

# The Current

A Publication of Cotton Electric Cooperative Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

*“The Current - Informing Our Members Since 1957”*

VOLUME 61

April 16, 2018

NUMBER 9



Ronnie Mansel Clint Ingram Jarrod Hooper Michelle Taylor Chuck Ballard Bobby Shortt Evan Hays Dillon Thompson Zachary Smith



Larry Crowell TJ James Travis Romero Keeton Sallee Kyle Linthicum Braylin Dowlen Bob Anderson Chad Cowan Darrell Loveday



Terry Foster Terry Turner Matt Winburn Brian Jones Dillon Wiygul Scott Dennis Norman Condit

*“Whereas linemen leave their families and put their lives on the line every day to keep the power on;  
Whereas linemen work 365 days a year under dangerous conditions to build, maintain and repair the electric infrastructure;  
Whereas linemen are the first responders of the electric cooperative family, getting power back on and making things safe for all after storms and accidents; and  
Whereas there would be no electric cooperatives without the brave men and women who comprise our corps of linemen;  
Therefore be it resolved that NRECA recognize the Second Monday of April of each year as National Lineman Appreciation Day and make available to electric cooperatives, materials and support to recognize the contributions of these valuable men and women to America’s Electric Cooperatives.”*

NRECA Board Resolution (2015)

## Heroes in hardhats, #ThankALineman

By Danielle Quickle

Imagine waking up to a phone call in the middle of the night. Rain is coming down, wind is howling but you’re ready and willing to brave the storm to do your job. This scenario is a reality for the linemen who serve the members of Cotton Electric and electric cooperatives across the nation.

If your power is on, you likely have a lineman to thank. Every second Monday in April, we recognize our linemen during National Lineman Appreciation Day. This day is set aside to show appreciation for the men and women who devote their lives to delivering and maintaining quality power. Without them, we would be lost in the dark, literally. Cotton Electric Cooperative linemen service thousands of members along 5,163 miles of line in eight counties across southwest Oklahoma ... including you.

Springtime in Oklahoma is famous for its treacherous winds and damaging storms that can lead to power outages. While we are taking cover, our linemen are taking action. Prepared to leave their families at a moment’s notice, unsure of when they will return, linemen risk their lives for the comfort of our own.

Even when there is no crisis, they work in dangerous conditions on a daily basis. Whether they are working in trenches, near water or on high towers, the risks are extreme. Journeymen, apprentices, and crewmen undergo lengthy and frequent training to ensure the safest and most reliable electricity possible.

From the substation, the power grid crisscrossing counties both overhead and underground and right up to the meters on poles, these men and women build and maintain the system that keeps southwest Oklahoma running.

If you report your power is out to Cotton Electric, our dispatcher analyzes where the problem is and notifies the linemen. Equipment is loaded, hardhats are put on and your call is responded to immediately.

Depending on the situation, power restoration could take a few days or happen in a flash. There are no breaks and no down time until your power is fully restored. This is why we #ThankALineman.

April 9 is the official 2018 calendar date for National Lineman Appreciation Day. However, any day is a good day to show your appreciation.

Next time you see our linemen around town or at a community event, take a few minutes to tell them how much you appreciate the time they take away from their families to restore your power. Have kids at home? Use arts and crafts time to make a thank-you card for the linemen and drop it off at one of our offices or warehouses. Take your story of appreciation to social media with #ThankALineman.

Not all heroes wear capes. Ours wear hardhats.

Linemen make up just a handful of the employees at Cotton Electric who are committed to serving their members.

See Employee Appreciation, Page 10

### Power Cost Adjustment Calculated

The power cost adjustment now being applied to bills mailed after April 1, 2018, is (\$0.00537) per kWh.

On a member’s average bill of 1250 kilowatt hours (kWh), this will amount to a credit of \$6.71 on the April bill.

### March 2018 Temperature Extremes

Day	High	Low	Avg.	Day	High	Low	Avg.
1	64	37	51	16	82	48	65
2	69	30	50	17	66	45	56
3	74	44	59	18	71	43	57
4	70	57	64	19	62	46	55
5	66	34	50	20	55	37	54
6	64	28	46	21	72	33	53
7	58	29	44	22	82	49	66
8	71	29	50	23	84	57	71
9	80	50	65	24	80	52	66
10	80	50	65	25	84	52	68
11	61	42	52	26	76	61	69
12	60	33	47	27	62	46	54
13	63	29	46	28	64	46	55
14	69	28	49	29	66	45	56
15	79	40	60	30	68	41	55
				31	81	48	65

Source: srb.noaa.gov/oum/

Average Daily High: 70 Average Daily Low: 42

### Did You Know?

Cotton Electric has sponsored a total of 165 high school juniors on the Rural Electric Youth Tour since 1964. We have sent groups of two or four every year, but in 1970 we sent five students to the nation’s capital.

The next issue of The Current should arrive in mailboxes May 14, 2018.

### 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.

### What’s Inside

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More news at [cottonelectric.com](http://cottonelectric.com)

From the CEO

# Advocating for rural Oklahoma

Advocacy is defined as the act or process of supporting a cause or proposal. In recent days, we've seen many of our friends and neighbors advocating for causes that are important to them. It's great to live in a country where we can speak freely.



Jennifer Meason, CEO

I believe one of my most significant responsibilities as a CEO of an electric cooperative is to advocate for rural America. Cotton Electric recently had the opportunity to travel with several other Oklahoma cooperatives to the National Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives (NRECA) Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C.

During the conference, we had the privilege of seeing NRECA CEO Jim Matheson and NRECA President Phil Carson present Sen. James Inhofe, R-Okla., with the Distinguished Service Award. Inhofe is a past chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee and a long-time supporter of electric cooperatives.

At the conclusion of the conference, we headed toward the Capitol, meeting with the Oklahoma congressional delegation and staff. My Fitbit was smoking by the end of each day from the many steps we took around the Capitol.

We had several important items to discuss such as the 2018 Farm Bill, broadband access, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public As-

sistance Program. Here are a few of the highlights of our discussions:

**2018 FARM BILL**

The current Farm Bill expires in 2018 and the House and Senate Agriculture committees have already begun an extensive process to reauthorize this legislation. As Congress begins to draft new Farm Bill legislation, it should contain tools that help electric cooperatives perform some of our most basic functions like financing for basic electrification needs that are still essential to keeping the lights on in rural America and supporting economic development efforts in the communities we serve.

**RURAL BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING**

Another item that is vital to our rural economies is broadband infrastructure funding. We called upon our Members of Congress to dedicate funds to developing broadband deployment in unserved and under-served areas of our country. We recognize that low density continues to be the largest barrier to broadband deployment and requested funding for loan and grant programs.

**FEMA DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

Cotton Electric and other cooperatives across the nation depend on FEMA's Public Assistance Program to help restore power to our members after natural disasters such as floods, fires, tornadoes, hurricanes and ice storms. Co-ops serve on average 7 consumers per mile of line (Cotton Electric averages less at 4.3 members per mile), including some of the most rugged terrain of

any electric utility, yet own and operate 42 percent of the distribution lines in the country. As such, disasters can have a disproportionate impact on electric cooperatives and our member-consumers. Congress made electric co-ops eligible for FEMA reimbursements to mitigate these costs, keep electricity prices down and ensure smooth recoveries from major natural disasters for not-for-profit, consumer-owned utilities. Without FEMA financial assistance, many co-op consumers living in disaster-stricken areas could face significantly higher electric rates. We support developing ways to streamline disaster recovery programs while maintaining our commitment to efficient disaster recovery.

Thank you for the opportunity to represent Cotton Electric and advocate for rural America. If you would like to learn more about these issues, visit [action.coop](http://action.coop) and click on 'Learn More'.



Senator James Inhofe was recognized with the Distinguished Service Award at the NRECA Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C.

## CECF announces recent contributions

Pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters – set enough of them aside on a regular basis, and the coins add up to dollars. That's how Operation Round Up works.

Most Cotton Electric members participate in ORU, in which power bills are rounded up to the nearest dollar. The amount rounded up can be as little as 1 cent and is never more than 99 cents. On average, each participating member contributes about \$6 each year.

The funds are pooled and administered by the Cotton Electric Charitable Foundation, a board of directors that meets quarterly to consider grant applications. The board consists of Jennifer Meason, the co-op's CEO; Ronnie Bohot, president of the co-op's board of trustees; and three representatives from the Cotton Electric service area: Carly Douglass, Danny Marlett and Carter Waid.

The board met in March to review 22 grant applications. Grants totaling \$28,379 will be distributed to 13 of the applicants. First-quarter grants include:

- Beautiful Day Foundation: A \$1,844 CECF grant will purchase a computer and software.
- Cameron University Foundation: A \$2,700 CECF grant will support student housing for the CU Engineering and Applied Mathematics Summer Academy.
- Central High School Math Department: A \$3,870 CECF grant will purchase TI-84 Plus CE calculators



for their program.

- Town of Chattanooga: A \$1,215 CECF grant will provide LED light fixtures.
- Friends of Elgin Community Library: A \$2,500 CECF grant will support the construction of a handicap entry.
- Elgin Little League: A \$2,500 CECF grant will purchase a storage shed for equipment.
- Elgin Middle School: A \$2,500 CECF grant will support the Winter Wishes program.
- Gabriel's House: A \$2,000 CECF grant will supply playground equipment.
- Girl Scouts – Western Oklahoma: A \$2,000 CECF grant will support summer camp fees.
- Indiahoma Public Schools: A \$500 CECF grant

Download CECF grant applications at [CottonElectric.com](http://CottonElectric.com).  
Deadline for second-quarter 2018 grant applications is May 23.

Operation Round Up is a voluntary program and members may opt out at any time by calling or sending a letter or email stating the account holder's name, account number and the request to be removed.

will support reading program incentives.

- Last Frontier Council, Boy Scouts of America: A \$1,400 CECF grant will support camperships for Boy and Cub Scouts.
- Walters Volunteer Fire Department: A \$2,850 CECF grant will purchase an electric hose tester.
- FBC Marlow: A \$2,500 CECF grant will assist with medical expenses related to a catastrophic accident.

CECF has awarded or pledged grants totaling \$1,056,801.11 since the foundation was established in 2004.

Applications for 2018 second-quarter grants are due May 23. Downloadable applications are available at [CottonElectric.com](http://CottonElectric.com).



### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Make sure your refrigerator door seals are airtight for maximum energy efficiency. Test the seal by closing the door over a piece of paper (so that it's half in and half out). If you can easily pull the piece of paper out, your seal may need to be replaced or the latch may need to be adjusted.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)

## The Current

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By Cotton Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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Bryce Hooper..... Vice President of Marketing  
Karen Kaley.....Marketing & Communications  
Danielle Quickle .....Editor  
Jennifer Kriz.....Display Advertising

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### February 2018 Operating Stats

	2018	2017
Total Amount Billed/Accrued	\$5,736,359	\$4,492,146
Cost of Purchased Power	3,801,774	3,170,607
Taxes	122,678	109,563
Total Operating Expense Per Mile	1,025	913
Average Farm and Residential Bill	164	115
Average Farm and Residential kWh	1,522	1,009
Total Meters Billed (farm, residential)	18,330	18,182
Miles Energized	5,169	5,163
Density Per Mile	3.55	3.52
New Service Connects YTD	40	30
Services Retired	14	23



**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.

# McCary recognized by OAEC for service



By Karen Kaley

Tim McCary was honored with the Good Neighbor Award for Meritorious Service during the recent annual meeting of the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives (OAEC).

McCary has worked exceptionally hard to enhance the image of rural electrification. McCary has dedicated himself to understanding the issues affecting the cooperative membership and has strived to make decisions which would improve the rural electrification program and improve the lives of the cooperative's members. He is particularly proud of the way Cotton Electric serves its members and the positive perception that is reflected back on the cooperative.

McCary joined the Cotton Electric board of trustees in April 1977. During his 41 years on the board, he has held all offices, serving twice as president in 1985-87 and 2013-15.

He was Cotton's voting delegate on the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association in 2013 and on the Western Farmers Electric Cooperative (WFEC) board in from 1993 to 1999. During his time on the WFEC board, the group worked to have a short railroad line built to the plant, thus improving flexibility and access for coal delivery.

McCary is a strong supporter of the efforts and programs of OAEC. He has encouraged Cotton Electric's participation in Special Olympics, YouthPower Energy Camp and Youth Tour; backed Cotton's role

in developing a safety manual used throughout the state; and advocates OAEC's policy of staying abreast of legislative issues that affect electric cooperatives.

McCary also served on the board of Cotton Electric Cooperative's charitable foundation. He helped oversee and distribute funds donated by the cooperative's members. These donations assisted several organizations and families and improved the safety, health and education in this area.

McCary is a lifelong resident of Tillman County, carrying forward the family's farming and ranching business. He is an OSU alumni, another family tradition that now encompasses three generations. He and his wife, Susan, have a son, a daughter and five grandchildren.

# Jones honored by Duncan Chamber

By Karen Kaley

Tommy Jones, longtime member of Cotton Electric's board of trustees, was honored recently for service to his hometown. During the annual Duncan Chamber of Commerce banquet, Jones received the Lifetime Achievement Award, recognizing outstanding civic contributions and leadership in the pursuit of improved quality of life in Duncan.

Chamber presenters said, "Much of the progress in our community is a direct result of his involvement and belief that Duncan is a great place to live, invest, and raise a family."

Jones was instrumental in developing an integrated health care system to serve southwest Oklahoma's progress and growth. He played a key role in the January 1977 launch of Duncan Regional Hospital.

Jones has served and continues to serve on many boards in Duncan, Stephens County and throughout Oklahoma. He joined the Cotton Electric board of trustees in November 1984, representing District #6, an area surrounding Duncan.

During the past 33 years, he has served the Cotton Electric board as secretary-treasurer, vice president and was president for three years, 1994-66. He was Cotton's voting delegate on the Western Farmers Electric Cooperative board in 2010 and on the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives board in 1992-94

Upon receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award, Jones said, "I have always enjoyed serving my community. If I could, I would do it all again."



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## Community Spotlight

If you would like your community event listed in the May issue, please submit information by May 3, by calling 580-875-4255 or send an email to [info@cotnonelectric.com](mailto:info@cotnonelectric.com).

### Farmers Market open weekly

Lawton Farmers Market is open from 7:30 a.m. to noon on Saturdays from April through October at the Comanche County Fairgrounds, 920 SW Sheridan Road.

In addition to local seasonal produce, expect to see specialty foods such as jams, jellies, salsas, baked goods, wine, freshly roasted coffee beans, as well as hand-made soap, herbs, plants, eggs, beef and an assortment of handcrafted items and food concessionaires.

For information, visit Lawton Farmers Market on Facebook.

### LTC offers Simon's 'Rumors'

Performances of Lawton Community Theatre's presentation of "Rumors" are set for April 13-22 at John Denney Playhouse, 1316 NW Bell Avenue in Lawton.

Neil Simon's two-act farce, set in Palisades, shows a dinner party gone topsyturvy. An enjoyable romp that has been staged countless times, this is one of Simon's most celebrated comedies. But it carries a subtle undercurrent of sadness, which becomes clearer when we set it alongside the events of the playwright's life.

For information, visit [LCT-OK.org](http://LCT-OK.org) or call 580-355-1600.

### 89er Days celebrate 89 years

In honor of the 1889 land run, the 89er Days Celebration begins at 4:30 p.m. April 17-21 in downtown Guthrie. This year's theme is "Eighty-Nine Years of 89ers."

This 89th annual celebration includes a carnival, chuck wagon feed and auction, 89er queen competition, food and craft vendors and the largest and oldest parade in the state. All of the events can be seen under the schedule of events tab at [89erdays.com](http://89erdays.com).

### Gubernatorial forum in Duncan

Duncan will play host to the fourth of seven Gubernatorial Issues Forums sponsored by The Oklahoma Academy from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. April 19 at the Simmons Center.

All twelve 2018 Gubernatorial candidates have been invited to speak. This is a free and public event. Seating will be limited and is given on a first-come, first-serve basis.

### Pecan Creek VFD plans fundraiser

Pecan Creek Volunteer Fire Department's third annual golf scramble is set for 1 p.m. April 20 at Lawton Municipal Golf Course.

The scramble consists of two-person teams with an entry fee of \$100 per team. Registry is limited to 40 teams on a first-come, first-serve basis. Golfers enjoy 18 holes preceded by a barbecue lunch beginning at noon and will have the opportunity for cash prizes.

All proceeds from this event will benefit the Pecan Creek VFD. For more information on how to register your team or to become a hole sponsor, call Joe English at 580-351-4316.

### LPO presents 'The Terrific Tuba'

Lawton Philharmonic Orchestra presents "The Terrific Tuba" at 8 p.m. April 21 at McMahon Auditorium, 801 NW Ferris Avenue, Lawton. The music of John Williams rounds out the LPO season, and features Jon Voth playing the Tuba Concerto. Yes, Williams writes for

more than just the movies, but you'll also hear some of his greatest film scores, like Star Wars, Indiana Jones and Harry Potter.

Buy tickets online or call 580-531-5043. For information, visit [LawtonPhil.com](http://LawtonPhil.com).

### 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. All screenings begin at 7:30 p.m.

The April 20 offering is "Broadcast News," a 1987 American romantic comedy-drama film written, produced and directed by James L. Brooks. Basketball network news producer Jane Craig falls for new reporter Tom Grunnick, a pretty boy who represents the trend toward entertainment news she despises. Aaron Altman, a talented but plain correspondent, carries an unrequited torch for Jane. Sparks fly between the three as the network prepares for big changes, and both the news and Jane must decide between style and substance.

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](http://Cameron.edu/magiclantern).

### Car cruises continue in April

Ready to make the drag? The second car cruise of 2018 will run from 6 to 10 p.m. April 20 in downtown Duncan.

Car enthusiasts of all stripes gather four times a year for the Friday Night Car Cruise around downtown Duncan. Guests enjoy a fun and free parade of drivers showing off their souped-up cars as they cruise down Main Street. Main Street merchants will be open late, offering discounts and door prizes.

To cruise Main Street is \$10 per vehicle with license and insurance required. Visit the Friday Night Car Cruise Facebook page or the Main Street Duncan website to stay informed on event details including contests, concerts, and movie times.

### The FPH turns 100

Happy birthday to The Foreman Prairie House! The public is invited to celebrate with FPH at their 100th Birthday Party and Vintage Carnival from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on April 21 in Duncan.

The Vintage Carnival will feature rides, including a 70-year-old Ferris Wheel, and old fashioned outdoor games. Birthday cake will be served with a short ceremony at noon. Jason Hicks and Marcus McEntire will sit in the dunking booth.

Charitable organizations are invited to conduct their own fundraising by hosting food booths during the carnival. There is no booth fee. However, 10 percent of earnings must be donated back to the FPH. Interested parties should contact Laura McGouran at 580-512-9153.

### Celebrate Earth Day in Lawton

Lawton is celebrating Earth Day with Open Streets from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 21 in downtown Lawton on C Avenue.

Open Streets is a new concept that turns city streets into a temporary public park with activities for the whole family and designed to get people moving. Activities for the family will include fitness classes, obstacle courses, imaginary playground, skate park, hula hoops, art, face painting, bounce houses, photo booth and more.

### More Community Spotlight on Page 6

## Upcoming Deadlines for The Current

May		June		July	
Ad Sales	April 27	Ad Sales	May 25	Ad Sales	June 29
Classified	May 2	Classified	May 30	Classified	July 5
Publish Date	May 14	Publish Date	June 11	Publish Date	July 16

## PHOTO OF THE MONTH



This image of the American flag flying over a home in rural Oklahoma reminds us that there is no place like home! Cotton Electric member Sherry Pullicar snapped this photo of the new flag pole in the front yard of her dream home built in 2009.

Enter your "best shot" in our Photo of the Month contest. Theme for May is May Flowers. Entries can be emailed to [TheCurrent@cotnonelectric.com](mailto:TheCurrent@cotnonelectric.com) or mailed to The Current, 226 N. Broadway, Walters, OK 73572. Winners will receive a Cotton Electric prize package of CEC goodies.

## 'Textiles Transcending' exhibit ends May 19

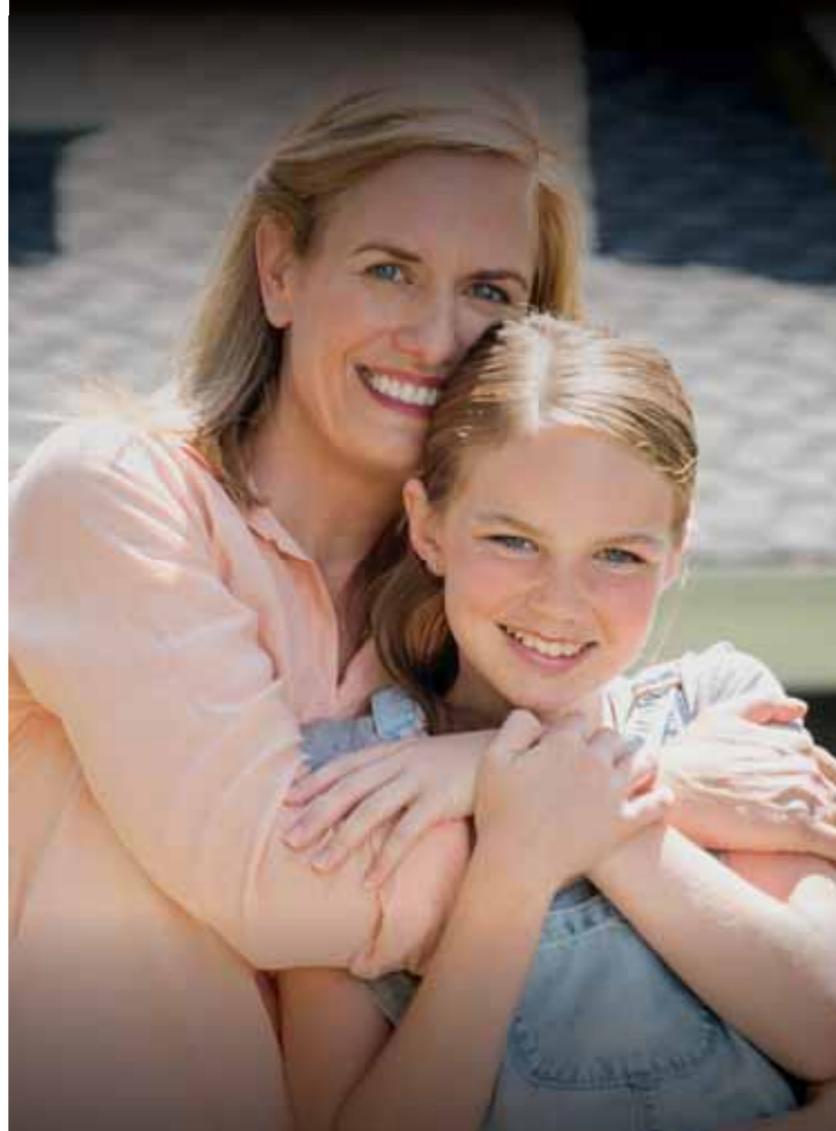
See the fiber artistry of award-winning Chickasaw artists Tyra Shackelford and Margaret Roach Wheeler until May 19 at Chisholm Trail Heritage Center in Duncan.

Ancient handwoven techniques, looms, artifacts, history, culture and family are the tools by which the two women produce award-winning art. Every piece they produce tells a story – their story. They share these stories through their show, "Textiles Transcending" open now.

Located just north of the Simmons Center at 1000 Chisholm Trail Parkway in Duncan, the Chisholm Trail Heritage Center is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and from 1 to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

Cotton Electric members can present a Co-op Connections Card to get \$1 off the admission price, per card per visit. For information, call 580-252-6692 or visit [facebook.com/onthechisholmtrail/](http://facebook.com/onthechisholmtrail/) events.

## WE ALL USE ENERGY DIFFERENTLY



We rely on Cotton Electric Cooperative for information about safety, efficiency and renewables. In our community, power is more than electricity. It's the expert information we get from our local Touchstone Energy cooperative.

Visit [CottonElectric.com](http://CottonElectric.com) to discover the power of your co-op.

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# Top 10 compete for D.C.



Finalists in Cotton Electric's 55th annual Rural Electric Youth Tour competition include, seated from left, Gavin Banks, Cole Newport, Madison Baker, Macey Paramount, Calli Ray, and, back row from left, Gabriel Barber, Sierra Haney, Sayre Tillery, Grant Anthony, and Nathaniel Wright. Winners announced on Page 12.

# Smith promoted to journeyman

Zack Smith is a newly-minted journeyman lineman, having completed the four-year certification process. Smith joined the Cotton Electric operations department in Spring 2013, and entered the apprentice program 6 months later. The program includes academic studies and field experience. Smith works all over the Cotton Electric service territory with the construction crew. In the photo, Brent Orme, chair of the OAEC Safety and Loss Control Committee, presents Smith with his journeyman lineman certificate.



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# The Current welcomes new editor

By Karen Kaley

It is my pleasure to introduce Danielle Quickle, the new editor of The Current.

Folks around here usually respond to that introduction with, "Quickle? Is she related to ...?" "Yes," I reply, "she is married to Hunter, of the Chattanooga Quickles."

Originally from Fort Cobb, Danielle has lived in or very near the Cotton Electric service area for most of her life. She and Hunter live in Snyder, where he teaches history and coaches softball.

Danielle recently earned a bachelor's degree in communication from Cameron University. Her studies included a concentration in public relations, journalism and media production. She has done some summer work for the Lawton-Fort Sill Chamber of Commerce and for Western Farmers Electric Cooperative, Cotton Electric's power supplier.

Danielle joined the Marketing Department in late February. She immediately began the learning and working process and, I must tell you, I am very excited about the future of The Current and Cotton Electric's presence in the digital world.

We chose Danielle to help the newspaper and the co-op make the most of the ever-evolving world of communications. She will be an excellent provider of

education, training and information, the fifth of the seven cooperative principles.

In a few short weeks, she has proven to be capable and organized. She takes her job seriously, but not so much that she doesn't enjoy a good laugh with The Current's advertising representative, Jennifer Kriz.

I think The Current will be in very good hands. And me? I'm still here. I've been promoted and now carry the rather long title of Marketing and Communications Director.

The new editor allows me to put more time and energy into many other things, such as the Cotton Electric Charitable Foundation and the co-op's annual meeting, all while keeping the co-op involved in the communities we serve, the seventh of the cooperative principles.

And, I'll keep my hand in with The Current, offering guidance for Danielle ... though I think she's going to be fine on her own.

When you see her out and about, be sure to welcome her with the same warmth and kindness you have shown me.



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## Community Spotlight

### LETRA hosts bass tournament

Grab your tackle and a pole for the spring bass tournament beginning at 6 a.m. April 21 at Lake Elmer Thomas Park Recreation Area.

Participants can weigh in a total of three fish. Weigh-in will commence at noon with the winner taking home a cash prize. Entry fee is \$20 per person.

Competition for the biggest bass can be entered for an extra \$10. Winner will take home 100 percent of entry fees for that category.

For official rules and registration, call 580-442-5858.

### Fish tournament for Chamber

Leadership Duncan Class XXI will host a bass fishing tournament April 21. Registration begins at 7 a.m. at First Bank & Trust located at 1521 W. Plato in Duncan. Weigh-ins start at 5 p.m.

Cash prizes of \$100 for adults and \$50 for kids will be given away. A casting contest will also take place and lunch will be available. Entry fee is \$20 per adult and \$10 per child.

All proceeds go toward the Duncan Chamber of Commerce. Questions can be emailed to lnewton@fb247.com or mitch@wwbuilder-sinc.com.

### Rattlesnake Fest is April 19-22

Mark your calendars for the Apache Rattlesnake Festival set for April 19-22 in downtown Apache. The event features exhibits, arts, crafts, vendors, carnival rides and games, rattlesnake-catching contests, food, music and fun.

Call 580-588-2880 to leave a clear message and get information about booth rental. Funds raised by the Apache Rattlesnake Association are funneled to service projects.

### Tri-County feral hog outreach

Sponsored by Comanche, Cotton, and South Caddo County Conservation Districts, the Tri-County feral hog outreach meeting is set for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 25 at the Great Plains Technology Center, Building 100, Room 101 in Lawton.

Guest speakers will be covering feral hog control and their impacts to wildlife and agriculture. Door prizes and lunch will be provided.

RSVP to Maria Simpson at 580-875-2323 or cottonccd@conservation.ok.gov.

### Craft Beer Fest is April 28

Armed Services YMCA has its fifth annual Red River Craft Beer Festival set for 3 to 8 p.m. April 28 at the Great Plains Coliseum.

Texoma's premier craft beer tasting event will feature more than 180 unique beers from more than 50 breweries and cuisine from the area's top restaurants. Ticket prices start at \$10 for designated drivers,

\$25 for general admission and \$50 for VIP. Doors open for VIP ticket holders at 3 p.m., all others at 5 p.m. All proceeds will benefit the ASYMCA.

### 10th Annual Music Festival

Norman Music Festival is set to begin April 26 and run through April 28 in downtown Norman.

Founded in 2008, the NMF is an independent music festival that is free to the public. The festival features everything from euphoric indie pop to classic folk rock from more than 100 bands.

More information about the lineup, food, directions and parking can be found at normanmusicfestival.com.

### Philharmonic hosts Ben Folds

Artistic adviser to the National Symphony Orchestra, Ben Folds will collaborate with the OKC Philharmonic at 7:30 p.m. May 1 in the Civic Center Music Hall.

Beloved singer-songwriter, Folds has shared the stage with some of the world's greatest symphony orchestras. He has been performing his pop hits and critically acclaimed concerto for piano and orchestra for more than 10 years. His most recent album is a blend of pop and classical works that soared to number one on both the Billboard classical and classical crossover charts.

Tickets and information can be found by visiting okcphil.org.

### Revival begins in Lawton

Bethel United Methodist Church will be having their Spring Revival May 4 at 6:30 p.m. and May 5 at 9:45 a.m. in Lawton.

Revival will feature The Sonlight Praise Band from Marlow and Rev. Derrek Belase, Director of Discipleship for the Oklahoma Conference of the United Methodist Church.

For more information, contact Rev. Cydni Tillery at 918-798-2021.

### Craft Show is May 4-5

Duncan Crafts, Arts and Hobbies Association is holding its Annual Spring Craft Show from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. May 4-5 at the Stephens County Fair and Expo Center. Items handcrafted by members and local craftsmen make up 75 percent of the show, giving shoppers a unique experience.

Entrance to the show is free and will include the opportunity to win door prizes.

### Annual Arts Fest set for May 5

Cotton County Art Council will host its annual Arts and Crafts Festival from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 5 at the OK Expo Center west of Walters. There will be cash awards for craft and fine-art exhibitors.

Visitors can purchase offerings

from Blessed B Food Barn and finish up with one of the desserts offered by Walters Senior Citizens Center.

Information and entry forms are available on the Cotton County Art Council's Facebook page or by calling Lavonne High at 580-591-3996.

### Garage sale supports kids program

To support the Back Pack for Kids program at Marlow Elementary, the Marlow United Methodist Women have set their 10th annual garage sale for May 4 and 5. The sale runs from 7 a.m. until 1 p.m. each day at 109 N. 5th in Marlow.

The Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma delivers pre-assembled food sacks and backpacks to participating schools at no cost to the school or the child. The program provides children with backpacks filled with non-perishable, nutritious, kid-friendly, shelf-stable food to sustain them over weekends and school holidays. The bags contain different foods designed to provide nutrition and calories for chronically hungry children over the weekend.

### Arts For All Fest begins May 11

Arts For All's 44th annual festival will begin at 4 p.m. May 11 and last through 5 p.m. May 13 at Shepler Square Park in Lawton.

Art from more than 70 world-class artists across the country will be on display. Mediums include jewelry, metal, canvas, wood, silk, photography, ink and mixed media.

Guests will enjoy dancers, singers, bands, and options from wineries and food trucks. For children, a creative art area will be available.

This event lets the public enjoy the arts while raising funds to keep the arts strong in local communities and schools. More information can be found at lawtonafa.org.

### Armed Forces honored May 19

Billed in years past as the largest in the nation, the Armed Forces Day Parade begins at 10 a.m. May 19 on C Avenue in downtown Lawton.

More than 100 participants are set to march in this year's parade themed "Our Heroes, A Purple Heart City." The community will unite in tribute to the men and women who have valiantly served our nation.

More information can be found by contacting Taylor Burgess at 580-355-3541.

### Annual GOP Fish Fry is May 19

Stephens County's 14th annual GOP fish fry and Republican governor's debate will begin at 6 p.m. May 19 at the Stephens County Fairgrounds.

The event is sponsored by Stephens County Republican Party. Ticket and reservations can be made by calling 580-656-7951.

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## PUBLIC AUCTION

Saturday

May 12, 2018 - 10:00 AM  
701 Carriage Drive  
Duncan, Oklahoma

**Gary Criswell Auction Service & Real Estate, Inc.** has been commissioned by Gerta Sigler offer at Public Auction the Real Property and Personal Property located at 701 Carriage Drive in Duncan, Oklahoma.

**Real Property Consists of:** a Nice 3 Bedroom Brick Home (Approximately 1,358 Square Feet) with a Living Room/Dining Room Combination with Fireplace, Kitchen with Washer and Dryer Hookup and 1 3/4 Bath.

**Additional Improvements:** Includes an Attached 2 Car Garage, Screened in Back Porch, New Vinyl Windows, Nice Roof and Interior of Home has been Freshly Painted. The Home has Vinyl Facia and Soffit (Maintenance Free). All Situated on a Nice Lot (65'x150') with Fenced in Backyard (Vinyl Fence and Wood Fence) in a Great Neighborhood.

**Household Furnishings:** Including a nice Leather Recliner, a Wall Sectional Sofa with Wall Recliners on Each End, Hall Tree - Ornate with Beveled Mirror (very nice), Dining Table with 4 Chairs, Paul Bunyan Large Poster Bedroom Suite 5 Pieces (nice), Bedroom Suite Maple 2 Piece, Secretary Desk-Ornate (nice), Wooden Desk (Custom Built), RCA Large White Dog, Samsung Color Television (51" with Remote), Living Room Tables (set of 3), Whirlpool Washer, Kitchen Aid Dryer, Bakers Rack, Magnavox Radio/Record Player, Variety of Clothes and a Variety of Gdefy Tennis Shoes (size 12).

**Terms of Sale:** 10% Earnest Money on the day of Sale. Balance due at Closing upon delivery of Title and Deed. Personal Property - Cash, Personal or Company Check accepted. Positive I.D. required. Buyers must provide Auction Company a copy of Sales Tax Permit to avoid Sales Tax.

**Preview of Real and Personal Property** will be held Friday afternoon, May 11, 2018 from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Announcements made the day of Auction supersede all other advertisements.

**Auctioneer's Note:** Household Furnishings are very nice. This is a nice, well Maintained Home. The Home with the Improvements will be offered at 10:00 a.m. Sharp! The Real Property will be offered "As-Is-Where-Is". Seller reserves the right to accept or reject the final bid. Stephens County Abstract Company will serve as the Closing Agent on the Real Property.

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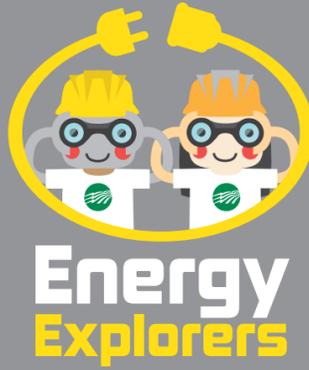
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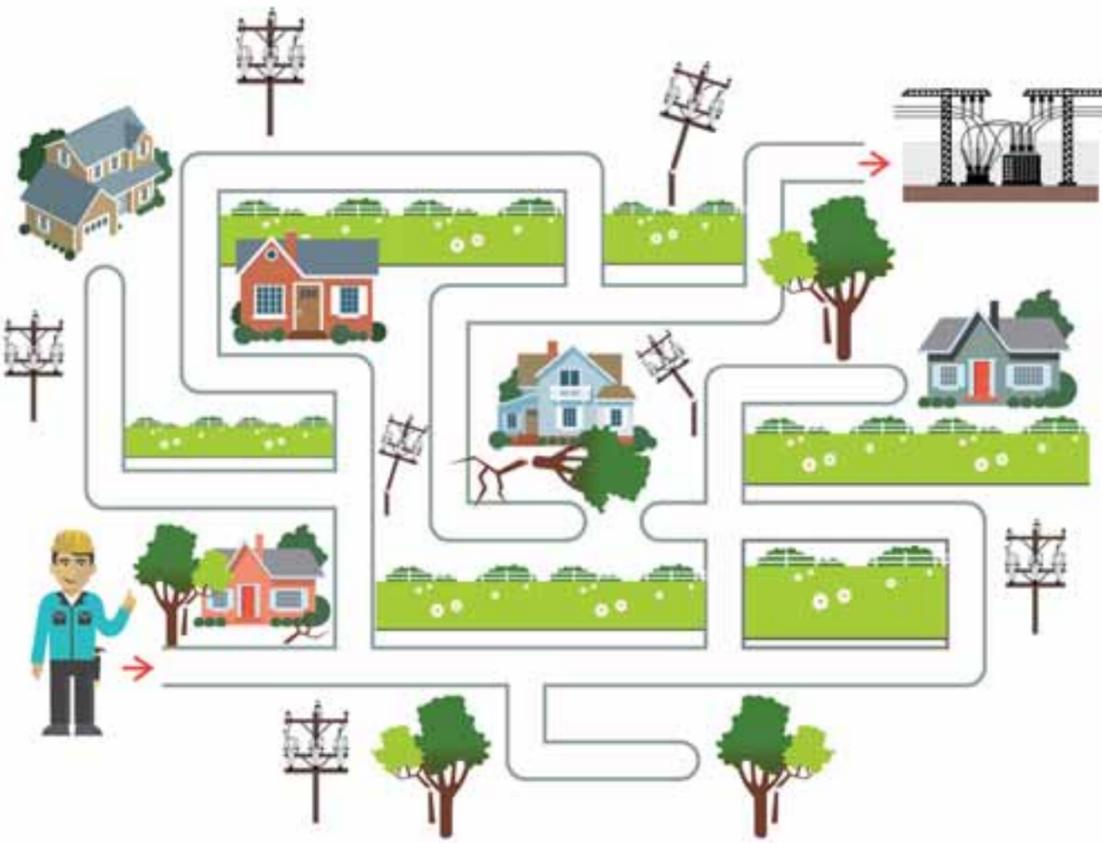
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# HELP THE LINEWORKER REACH THE SUBSTATION



Lineworkers work in dangerous conditions to restore electricity after major storms and other types of power outages. Many times, lineworkers make substation repairs to get the power back on. **Can you help the lineworker get to the substation?**

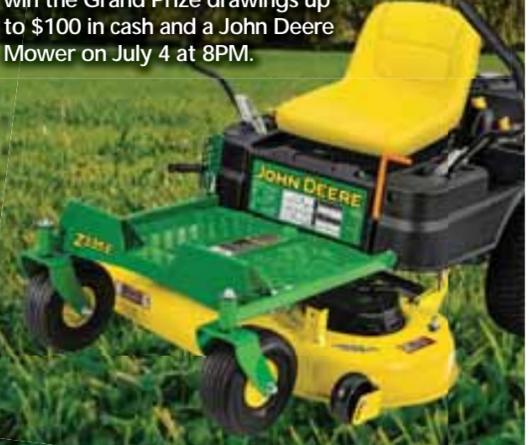


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You can also earn an e-drawing entry for every 25 points on your Comanche Card for your chance to win the Grand Prize drawings up to \$100 in cash and a John Deere Mower on July 4 at 8PM.

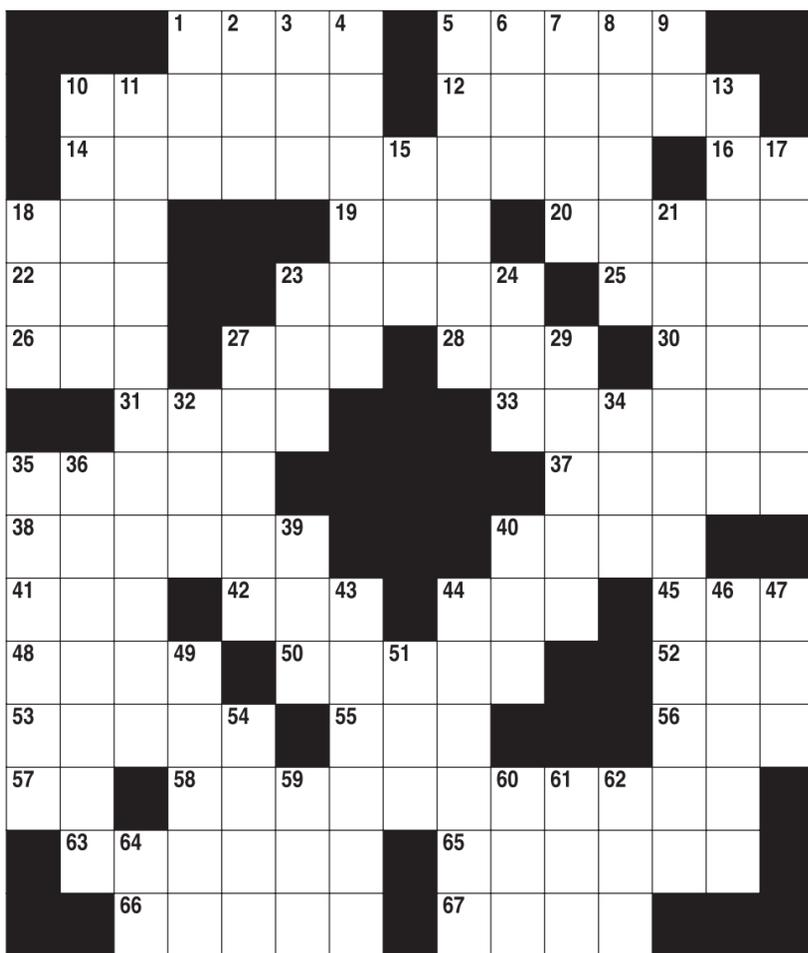


Guest may win two (2) prizes per night. All participants are eligible to win the Grand Prize. Actual model may vary from image shown. Grand prize of \$100 cash and mower only available at Comanche Star Casino.

**HOTTER THAN HOT SEATS**  
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All winners also receive one (1) pair of signed sunglasses while supplies last. Players may win (1) Comanche Credit per drawing. See Comanche Club for details.

### ACROSS

1. Maintained possession of
5. Dropsy
10. Type of music
12. One who is deliberately cruel
14. 411
16. Rhode Island
18. Follows sigma
19. Baked dessert
20. Craftsman
22. Austrian river
23. Distributed
25. Close
26. Midway between east and southeast
27. Thunderstorm code
28. Where wrestlers work
30. Away from (prefix)
31. Canadian law enforcers
33. Shade
35. Sir Samuel \_\_, Brit. statesman
37. Della \_\_, singer
38. Existing in fact
40. Tennis matches have at least two
41. Reunifying Chinese dynasty
42. Not just "play"
44. Angry
45. Photomultiplier tube
48. Slovenly person
50. \_\_ and Diu
52. Cologne
53. What actors deliver
55. Campaigned
56. Cash machine
57. Spanish be
58. Animal that eats insects
63. Colonists who supported the British
65. Loved
66. A pair of people who live together
67. Work tools



### DOWN

1. Kilogram force (abbr.)
2. Your consciousness of your own identity
3. Score
4. A way to modify
5. Respect
6. Midwife
7. Region near the Dead Sea
8. \_\_ Gerais: gold-rich state of Brazil
9. Equally
10. Monetary units
11. The mentioning of things one by one
13. Traveling entertainers
15. Small island

17. A way to sing
18. \_\_-bo: form of exercise
21. "The Bard"
23. The best player
24. Male parent
27. Harm the reputation of
29. Allow for the tare of
32. Grand \_\_: wine classification
34. Soak
35. Bother
36. Ophthalmologist
39. Preceded
40. \_\_ Francisco, California
43. Touch gently

44. Lithuanian given name
46. Matched
47. Stomach
49. Mother of all gods in Scots' Celtic mythology
51. Partner to cheese
54. Fit of irritation
59. Visit
60. Suffragist Wells
61. Swearing to the truth of a statement
62. Old Red Sandstone
64. Sacred Hindu syllable

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# Should you join the collagen craze?

In recent years I have noticed an increase in friends taking collagen and hairdressers and nail technicians encouraging the use of collagen. Claims range from reducing wrinkles and helping hair and nails grow to reversing aging. Is there any truth to this advice?

Collagen is a protein that makes up the structure of skin, bones, muscles, blood vessels, digestive system, tendons, and all connective tissue; it is the most abundant protein in the human body.

It provides strength and structure. As you age, your ability to make collagen decreases, hence the development of wrinkles and pain in bones and joints. Some researchers suggest collagen production begins to diminish at age 20; no wonder we are all looking for the fountain of youth in collagen supplements!



Kim Bandelier, MPH, RD, LD

## Food For THOUGHT

You can get collagen from your diet. Collagen comes from animals (land and sea), so if you eat animal sources of protein and foods like bone broth, you are going to ingest collagen.

Vegetables do not contain collagen but there are nutrients in vegetables that promote collagen creation in the body, including Vitamins C, A, and E.

Do collagen supplements work? Researchers are still working to provide more definitive answers.

Based on the best available research, ingesting collagen supplements in doses of between 5 grams and 20 grams for periods up to 24 weeks does improve skin health for a short period of time. Research does not indicate that collagen can prevent the eventual development of wrinkles.

Higher doses of collagen appear to improve joint health; chat with your doctor if you are interested in taking collagen for joint health.

As well, if you experience a wound,

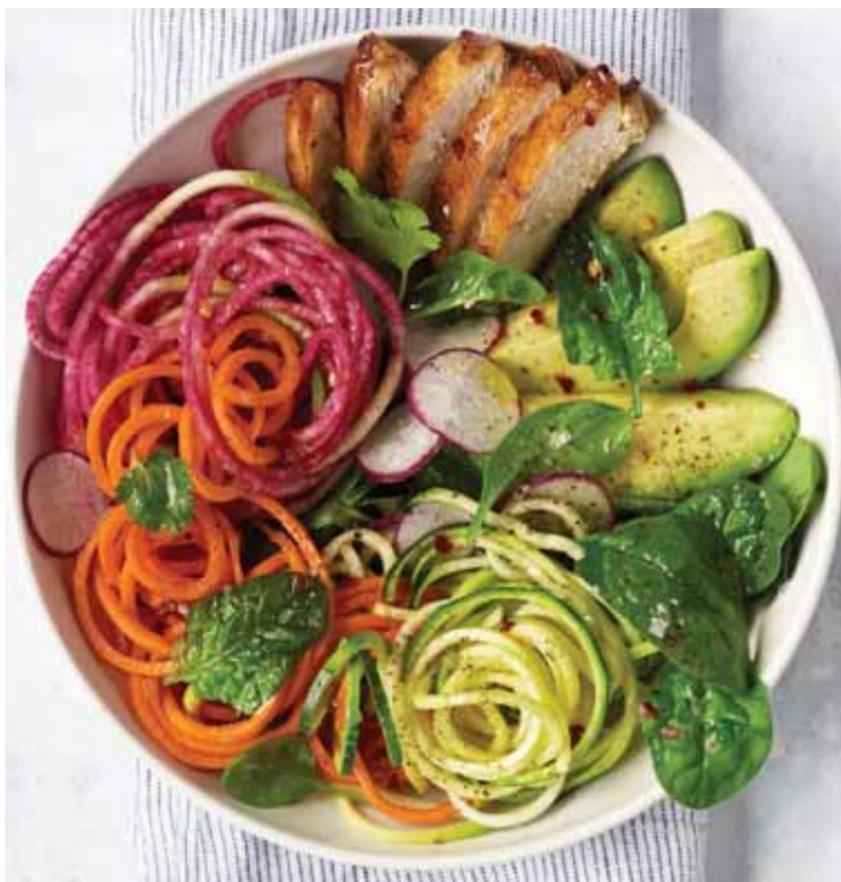
ingestion of collagen can improve the speed and quality of repair and healing. The effect of collagen on hair and nails is not currently substantiated in the research literature.

A healthy, well rounded diet combined with self-care of skin, hair, and nails is the best route until the research becomes more robust.

Collagen for joint health is more compelling but only with a doctor's recommendation.

Dietary supplements are not required to meet the Food and Drug Administration's safety regulations before being sold.

It is important that you do your homework with the help of a healthcare professional before starting any dietary supplement.



# Refreshing Recipes for a Healthier Spring

## Thai Peanut Buddha Bowl

Recipe courtesy of "Atkins: Eat Right, Not Less"  
Active time: 15 minutes Total time: 30 minutes  
Servings: 4

- Olive oil spray
- 2 skinless, boneless chicken breasts (12 ounces total)
- Dressing:**
- 1/2 cup peanut butter
- 3 tablespoons coconut milk
- 1 tablespoon fish sauce
- 2 teaspoons hot chili sauce
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 tablespoon minced fresh ginger
- 1 tablespoon sesame oil
- 3 tablespoons hot water
- 4 cups baby spinach
- 1 ripe Hass avocado, thinly sliced
- 1 medium zucchini, cut into noodle shapes
- 2 carrots, cut into noodle shapes
- 2 radishes, thinly sliced
- 8 sprigs cilantro

Nutritional information per serving: 10.8 g net carbs; 427 calories; 18.1 g total carbs; 7.3 g fiber; 21.8 g protein; 30.7 g fat.

Heat oven to 400 F.

Coat small skillet with olive oil spray. Add chicken to skillet and cook 3-4 minutes, turning once or twice to brown chicken. Slide into oven and bake 6- 8 minutes, until chicken is cooked through and no longer pink in center when sliced with a knife. Set aside to rest 5 minutes then shred.

To make dressing: In large bowl, mix peanut butter, coconut milk, fish sauce, chili sauce, garlic, ginger, sesame oil and hot water. Whisk well until smooth.

Divide spinach and avocado among four bowls. Top with chicken, zucchini, carrots, radishes and cilantro. Drizzle with dressing and serve immediately.

*Tip: If you don't have a spiralizer, you can achieve the same effect by using a vegetable peeler to shave thin ribbons. You can also use a mandoline vegetable slicer then use a knife to cut the strips into thinner noodle-like strips.*

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**April 20-21, 2018  
Duncan, Oklahoma**

# Add healthy avocado for fresh, creamy flavor



## Egg-Filled Avocado with Prosciutto

Recipe courtesy of "Atkins: Eat Right, Not Less"  
Active time: 10 minutes Total time: 15 minutes Servings: 4

- 6 ounces watercress or baby spinach
- 2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
- 8 large eggs
- 4 ripe Hass avocados, halved lengthwise and pitted
- olive oil spray
- 8 slices (about 4 ounces) prosciutto

**Nutritional information per serving:** 4.1g net carbs; 422 calories; 16g total carbs; 11.9g fiber; 18.5g protein; 34g fat.

Place the watercress or baby spinach in large bowl. Drizzle with balsamic vinegar and toss well. Divide among four small plates.

In large skillet, heat 2 inches water over medium heat until bubbles cover bottom and sides of pan. Crack eggs into small bowl (do not use eggs with broken yolks). When a few bubbles have broken surface of water, gently pour each egg into pan, leaving room between them.

Cook eggs, without stirring, until whites are just set and yolks are still runny, 2-3 minutes. Use rubber spatula to gently release eggs from bottom of pan, if necessary. Using slotted spoon, remove eggs from water and drain on paper towels.

Place poached egg in each avocado half. Coat medium skillet with olive oil spray. Heat skillet over medium heat and add prosciutto. Cook until crispy, about 2 minutes per side. Transfer two avocado-filled egg halves to each plate and serve immediately with two slices prosciutto.

## Avocado Kale Berry Smoothie Bowl

Recipe courtesy of "Atkins: Eat Right, Not Less"  
Active time: 10 minutes Total time: 10 minutes Servings: 2

- 1/3 cup plain protein powder
- 1 cup plain full-fat Greek yogurt
- 1/4 cup water
- 1/2 ripe Hass avocado
- 1 cup kale leaves
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh mint
- 1 teaspoon stevia (sugar substitute)
- 1/2 cup fresh or frozen berries such as blackberries, strawberries or raspberries
- 2 tablespoons almond or walnut halves
- 2 tablespoons chia seeds

In blender, blend protein powder, yogurt, water, avocado, kale, mint and stevia until smooth then divide between two bowls. Sprinkle berries, nuts and chia seeds over smoothies. Serve immediately.

**Nutritional information per serving:** 12.5g net carbs; 356 calories; 24.2g total carbs; 11.8g fiber; 32.2g protein; 15.6g fat.



10th Annual Summer Classic



## Golf tourney set for June

Golf enthusiasts have a great opportunity to spend a day on an 18-hole championship course while helping to raise funds to help organizations and individuals throughout southwest Oklahoma.

The 10th annual Cotton Electric Charitable Foundation (CECF) Summer Classic will be June 25 at The Territory Golf and Country Club in Duncan. The tournament is held to raise awareness of CECF and to generate funds for Operation Round Up (ORU).

ORU is primarily funded by Cotton Electric Cooperative members who "round up" their monthly bill to the nearest dollar. The funds are administered by CECF, which meets quarterly to consider grant applications. Since its inception in 2004, CECF has awarded more than \$1 million to volunteer fire departments, youth, senior citizen and public safety organizations, schools, communities and individuals throughout the Cotton Electric service area.

Registration for the four-person scramble will begin at 7:30 a.m. with a shotgun start at 8:30. The registration fee of \$600 per team will include range balls, cart, and a meal following the round.

Individual, team and door prizes will be awarded.

To enter, players' names and handicap or average scores can be faxed to 580-875-3101. Deadline for entries and fee payment is Monday, June 11.

Two levels of hole sponsorship are available. Hole sponsors who also enter a team receive a \$100 discount on entry fees.

For information about the scramble or becoming a sponsor, call Bryce Hooper at 580-875-3351 or email bhooper@cottonelectric.com.

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**PUBLIC AUCTION**

Saturday  
May 5, 2018 10:00am  
1701 West Birch Avenue  
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Gary Criswell Auction Service & Real Estate, Inc. has been commissioned by Oak Avenue Nazarene Church to offer at Public Auction the Real Property situated at 1701 West Birch Avenue in Duncan, Oklahoma.

**Real Property consists of** a Nice 2 Story 4 Bedroom Brick Home (Approximately 3,101 Square Feet). **Downstairs:** Bedroom, Large Den with Bay Window, Great Room with Fireplace and Built-in Book Cases, Kitchen with Laminate Counters and Raised Panel Cabinetry with Dining Area, Large Utility Room and 1 1/2 Baths. **Upstairs:** 3 Bedrooms (Bedrooms have Walk-in Closets), Maintenance Room and 2 Full Baths.

**Additional Improvements include** an Attached 2 Car Garage, Vinyl Siding on Gables, Facia and Soffit. The Home has Wood Fencing around the Backyard, Storage Building (10'x12'). All Situated on a Nice Corner Lot (100'x112') in a Good Location.

**Terms of Sale:** 10% Earnest Money on Real Property on the day of Sale. Balance due at Closing upon delivery of Title and Deed.

**Preview of Real Property** will be held Friday afternoon, May 4, 2018 from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Announcements made day of sale supersede all other advertisements. Please attend this Auction.

**Auctioneer's Note:** This is a Nice Home in a good neighborhood. Please see to Appreciate! The Real Property will be offered at 10:00 A.M Sharp! The Real Property will be offered "As-Is-Where-Is". The Seller reserves the right to accept or reject the final bid. Stephens County Abstract Company will serve as the Closing Agent on the Real Property.

**Gary Criswell Auction Service & Real Estate, Inc.**  
580-255-8162 • 806 West Main • Duncan, OK • 580-467-2248  
(Auctioneer/Broker) [garycriswellauctioneers.com](http://garycriswellauctioneers.com) (Cell Phone)

# Employee appreciation, behind the line

Continued from page one

Linemen take center stage, but they're not alone. Apart from our line workers, Cotton Electric employs 59 other people, many of whom are former linemen now moved on to other responsibilities.

All perform tasks essential to ensure efficiency from your electric co-op. From member services to dispatch, engineering to the CEO, all who wear the Cot-

ton Electric logo have serving members as their top priority.

Let us know how we are doing. We value your feedback and encourage you to contact us. Our offices are open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday and we have local dispatchers on duty 24/7. You can also contact us via email at info@cottonelectric.com or follow us on Facebook and Twitter.



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CEO

Mike Ottinger  
Vice President

Jeff Simpson  
Vice President

Bryce Hooper  
Vice President



Cindy Benefield  
Executive Secretary

Shane Bowers  
Human Resources

Kim Johnson  
Human Resources

Karen Rivet  
Accounting

Lisa Bowers  
Accounting

Traci Balderas  
Accounting

Tonya Daniel  
Member Services

Vickie Smith  
Member Services



Karigan Brown  
Member Services

Rex Hiebert  
Meter Tech

Anthony Reed  
Meter Tech

Josh Belcher  
Meter Tech

Jason Red Elk  
Meter Tech

Zac Hoodenpyle  
Transformer Tech

Adam Metcalfe  
Meter Tech

Sam Gonzalez  
Meter Tech



Jeff Hart  
Engineering

David Break  
Engineering

Larry Williams  
Engineering

Harlin Mallow  
External Grid

Robert Martinez  
Service Quality

Bill Pulis  
Meter Tech

Mike Stephens  
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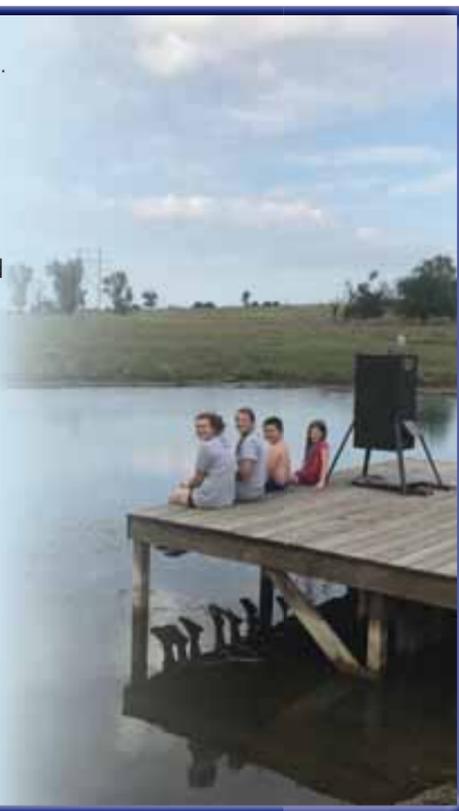
Karen Kaley  
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More employee photos on pages 1 and 11

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\*Restrictions apply





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*Ty Logan*  
Warehouse



*Quaid Ogletree*  
Warehouse



*Laura Everett*  
Member Services



*Ashley Shortt*  
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*Brenda Peirce*  
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*Jennie Evans*  
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*Stephanie Christman*  
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*Angel Bowles*  
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*Talia Gammill*  
GIS Specialist



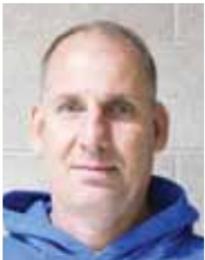
*Vikie Jeffrey*  
Engineering



*Justin King*  
Warehouse



*Larry Phillips*  
Safety Coordinator



*Greg Kobout*  
Mechanic



*Stacy Abbe*  
Mechanic



*Scott Crew*  
ROW



*Bill Kennard*  
ROW



*Fred Buchanan*  
ROW



*Ryan Ledford*  
ROW



*Greg McComber*  
Information Tech.



*Cody Pennington*  
Information Tech.



*Monty McDaniel*  
Information Tech



*Chace Penn*  
System Engineer



*Glendel Cole*  
Dispatch



*Mackenzie Coston*  
Dispatch



*Ron Clifton*  
Dispatch



*Corinne Leeper*  
Dispatch



*Danielle Quickle*  
Marketing

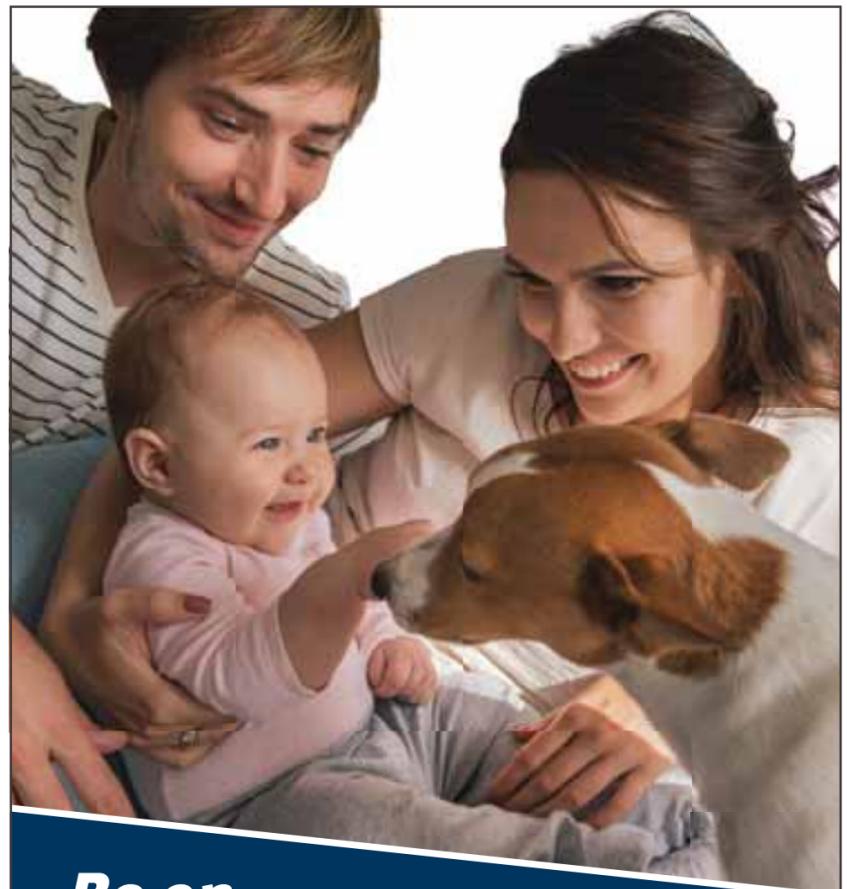


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## COTTON ELECTRIC CO-OP

More employee photos on pages 1 and 10



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An image of outdated equipment was used in error in the Lewis Cattle Oiler Co. advertisement in the March issue of The Current. The Current regrets any confusion this may have caused.



Gavin Banks and Cole Newport, both of Marlow High School, Calli Ray of Walters High School, and Gabbriel Barber of Eisenhower High School will travel to Washington, D.C., in June.



## Teens to represent CEC at the nation's capital

By Danielle Quickle

With the end of March came the end of the 2018 Cotton Electric Youth Tour competition. Since November of last year, students have been competing to win an expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., as part of the Rural Electric Youth Tour program.

The competition was prompted by a call for entries answered with submissions from 112 high school juniors from 10 schools in Cotton Electric's service area. These students wrote essays that reflected the topic of "Energy Efficiency: How it Affects Me and Cotton Electric."

Each essay was given a number as it arrived, in order to be judged anonymously. After the first round of competition, the essays were narrowed to the top 25 and the students were invited to Cotton Electric for an in-person interview.

Students were asked, among other questions, to state the difference between cooperatives and other businesses and why they would make an excellent representative for Cotton Electric in Washington, D.C. The results of these interviews are what determined our 10 finalists, listed by school:

Eisenhower High School: Gabbriel Barber, daughter of Corey and Felisha Barber;

Walters High School: Calli Ray, daughter of Michael and Christy Ray; Sayre Tillery, son of Cydni and Brantley Tillery; and Sierra Haney, daughter of Retta and Scotty Hollander;

Velma-Alma High School: Macey Paramore, daughter of Krista and Dustin Paramore;

Grove Academy Homeschool: Grant Anthony, son of Roni Alexander;

Marlow High School: Cole Newport, son of Nita Newport; Gavin Banks, son of Mindy and Tandy Banks; and Madison Baker, daughter of Monica and Kenny Baker; and

Central High High School: Nathaniel Wright, son of Tami and Steve Wright.

Our top 10 arrived at Cotton Electric on the evening of March 29 to partake in the final phase of the competition. Each high school junior gave a five-minute oral presentation of his or her winning essay in hopes of being selected by the judges as one of the four winners headed to the nation's capital.

Students presented their speeches to Michael Harris, marketing and public relations director for the National Rural Water Association; Sondra Boykin, communication coordinator for Western Farmers Electric Cooperative; and Haley Hoover, communications specialist for Southwest Rural Electric.

One speech gave examples of how to conserve energy while at home saying, "we turn off lights when we leave rooms, unplug appliances when they are not in use, and we have a wood burning fire place to warm the house during winter instead of running a heater," and another concluded with "save energy and gain efficiency, using what you need and not what you don't."

One student reflected on the topic of energy efficiency, revealing that she "thinks of efficiency as a philosophy that paves the way for improvement and cooperation with the smartest qualities and quantities of resources available," while another student contemplated the beginning days of Cotton Electric noting that "in today's time, we take electricity for granted, and we do not completely comprehend what it took to get where we are."

After each student presented, the judges retired to determine the four winners. Scoring of each speech was weighted 50 percent on speaking ability, 30 percent on knowledge of subject, 10 percent on poise, and 10 percent on personality and appearance. Total scores revealed the four students who would be representing Cotton Electric in Washington this summer. Those students are Gavin Banks, Gabbriel Barber, Cole Newport and Calli Ray.

The quartet will join 1,500 students from all over the United States and follow itineraries filled with activities from the moment they arrive until the day they fly back home. The students will have an opportunity to visit with Oklahoma's congressional delegation and learn about government, the cooperative form of business, and the business of rural electrification.

They will become more familiar with the historical and political environment of the nation's capital through visits to monuments, government offices and cooperative organizations.

These young Oklahomans will become more knowledgeable about their country, their government and our nation's capital.

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Saturday, June 2

Registration-8:00-8:45 am  
Shotgun Start-9:00 am

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# OKFB names Doye executive director

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau board of directors announced Thad Doye has been selected to serve as the farm organization's new executive director.

Doye will lead OKFB's staff, overseeing the day-to-day operations of Oklahoma's largest general farm organization.

"We are excited to have a lifelong Oklahoma farmer and rancher serving Oklahoma Farm Bureau as our executive director," OKFB President Rodd Moesel said. "Thad brings with him decades of experience in agriculture, Farm Bureau, and a servant's heart that we know will help him build and grow our organization to better serve our state's farming and ranching families."

Doye was chosen by the OKFB board after a comprehensive national search.

"Oklahoma agriculture and Oklahoma Farm Bureau have some exciting opportunities ahead, but we also realize we face some challenges," Doye said. "Farm



Bureau members created this organization to help improve agriculture and rural Oklahoma, and I will work with OKFB staff and Farm Bureau leaders to ensure our organization is making the future brighter for our state."

A native of Lawton, Doye began his career at OKFB in 1998 as a field representative before being named vice president of field services and later moving to the position of crop insurance manager for Oklahoma Farm Bureau Insurance.

Doye was selected to serve as OKFB's interim executive director in July 2017.

For the past several years, Doye has helped build the Oklahoma Farming & Ranching Foundation's Pork for Packs and Beef for Backpacks programs by transporting donated animals that are processed into protein sticks for hungry Oklahoma children in cooperation with local food banks.

Doye, and his wife, Marla, raised three children – Christann (Dilks), Chasen and Cortlin – on the family's Comanche County farm where they grow wheat and cover crops and raise cattle.

Source: Oklahoma Farm Bureau

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Dr. Juli Eaton, D.V.M  
hammondvet@yahoo.com

# Kinder receives Governor's award

On April 10 at the state Capitol, Jimmy Kinder of Walters was presented with the Governor's Agriculture Environmental Stewardship Award. The award recognizes Oklahoma agriculturalists who are leaders in developing and adopting outstanding environmentally innovative agricultural practices. This award highlights the efforts of an Oklahoma agricultural producer who is a steward of the environment and is dedicated to conserving the natural resources of Oklahoma while helping to ensure a continued supply of food and fiber.



"We live in exciting times," Kinder said. "A conservation renaissance is happening on farms and ranches across Oklahoma. God willing, this generation has the capability to begin repairing soils, soils that were damaged almost 100 years ago during the Dust Bowl.

The next generation will inherit better soils than we received. Never in history have we had this opportunity."

This production system uses less to get more, and the benefits go beyond production. Using no-till rather than conventional tillage reduces runoff and keeps the soil in place, so the county doesn't have to clean bar ditches, and keeps nutrients in the soil.

Kinder and his wife Margaret Ann have been married for 38 years and have three children and three grandchildren. He said the rich soil he has created using emerging technology and his multi-faceted production system is the true inheritance he will leave to his children.

"I am overwhelmed to be the recipient of Governor Fallin's Agriculture Environmental Stewardship Award," Kinder said. "To me, this award recognizes a family tradition of over four generations to feed consumers from the land that God allows us to manage."

Source: Oklahoma Department of Agriculture

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- **503 E. South Boundary: Price: \$65,000.** 3 bed, 2 bath, 1962 sqft, 3 living areas, vaulted and beamed ceiling, updated CHA, updated water heater, 2 car garage, fireplace, dry storm cellar.
- **214 E. Texas, Walters: \$86,500:** 1896 sqft, detached garage, new CHA, metal roof, updated interior.

### RESIDENTIAL LOTS

- **Kishketon Estates: Walters, OK:** Lots ranging in size from 16,800 sf to 33,600 sf, with room to put a shop. 16,800 s.f. lots priced at \$15,000 or 33,600sf barn lots listed at \$30,000. Close proximity to youth park, Kidtopia, swimming pool, tennis & basketball courts and skate park.

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