

The Current

A Publication of Cotton Electric Cooperative Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

“The Current - Informing Our Members Since 1957”

VOLUME 61

November 13, 2017

NUMBER 4

Conserving energy isn't just for grown-ups

Here are 6 things kids can do to help lower Mom & Dad's power bill. Why? More \$\$ for Christmas gifts!



- Set your game console to auto-shutdown mode so it powers down when no one is playing.**
Unplug a cell phone that's done charging so it won't waste energy.
- Feeling cold in the house?**
Don't turn up the thermostat.
Try wearing a sweater or sweatshirt instead.
- Decide what you want from the fridge before opening the door.**
- Take short showers.**
Showers use less hot water than baths.
- Check for problems Mom and Dad haven't seen.**
Look for leaks and dripping faucets. Drips also waste energy used to heat the water.
- Turn off the stereo, TV, computer & video game console when you stop using them.**
Turn off the lights, too!

So many reasons to be

thankful

May your Thanksgiving be filled with happy moments, simple goodness and gratitude.

The Board of Directors and Employees of Cotton Electric Cooperative



Power Cost Adjustment Calculated

The power cost adjustment being applied to bills mailed after Nov. 1, 2017, is \$0.00601 per kWh.

On a member's average bill of 1500 kilowatt hours (kWh), this will amount to a charge of \$9.01 on the November bill.

October 2017 Temperature Extremes

Day	High	Low	Avg.	Day	High	Low	Avg.
1	84	58	71	16	72	41	57
2	88	63	76	17	77	40	59
3	87	68	78	18	84	44	64
4	82	73	78	19	82	49	66
5	87	68	78	20	83	59	71
6	87	67	77	21	83	59	71
7	82	54	68	22	72	49	61
8	86	49	68	23	75	45	60
9	80	54	67	24	68	40	54
10	66	45	56	25	78	37	58
11	71	42	57	26	82	43	63
12	86	51	69	27	51	32	42
13	88	63	76	28	59	29	44
14	91	62	77	29	77	32	55
15	70	44	57	30	64	39	52
				31	51	38	45

Source: srh.noaa.gov/oun/
Average Daily High: 77 Average Daily Low: 50

Did You Know?

Cotton Electric offices will be closed on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 23 and 24, for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Emergency calls will be answered at 580-875-3351 or 800-522-3520.

The next issue of The Current should arrive in mailboxes Dec. 18, 2017.

Contact Us

Do you have a story idea for The Current or do you need to place an ad? If so, let us know.

We can be reached at 580-875-3351 or by email at info@cottonelectric.com.

You can also drop us a line at Cotton Electric Current, 226 N. Broadway, Walters, OK 73572.

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More news at cottonelectric.com

From the CEO

Bedlam a boon for local community

The employees of Cotton Electric recently engaged in a friendly competition during Bedlam Week as part of our Cotton CARES program. Cotton CARES was introduced to employees and members at the end of 2016 and represents our commitment to Community, Accountability, Respect, Engagement and Safety.



Jennifer Meason, CEO

Focusing on Community, I recently issued a challenge to my fellow co-workers to donate canned goods for a local food pantry in honor of their favorite team. The team with the most items at the end of the week won bragging rights and I would wear the colors of the winning team at our annual training event.

Both Sooner and Cowboy fans were generous in their friendly competition and I'm pleased to tell you that we donated over 1,029 food items. The Cowboy fans prevailed and I donned orange the following week.

All was in good fun. However, the purpose was to shed light on a serious issue in our local communities. The Current highlighted your



contributions to combat hunger through the Cotton Electric Charitable Foundation's Operation Round Up program in our August issue. The statistics regarding hunger in our state are startling. One in four Oklahoma children and one in six adults struggle with hunger. Something so many of us take for granted is a major issue for families in our communities.

However, there is something we can do to help. During this Thanksgiving season, I encourage you to join us in helping your local food pantry or family in need. You might organize a food drive, volunteer your time, or consider making a donation.

To find a food pantry near you, visit the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma's website at www.regionalfoodbank.org. You'll find a list of sites, their hours of operation, and contact information.

Together we can continue to make a differ-



ence during this holiday season. I invite you to share your experiences with us. You can reach us at our offices, by email at info@cottonelectric.com or on Facebook and Twitter.

I wish you all a blessed Thanksgiving and look forward to hearing your stories.

District 8 elects High as Cotton Electric board trustee

By Karen Kaley

Nearly 11 percent of the Cotton Electric members living in District 8 gathered in late August and exercised the second Cooperative Principal: Democratic Member Control. From amongst them, they nominated and elected Tony High to represent them on the co-op's board of trustees.

High had done a little research before agreeing to the nomination.

"I spoke with other members before the election. It kind of inspired me. Most are happy with Cotton Electric. That's something you don't usually see with a utility company."

He expressed gratitude for the members who came to the District Meeting and said, "I hope to represent the district in the way they want it represented."

High feels his new role will be a good fit.

"I like the members, I like the board, I like the employees. I like the cooperative model, where every member in good



Tony High
District 8 trustee

standing is equal.

"It's something I want to be part of."

High and his wife, Laura, have raised three children and enjoy four grandchildren. He has lived most of his life in Cotton County. He earned his petroleum engineering technology degree from Oklahoma State University but his main profession is in wheat farming and cow/calf and stocker cattle ranching.

High has become familiar with the service Cotton Electric Cooperative provides through his life in and around Walters coupled with his business experience.

"I grew up around Cotton Electric and have been a member since 1986. I know a lot of the employees because I've grown up with them. I know they take pride in their jobs."

"I know the value of good employees. You can't have a successful business without good employees."

He knows this from personal experience. "I've been fortunate to have Tyler Bowles working with me for 15 years."

Tony High's familiarity with the co-op is enriched through an additional resource.

"The guy I'm replacing is the guy I admire and respect more than anyone in the world: my dad."

Tony High said he has watched over the years as members came to Dewayne High with their concerns.

"If they had a question, he got them an answer. It might not have been the answer they wanted, but they were heard. I feel like that is part of being a good trustee."

The younger High is looking forward to working with the other eight members of the board of trustees. He is impressed with the depth of experience on the board and looks forward to the process of bringing the nine perspectives together to make decisions on behalf of the membership.

He knows he has some catching up to do. "Everything I know about the co-op is from outside looking in. I have no idea what it will be like from inside looking out. I've got a lot to learn."

Serving on the board won't be entirely new for Tony High. "I have a little bit of co-op experience, having served on the Walters Co-op elevator board."

He offered a bit of humor, too: "Cotton Electric is a not-for-profit business. As a wheat farmer, I've had a lot of experience with that."

High assumed his seat on the board of trustees at the conclusion of the Annual Membership Meeting held in late September. He will serve a three-year term.

Cotton Electric Cooperative follows seven guiding principles:

- 1. Voluntary And Open Membership:** A cooperative is a voluntary organization, available to all who can reasonably use its services and accept the responsibilities of membership, regardless of race, religion, sex, or economic circumstances.
- 2. Democratic Member Control:** Co-ops are democratically controlled, with each member having one vote. Directors are elected from the membership.
- 3. Members' Economic Participation:** Cooperatives provide services "at cost" and are not-for-profit. Money left over after all expenses are paid belongs to members. Each member's share is determined by the amount of his or her use of the co-op's services.
- 4. Autonomy and Independence:** Cooperatives are self-sustaining, self-help organizations controlled by their members.
- 5. Education, Training, and Information:** Co-ops provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, directors, managers, and employees. Communication helps generate necessary public support for cooperatives.
- 6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives:** Mutual support helps cooperatives improve services, bolster local economies, and deal more effectively with social and community needs.
- 7. Concern For Community:** Cooperatives develop communities with programs supported by the membership.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Spending more time in the kitchen during the holiday season? Here's one way to be more energy efficient: Unplug small kitchen appliances, like toaster ovens and microwaves, when not in use. You could save \$10 to \$20 per year.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy

September 2017 Operating Stats

	2017	2016
Total Amount Billed/Accrued	\$4,950,049	\$5,189,938
Cost of Purchased Power	3,228,931	3,576,334
Taxes	99,745	105,538
Total Operating Expense Per Mile	936	997
Average Farm and Residential Bill	134	138
Average Farm and Residential kWh	1,188	1,272
Total Meters Billed (farm, residential)	18,300	18,226
Miles Energized	5,167	5,151
Density Per Mile	3.54	3.54
New Service Connects YTD	197	178
Services Retired	119	79



Mission Statement

Our mission is to be the leader in providing the most reliable and innovative electric system, with affordable rates, through the positive, enthusiastic and professional use of its resources and people.

The Current

Published Monthly at Walters, Oklahoma
By Cotton Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Jennifer Meason CEO
Bryce Hooper..... Vice President of Marketing
Karen Kaley..... Editor
Jennifer Kriz..... Display Advertising

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Community Spotlight

If you would like your community event listed in the December issue, please submit information by Dec. 6 by calling 580-875-4259 or send an email to info@cottonelectric.com.

OCC sends gifts around the world

Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse, an international relief organization. Gift-filled shoeboxes are sent to 150 countries around the world to delight children in need. In 2016, 11 million shoebox gifts are expected to be collected and distributed.

National Collection Week is always the 3rd week in November, so this year that is Nov. 13-20. Volunteers staff centers around the U.S. to give donors a convenient place to leave their gifts. Local drop-off sites are in Duncan, Lawton, Elgin and Walters. The Duncan site is the north end of First United Methodist Church, 2300 Country Club Road.

For information about how to fill a box, how to host a party, and the hours for drop-off centers, visit Samaritans-Purse.org and explore the drop-down tab labeled What We Do.

For local information, call LaVonna Funkhouser at 580-467-2493.

Fall Classic returns to area

Touted as the "largest swine show in the world," the Fall Classic returns Nov. 15-18 to the Stephens County Fair & Expo Center. The National Swine Registry sponsors the four days of sales and shows featuring exhibitors from across the country.

Schedule of events, entry forms and more information are available at NationalSwine.com.

Doc's Place is new in JeffCo

Just in time for the holiday season, Jefferson County has a new spot for lunch with a friend, a romantic dinner for two or a celebration of friends and family. Doc's Place, just east of the crossroads of U.S. highways 70 and 81, offers something for everyone.

The full menu ranges from steaks to burgers with plenty of side dishes. There are gluten-free, vegetarian and vegan choices as well as a children's menu. There's even a \$10 and under menu for the budget-conscious.

Doc's Place is booking holiday parties for families, groups and staffing events, offering atmosphere, music setup and food to meet all needs. Book dates by calling 580-228-7055 or send an email to docsplacesupperclub@gmail.com.

Doc's Place is open from 5 to 9 p.m. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, and from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sundays. Follow the restaurant on Facebook to see announcements about expanding hours, specials and events.

Gathering features poets, speakers

Bring blankets and lawn chairs to sit back and enjoy an evening of cowboy poetry during the third annual Campfires, Cattle & Cowboys Gathering. Cowboy

poets and performers will come together from 5 to 9 p.m. Nov. 17 at the Chisholm Trail Heritage Center in Duncan.

Following a meet and greet, there will be poetry, music and an open mic session. Area cowboy poets, or those considering the idea, are invited to share words of wit and tunes of trail life on the Chisholm Trail.

Hosted by Ron Secoy of Central High, the event's featured speakers include Jay Snider of Cyril, Donnie Poindexter, Francine Robison, Danny Williams and Cowboy Jim Garling.

Duncan's holiday stroll is Nov. 18

Duncan residents are encouraged to kick off the holiday shopping season locally during the annual Holiday Stroll from 5 to 8 p.m. Nov. 18.

Main Street Duncan merchants will offer special discounts during this snack-and-shop event. Santa Claus will stroll through downtown stores for pictures, carolers will line the sidewalks, and food trucks will fill the downtown streets.

Magic Lantern screens film classics

Magic Lantern Film Society of Cameron University screens DVD presentations of classic films each month in the CETES Conference Center, Room B. Most screenings begin at 7:30 p.m.

"Who Framed Roger Rabbit" is scheduled for Nov. 17. Live action meets animation when a toon-hating detective is a cartoon rabbit's only hope to prove his innocence when he is accused of murder. This 1988 Robert Zemeckis film stars Bob Hoskins, Christopher Lloyd and Johanna Cassidy.

There is no admission charge, but donations are accepted. For information about the society, or to see a schedule and synopsis of films, visit Cameron.edu/magiclantern.

CTAC presents Vocal Trash

Vocal Trash is the second in the 2017-18 CTAC Live concert series. The musical aspects of this exciting, high-energy troupe from Texas should appeal to everyone with its perfect mix of pop, rock, swing and classic oldies.

Vocal Trash combines uniquely recycled musical instruments with an industrial percussion section made up of metal trash cans, plastic barrels, water bottles and other rescued items. Their hip presentation promotes use the imagination in a meaningful way.

Performance is set for 7:30 p.m. Nov. 17 in the Simmons Center. Tickets are available at the door or through the ChisholmTrailArts.com website.

Christmas Bazaar set for Nov. 17-19

Arts and crafts, baked goods, Christian articles, gifts and treasures are among the holiday items offered at the 5th annual Christmas Bazaar hosted by Assumption Catholic Church, 711 W. Hickory in Duncan. Christmas shoppers won't want to miss this event from 4 to 8 p.m. Nov. 17, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Nov. 18, and

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



This photo was one of many submitted in a recent contest. Cotton Electric member Pam Lucas said she was in her garden one evening, watering pumpkins. She noticed the cicada and the beautiful sunset showing through its lacy wings. "I didn't have my camera with me so I just reached in my pocket and snapped this with my iPhone camera!"

Enter your "best shot" in our Photo of the Month contest. Theme for December is OH, CHRISTMAS TREE! Entries can be emailed to info@cottonelectric.com or mailed to The Current, 226 N. Broadway, Walters, OK 73572. Winners will receive a Cotton Electric prize package of CEC goodies.

11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 19.

There will be a concession for hungry shoppers. Friday will feature spectacular chili provided by the Knights of Columbus. Saturday lunch is Vietnamese food, and supper is Filipino food; Mexican food on Sunday.

Don't miss out on the Christmas Bazaar Raffle. Tickets can be purchased any Sunday after church services in Duncan, Marlow or Walters or on each day of the bazaar.

Drawings will be held at 5 p.m. Sunday for prizes in amounts of \$3,000, \$1,000, \$500 and two at \$250. Winners do not need to be present.

Gobble Wobble is Thanksgiving day

Start the Thanksgiving holiday with a brisk walk or run in the one-mile Poult Bolt at 8 a.m. or the 5K Gobble Wobble at 8:15 a.m. Nov. 24. Participants will gather at the Museum of the Great Plains in Elmer Thomas Park in Lawton.

The event is also a food drive. Walkers and runners are encouraged to bring canned goods, boxed meals, cereals and pasta to be donated to the Lawton Food Bank.

Info at GobbleWobbleLawton.com.

More Community Spotlight on Page 4

High School Juniors: Win an all-expense paid "trip of a lifetime" to Washington D.C.



Travel with other teens from across Oklahoma on the Rural Electric Youth Tour June 8-14-15, 2018



Check with your English teacher or counselor for details, or call us at 580-875-3351



A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

is for Eighth-Graders!

Join us at the beautiful Canyon Camp near Hinton, where you'll experience the exciting world of rural electricity.

May 29-June 1, 2018

Volleyball, Swimming and Hiking
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Operate a Cooperative
Trivia Contest

Call 580-875-3351 for details.

Community Spotlight



Garrett Thornton took the top honor in the Animal System Division of the AgriScience fair competition at the National FFA Convention recently held in Indianapolis. A Central High FFA member, Thornton's entry investigated the effects of different wavelengths of light on the growth of broiler chickens. His was top among 11 entries from across the nation. Congratulations, Garrett!

DLT offers 'Sketches of Christmas'
 "Sketches of Christmas" is a celebration of the music, stories, excitement and anticipation of the holidays. Duncan Little Theatre presents a festive evening of songs, skits and moving moments to remind us all of what Christmas is all about.

Performances will be at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 1, 2, 8 and 9 at the Simmons Center, 800 Chisholm Trail Parkway in Duncan.

Candy Cane Race is Dec. 2
 Candy Cane Race, one-mile fun run, and the 23rd annual Frost Ya Fanny 5K race start at 5:45, 6 and 6:30 p.m. respectively Dec. 2 in Elmer Thomas Park. Register at the RaceRoster.com or until 2 p.m. day of the event.

Awards will be presented to first- and second-place overall male and female and to the top three finishers in each age group.

Elgin hosts Ugly Sweater run
 Come out in your ugliest Christmas sweater and run/walk in the 1st Annual Ugly Christmas Sweater 5k as part of the Let Your Light Shine Elgin Christmas Celebration. The un-timed race in which participants run, jog or walk in their ugliest Christmas sweaters, sets off at 4 p.m. Dec. 16 from Mighty Owl Avenue in Elgin.

Proceeds go to the Elgin Chamber of Commerce's project to sponsor local families during the holiday season and to support the Winter Wishes program in the school.

Bull Bash set for Jan. 6, 2018
 Jett Solutions will sponsor an action-packed Bull Bash Jan. 6, 2018, at the Stephens County Fair & Expo Center. Proceeds benefit local communities through ESA Sigma Nu Marlow Chapter philanthropic projects.

Advance tickets can be purchased in Marlow at Tangles Salon and Frontier Feed, and in Duncan at Crutcher's Western Wear.

For information, call Kelly Sellers at 580-695-4144 or Jackie Cooper at 580-721-0014.

Chapter of Blind meets monthly
 Duncan Chapter of the Blind meets at 1:30 p.m. on the third Saturday of each month at New Hope Baptist Church, 200 S. 42nd Street. This is an opportunity for those who are visually impaired or blind and their caregivers to learn about the availability of services and equipment such as white cane training and large lighted magnifiers. The group also provides information about free access to an extensive library of audio books.

For information about the group or to arrange free transportation to the monthly meeting, call Jerri Gay at 580-252-6404.

WMASCC offers numerous activities
 Wichita Mountains Area Senior Citizens Center offers a variety of weekly and monthly events at the Legion Building near Medicine Park.

Potluck dinners, games and TV are offered every Monday until 10 p.m. Games, quilting, yoga and Tai Chi are offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

A dance is held each Friday. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., dancing begins at 7.

For information about other activities, visit WichitaMountainSeniors.org.

Fundraisers are held on second Saturdays with Indian tacos offered in January, April, July and October; and a fish fry in February, May, August and November.

All activities are held in the Legion Building on Wildhorse Road. From Interstate 44, take Exit 45 to Oklahoma Highway 49. Traveling east, bear right onto Wildhorse.

ROW update

Vegetation management a year-round co-op concern

Cotton Electric's Right-of-Way program is a proactive effort to ensure quality power delivery. Aggressive and preventive vegetation management is a good value to the co-op's members from a service and an economic perspective. Keeping trees away from power lines is also a matter of safety.

Scott Crew, vegetation management coordinator for Cotton Electric, oversees an in-house crew and several contract crews in the year-round effort to clear trees and prevent regrowth.

He said all tree-clearing crews make every effort to contact land and home owners in person as they move into an area. In some cases, they will leave bright-colored door hangers either at the house or tied to a gate post.

"Please call the number on the hanger or call me at 580-875-4224. Plan to leave a message," he said, noting that he is likely to be out on the job.

After trees are cleared, crews return to the area at regularly scheduled intervals to apply a specially formulated herbicide that will prevent tree growth while protecting grasses. Spraying is done only during the growing season and has concluded for 2017.

During the remainder of the year, clearing crews are working in these areas: NRS of Vinita is completing re-trim

work on lines extending from the Comanche substation. The lines are in Stephens, Jefferson and Cotton counties.

NRS has another crew working on lines south of Temple and along the Red River.

Family Tree Service is finishing work on lines in the Addington area.

The ROW department is assessing the condition of lines serving Velma, Clear Creek, Lake Humphreys and Hastings. Action in those areas will begin before year's end.

As always, Cotton's vegetation management crews will work with district linemen on ROW clearing where needed throughout the service area.

Scott Crew said his crews are always looking for land and home owners in need of free untreated wood chips. Because these chips are untreated, it is not recommended to use them next to a structure.

Chips will be delivered to members nearest the day's work location. Work crews will deliver wood chips only to members they can reach by phone and whose location is nearest the day's work. There is no guarantee a member will receive wood chips at any particular time.

Leave a message at 580-875-4224 to have your name added to the list of members willing to take wood chips.



Who won? Our community! In a friendly Bedlam rivalry, Cotton Electric employees filled OU and OSU boxes with 1,029 food items to be donated to the Walters Food Pantry. The final result of Cotton Bedlam was OSU 554 - OU 475. To acknowledge the generosity, Jennifer Meason, CEO and Sooner fan, will wear a Pokes shirt during the annual Employee Training day.

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Consignments Welcome!



Haley Smith, Connor Kern, Daisy Cossio and Mathew Meaders represented Cotton Electric during the 2017 Youth Tour.

2018 topic: Energy Efficiency: How it affects me and Cotton Electric

Call for essays launches annual contest

The annual Rural Electric Youth Tour kicks off in November with a preliminary essay contest. This year's topic, "Energy Efficiency: How it Affects Me and Cotton Electric," will be the key focus for all submissions. Students may choose to address a member of the future or the past.

Each year, students in Cotton Electric's service territory are eligible to compete in the preliminary rounds of the competition. The contest is open to all high school juniors in the Cotton Electric service area. The students and their families do not have to be Cotton Electric members.

The contest is broken into three rounds and starts with the essay contest. Area juniors may submit an essay of approximately 600 words to the Cotton Electric headquarters.

Writers of the top 25 essays move to the second round, which includes a personal interview with the student. The question-and-answer meeting is conducted at the cooperative headquarters in Walters.

The top 10 of those finalists advance to the banquet, where they and their parents will be guests of Cotton Electric. The finalists will



be required to recite their essay in a speech-type format. As they speak before judges and banquet guests, the final four winners will be determined.

The banquet is held in the spring, with the date and location to be announced.

Cotton Electric Youth Tour winners will receive an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. For a week in June, they will join 1,500 students and follow state-planned itineraries, including time with Oklahoma's congressional delegation.

The students will have an opportunity to learn about government, the cooperative form of business, and the business of rural electrification. The students will become more familiar with the historical

and political environment of the nation's capital through visits to monuments, government offices and cooperative organizations.

Youth Tour is a week of hands-on learning for students. The experience gives high school students an opportunity to learn first-hand what it is like to be involved in politics, community development and today's social issues.

Information packets with contest rules and regulations, entry forms, cooperative information and basic details of the contest will be distributed to area English teachers.

The deadline to submit an essay is Jan. 19, 2018.

In addition to the information included in the packets, students are encouraged to use other sources of information found at the local library or from the internet. Preparing for the Cotton Electric essay contest is a good way to help develop creative writing skills that are important for all high school students, especially those planning to attend college.

For more information regarding the essay contest, call Cotton Electric at 580-875-3351 or email info@cottonelectric.com.



8th-graders sought for 2018 Energy Camp

Eighth-graders interested in developing leadership skills, learning about electric cooperatives and energy delivery, and having some great summertime fun are encouraged to enter the annual Energy Camp youth writing contest.

To participate, students will be required to write a short paragraph, 50 words or less, on why they would like to attend Energy Camp. Students and their families must be Cotton Electric members.

Winners from Cotton Electric's service area will be selected from contest participants to attend the 2018 Youth Power Energy Camp held May 29-June 1 at Canyon Camp near Red Rock Canyon, southeast of Hinton.

At Energy Camp, which is sponsored by Oklahoma's electric cooperatives, students learn first-hand the

world of electric co-ops through demonstrations by electric crews. There will be opportunities to put on a lineman's work belt and gloves before climbing a pole and to see the camp from 60 feet above in the basket of a utility truck. Plus, students will set up and run their own cooperative business.

Activities will include nature hikes, games and other outings with other students representing cooperatives from across Oklahoma.

Contest information will be distributed to area English teachers soon. Students should ask for contest rules and entry forms, or contact Cotton Electric Cooperative at 580-875-3351 or by email at info@cottonelectric.com

The deadline for entry is March 1, 2018.

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- **214 E. Texas, Walters: \$86,500.** 1896 sqft, detached garage, new CHA, metal roof, updated interior.
- **625 E. Texas: Price \$64,900.** 3 bed, 1 bath, 1500 sqft, full brick. Updates include; Granite counters, cabinetry, roof and windows
- **603 E. Kansas, Walters: \$197,000.** 2279 sqft, 4 bed, 2 bath. Close to Youth Park, newer construction, large yard, well maintained.
- **319 E. Colorado, Walters: \$69,000.** 2114 sqft, 4 bed, 1 bath. Older home, many updates, 2 story, large corner lot.

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10 TIPS

SAVE ENERGY • SAVE MONEY

1. Use heavy-duty, clear sheets of plastic sealed tightly on the inside of windows to reduce the amount of cold air entering your home during the winter.
2. Install weather stripping around loose windows and doors.
3. When using the fireplace, turn down your heating system thermostat.
4. When using the fireplace, open the outside air vent (if provided) or open the nearest window slightly.
5. Keep fireplace dampers closed unless a fire is burning.
6. Ensure floor registers are not blocked with rugs, drapes or furniture.
7. Minimize use of electric space heaters, except for limited or temporary spot heating. Turn space heaters off when leaving the room.
8. Close shades and drapes at night to keep heat in during the winter.
9. Make sure drapes and shades are open during the day to catch free solar heat in winter.
10. Set thermostats to 68 degrees F in winter.

Prepare for cold weather

Check your home for air leaks

They may seem small, but air leaks can cost a bundle on your heating bill and make it harder to keep your home comfortable. Sealing those leaks will help prevent wasting energy, improve comfort, and have the added benefit of a strong barrier from noise, insects, and moisture.

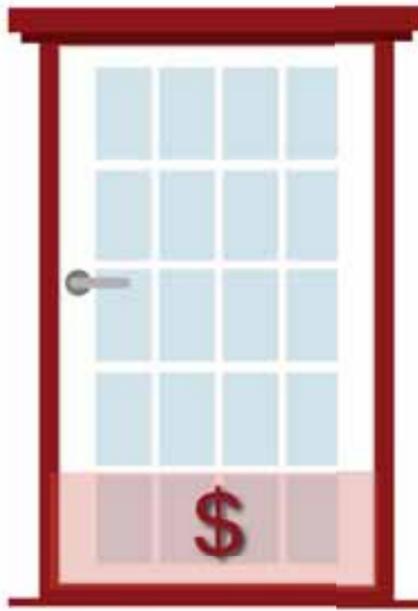
Air gaps are often found around doors and windows, attic hatches, basements, and floor joists. Other potential problem areas include recessed lighting, outside water facets, outlets, and doorframes. Leaks are also rampant in spaces where gas piping, chimneys, or plumbing enters the home.

According to the Department of Energy, you can cut up to 1/5th of your heating bill simply by reducing drafts and sealing leaks around your home. Energy Education Council provides the following tips on how to identify air leaks in order to have a more energy efficient home:

- Take note of dirty spots in your insulation or carpet. This may indicate external air leaks.
- Check by shining a flashlight through all potential gaps to see if you can see any light during the night. This will show larger cracks where air may be escaping.
- To identify smaller leaks, shut your door or window on a dollar bill. If you can pull it out, this is a large enough gap to show that you are losing energy through this leak.
- To check further, a professional home energy auditor can provide a more comprehensive check.
- After you have located these leaks, apply caulk or weather stripping around leaking windows, doors and fixtures. Caulk application is most effective if the temperature is more than 45 degrees Fahrenheit.

For more information on energy efficiency, visit EnergyEdCouncil.org or SafeElectricity.org.

Reduce up to **1/5** of your heating bill by repairing drafts and sealing leaks around your home



research collected from the U.S. Department of Energy



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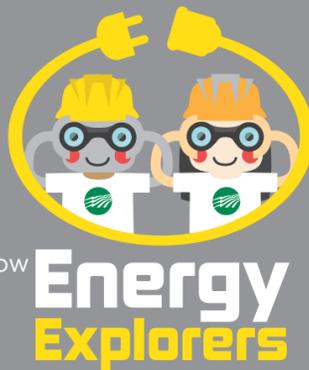
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AUTUMN CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Autumn is finally here! Complete the crossword puzzle below by filling in the Autumn words that fit the clues. If you need help, use the word bank at the bottom of the page.

Energy Explorers

ACROSS

1. Fruit you bob for.
3. This is a fun outing that usually takes place in autumn and can be enjoyed from a wagon, truck or trailer - as long as it's filled with hay.
5. These are orange and can be carved to decorate your home during Halloween.
6. These change colors during autumn months.

DOWN

2. These fall from oak trees and squirrels love to collect them.
4. This is what most people eat on Thanksgiving Day.

- APPLE
- TURKEY
- LEAVES
- PUMPKINS
- HAYRIDE
- APPLE
- TURKEY
- ACORNS

Word Bank

ACROSS

1. "Be back later"
4. Zhou dynasty state
7. Mineral
8. ___ and gagged
10. One of Lebron's former sidekicks
12. Ivory Coast village
13. Caffeinated beverage
14. Without armies
16. Intention
17. Sulfuric and citric are two
19. Supplement with difficulty
20. & & &
21. George and Weezie
25. Liquefied petroleum gas
26. Immortal act
27. Ancient Greek sophist
29. Aids digestion
30. Comedy routine
31. Actress Thurman
32. Adult beverage
39. Amounts of time
41. An awkward stupid person
42. ___ Walker, "The Color Purple"
43. Covers babies' chests
44. Parts per billion (abbr.)
45. Ottoman military title
46. More skilled
48. Natives to New Mexico
49. Indigent
50. Illuminated
51. Very fast airplane
52. Devoid of cordiality

DOWN

1. Comedian Goldthwait
2. Worn by women
3. "Naked Gun" actor Nielsen
4. Processes fatty acids
5. Mortals
6. Not invited
8. Show ___: entertainment
9. Darkens
11. Pilgrimage
14. Danish krone
15. Savior
18. Midway between south and east
19. Electroencephalograph
20. Henry's wife Boleyn
22. Hairstyle
23. Frames per second
24. Sinclair novel
27. Basics
28. A person's life story
29. Luxury automaker
31. Ultrahigh frequency
32. Island and antelope are two
33. Taxi
34. Farm state
35. Fence part
36. Rwandan capital
37. Onomatopoeic
38. In a state of turbulence
39. Abba ___, Israeli politician
40. Flowering plants
44. Inquire too closely
47. Sun up in New York



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8:00pm	\$50.00	10:15pm	\$50.00
8:15pm	\$50.00	10:30pm	\$50.00
8:30pm	\$50.00	10:45pm	\$50.00
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Energy efficiency for the modern family's many devices

By Anne Prince

If you are struck by the amount of screens, remotes, gaming controls, charging stations and cords that have become fixtures in your home, you are not alone. The typical American family is well connected and owns a variety of electronic devices. According to the PEW Research Institute, 95 percent of U.S. families have a cell phone and 77 percent of Americans own a smart phone. Nearly 80 percent of adults own a laptop or desktop computer, while approximately half own tablets.

Consumer electronics coupled with the growing array of smart home appliances and technology have slowly but steadily changed our homes and lifestyles. The increased reliance on our many devices has new implications for home energy use and efficiency.

Using smart technology to manage energy savings

So how can we save energy when we are

using more electronic devices than ever before? The answer may lie with some of those same electronic devices that have become indispensable to modern living. In many cases, energy savings is a touchscreen away as more apps enable you to monitor energy use.

From the convenience of your mobile device, smart technologies can maximize your ability to manage electricity use across several platforms—controlling your thermostat, appliances, water heater, home electronics and other devices. One of the easiest ways to make an impact on energy efficiency is with a smart thermostat, like Nest models. Using your mobile device, you can view and edit your thermostat schedule and monitor how much energy is used and make adjustments accordingly. For example, program your thermostat for weekday and weekend schedules so you are not wasting energy when no one is home. Check and adjust the program periodically

to keep pace with changes in household routines

You can also ensure efficiency by purchasing Energy Star-certified appliances. Many new appliances include smart-technology features such as refrigerators that can tell you when maintenance is required or when a door has been left open. New washers, dryers and dishwashers allow you to program when you want the load to start. This means you can program your task for off-peak energy hours. Cotton Electric rates are not based on time of use today, but could be in the future. A smart thermostat would be helpful in managing energy consumption and controlling power bills.

Old school energy savings for new devices

Of course there are the time-tested "old school" methods of energy efficiency that can be applied to the myriad of household electronic devices and screens.

Cyber security tips:

- When setting up new equipment or apps, always change the default password
- Update software regularly

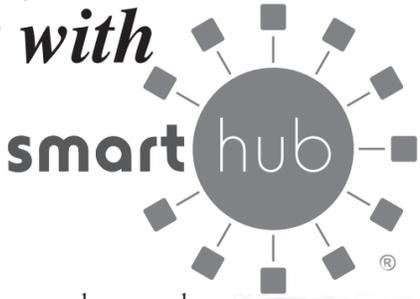
Computers, printers, phones and gaming consoles are notorious "vampire power" users, meaning they drain energy (and money) when not in use. If items can be turned off without disrupting your lifestyle, consider plugging them into a power strip that can be turned on and off or placed on a timer.

While modern life involves greater dependence on technology, your best resource for saving energy and money remains your local electric co-op.

Regardless of your level of technical expertise with electronic devices, Cotton Electric can provide guidance on energy savings based on your account information, energy use, local weather patterns and additional factors unique to your community.

Speaking of devices

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SmartHub provides account access and two-way communication with Cotton Electric online or via your mobile device.

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SmartHub is available on Android and iOS smartphones and tablets as well as on the Web.

Visit www.SmartHubApp.com to learn more and download an app compatible with your Apple or Android devices.



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Editor's Note: October is National Cyber Security Awareness Month. At Cotton Electric, we received so much helpful information to share with co-op members, we couldn't fit it all into one month. For example, Sarah Kiely, who works in IT Community Support for National Rural Electric Cooperatives Association, sent a list of 20 suggestions to keep personal information safe. Each suggestion includes a few paragraphs of explanation

and links to websites. They are really good suggestions but far more than can fit into one issue of The Current. Thus, a series is born. We'll feature two or three suggestions each month through July 2018. An easy way to investigate links: Find The Current at CottonElectric.com under Member Services. The online version of The Current features live links, where a click will take you directly to the page.



Shopping days are here. Time for that frenzied few weeks when we all ask ourselves why we didn't start looking for Christmas gifts back in July.

The level of commerce in the few days after Thanksgiving has become so much a part of modern culture that they have earned special names: Black Friday, Small Business Saturday, Cyber Monday.

These cyber security topics offer protection tips for those looking for just the right gifts for loved ones.

Consider single use credit card numbers when shopping online

When you shop online or over the telephone, it is necessary to provide a credit card number to complete your purchase. But what happens to your credit card data after the transaction is complete? Does the merchant keep your credit card information on file? Will you be charged for a re-occurring transaction when you only authorized a one-time charge?

To help protect you against identity theft and loss of your credit card data, both Bank America and Citibank allow you to generate single use credit card numbers for a specific merchant or transaction.

- Bank of America ShopSafe - <https://www.bankofamerica.com/privacy/accountscards/shopsafe.go>
- Citibank Virtual Account Numbers - <https://www.cardbenefits.citi.com/products/virtualaccount-numbers.aspx>

The single-use credit card number works just like the number, expiration date, and security code printed on your credit card, and of course these charges appear on monthly bills as usual.

However, single use credit card numbers are limited to a single merchant, a single transaction, or for a limited period of time set by you. Once the transaction is complete or the expiration date you assigned to the single use credit card number is reached, that number is canceled and can't be used if stolen or later accessed by an unscrupulous merchant.

If you don't have a credit card issued by either Bank of America or Citibank, you can still take advantage of the security offered by single use credit card numbers by subscribing to services like "Blur" from Abine, Inc. <https://www.abine.com/index.html>

Avoid showing ID when making a credit card purchase

Some merchants may ask that you present ID when making a purchase with a credit card. In most cases the cashier ringing up your purchases just matches the name on the credit card to the name on the ID you present.

These merchants mistakenly believe that this somehow makes you safer by ensuring that you only use a credit card in your own name. However, there is nothing illegal about using someone else's credit card as long as you have their permission to do so.

Furthermore, major credit card companies know that presenting ID really does very little if anything to stop credit card fraud. Because of this, credit card companies prohibit merchants from requiring that customers present ID as a condition of making a purchase with a properly signed credit card.

Credit card companies ask that cardholders report merchants in violation of their policies. Here is Mastercard's online reporting form:

<https://www.mastercard.us/en-us/consumers/get-support/report-problem-shopping.html>

Note that one of the specific violations listed is "The merchant/retailer required identification."

According to consumer reporter Susan Hogan, WPRI News, businesses cannot require credit card users to show ID. According to the report, "Security experts say the information on your driver's license could be enough to steal your identity, which is why the Federal Trade Commission is cracking down on retailers who ask consumers to show theirs."

"Both MasterCard and Visa actually prohibit merchants from requiring identification as a condition for accepting their credit cards, provided the card is signed."

Hogan's report can be seen online at: <http://wpri.com/2015/09/09/businesses-cannot-require-credit-card-users-to-show-id>

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A Friendsgiving Feast

Sides, drinks and leftovers perfect for sharing with friends

FAMILY FEATURES

Friendsgiving is the perfect opportunity to celebrate your second family with festive, fun recipes that stray a bit away from traditional fare. "Friendsgiving is often held on the Saturday before Thanksgiving," said Chef Kevan Vetter of the McCormick Kitchens. "It's more of a potluck party than a traditional Thanksgiving – everyone is usually assigned a dish. Instead of stuffing or a green bean casserole, bring a dish that's a little more fun, like corn pudding with a dash of smoky heat from chipotle chili pepper."

These recipes for a caramelized Brie and a chocolatey red wine from the McCormick kitchens are also sure to please. If your party falls after the big day, put those turkey leftovers to good use with a cheesy turkey crescent ring perfect for feeding a group of friends.

Find more recipes to share with friends this season at McCormick.com.



Leftover Turkey Taco Crescent Ring

Prep time: 25 minutes
 Cook time: 25 minutes
 Servings: 10

- 1 package McCormick Original Taco Seasoning Mix, divided
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 cup finely chopped onion
- 2 cups shredded, cooked turkey
- 1 can (15 1/4 ounces) whole-kernel corn, drained
- 1 can (10 ounces) diced tomatoes and chilies, drained
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 1 container (8 ounces) whipped cream cheese
- 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese, divided
- 2 packages (8 ounces each) refrigerated crescent dinner rolls

Heat oven to 375 F. Reserve 1 teaspoon taco seasoning mix in small bowl; set aside.

In medium saucepan over medium heat, melt butter. Add onion; cook and stir 3 minutes, or until tender. Add turkey, corn, tomatoes, garlic and remaining seasoning mix. Cook and stir 5 minutes. Remove from heat. Stir in cream cheese and 1 cup shredded cheese.

Unroll crescent roll dough on greased or parchment paper-lined baking pan. Separate into triangles. Arrange triangles to resemble sun with center open. Press dough where bottoms of triangles overlap. Spoon turkey mixture in ring where dough overlaps. Fold triangle points over filling, tucking into bottom layer to secure. Continue until entire ring is enclosed.

Bake 15 minutes, or until golden brown.

In bowl, stir remaining shredded cheese into reserved seasoning mix. Remove ring from oven. Sprinkle with cheese mixture. Bake 5 minutes longer, or until cheese is melted.

Serve with desired toppings, such as shredded lettuce, sour cream or guacamole.

Chipotle Corn Pudding

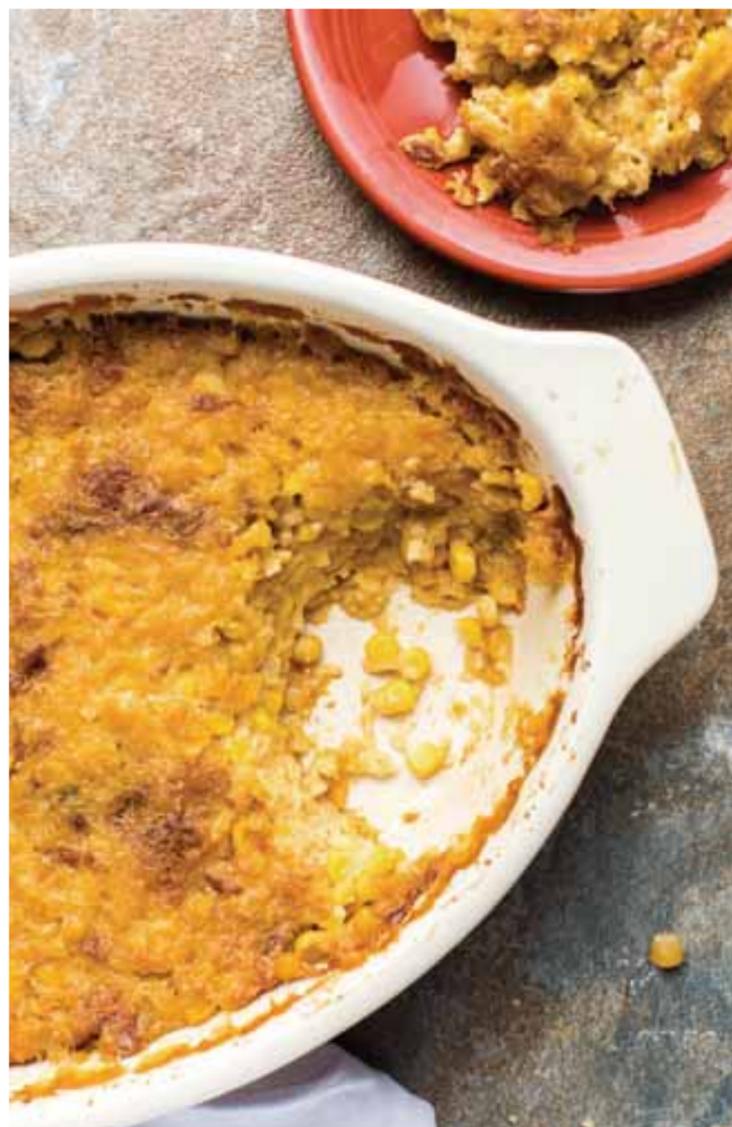
Prep time: 10 minutes
 Cook time: 1 hour
 Servings: 8

- 1/4 cup cornstarch
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 2 teaspoons McCormick Minced Onions
- 1 1/2 teaspoons McCormick Ground Mustard
- 1 teaspoon McCormick Gourmet Sicilian Sea Salt
- 1/4 teaspoon McCormick Chipotle Chili Pepper
- 4 eggs
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1/4 cup (1/2 stick) butter, melted
- 2 cans (14 3/4 ounces each) creamed corn
- 1 can (15 1/4 ounces) whole-kernel corn, drained
- nonstick cooking spray

Heat oven to 400 F. In small bowl, mix cornstarch, sugar, onions, mustard, sea salt and chili pepper until well blended; set aside.

In large bowl, lightly beat eggs. Stir in milk, butter and all corn. Gently stir in cornstarch mixture until well blended. Pour into 2 1/2-quart baking dish sprayed with nonstick cooking spray.

Bake 1 hour, or until set, stirring halfway through cooking. Let stand 10 minutes before serving.



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Food intolerances - different from food allergies

A food intolerance occurs when the body has trouble digesting a food or food component. Symptoms are generally isolated to the digestive tract and can include abdominal pain, gas, bloating and diarrhea. Food intolerances are generally uncomfortable but not life-threatening.

Researchers have difficulty estimating the number of people affected by food intolerances because it is often lumped in with food allergies.

The most common example of a food intolerance is lactose intolerance, where the body cannot process lactose, a naturally occurring sugar found in dairy products.

This is different from an allergy to dairy. If a person is allergic to dairy products, their body will have an overactive immune response after eating dairy, resulting in a rash, hives, trouble breathing or, in the most severe cases, anaphylactic shock.

Symptoms of intolerance to dairy



Kim Bandelier, MPH, RD, LD

Food For THOUGHT

might include abdominal pain, gas, bloating or diarrhea after ingestion. These conditions are very uncomfortable but are not immediately life-threatening.

Lactose intolerance can be managed by taking lactase, consuming lactose-free

dairy products, or avoiding most dairy products.

Gluten has also been mixed up in the allergy versus intolerance confusion. Gluten is the general name for the protein found in wheat.

A true wheat allergy is rare and occurs when consuming wheat causes the immune system to overreact. True gluten intolerance is now being described and diagnosed as Non-Celiac Gluten Sensitivity.

Different from an allergy or an intolerance, celiac disease is an inappropriate immune response to gluten where the immune response specifically damages the small intestine. All three of these conditions can impact your health and require intervention.

A wheat allergy can be life-threatening. Individuals with a true wheat allergy should be prepared to take action in case of a severe allergic reaction.

Non-Celiac Gluten Sensitivity can re-

sult in the need to eliminate gluten from the diet, which also results in eliminating foods containing vitamins, minerals, and other nutrients important to overall health. Celiac disease results in damage to the small intestine that affects nutrient absorption. These missing nutrients must be added back through non-gluten containing foods or supplements.

If you suspect you have a food intolerance or food allergy, it is important to discuss this with your physician and dietitian. It is important to distinguish between food allergy and food intolerance in order to decide the most appropriate treatment and dietary modifications. In some cases, an underlying disease may be present which requires further medical evaluation and intervention.

Pay attention to your body's reaction to foods. Share any unusual reactions with your healthcare team so you can work together to determine the most appropriate course of action.

Slow Cooker Red Wine Hot Chocolate

Prep time: 5 minutes
Cook time: 1 hour
Servings: 14

- 1 bottle (750 milliliters) red wine
- 8 cups whole milk
- 1 can (14 ounces) sweetened condensed milk

- 1 package (12 ounces) dark chocolate chips
- 1 teaspoon McCormick Ground Nutmeg
- 4 McCormick Cinnamon Sticks

Place all ingredients in slow cooker. Cover. Cook 60-70 minutes on high, or until chocolate is melted and mixture is heated through, stirring every 15 minutes. Reduce heat to low. Serve from slow cooker.



Pecan Pie Brie

Prep time: 5 minutes
Cook time: 12 minutes
Servings: 12

- 1/2 cup firmly packed brown sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon McCormick Ground Cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon McCormick Ground Nutmeg
- 3 tablespoons butter, divided
- 1 cup pecans, chopped
- 1/2 cup light corn syrup
- 2 tablespoons water
- 1 teaspoon McCormick Pure Vanilla Extract
- 1/2 teaspoon McCormick Rum Extract
- 1 wheel Brie cheese, warmed

In small bowl, mix brown sugar, cinnamon, salt and nutmeg until blended. Set aside.

In large skillet over medium heat, melt 2 tablespoons butter. Add pecans; toast 5-7 minutes, or until golden brown, stirring frequently. Reduce heat to low.

Stir remaining butter, corn syrup, water, vanilla extract, rum extract and brown sugar mixture into skillet. Cook and stir until butter is melted and mixture is heated through. Remove from heat. Mixture will thicken as it cools. Spoon over warmed Brie.

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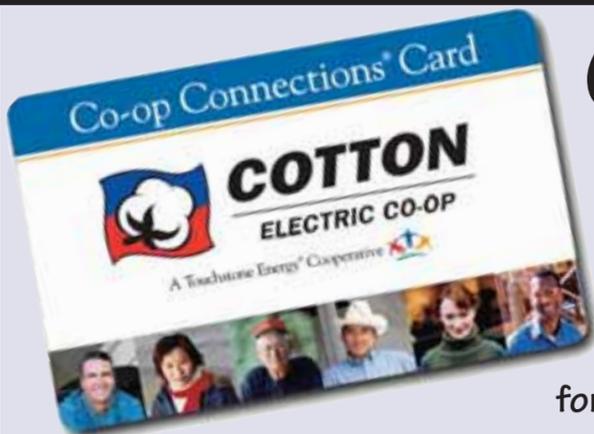
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