

The Current

A Publication of Cotton Electric Cooperative Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

“The Current - Informing Our Members Since 1957”

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Board of Trustees' President Ronnie Bohot, standing right, recognizes Tim McCary, standing left, as he takes the stand for the final time as a Trustee.

2018 Annual Meeting recognizes service

By Danielle Quickle

“When you’re a member of a cooperative, you are a member of a family. We aren’t at the Annual Meeting, we are at a family picnic,” Ronnie Bohot said as he addressed the membership for the final time as the president of Cotton Electric’s Board of Trustees.

The 2018 Annual Meeting took place on Sept. 27 in Lawton. This annual celebration is a time for Cotton Electric members to gather and hear about everything going on with their cooperative and for Trustees and employees to show their appreciation for the support given to the co-op throughout the year.

Registration opened at 5:30 p.m. Members were given a Cotton Electric gift bag and were automatically entered in the prize drawing that would conclude the night. A classic BBQ dinner was served and members browsed through Cotton Electric departmental booths, Co-op Connections booths and stopped to put on a hard hat and pose with a cross arm power pole at the photo booth.

A kids area included Cotton Electric balloons, Star Spangle the clown, bounce houses and the chance to win a Nintendo 64 Switch. LED Lucy and Solar Sam made an appearance posing for pictures and offering high fives to our littles members.

The meeting was called to order by Board President Ronnie Bohot at 7 p.m. sharp. Charles Spencer then led the membership in an invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance. The room fell silent

as Cody Newby gave a beautiful performance of the National Anthem.

Five percent of the co-op’s 15,453 membership must be present in order for there to be a quorum. Bohot determined that the nearly 5 percent present was not enough to qualify and the meeting continued with an introduction of guests and Trustees from Tim McCary.

Representatives from the offices of U.S. Sen. James Lankford and U.S. Rep. Tom Cole made their way to the meeting to engage with the membership. Cotton Electric’s power provider, Western Farmers Electric Cooperative, also made an appearance and set up a booth to explain to members how energy generation and distribution works. Chris Meyers from Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives showed his support for Cotton Electric with his attendance at the meeting.

McCary introduced the Trustees who represent the nine districts of Cotton Electric’s service territory, including the Trustee who will be taking his place as the representative for District 5. McCary announced in August that he would be stepping down from a role he has served for more than 40 years at Cotton Electric. District 5 then unanimously elected Clifford Dunham to serve a three-year term on the Board of Trustees.

“District 5, you will finally have some good representation,” McCary joked. “I believe Clifford will make a great addition to the Board and will be an excellent representative for the members.”

Bohot continued the meeting.

“This will be my last year as president of the Board,” Bohot said. “Next year you will be hearing this report from Ken Layn, so, there are a few things I would like to leave you with.”

Bohot thanked God, his family, friends, members and co-op family for their support during his time as president, but quickly moved the spotlight to someone else.

“I would like to recognize someone who has dedicated and sacrificed so much time for the co-op,” Bohot said. “At this time I would like for Tim McCary and his family to stand and be recognized.”

“I have learned a lot from Tim,” Bohot said. “He has been a very good friend to me and to Cotton Electric. We are going to miss him, but we thank him for his service and hope he enjoys getting to spend more time with his family.”

Bohot concluded his report with recognizing the membership as a whole. He reminded the members that they are the co-op’s reason. Cotton Electric doesn’t exist without its members.

“Being a member of a co-op is something special,” Bohot said. “This is not just your power company, this is your family and your business.”

Bohot handed the meeting over to Board Secretary and Treasurer Shan Files who reported that the cooperative was in good financial health before asking Jennifer Meason to present the CEO report.

“Like Ronnie said before, the purpose

of the meeting is to conduct the business of the cooperative,” Meason reiterated. “But it is also our opportunity to express our appreciation to you, our members, for your constant support.”

The 2018 meeting was Meason’s third serving as the co-op’s CEO. She expressed how thankful she was to be able to serve our members.

Meason provided a brief recap of the purpose and beginning of Cotton Electric. Electric cooperatives were founded to meet a need in the community for people who lived in rural areas without power. Today our goals are still to provide quality power, but we also go beyond the meter to make a positive impact in the lives of our members.

She also notified the membership of \$1.5 million in capital credit retirements that would be issued back to members in the coming weeks. Find out more on Page 5.

A summary of Meason’s report can be read on Page 2 in the CEO’s Column.

“We do not take our responsibility at the co-op lightly,” Meason concluded. “We are striving everyday to make sure we provide the service that our members deserve.”

The meeting concluded with a prize drawing. Cotton Electric member Charles Bartrum received the the grand prize of a \$500 Energy Voucher. A complete list of prizes and winners can be found on Page 7.

Power Cost Adjustment Calculated

The power cost adjustment now being applied to bills mailed after Oct. 1, 2018, is (\$0.00448) per kWh.

On a member’s average bill of 1250 kilowatt hours (kWh), this will amount to a credit of \$5.60 on the Oct. bill.

September 2018 Temperature Extremes

Day	High	Low	Avg.	Day	High	Low	Avg.
1	99	72	86	16	90	71	81
2	97	75	86	17	94	69	82
3	90	73	82	18	94	69	82
4	85	73	79	19	95	67	81
5	83	72	78	20	94	70	82
6	87	73	80	21	74	63	69
7	78	71	75	22	78	62	70
8	77	69	73	23	76	65	71
9	81	60	71	24	80	68	74
10	80	60	70	25	90	62	76
11	82	64	73	26	68	50	59
12	83	69	76	27	74	46	60
13	89	72	81	28	83	57	70
14	91	69	80	29	83	63	73
15	86	69	78	30	87	70	79

Source: srb.noaa.gov/oun/

Average Daily High: 85 Average Daily Low: 66

Did You Know?

Cotton Electric offices will be closed Monday, Nov. 12. Emergency calls will be answered at 580-875-3351 or 800-522-3520.

The next issue of The Current should arrive in mailboxes on Nov. 12, 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.

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More news at cottonelectric.com

From the CEO

Cooperative celebrates membership

Thank you to the members who attended this year's annual meeting in Lawton. It was great to see all of you and take a few hours to express our appreciation for your support throughout the year.

We continue celebrating you this month. Every October, cooperatives from all sectors across the country celebrate National Cooperative Month. The purpose of this annual celebration is to recognize the cooperative difference and remind you, the members of the co-op, about Cotton Electric Cooperative's purpose.

Each day we strive to provide you with power that is safe, reliable and affordable. Most electric utilities have the same goal. However, as a cooperative, we operate using a unique business model, which is based on the Seven Cooperative Principles: *Voluntary and Open Membership; Democratic Member Control; Members' Economic Participation; Autonomy and Independence; Education, Training and Information; Cooperation Among Cooperatives; and Concern for Community.*

Simply put, our mission goes beyond the meter. We live where we serve and are proud to work to improve the quality of life in our communities.

Over the past 80 years, Cotton Electric has grown from powering 150 farms and homes to more than 22,100 meters; from 234 miles of line to 5,169 miles of line. Your cooperative utility plant is now valued at over \$100 million.

We don't take that responsibility lightly. Your Board of Trustees and co-op employees are focused on projects to improve service quality, reliability and restora-



Jennifer Meason, CEO

tion efforts while keeping your costs low. To accomplish those goals, we're incorporating technology along with persistent hard work.

We've recently completed installation of new metering technology in two substations. These meters continue to use the power line to communicate and collect metering data and also have the capability to notify us of outages, as they occur, to improve our repair process and restore your power more efficiently. The pilot project has been very promising and there will be much discussion going forward as we make plans for the future.

On the renewable energy side, the solar site in Devol continues to generate solar power that we all benefit from. The installation has 950 solar modules, each rated at 315 watts, and has generated 821 MWh of solar power to date. We also benefit from another renewable resource, wind power, purchased through our generation and transmission provider, Western Farmers Electric Cooperative (WFEC). During the month of August, 24 percent of power purchased by WFEC came from wind resources.

We're also using technology to offer more options on how you pay for your electric service. Our MyChoice prepay program continues to be a popular option.

We also offer the SmartHub app which you can use to manage payments, notify member services of account and service issues, and check power use – all at the touch of a button. SmartHub has a My Usage tab that provides access to a variety of historical information about an account.

We also want you to know what's going on at your cooperative. You can follow us on Facebook and Twitter and view live outage maps on our website. Contact us at any time by calling our office, sending an email, or a message through SmartHub.

New applications of technology are great but it doesn't take the place of hard work. We recognize that maintenance and prevention is crucial. Our vegetation management and maintenance programs are key to the cooperative's strategic plan.

The vegetation management program is a three-pronged approach of maintaining the right of way by clear-cutting, trimming in front of residences at least 10 feet below the neutral, and applying herbicide to prevent regrowth. Through this program, we've seen improvement in the ability of the system to weather storms with minimal damage as well as improve overall power quality.

We also know it's important to continually improve our system. We're focused on work plan projects as well as pole inspection and replacement. These programs, in conjunction with the maintenance our crews do every day, are key to our success.

All of these investments are made knowing we must maintain the balance of investing in your electric system while keeping rates low. And, as part of the cooperative difference, any margins we make at the end of the year are allocated back to you as our members.

The board recently reviewed our financial health and determined that we will return to you \$1.5 million in a capital credit retirement from Cotton Electric and WFEC. Now that's a great way to celebrate the cooperative difference!

Thank you for being a member of the cooperative. If you would like more information or have any questions about your cooperative, please contact me at 580-875-3351 or jmeason@cottonelectric.com. I look forward to hearing from you.

McCary dedicates 41 years to Cotton Electric

By Karen Kaley

Things were different when Tim McCary attended his first meeting of the Cotton Electric Board of Trustees in April 1977. The co-op had grown from 150 to about 13,500 meters in its 38 years.

Members recorded the readings on those meters and sent them in with the previous month's payment. To offset a fuel shortage gripping the country, a monthly power cost adjustment was introduced to Cotton Electric members.

Some things were the same as they are today. Finalists had been selected in the Youth Tour competition. Members were urged to insulate their homes, use window coverings to control the temperature in their homes and turn off unused appliances.

As we commence Cotton Electric's 80th year to serve southwest Oklahoma, more than 22,000 meters send daily readings to Cotton Electric headquarters via power lines. The power cost adjustment is a regular part of a power bill. And, the Board says thank you and fare-

well to Tim McCary, who attended his last trustee meeting in September 2018.

During his 41 years on the Board, McCary worked exceptionally hard to enhance the image of rural electrification. McCary dedicated himself to understanding the issues affecting the cooperative membership and strived to make decisions to 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. "Cotton always looks out for the members. I have always appreciated the way management and employees treat members. They try to do what's right," McCary said.

He expressed appreciation toward members in District 5 for allowing him to serve as their Trustee. He said the newly-elected Trustee, Clifford Dunham, will be good for Cotton Electric and will be a good fit on the board.

During his time on the Board, McCary has held all offices, serving twice as



Tim McCary celebrates years of service at Cotton Electric with his mother Joyce, left, and wife, Susan.

president in 1985-87 and 2013-15. He was honored with the Good Neighbor Award for Meritorious Service by Cotton and the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives (OAEC).

McCary is a lifelong resident of Till-

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



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Cooler temps are just around the corner! Is your home's heating system ready? Remember to replace furnace filters once a month or as recommended. If you heat your home with warm-air registers, baseboard heaters or radiators, remember to clean them regularly to increase efficiency.

Source: energy.gov

August 2018 Operating Stats

	2018	2017
Total Amount Billed/Accrued	\$5,222,419	\$5,209,547
Cost of Purchased Power	3,845,850	3,645,445
Taxes	117,531	114,384
Total Operating Expense Per Mile	1,076	1,027
Average Farm and Residential Bill	142	143
Average Farm and Residential kWh	1,512	1,439
Total Meters Billed (farm, residential)	18,397	18,344
Miles Energized	5,170	5,169
Density Per Mile	3.56	3.55
New Service Connects YTD	200	175
Services Retired	70	105

The Current

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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.

Community Spotlight

If you would like your community event listed in the November issue, please submit information by Oct. 31, by calling 580-875-4255 or send an email to TheCurrent@cottonelectric.com.

CTHC offers session for schools

Chisholm Trail Heritage Center kicks off the school year with the Abernathy Boys session running from Sept. 4 through Oct. 31.

Teachers are encouraged to bring their classes to learn about Oklahoma's first celebrities.

Temple and Bud Abernathy were 5 and 9 years old when their father sent them on their first adventure through several states.

The young brothers traveled on horseback, in automobiles and even on motorcycles. Students will get to see the 1910 Brush automobile – identical to the one the boys drove from New York City to Oklahoma when they were 6 and 10 years old.

To schedule a session date for the Abernathy Boys, contact Leah at 580-252-6692 or Leah@OnTheChisholmTrail.com.

Bray VFD starts October toy drive

Bray VFD is holding an October toy drive for OU Children's Hospital in Norman.

Toys can be dropped off at Family Cars and Trucks in Duncan, Jay Head Shelter Insurance in Marlow or the Bray VFD located on Brooks Road.

Per hospital regulations, all toys must be new and in the package. There is a need for items for infant through teenage children. Items donated will help bring joy to the children and restock the hospital's Toy Cart, The Zone and various playrooms.

Donations will be accepted through October. For information and donation ideas, contact Bray Fire Chief Brian Gensamer at 580-721-0245 or Firefighter Barry Rohrbough at 606-2012.

Benefit gala to take place in Duncan

Women's Haven presents their Inaugural Gala from 6:30 to 10 p.m. Oct. 11 at Duncan Golf and Tennis Club.

Cocktails will be served until 7 p.m. when dinner and the silent auction of Ben Herrington birdhouses begin. Evening will conclude with awards and scholarship recognition.

Dress attire for the evening is business casual. Tickets can be purchased for \$35 each by contacting Cora Thomas at 580-252-5324.

Street fair kicks off fall in Fletcher

Fletcher Street Fair is set for 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Oct. 13 on Main Street. Activities include a car show, Lego contest, kids' bicycle contest, chalk street art contest, evening glow run and live music and performances.

Vendors and concessions will also be available for guests to enjoy. For information, call Kelly at 580-483-6258.

Annual Bark in the Park in Duncan

For the 13th year, four-legged fur-bearing critters will take over Duncan's Fuqua Park during Bark in the Park from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Oct. 13. This tail-waggin' celebration is open to all pets, their owners and spectators.

The Stephens County Humane Society and Friends of the Humane Society plan fun, pet and family friendly activities that include pet photos, concessions, demonstrations, a Bark Boutique/Meow Mart, obstacle course, a Strut Your Mutt pledge walk and onsite adoptions.

There will be competitions for best

costume, best bark, owner look-alike, best trick and longest tail. The first 100 people will receive a Bark in the Park goodie bag.

For questions or sponsorship information, call Patti Whitaker at 580-641-0667.

Medicine Park car show is Oct. 20

Start your engines for Medicine Park's 11th annual Street Rod, Muscle Car and Classic Car Show from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Oct. 20.

Car enthusiasts will enjoy a variety of vehicles at the family friendly event. Best of Show and People's Choice are among the honors to be awarded.

Same day registration is \$30 and will be open from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at The Old Plantation. Motorcycles are also qualified to compete. Awards and prizes will be given at 5 p.m.

Questions can be answered by emailing info@theoldplantationrestaurant.com.

Church hosts jubilee in Comanche

The Old Country Church will host its monthly Gospel Music Jubilee on Oct. 20 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. at the Asbury Complex, 410 S. 2nd in Comanche.

Bill Baker and The Bill Baker Band will be the featured gospel artist. Food and drink will be available. All are welcome to participate in the open mic night.

Donations will be accepted at the door for the Comanche Nutrition Center. For information call 580-467-1927.

Annual fish fry begins at 11 a.m.

Cox's Store VFD will hold their 22nd Annual Fish Fry from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 20 east of Lawton on Highway 65 and Rogers Lane.

Fish, calf fries, cole slaw, beans and more will be served. Guest will enjoy live music, a bounce house and an air ambulance demonstration. The live auction will begin at 1 p.m.

For information, check out the Cox's Store Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. Facebook page.

Car show set for Oct. 20 in Cache

Cache OcTURBOfest Car Show will be Oct. 20 on the Cache School campus.

Registration in eight classes ranging from Best Car Club to Best of Show begins at 9 a.m. Entry fee is \$10 or \$50 for a team entry.

Awards will be given at 3 p.m. There will also be a 3-on-3 basketball tournament and chili cook off that guests may enter.

For information, call Jaysen at 580-483-5166.

Silver Spoon serves benefit dinner

Junior League of Lawton presents Tastes of All from 5:45 to 10 p.m. Oct. 20 at The Silver Spoon Kitchen and Bakeshop in Lawton.

Executive Chef Todd Fischer and restaurant owner Vera Oldham have designed a 5-course meal with wine pairings hand selected by Wine Manager Cory McCutcheon.

Tickets are \$125 in advance and may be purchased from any Junior League member or at the Silver Spoon. Seating is limited.

All profits from this event will be applied to the Junior League's current programs.

For information, call The Silver Spoon at 580-357-6800.

More Community Spotlight on Page 4

CTHC offers free historical writing workshop

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Cotton Electric member Michelle Garrison took this photo of her twin grandchildren showing off their Team Spirit. Chapel and Reagan wear their uniforms on game days to support the Empire Bulldogs.

Enter your "best shot" in our Photo of the Month contest. Theme for November is Fall Colors. Entries can be emailed to TheCurrent@CottonElectric.com or mailed to The Current, 226 N. Broadway, Walters, OK 73572. Winners will receive a Cotton Electric prize package of CEC goodies.

Rodeo contestants compete for nationals

Top cowboys and cowgirls from Oklahoma, Kansas and Nebraska will ride into Duncan Oct. 19-21 to compete in the Prairie Circuit Finals Rodeo.

Performances begin at 7:30 p.m. each night in the Stephens County fairgrounds arena.

Prairie Circuit winners in bareback

riding, saddle bronc riding, barrel racing, steer wrestling, team roping, tie-down roping and bull riding will compete for cash prizes and a spot in the Ram National Circuit Finals Rodeo.

Tickets for all performances are available at Crutcher's Western Wear in Lawton and Duncan or at the door.



WE ARE ALL WORKING TOWARD THE SAME GOAL. Using energy wisely is the job of every electric co-op member. And when we work together, our combined strength is more than enough to accomplish anything. Learn more about the power of your co-op membership at TouchstoneEnergy.com.



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Upcoming Deadlines for The Current

November		December		January
Ad Sales	Oct. 26	Ad Sales	Nov. 30	Deadlines for 2019 to be announced in coming issues.
Classified	Oct. 31	Classified	Dec. 5	
Publish Date	Nov. 12	Publish Date	Dec. 17	

Community Spotlight

A free writing workshop, "Writing from Historical Objects," will begin at 1:30 p.m. Oct. 21 at the Chisholm Trail Heritage Center in Duncan.

Using items in the museum's collection, Dr. Jeanetta Calhoun Mish will guide participants in a journey of prose and poetry in this two-hour workshop.

Oklahoma-born, Mish has been writing and presenting workshops for more than 30 years. Her writing is recognized with honors earned from the Oklahoma Book Award, the National Cowboy Museum's Western Heritage Award and the WILLA Award for Women Writing the West.

There is no charge to attend and pre-registration is encouraged, but not required. Participants should bring paper and writing utensil. Those who would prefer using something more personal to them are encouraged to bring their own historical objects for inspiration.

This program is made possible through funding by the Oklahoma Arts Council and Chisholm Trail Heritage Center. For more information, call the Heritage Center at 580-252-6692.

CU screens 'Lost Boys'

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

The Oct. 26 offering will be "The Lost Boys," a 1987 mystery film directed by Joel Schumacher. Teenage brothers Michael and Sam move with their mother to a small town in northern California.

While the younger Sam meets a pair of kindred spirits in geeky comic-book nerds Edward and Alan, Michael finds himself involved with a local gang of vampires. Sam and his new friends must save Michael from the undead. With Corey Haim in the title role, the cast includes Corey Feldman, Kiefer Sutherland and Jami Gertz.

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.

Annual Boo Review haunts downtown Duncan

Main Street Duncan hosts Boo Review, an annual Halloween celebration, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Oct. 27.

MSD merchants will have trick or treating for the kids in costumes through the duration of the event. There is a pumpkin carving contest hosted at Boomarang Diner with proceeds benefiting the Stephens County Humane Society.

A pet costume contest will be held at the corner of 9th and Main St. for pups only. Kids' costume contest begins at noon on 10th and Main. The first 100 registered participants receive a goody bag and all children receive a participation ribbon. Awards will be given for a variety of categories ranging from best group costume to most unique.

Event also features bounce houses, haunted house, music and plenty of treats. For more information, contact Destiny Ahlfenger at 580-252-8696.

Lawton park hosts 2018 Fall Festival

Elmer Thomas Park will host its annual Fall Festival from 1 to 6 p.m. Oct. 27. The 2018 fall fun event will

include games, food trucks, vendors, crafts, music and much more for the whole family to enjoy.

For information, visit the 2018 Fall Festival Facebook page hosted by Attitude & Trouble Renegades.

Pumpkin show set for Oct. 28

Comanche County's 4-H Pumpkin Show will be from 9 a.m. to noon Oct. 28 at the Comanche County Fairgrounds.

Youngsters ages 5 to 19 years can enter carved, painted or decorated pumpkins, posters or they can bake a dessert, bread or vegetable dish with pumpkin as the main ingredient. The contest is open to the public and 4-H members.

Rules and guidelines can be found on the Comanche County 4-H website, OkState.edu/Comanche/4-H or picked up at the Oklahoma State University Extension Office, 611 SW C Ave.

All entries must pre-register by Oct. 18 and be checked in on Oct. 28 by no later than 9:30 a.m. To pre-register call 580-355-1176 or email 4HVolunteer@gmail.com.

Holiday craft show begins Nov. 2 in Duncan

Duncan Arts, Crafts and Hobbies Association is making preparations for a Holiday Craft Show on Nov. 2 and 3 at the Stephens County Fair & Expo Center. A variety of crafts will be showcased, demonstrating the talents of the people of Duncan and surrounding areas.

Entrance to the show is free. Visitors should pick up tickets at the big wheel booth to be eligible for drawings.

The group has booth space available and encourages those who have never brought their crafts to the public eye to consider this event. For more information, call Jean at 580-786-4414.

Limited seating for AFA Gala on Nov. 2

Each fall, Arts For All (AFA) presents an arts Gala with an auction, dinner and dance. This year's event is themed "Everything's Coming Up Roses" and will begin at 7 p.m. Nov. 2 at the Great Plains Coliseum.

Guests will enjoy an evening of art, food, drinks, dancing and music from Summer Breeze. Beautiful art pieces and dozens of other donated items will be on display for perusal and purchase.

There is the excitement of a silent auction, live auction and ticket drawing for great gifts. Dress is sophisticated casual.

Individual tickets are \$40 and tables can be purchased for \$500. There are a limited number of tickets available.

All of the funds raised will be distributed to the AFA member groups to help them keep the arts strong in the community and schools.

Contact the AFA office at 580-248-5384 or go to LawtonAFA.org for information.

Set clocks back on Nov. 4

Daylight Saving Time ends at 2 a.m. Nov. 4. Remember to "fall back" – turn clocks back one hour – or you'll get to church an hour early.

Annual Christmas Bazaar begins Nov. 16

Arts and crafts, baked goods, Christian articles, gifts and treasures are among the holiday items offered at the

6th 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. 16, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Nov. 17 and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Nov. 18.

There will be a concession available for dining in or carryout that will accept credit and debit cards. Raffle tickets will be available for purchase each night for \$20 each or 6 for \$100 to win one of three cash prizes ranging from \$500 to \$2,000.

The drawing will be held at 5 p.m. on Sunday. Winners do not need to be present.

Senior center hosts weekly dances

Duncan Senior Citizens Center presents country and western dances from 7 to 9:30 p.m. every Tuesday and Saturday.

Tuesdays feature Bill Dewbre and Old Country. Buzz Carter and the Shadow Riders play every Saturday. Admission is \$5 and includes free coffee and soft drinks.

Donations are appreciated. For information, call the center at 580-255-6902.

Cache FFA hosts market

Cache FFA will host the Cache Farmers Market from 8 a.m. to noon every third Thursday of the month in the wrestling gym parking lot just west of Cache High School cafeteria.

Vendors with fresh produce are welcome to join in the market.

For information, contact Kelly Jenkins at 580-512-66287 or Mitch Dorrell at 704-0711.

Weekly kids' activities in Central High

Central High presents Story Time from 10-10:30 a.m. every Wednesday while school is in session at the high school library.

Participants will read a story, sing songs and do an activity. Children who have not yet started school are welcome if accompanied by parent or caregiver.

For more information, call 580-685-2929 Ext. 6.

Market open weekends in Cache

Native American Arts and Crafts Market takes place every Saturday and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 423 West C, downtown Cache.

The market is open to the public and includes handmade crafts and original artwork by local tribal artists. All Native American arts and crafts vendors are welcome. Booth space is \$10 per day and vendors must bring their own tables.

For more information, contact Eleanor McDaniel at 580-483-6864.

Food pantry opens twice monthly

Walters Community Food Pantry is open from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month. The pantry is in the old City Hall, 131 1/2 W. California Street.

Pantry organizers try to provide a two-week supply of basic staples to anyone with identification.

For information, call Roger Noland at 580-591-6826.

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Be sure to cash or deposit your capital credit check promptly. The checks include this notation: Check is void in 90 days. Your bank may not honor the check after Jan. 7, 2019.

CEC, WFEC issue capital credit retirements to membership

You may receive two items from Cotton Electric in the mail this week, this newspaper and a capital credit retirement check. Capital credit checks were mailed Oct. 9, the same day this paper was published. This check represents your contribution toward the construction, upgrades and maintenance of Cotton Electric Cooperative (CEC) and Western Farmers Electric Cooperative (WFEC).

CEC will retire \$500,000 in capital credits in 2018. Additionally, WFEC has retired \$1,033,917.89 for Cotton Electric members. WFEC is a generation and transmission (G&T) cooperative owned by Cotton Electric and other electric cooperatives in Oklahoma and New Mexico.

In an effort toward efficiency, the co-op has issued single checks for both CEC and WFEC retirements. The size of checks is based on the amount of electric power purchased by each member.

Checks are void after 90 days. Members should cash or deposit their checks promptly, otherwise banks may not honor the check if brought in after Jan. 7, 2019.

If the combined amount of the Cotton and WFEC retirement is less than \$5, a check will NOT be issued. Instead, it will be carried forward and added to any amount authorized for distribution the next time capital credits are retired.

When a resident or business owner signs up to receive electric service from Cotton Electric, he or she becomes a

member and owner of the cooperative.

As owners, members have a responsibility to help finance their business. They do this by using our services and by allowing the co-op to retain any money collected in excess of actual operating costs. The money is used to build and maintain the facilities needed to serve the co-op's members and to service our long-term debt.

This money is considered to be capital furnished by the members – capital that will be returned to members at a later date. While the co-op uses the money, members' capital credits are considered "allocated" but not "retired."

Capital credits are retired at the discretion of the cooperative's Board of Trustees. Before retiring capital credits, they

consider the financial condition of the co-op and the impact on electric rates.

Your cooperative is financially strong and, as a result, is able to share this economic benefit with the members. The Board of Trustees has determined conditions are appropriate for returning capital credits to current and former members.

Because the retirements are meant for active and inactive members, Cotton Electric needs changes of address, even if a person has moved and is no longer a member of the not-for-profit cooperative. Members are encouraged to keep the co-op informed of any change of address, as several hundred checks are returned to the co-op for lack of proper address each time capital credit checks are issued.

Capital credit retirements spark questions from members

Capital credits can be difficult to understand. Here are some of our most frequently asked questions and answers to help with any confusion.

Why am I getting this check?

Cotton Electric and Western Farmers Electric Cooperative have retired capital credits. This check is your portion of that retirement.

What are capital credits?

Electric cooperatives operate at cost – collecting enough revenue to run and expand the plant. When the co-op has margins left over, they are retired back to its members as capital credits.

Why didn't I get a check?

If the amount of your retirement is under \$5, a check is not issued. Instead, your allocation will be carried forward and added to any amount authorized for retirement in the future.

In some cases, an account may be in arrears and the retirement is put toward the past-due amount.

How is the amount of the check determined?

The amount allocated is based on the amount of electric power you have purchased.

I am moving out of the Cotton Electric service area. Will I still get my capital credit check?

Yes. Let us know your new address, and checks will be mailed as capital credit checks are retired.

I have not been a member for years. Why did I get a check?

You may still have a portion allocated to you, even though you have not been a Cotton Electric member for a long time. Capital credit retirements over \$5 are issued to all active and inactive members.

How do I know if you have a current address for me?

We will publish a list of members needing to provide updated addresses in the later issues of The Current.

How can surviving family members or former co-op members claim capital credits?

To claim a capital credit check intended for deceased members or those who have moved away, we require certain information to verify the member's identity. Former members or their heirs can call the office at 580-875-3351 or 800-522-3520 to begin the process.

Still confused?

Think of capital credits as water in a large barrel. Annual capital credit allocations are extra water, added to the barrel and retained to keep things afloat.

Occasionally, a percentage is retired to all who contributed to the total amount. How it is distributed is similar to dipping out the water. The size of your drink of water is proportionate to how much you contributed or how much electricity you purchased.

If your portion is only a drop or two, it is left in the barrel. You continue to contribute through power purchases and may get a dipperful with the next retirement.

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 co-op month with
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OPEN HOUSE

BBQ Sandwiches will be served for lunch.

Every member who attends our Open House will be entered to win the Grand Prize, a Roku Streaming Stick!

Celebrate with us from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Haskell October 16th 113 N. Ave. D	Seymour October 23rd 310 W. California	Vernon October 30th 7110 US Hwy 287 E
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*Some restrictions apply. Contact SRC for full details.

CEC districts 1, 3, 5 gather for business

By Danielle Quickle

What makes electric cooperatives unique is they are owned by the members they serve. Instead of working for out-of-state investors, Cotton Electric works for you, our members. You have a member from your district to represent you on the Board of Trustees who oversee the operations of the co-op.

There are nine Trustees to represent the nine districts within Cotton Electric's service territory.

Each year, three of the districts hold a meeting. Districts 1, 3 and 5 gathered for business in 2018.

The first district meeting of the year was held by District 5, represented by Tim McCary of Chattanooga on Aug. 28.

The meeting began with a welcome from McCary who announced he would not be seeking re-election.

"I just want to thank you, the members of District 5, for allowing me to serve you for so many years," McCary said. "It has been an enjoyable experience – one I am thankful for. I know I am going to miss it, but it is time for someone else."

Following his remarks, McCary turned it over to the District Meeting Committee composed of Board Trustees: Ken Layn, Tony High and Tommy Jones. The committee called the meeting to order.

For an election to take place there must be a quorum. A quorum is present when five percent of the district's membership attends the meeting.

Eight percent of the membership turned out for the meeting set in Chattanooga, qualifying for a quorum.

A call for nominations was requested by the chairman of the meeting. A single name emerged from the crowd: Clifford Dunham.

Unanimously, Dunham was elected by ballot to be the new representative of District 5 on Cotton Electric's Board of Trustees.

Dunham lives in the Chattanooga area and has been a Cotton Electric member since 2005. His term began immediately

following the Annual Meeting.

District 1, represented by Shan Files, gathered in Velma on Aug. 30. A quorum was not present and Files will automatically serve another three-year term.

Our final district meeting of the year was held by District 3 on Sept. 6 in Elgin. Similar to District 1, a quorum was not present. Incumbent Trustee Charles Spencer will represent the district for another three years.

Cotton Electric CEO Jennifer Meason addressed the membership at each meeting with a report to keep members up to date on co-op business.

"There are several things we do throughout the year that are an incorporation of high-tech and low-tech solutions," Meason said. "One of the things we hope members have seen over the last few years is improvement in the quality of service at their homes."

Cotton Electric has been working on pole inspections and replacements, right-of-way clearing and trimming, meter upgrades and substation improvements throughout our territory to proactively prevent power outages and boost faster restoration.

In 2017, the Cotton Electric Charitable Foundation celebrated \$1 million since 2004 that have been donated back into our communities through Operation Round Up (ORU).

"We are very thankful for member participation in ORU and for the impact we are able to make," Meason said. "Beyond just providing electric services, we are looking to improve the quality of southwest Oklahoma so it continues to be a great place to live."

Each meeting concluded with a prize drawing and refreshments. Three members from each gathering went home with a pocket knife, a Cotton Electric trunk organizer/cooler or a \$50 energy voucher.

Next year, members in districts 4, 7 and 9 will have meetings.



Door prize winners at the District 1 meeting were Gail Sanner, Ophelia Lynn and Jack Sanner.



Door prize winners at the District 3 meeting were Clyde Brisendine, Iris Brown and Benny Taylor.



Door prize winners at the District 5 meeting were Henry Harms, Alvin Cargill and Arnold Fischer.

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Call and schedule your Preventative Maintenance Check before the cold weather hits!



Charles Bertram is the grand prize winner of a \$500 Energy Voucher.

Annual Meeting door prize winners listed

Cotton Electric's 2018 Annual Meeting concluded with a prize drawing. Each member in attendance was automatically entered to win a variety of prizes.

Kids also had the opportunity to register for prizes when they visited the kids' area complete with LED Lucy and Solar Sam, bounce houses, balloons and Star Spangle the clown.

Here is a complete list of prizes and winners:

- \$500 Energy Voucher: Charles Bertram
- \$250 Energy Voucher: Lynn Bennett, Phyllis Banks
- \$100 Energy Voucher: Iris Brown, Jerry Chasteen
- \$50 Cash: David Cable, Edward Eschiti, Glen Malow, Paul Carson, Glen Nordeen, Paul McCormick, Amy Kern, Walters Roundup Club, Quinton Fixico, The Cabin, Loretta Stevens, Thomas Jones, Edward, Gennifer Gallagher, Kenneth Kern, Indianoma Meth-

- odist Church, Gerry Killian, Stanley Krawczynski, Mike Goos
- Kids \$5: Zoey Norseworthy, Nancy Carillo, Cole Anderson, Madlynn Perry, Domanic Weller, Viktor Scott, Atalie Pierce, Geib Johnson, Steven Love, Jasmine Henry, Kenadi Taylor, Shamayam Banks, Averie Jackson, Chevyo Baquera, Isaac Romero, Dakota Hance, Jason Brandfas, Avigail Harkins, Gavin Bohot, Cayliya Anderson
- Kids Grand Prize Nintendo Switch: Gabriella Romero
- 32 LED Light Bulbs: Tommy Gray, Charlie Wallace, Garry Jackson, Cotton County Soil Conservation, Charles Keenan, David Dorrell, Johnny Webb
- NVR Security System: Donald Patterson
- Monster Blue Tooth Speaker: Tonia Renschen, Rick

- McKown, Robert Goodin
- iHome Smart Plugs: Shirley Goos, Shane Milson, Lester Denny, Ethelene Perry
- Ninja Auto IQ Kitchen System: Ray Loghry
- Gas Patio Heater: Ricky Sessums
- Stanley Jump Starter: Sharie McAlister
- iRobot Roomba Vacuum: Sandra McCuiston
- Extra Large Digital Safe: Martin Austin
- Ratchet Tie-down Straps: Doris Bennett, James Brown, Darrin Schettler, Alvie Jackson
- \$25 Wal-Mart Gift Card: Barbara Russell, Doris Renschen
- Keurig Coffee Maker: Ellsworth Lewis
- Honda Gas Pressure Washer: Shirley Milligan
- 32" Vizio TV: Lynn Stephens
- \$50 Wal-Mart Gift Card: Doug Scherler.

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Bob Bardwell
2017 #WhoPowersYou Winner

#WhoPowersYou honors unsung heroes

By Danielle Quickle

Cotton Electric may power your home, but the co-op is powered by our members. Members are a vital component to the success of the co-op. Every aspect of operation is determined by the members, for the members. This year, we would like to recognize our members by giving them the opportunity to acknowledge those in our community who have made a positive impact.

We are excited to announce our participation in the annual #WhoPowersYou contest, conducted in partnership with Touchstone Energy Cooperative.

#WhoPowersYou is an online contest created to honor local heroes and celebrate the power of human connections. It's a chance for cooperative members like you to nominate someone who's making a difference in our co-op community.

Through #WhoPowersYou, inspirational stories of people doing good from all across the country are brought to light. Last year's contest winner, Bob Bardwell, received national recognition for founding the Ironwood Springs Christian Ranch in Minnesota.

The ranch hosts several faith-based retreats including Operation Welcome Home and Wounded Warrior. It has also been home to the National Wheelchair Sports Camp since 1986.

This camp provides physically challenged children and adults, like Bob who is paraplegic, the opportunity to participate in sports such as horseback riding, water skiing, basketball and many others in a supportive environment with mentoring from Paralympic athletes.

The ranch has served over 1,000 families and touched the lives of approximately 4,000 people since its opening in 1976. Because Bob's story was shared by a member, he was crowned the winner of the 2017 #WhoPowersYou contest and awarded \$5,000.

Do you know someone who is making a difference in your community? Nominate them for the 2018 #WhoPowersYou contest and they could win a cash prize up to \$5,000 and be nationally recognized for their actions.

Here is how to participate:

- Go online to WhoPowersYou.com
- Submit a photo and story about someone making a positive impact in our community.
- Provide your name, ZIP code and select Cotton Electric as your electric cooperative. Only Cotton Electric members and employees are permitted to make nominations.
- Do NOT nominate a Cotton Electric employee. Current employees are not eligible to be nominated.
- Submit your nomination online by Nov. 4.

A panel of judges appointed by Touchstone Energy Cooperative will announce the contest winners in December. A complete list of rules and information can be found at WhoPowersYou.com.

Cooperative communities are people-powered. Don't let the hero in your neighborhood go unrecognized. #WhoPowersYou is open for nominations from now until Nov. 4.

Energy Vampires

can add **10%** or more to electric bills.

Safe Electricity.org research collected from Energy.gov

Slay energy vampires

Even when your electronics are turned off, they still use energy if they're plugged in.

They use something called "vampire energy."

What better time to slay those vampires than Halloween? Here's how:

1. Unplug any appliance or electronic device whenever you're not using it, unless there's some reason to leave it plugged into the wall.

It's not practical, for example, to unplug your cable box and wireless router. But you can unplug your TV, stereo, laptop, countertop kitchen appliances and cell phone chargers when they're not in use.

2. Use power strips. Plug the devices that can be turned off into power strips so all you have to do is turn one thing off instead of going around the room switching everything off one at a time.

3. Setting computers and video game consoles to sleep mode in case you forget to unplug them at the end of the day will save some energy.

4. Choose new appliances and electronics that use less "standby" power than your old ones. Any equipment marked with the Energy Star seal has that feature.

Source: Pointers and Prose

Election Day
Nov. 6

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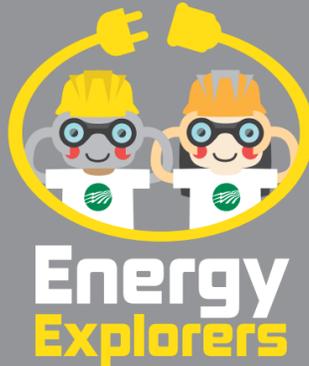


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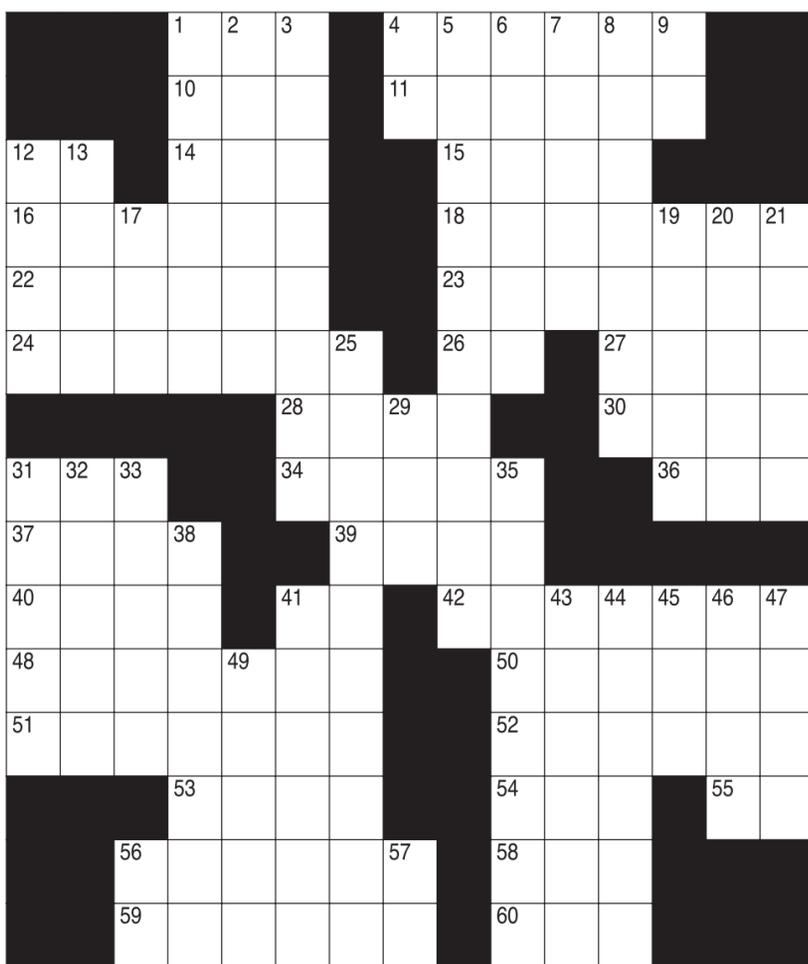
Word Bank

- | | |
|---------------|------------|
| GAME CONSOLE | MICROWAVE |
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To save energy, unplug these items when they are not in use.

ACROSS

- Type of cleaner (abbr.)
- Going out
- ___ Jima, WWII battlefield
- Closed
- Air Force
- Moved swiftly
- Will not (obsolete)
- Type of tank
- Raise
- Represent
- Gives a new moniker
- Adversary
- Anno Domini
- Lillian ___, actress
- Bunch of something
- This (Spanish)
- A guitarist uses one
- Small stem bearing leaves
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Actress Rooney
- Dark brown or black
- Matter
- Atomic number 87 (abbr.)
- Food company
- Trips to see wildlife
- Elderly
- Famed chapel
- Something to grab
- City in Oklahoma
- Muckraking journalist Tarbell
- Thallium
- Corroded
- A Brooklyn NBAer
- Most liberated



- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|--|
| 60. Google certification (abbr.) | 12. Amazon ID number | 38. Novice |
| DOWN | 13. A wife (law) | 41. Having limits |
| 1. High moral behavior | 17. Printing speed measurement | 43. Shining with jewels or sequins |
| 2. Expects | 19. Wrong | 44. Existing at birth but not hereditary |
| 3. Fanciful notions | 20. Exams | 45. ___ Caesar, comedian |
| 4. Spanish be | 21. Outlying suburb of London | 46. A young male horse under the age of four |
| 5. All the people of approximately the same age | 25. Replaces | 47. Russian industrial city |
| 6. Berated | 29. Prints money | 49. Wash off |
| 7. Trailblazing comedienne | 31. Accumulate | 56. Radio Frequency |
| 8. Fabric edge | 32. New Zealand conifer | 57. Delirium tremens |
| 9. South Dakota | 33. College teachers | |
| | 35. A way of grating | |

ATV ADVENTURE GIVEAWAY

GRAND PRIZE GIVEAWAY
NOVEMBER 11 • 10PM

Win an ATV at our ATV Adventure Giveaway! Weekly drawings Fridays and Saturdays from 7PM-11PM every hour. Now-November 11, earn one (1) entry for every 25 points on your Comanche Card to be entered into a drawing for your chance to win up to \$100 Cash and \$100 Comanche Credit.

You can also earn one (1) entry for every 25 points on your Comanche Card for your chance to win the Grand Prize drawings for \$100 Comanche Credit and the ATV.



Grand prize drawing is on November 11, 2018 at 10PM. Each confirmed winner is allowed to win two (2) Comanche Credit prizes. All participants are eligible to win the ATV. Actual ATV may vary from image shown. See Comanche Club for details.

THE BOTTOM LINE TO GO
SUNDAYS, NOW - NOVEMBER 25
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See Comanche Club for details.
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Family Features

One of the best-kept chef secrets to hosting the most memorable at-home parties is keeping the food simple and adding small details to make it special.

After all, a host who isn't hard at work in the kitchen is a host who can spend more time with guests.

One way to make every minute in the kitchen count and provide crowd-pleasing food is by using wholesome, quality core ingredients like olive oil, fresh bread, cheese and artisan chocolate to create flavorful dishes that are easy to prepare, and leave you with more

time to enjoy what matters most: moments with the ones you love.

When it comes to cooking, focus on the essentials and the highlights of each dish. Building recipes around quality ingredients, such as Bertolli Extra Virgin Olive Oil, makes it easy to create show-stopping dishes time and time again.

Planning ahead is key to entertaining, but when it comes to cooking, make things quick and easy with a little help from powerhouse ingredients that lend themselves well to a variety of flavors and preparations.

In keeping things simple, use olive oil to add a little extra zest and create dishes that pop off the plate, like this recipe for creamy Tomato Soup with Olive Oil croutons. For a larger event, try Mushroom Carpaccio and Creamed Spinach Au Gratin, which can leave a lasting impression on your guests.

Make every moment count and find more simple recipes at Bertolli.com.

More recipes using Bertolli olive oil such as Healthy Beet Hummus and Bitter Chocolate Pistachio Cream Dessert can be found by visiting Family Features.com.



Tomato Soup with Homemade Olive Oil Croutons

- Prep time: 10 minutes
- 4 tomatoes
- 3 grilled red bell peppers in oil
- 1 shallot
- 1/2 cup Bertolli Extra Virgin Olive Oil, plus additional for brushing on bread
- 3 tablespoons sherry vinegar
- 1 clove garlic
- 10 basil leaves
- salt, to taste
- pepper, to taste
- 4 slices crusty bread

Cut small cross in bottom of tomatoes and submerge in boiling water 30 seconds. Let tomatoes cool in ice water 30 seconds then remove skins.

In blender, blend tomatoes, red bell peppers, shallot, extra-virgin olive oil, vinegar, garlic, basil, salt and pepper, to taste, until mixture is smooth. Add mixture to large pot and heat, stirring frequently.

Cut bread slices, brush with olive oil and grill 2 minutes per side over medium-high heat until visible grill marks have formed.

Source: Family Features

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Set the menu for easy entertaining



Mushroom Carpaccio and Creamed Spinach Au Gratin

Prep time: 15 minutes

Mushroom Carpaccio:

- 2 1/4 cups cremini mushrooms
- Bertolli Extra Virgin Olive Oil
- salt, to taste

Creamed Spinach:

- 2 1/4 cups spinach
- 1/2 cup heavy cream
- salt
- pepper
- Parmesan cheese



To make Mushroom Carpaccio:

- Heat oven to 400 F.
- Clean mushrooms and cut into thin slivers.
- Season with olive oil and salt. Set aside.

To make Creamed Spinach:

- Boil spinach 2 minutes, strain and place it into saucepan, over cream. Cook 5 minutes.
- In blender, puree mixture and pour over Mushroom Carpaccio.
- Grate Parmesan cheese over entire dish; bake 5 minutes.

Source: Family Features

Intermittent fasting poses health risks for certain people

Intermittent fasting is making the rounds of talk shows, TV doctors, social media, and daily dieting conversations. Fasting has typically been a way to practice religion. Could it have health benefits?

One thing is for certain: Fasting is not for people with issues with blood sugar, whether it is diabetes, hypoglycemia, or any other blood sugar management disorder.

As well, fasting is not safe for women who are pregnant or breastfeeding, children or adolescents, individuals with eating disorders, and individuals on medication that must be taken with food.

For the rest of us, fasting should be explored only with a qualified health professional (physician or registered dietitian) and is not something that you should do without first getting a check-up.



Kim Bandelier, MPH, RD, LD

Food For THOUGHT

Fasting means abstaining from food and drink. Intermittent fasting restricts

the times that you eat but does not restrict the types of foods that you eat.

For example, an intermittent fasting schedule might be fasting for 18 hours and only eating for six hours each day. You choose the fasting versus eating time frames that work best for you.

The meals that you would consume during the 6-hour period should be of normal size; overeating defeats the purpose.

The research on the effectiveness of intermittent fasting continues to evolve. Hundreds of studies have been published just this year.

Regarding the effectiveness of intermittent fasting to treat obesity in adults, University of Glasgow's Leanne Harris and colleagues evaluated six studies and found that intermittent fasting was as effective as daily calorie restriction in producing short-term weight loss. Bos-

ton Medical Center's Mary-Catherine Stockman and colleagues examined the underlying processes involved in intermittent fasting in both animal and human models, and uncovered benefits beyond weight loss.

Both articles conclude that more research needs to be done, particularly examining if the benefits seen in smaller, shorter studies can be replicated in larger, longer studies.

The jury is still out on whether intermittent fasting will become a regularly recommended strategy for improving health.

Until that time, it should be something considered only with the input of your medical team, and not at the suggestion of a popular diet book, blogger, next door neighbor, or your favorite talk show.

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Cooperatives recognized during month of October

Cotton Electric is proud to be a part of a 47,000-business strong cooperative network, sharing a common goal: serving our members. Since 1930, October has been designated as National Cooperative Month. This is a time to highlight the many services and opportunities the cooperative provides for its members.

Your Voice

As a member of Cotton Electric, you're much more than a consumer - you're a member-owner. This means you have a voice in the way the co-op operates. Members elect the co-op Board of Trustees and have the ability to run for a seat on the board if they wish to do so. Your vote and participation help shape the direction and success of the cooperative.

Your Money

We are driven by service, not profit. Unlike investor-owned utilities, which are operated to make the most profits for stakeholders, Cotton Electric is a not-for-profit organization. Cotton Electric was established to provide at-cost electric service. Any margins or revenue remaining after all expenses have been paid are returned to members in the form of capital credits.

Cotton Electric and our energy provider, Western Farmers Electric Cooperative, recently issued capital credit retirements to our members. You can read more about the checks that were issued today, Oct. 9, on Page 5.

Cotton Electric provides a variety of billing options to meet the needs of our



members. My Choice is an option for members who want to monitor their energy use. Members pre-pay for their energy so they are not surprised by how much energy they use or by how much their monthly bill is.

For members who like to plan their bills, Cotton Electric offers an Average Monthly Payment plan. Members pay the cost for their average energy use over 12 months, allowing them to anticipate what their monthly payment will be.

Members have the right to a Co-op Connections card. This card offers discounts to members from local and nationwide businesses. Discounts range from entertainment, travel and pharmacy prescriptions. Cards can be mailed or picked up at Cotton Electric. For more information, call 580-875-3351 or 800-522-3520.

Your Community

Co-ops play an important role in community development. Because we are owned by the members we serve, electric cooperatives have a strong commitment to our local communities. In addition to providing safe, reliable and affordable power, electric co-ops are involved in local community development programs and projects such as Youth Tour, Energy Camp, Operation Round Up and Cotton Cares.

Cotton Electric knows that educating and investing in today's youth is extremely important. Look for a call for entries in our 2019 Youth Tour essay competition in the November issue of The Current.

Your Co-op

All co-ops operate according to the same set of Seven Cooperative Prin-

ciples: Voluntary and Open Membership; Democratic Member Control; Members' Economic Participation; Autonomy and Independence; Education, Training and Information; Cooperation Among Cooperatives; and Concern for Community. These principles guide every decision made by the co-op.

Co-ops engage their members to do things that might otherwise be impossible, like more than 80 years ago when electric co-ops brought power to areas where other utilities did not find it profitable. Today it means Cotton Electric distributes power to over 22,000 meters in southwest Oklahoma and Operation Round Up has given back over \$1 million to the community because of donations from members.

Our members are the reason we are able to celebrate National Cooperative Month each year.

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KREG MURPHREE

★★★ COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 1

- 1 LIFELONG CONSERVATIVE** Kreg Murphree has always been an advocate for the 2nd Amendment, cutting taxes, limiting the size and scope of government, and reducing or eliminating unnecessary regulations on business owners.
- 2 OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY GRADUATE - WILDLIFE ECOLOGY** As an avid sportsman with a deep family background in rural Oklahoma, Kreg Murphree is a champion of issues that impact wildlife conservation and the agriculture community.
- 3 SMALL BUSINESS OWNER** Kreg Murphree has been a small business owner with experience in budgeting and staff management during strong and weak economic cycles, well prepared for the changing needs of county government.



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CO-OPS VOTE

A PROGRAM OF AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

Cooperative prepares for election day on Nov. 6

Did you vote in the 2016 elections? If so, you were one of 500,000 voters in co-op territories that went to the polls. You helped turn the tide of decreasing voter turnout in rural areas like ours...and our elected officials took notice.

As member-owned electric cooperatives, voting is already in our DNA. It's how we maintain an electric utility which is responsive to the consumers it serves. But voting also plays a crucial part in our representative democracy.

Federal, state and local elections offer an opportunity to exercise a civic responsibility -- to select the best leaders for our communities.

2018 is going to be an interesting and important election year, and electric cooperatives have the opportunity to play a vital role in encouraging rural voter turnout and engaging on issues that matter in our community.

When voters miss the chance to vote, they also lose the opportunity to communicate their concern to our leaders about the issues that matter to us, where we work, live, and raise families.

Reliable electricity, rural infrastructure and access to rural broadband are just a few of the issues we all care about.

These issues will only become priorities if we continue to express our concerns to our elected officials. Registering to vote and showing up to the polls on Election Day, Nov. 6, are the most effective ways to send this message.

When we go to the polls with the cooperative principle of "Concern for Community" in mind, we instantly improve our political system. It's a system designed to produce a government "of the people, by the people and for the people." People like you and me.

Cotton Electric has once again joined America's electric cooperatives in continuing the Co-ops Vote campaign to help get out the vote and insert issues important to co-ops and our communities into the public discussion.

This effort will ensure that our voices are heard loud and clear every day, and especially on the next Election Day.

Here's what you can do to help. Ensure you're registered to vote right now. Then, encourage your friends and family to register too. Visit the Co-ops Vote web site, WWW.VOTE.COOP, to get information on how to register and to learn more about your elected officials.

Co-ops Vote is a non-partisan program developed by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), the national service organization that represents the nation's more than 900 private, not-for-profit, consumer-owned electric cooperatives.

You will join with 42 million members across the nation, to ensure that electric co-ops are a powerful voice on national issues that have a local impact.

If you have any questions, please visit WWW.VOTE.COOP or contact Cotton Electric directly at 580-875-3351 or 800-522-3520. Please join us at the polls on Nov. 6.

Source: NRECA

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Arrival of fall kickstarts winter preparations

By Danielle Quickle

Going hunting, to a pumpkin patch or attending Friday night lights are just a few of the things southwest Oklahomans love to do this time of year. While you're making your fall must-do list, be sure you don't forget one very important thing to include: Prepare for winter storms.

Temperatures have only recently started cooling down but winter will be here before we know it. The worst time to wonder if you have everything you need to survive extremely cold weather is in the midst of a winter storm.

Preparing your home, car and family for potential winter conditions can make them a little more bearable. Here are some tips from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response to make sure you are ready in the upcoming months:

Prepare your home

- Prepare your home to keep out the cold with insulation, caulking and weather stripping.
 - If you plan to use a fireplace or wood stove for emergency heating, have your chimney or flue inspected each year. Ask your local fire department to recommend an inspector.
 - If you'll be using a fireplace, wood stove or kerosene heater, install a smoke detector and a battery-operated carbon monoxide detector near the area to be heated. Test them monthly and replace batteries twice a year.
- All fuel-burning equipment should be vented to the outside. Each winter season have your furnace system

and vent checked by a qualified technician to ensure they are functioning properly.

- If you are over 65 years old, place an easy-to-read thermometer in an indoor location where you will see it frequently. Your ability to feel a change in temperature decreases with age. Older adults are more susceptible to health problems caused by cold. Check the temperature of your home often during the winter months.
- Insulate any water lines that run along exterior walls so your water supply will be less likely to freeze. Leave all water taps slightly open so they drip continuously. Allow more heated air near pipes by opening cabinet doors under the kitchen sink.

Prepare your car

- Avoid dangerous winter travel by checking the road conditions frequently.
- Have maintenance service on your vehicle as recommended by your manufacturer.
- Have the radiator system serviced or check the antifreeze level yourself with an antifreeze tester.
- Replace windshield-wiper fluid with a wintertime mixture.
- Replace any worn tires, make sure the tires have adequate tread and appropriate air pressure.
- Keep the gas tank near full to help avoid ice in the tank and fuel lines.
- Pack a car emergency kit filled with survival items such as extra winter clothes, blankets, snacks, bottled water, jumper cables and a first aid kit.

Prepare your family

- Make a family communication plan. Your family

may not be together during an extreme winter event, so it is important to know how you will contact one another and how you will get back together.

- Find out how your community warns the public about severe weather.
- Make sure to check on older neighbors and family members and assist them as necessary.
- If you have pets, bring them indoors. If you cannot bring them inside, provide adequate shelter to keep them warm and make sure they have access to unfrozen water.
- Listen to weather forecasts regularly and check your emergency supplies whenever a period of extreme cold is predicted. Although periods of extreme cold cannot always be predicted far in advance, weather forecasts can sometimes provide you with several days notice.
- Have a backup heat source in case the power goes out, such as extra blankets or portable space heaters.
- Have battery-powered flashlights or lanterns on hand.
- Stock up on bread, canned food, dried fruit and bottled water – food that does not require cooking or refrigeration.

Although rare, winter storms have the potential to cause long-term outages. Cotton Electric is preparing the grid for harsh conditions in hopes of keeping your homes heated this winter and to restore power quickly should it go out.

Just like Cotton Electric, make sure your family prepares for the worst and hopes for the best. Stay safe and warm this winter.

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 To view home prior to auction day: Contact Parker Scroggins 580-656-4416
 For photos log onto www.auctionzip.com, enter Auctioneer ID #17788
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 Yard Equipment & Misc Items: Craftsman 46" riding lawn mower, Craftsman High wheel trimmer, Craftsman Edger, Craftsman Blower, Craftsman Chipper/Shredder, Craftsman Presser Washer, Husqvarna push mower, Lectro Truck stair climbing dolly 1500lb limit, Kenmore BBQ grill, Pool furniture.
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Mysteries of overhead power lines explained

While it is safe for a bird to sit on an overhead power line, it is not safe for people to come in contact with the lines. So, how can birds sit on a power line unharmed? Safe Electricity reveals insights into the “bird on a wire” phenomenon and separates fact from fiction.

In order for an electrical charge, or electrons, to move from one spot to another, it must be in contact (or sometimes close proximity) with conductive material that has at least two different points of potential. Electrons will move toward lower potential. That is why it is said that electricity is always looking for a path to ground (lower potential).

A bird remains safe because it is sitting on a single wire and is at one point of contact—and consequently one electrical potential. If the bird sitting at this one potential was to also make contact with another object of different potential, that bird would be completing a

path to ground, causing severe electric shock or electrocution. For larger birds with wider wingspans, reaching and touching another cable is a real hazard.

Getting near overhead power lines is also a serious hazard for people. Cotton Electric linemen who work near overhead power lines must wear appropriate safety clothing, use tested safety equipment, and take training to be able to do the installation, maintenance, and repair work they do. It is vital that safety equipment is regularly tested as even non-conductive materials, such as rubber, wood, or plastic, can conduct electricity if damp, dirty, or damaged.

It is a myth that all power lines are insulated with a protective coating that prevents shocks. Most power lines are not insulated. The coating that is on lines is actually for weather proofing and will not offer any protection from the electrical current.

Safe Electricity urges people to be aware of their surroundings and shares the following safety tips:

- Always look up and look out for overhead power lines.
- Keep yourself and any equipment at least 10 feet away from power lines.
- Remember that getting too close to a power line, even without touching it, is very dangerous.
- Avoid working directly under powerlines.
- When working with tall equipment such as ladders, poles, or antennas, carry them in a horizontal position as to not risk making contact with overhead lines.
- Always assume that power lines, even if they have come down, carry an electrical charge.

To learn more about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

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