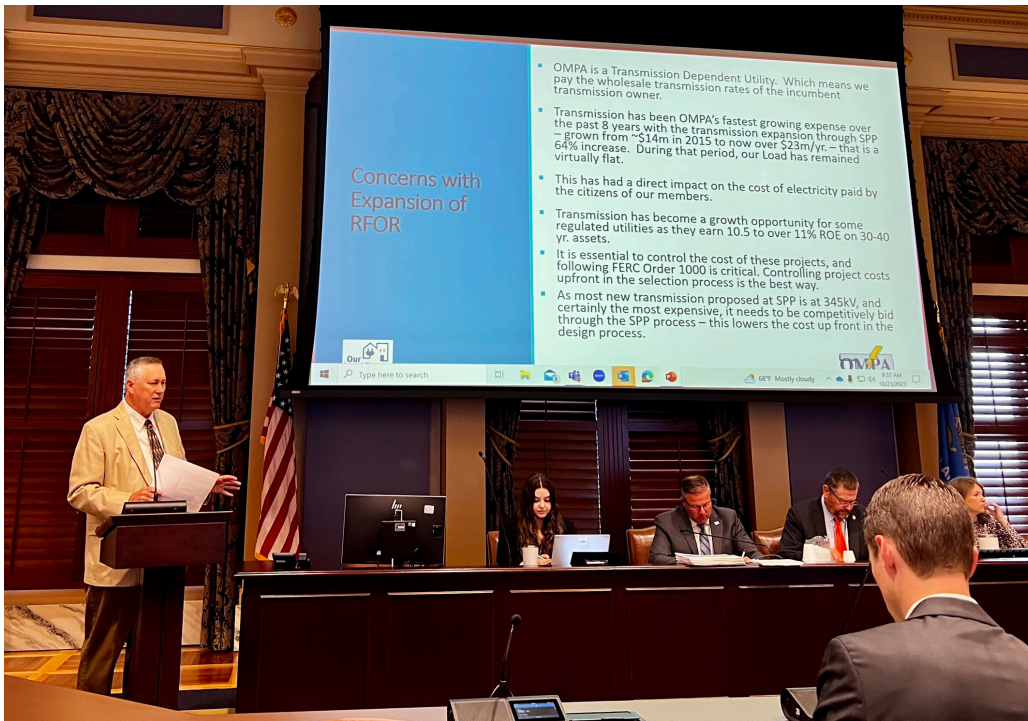
Public power utilities across the U.S. celebrate Public Power Week the first full week of October every year to help customers and stakeholders understand how they can better engage with their

community-owned utility and benefit from all its offerings. There are 62 such Public Power utilities in Oklahoma.

OMPA members typically participate by holding customer appreciation or open house events, while some also educate young children at local elementary schools about electric safety.



Committee Talk



OMPA General Manager Dave Osburn speaks to the Oklahoma Senate Energy and Telecommunications Committee in October regarding the Right of First Refusal issue. Osburn was one of several speakers, some of whom were in favor of Right of First Refusal and some of whom were not. The issue, which involves the bidding process for transmission line projects, is still being considered by Oklahoma lawmakers.

City Update

Stillwater selects Duncan city manager for role



The City of Duncan announced the sudden resignation of City Manager Kimberly Meek. Around the same time, Stillwater City Council announced the hiring of Meek.

Mayor Robert Armstrong and City Council announced the resignation of meek on Oct. 16 with a press release, in which Armstrong said he appreciated the work Meek gave to the city.

“We deeply appreciate the seven years that Kimberly Meek dedicated to City of Duncan,” Armstrong said. “In her tenure she accomplished many things that leave our community in a better position to move forward.

She placed City of Duncan in a solid financial position and implemented changes that advanced our municipal government’s effectiveness and efficiency. We wish her all the best in her future endeavors.”

Stillwater Mayor Will Joyce announced Meek as the new Stillwater City Manager during Monday’s City Council meeting.

Joyce told council the city was working on a financial package for Meek and asked council to vote on an offer of employment. The vote was a unanimous approval.

Meek, before her tenure in Duncan that began in August 2016, was

previously employed as city manager and finance director for the City of Guymon. This led the Stillwater subcommittee that selected Meek to feel she was more than qualified for the position.

During her time in Duncan, Meek was credited with “making improvements in the areas of finance, infrastructure, and employee administration.”

“She ensured that all audits, dating from 2013 to present, were completed,” states the release from the City of Duncan and Duncan City Council. “By placing strategic resources towards infrastructure, Duncan Power received a MESO Reliability Award in 2022, street improvements were prioritized, upgrades to the water distribution system ensured continued EPA compliance regarding TTHM levels and the large-scale AMI Water Meter Project launched in August 2023.”

Meek said leaving Duncan was a difficult decision and she’s proud of the

Continued on Page 11

MESO Lineworker's Rodeo

The 2023 MESO Lineworker's Rodeo was held in Bentonville, Arkansas in October. The winners are as follows.

Apprentice Obstacle Course

- 1st - Isaac Boswell, City of Skiatook
- 2nd - Tristan Stefani, Edmond Electric
- 3rd - Case Mutz, City of Stillwater

Apprentice Hurtman Rescue

- 1st - Case Mutz, City of Stillwater
- 2nd - Austin Fry, Ponca City Energy
- 3rd - Tristan Stefani, Edmond Electric

Apprentice Speed Climb

- 1st - Garrett Moss, City of Skiatook
- 2nd - Case Mutz, City of Stillwater
- 3rd - Tristan Stefani, Edmond Electric

Apprentice Testing

- 1st - Ben Pruitt, Edmond Electric
- 2nd - Barrett Matheson, City of Stillwater
- 3rd - Case Mutz, City of Stillwater

Journeyman Hurtman Rescue

- 1st - Tomas Alvarez, Ponca City Energy
- 2nd - Chris Crain, Ponca City Energy

3rd - Cody Winsor, OMPA

Journeyman Speed Climb

- 1st - Tomas Alvarez, Ponca City Energy
- 2nd - Chris Crain, Ponca City Energy
- 3rd - John Ragsdale, City of Bentonville

Veteran Event

- 1st - Casey Walters, GRDA
- 1st - Keith King, Bentonville Electric
- 2nd - Wes Bennett, Edmond Electric

Team Event 1 Mystery

- 1st Place - Ponca City Energy - Tomas Alvarez, Chris Crain, and Austin Fry
- 2nd Place - OMPA - Andrew Knutz, Tyler Wolf, and Cody Winsor
- 3rd Place - Bentonville Electric - John Ragsdale, Daniel Fox, and Sergio Jacobo

Mutual Aid - 4kV Crossarm

- 1st Place - Bentonville Electric - Shawn Buttry, Gavin Brill, and Tomas Alvarez
- 2nd Place - Tristan Stefani, Edmond Electric; Josh Brazil, GRDA; and, Case Mutz, City of Stillwater
- 3rd Place - John Ragsdale, Bentonville Electric; Chance Tipken, Edmond Electric; and Cody Winsor, OMPA

Mutual Aid - 12kV Arrester



Linemen with OMPA's Field Services Department were some of those who competed at the 2023 MESO Lineworker's Rodeo in Bentonville.

- 1st Place - Tristan Stefani, Edmond Electric, Josh Brazil, GRDA, and Case Mutz, City of Stillwater
- 2nd Place - Shawn Buttry, Bentonville Electric; Gavin Brill, City of Collinsville; and Tomas Alvarez, Ponca City Energy
- 3rd Place - John Ragsdale, Bentonville Electric; Chance Tipken, Edmond Electric; and, Cody Winsor, OMPA

City Update

City remembers fire chief who passed



Funeral services were held for Greg Cross, the Altus Fire Departments late fire chief, who passed away from pancreatic cancer.

Fire Departments and other first responders from the surrounding area showed up in support. If someone wasn't able to attend the service, they lined the sidewalks throughout the city in his honor, and for interim fire chief Neil Bonds, this doesn't come as a shock.

"The community of Altus shows

up. I mean when someone is down the community of Altus is always there, so it was neat," said Bonds. "The football players were lined up. They were in the middle of practice. Our cheerleaders were in the middle of practice, they were lined up. The streets were lined up. It was quite an amazing event."

Cross served the Altus Fire Department for 29 years, and Bonds who worked with Cross for 23 of those 29 years shared his experience.

"It was a blast. He was always

fun," Bonds said. "He treated everyone equal, I mean from the top guy to the bottom guy everyone got treated equal. He was excellent at coming up with training. The stuff that he taught us will probably still be used in our fire service for years down the road."

Bonds said Cross left some big shoes to fill, but with the support that was shown today, Cross left the department in a good place.

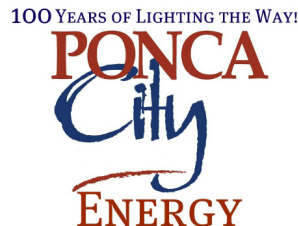
"We want to make sure that we make Greg proud. We've got a great department, we've got great guys. It's going to be tough for a couple of weeks, but I think with everyone sticking together, we're staying busy, you know, the family is with us as we're with them, so we're going to make it," Bonds said.

It's obvious that Cross left behind a great legacy for the city of Altus.

- KSWO

City Update

OWRB hands out grant for infrastructure



The Ponca City Utility Authority has received a \$1,000,000 grant from the Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB). The grant is part of the Oklahoma American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) program.

It will be used to upgrade the Authority's water and wastewater infrastructure. Upgrades include a new raw water delivery method, a lead and copper service line inventory for replacement, and the rehabilitation of around 5,500 linear feet of 8-inch

sanitary sewer lines.

The grant, along with \$1,000,000 from local funds, will allow the Authority to review the raw water intake lines. It will also help develop a plan to identify potentially hazardous lines. The funds will also be used to rehabilitate or replace 5,500 linear feet of 8-inch sanitary sewer line and twenty-five manholes.

Joe Freeman, Chief of the OWRB's Financial Assistance Division, said that this funding will

save the Authority's customers money. The savings are estimated to be around \$1,633,900 compared to traditional financing.

The ARPA grant program is run by the OWRB with funds from the U.S. Department of the Treasury. It was created to help communities and other eligible entities improve their water and wastewater infrastructure. Since 1983, the Water Resources Board has approved over \$6.9 billion in loans and grants for water and wastewater infrastructure improvements in Oklahoma.

OWRB Executive Director, Julie Cunningham, thanked State Senator Bill Coleman and State Representative Ken Luttrell for their continued support. The approval of the grant for the Ponca City Utility Authority is a step forward in improving Oklahoma's water and wastewater infrastructure.

City Update

New program attracts new residents to city

Jimmy and Latisha Miller didn't move far, but the newcomers got Move Duncan and its talent relocation program on its way as the first recipients. They made the move to Duncan from Kingston, 100 miles to the southeast.

Jason and Jana Schreiner and their kids, Jackson, 16, and Ellie, 12, moved quite a ways, from Guymon, 325 miles to the northwest.

But move they all did to Duncan, as have others, since the start of Move Duncan, a project of the Duncan Area Economic Development Foundation, at the first of the year. The aim: to attract remote employees, as well as plug holes in the Stephens County workforce.

It's one of several efforts in recent years that involve incentives to entice people to relocate, mostly to Oklahoma's small towns, but also to Tulsa, where Tulsa Remote has persuaded more than 2,400 people with



jobs somewhere else to relocate.

As for remote workers, the work-from-home movement was already on its way before COVID-19 sent so many people home to work to try to stem the pandemic. The movement may have slowed some as the pandemic has eased, but it's not going away, experts say, thanks to teleconferencing and other telework technology.

Remote work is Tulsa Remote's thing. Move Duncan welcomes newcomers who moved to Duncan and work in certain industries and those who work from home remotely.

The Millers work for Duncan Public Schools. He teaches algebra and coaches softball. She manages school activities funds. They have two grown sons: Bryce Walker, 25, lives in Norman, and Kyle Miller, 19, is a freshman at the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond.

The Schreiners work for Comanche Public Schools. He's the high school

principal in Comanche, 10 miles south of Duncan. She's a teacher at the middle school. Jackson has gotten into community theater, and Ellie is "really flourishing" academically and in cross country, their dad said.

Move Duncan didn't set out to attract teachers and school administrators. It just turned out that way.

"The relocation incentive has been a terrific recruiting strategy for some of our new teachers," said Channa Byerly, superintendent of Duncan Public Schools. "The incentive demonstrates how fantastic our community is at providing opportunities to offset some of the higher costs associated with moving and staying here."

The Move Duncan incentive — \$4,000 over three years — was an unexpected extra for the Millers. Jimmy already had taken the job before he learned about it. What Duncan gets for the \$4,000 investment is the Millers' commitment to stay for at least four years.

But it clinched the decision for the Schreiners.

"I chose Duncan specifically for the incentive," said Jason Schreiner, who previously worked for Goodwell Public Schools. "We were researching different districts, and I came across this incentive."

City Update

Increase in water rates approved

Edmond residents and business owners will see their water and sewer bills go up this fall after its city council voted to approve a rate hike.

The revenue from this rate hike will fund more than \$350 million



in improvements to the city's water infrastructure. Edmond has already started on some of those projects, including new water towers, a new intake tunnel at Lake Arcadia, and a water plant expansion.

"Outdoor water use is our primary driver for all these huge improvements that we're doing," said Edmond water utility director Kris Neifing. "We have no problem delivering that 8 million gallons a day during the winter. It's the 22-25 million gallon demand during the summer months."

The base charge for Edmond drinking water will jump about 80 cents in November. Then it will increase by about 50 cents every year through 2026. The base charge for sewage will follow a similar scheme.

- KOSU

City Update

Film causes spike in local tourism

Millions worldwide are expected to see Martin Scorsese, Robert De Niro and Leonardo DiCaprio's newest film, set entirely in Osage County.

Even on a Monday, Pawhuska's historic Kihekah Avenue was filled with visitors voyaging to the small city where most of the movie was filmed to get a peek at what they'll see on the big screen.



That includes sisters Sherry Babb and Vicki Mullins, the latter of whom read the original "Killers of The Flower Moon" book.

"I can't wait until the movie comes out. I think it's on in Tulsa at the Circle Cinema, and that's the one I'm gonna try and go see," Mullins said.

The duo talked to 2 News inside Sunset Ridge Gallery, an art, fur, and

rug shop used for scenes in the movie.

Co-owner Cumali Cekan said movie scenes featuring his shop include a fur coat store, an electric store, and a furniture store.

He said traffic spiked in anticipation.

"Especially yesterday, it was Sunday. I've never seen it that busy. It was more busy than a regular day, which normally, Sundays are closed everywhere," Cekan said. "But I've seen a lot of people, and almost everybody is mentioning about the movie."

Pawhuska Chamber of Commerce Director Mike McCartney said the local economic boom is expected to ramp up even further once the movie finally comes out.

City Update

City Manager talks rates at council meeting

The impact of Southwestern Power Authority's increase in electric rates and Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority's decrease in electric rates took priority during the Comanche Public Works Authority (PWA) meeting on October 10.

City Manager Chuck Ralls said this item crossed his desk about three



weeks ago.

"The good news is we're going to be getting a rate reduction from Oklahoma Municipal Power on our wholesale," he said. "The bad news is we get supplement power from Southwest Power (SWPA) and that's all of our federal hydro allocation — makes up about, on average, 25% of

our power."

Ralls said they sent a notice which said, "due to the current administration policies — they are anticipating, in April, a 23% wholesale price increase."

According to Ralls, they haven't had an increase from them in the past 12 years.

Ralls said he has an open meeting scheduled with them for all SWPA members Oct. 24 in Tulsa and he said he will know more after the meeting.

According to Ralls, there's nothing they can do currently, but about 50 Oklahoma cities will be affected by this.

"OMPA is working closely with us to help on that," he said.

- Duncan Banner

Meek: Continued from Page 1

team with which she worked over the last seven years.

"Making the decision to leave Duncan is difficult for I love this community," Meek said in a release. "I am thankful for the team at City of Duncan who helped me to

accomplish so much during my time here. While I am proud of all we have accomplished, I believe that I am most proud of the implementation of our Employee Appreciation Program started in 2022. City of Duncan team members doing their best each day to

provide our community with services, amenities and experiences deserve to be recognized and celebrated. When people are celebrated, amazing things happen, and I know that the City of Duncan team will continue to make great things occur in the future."

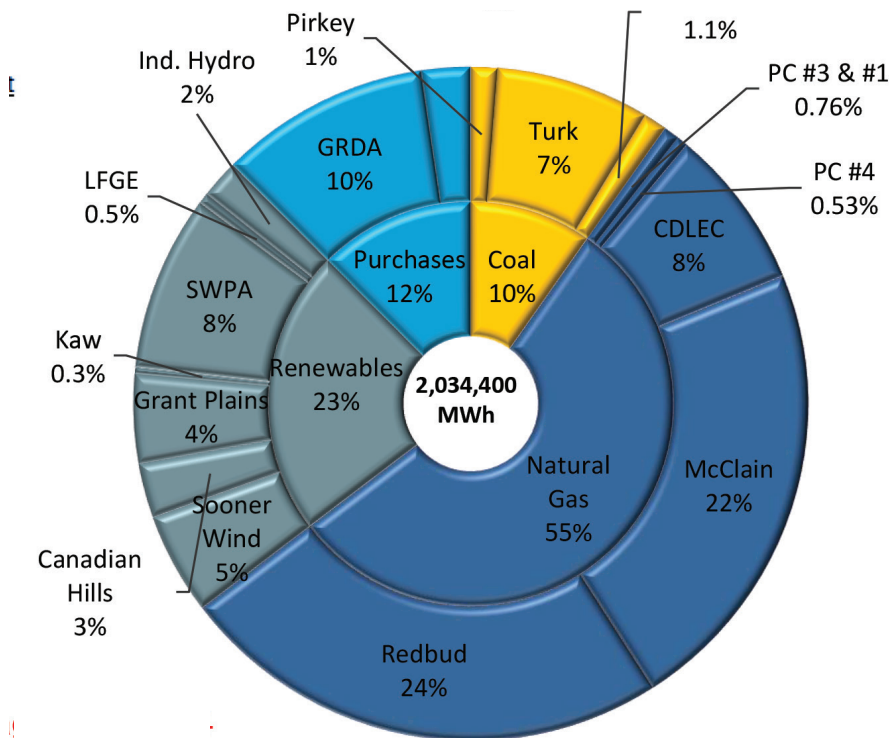


outlet

News From Your
Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority
PO BOX 1960,
Edmond, Oklahoma 73083-1960

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE PAID
EDMOND OK
PERMIT NO. 298

Generation Mix Through September 2023



OMPA Board of Directors

Chair

Homer Nicholson, Ponca City

Vice Chair

Jim Greff, Prague

Secretary

Glenn Fisher, Edmond

Treasurer

Dale Bunn, Purcell

Members

Karrie Beth Little, Watonga
Gary Jones, Altus
Kimberly Meek, Duncan
Dixie Johnson, Perry
Jason McPherson, Marlow
Chuck Ralls, Comanche
Patty Witchey, Laverne

OMPA Web Address: www.ompa.com
24-Hour Emergency.....1-405-340-8313

OMPA E-Mail Address: ompa@ompa.com
Non-Emergency (from 8 am to 5 pm, Monday - Friday).....1-405-359-2500