

OFFICIAL NOTICE



2024 ANNUAL MEETING AND MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY Sept. 26, 2024

PLEASE PRESENT THIS CLIPPING AT REGISTRATION.

REGISTRATION WILL BE FROM 2 P.M. TO 6 P.M.

THIS REGISTRATION CLIPPING ENTITLES THE HOLDER TO ONE GIFT TICKET PER MEMBERSHIP. ONLY CONNECTED MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THE PRIZE DRAWING.

CLIP OUT AND BRING TO ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION

BE SURE TO LEAVE NAME LABEL ATTACHED

The Current

A Publication of Cotton Electric Cooperative Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

“The Current - Informing Our Members Since 1957”

VOLUME 68

September 13, 2024

NUMBER 1

Cruise through the 85th Annual Meeting on Sept. 26

By Carli Eubank

Load up your family and friends and cruise on in for the 2024 Cotton Electric Annual Meeting and Member Appreciation Day on Thursday, Sept. 26. This year's Annual Meeting will be shifting gears to a more flexible format for our members with drive-thru registrations in two locations: the Stephens County Fairgrounds in Duncan and the Great Plains Coliseum in Lawton.

Drive-thru registration will open at 2 p.m., and members can roll in anytime between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m., following the signs and friendly Cotton Electric employees guiding members through the registration lines. This year, registered members will be gifted a \$20 energy voucher and have the opportunity to exercise the Cooperative Principle of Democratic Member Control by voting on proposed Bylaw amendments. Members can review the entire set of Bylaws starting on Page 13.

All registered members will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win one of several \$100 gift cards, \$250 and \$500 energy vouchers or the grand prize of a \$1,000 energy voucher. Your cooperative is committed to serving our communities and supporting others who share the same mission, and we will donate \$1,000 to the local volunteer fire department that serves the grand prize winner's membership account.

Cruising through Duncan:

Members registering at the Duncan location for the Annual Meeting, traffic flow will start at the Stephens County Fairgrounds entrance on 13th Street marked with a Cotton Electric banner.

Members will follow the marked paths to guide them to a registration line in the fairgrounds arena.

At the first station, members will present their registration clipping, which can be found at the top of this page. In exchange, members will receive a ballot to vote on the proposed bylaw changes.

After members have cast their vote, they will drive up to the next station to drop off their ballot in a secure ballot box and receive a new hat and gift of a \$20 energy voucher. No meal will be served.

Then, Cotton Electric employees will direct members to exit the arena and head north to MLK Avenue.

Cruising through Lawton:

Members registering at the Lawton location for the Annual Meeting, traffic flow will start at the Great Plains Coliseum entrance on SW G Avenue marked with a Cotton Electric banner.

Members will follow the marked paths to a registration line in the fairgrounds arena.

At the first station, members will present their registration clipping, which can be found at the top of this page. In exchange, members will receive a ballot to vote on the proposed bylaw changes.

After members have cast their vote, they will drive up to the next station to drop off their ballot in a secure ballot box and receive a new hat and gift of a \$20 energy voucher. No meal will be served.

Then, Cotton Electric employees will direct members to exit the arena toward SW Sheridan Road.

Registrations will close at 6 p.m., and the business meeting will be livestreamed beginning at 8 p.m. on our Facebook page and YouTube channel at <https://bit.ly/cottonmeeting24>.

Board President Shan Files will call the meeting to order, and other Board Members will present reports before Cotton Electric CEO Jennifer Meason announces this year's prize winners, ending the event.

Cotton Electric employees have been working hard putting together this year's Annual Meeting and look forward to the opportunity to interact with our members. For questions or more information about this year's event, call us at 580-875-3351. We hope to see you there.



Map of traffic flow for registration at the 2024 Annual Meeting and Member Appreciation Day.

Power Cost Adjustment Calculated

The power cost adjustment now being applied to bills mailed after Sept. 1, 2024, is \$0.00136 per kilowatt-hours (kWh).

On a member's average bill of 1,300 kWh, this will amount to a charge of \$1.77 on the September bill.

August 2024 Temperature Extremes

Day	High	Low	Avg.	Day	High	Low	Avg.
1	107	79	93	16	109	74	92
2	103	76	90	17	109	76	93
3	103	70	87	18	111	75	93
4	101	69	85	19	112	66	89
5	101	69	85	20	105	75	90
6	107	67	87	21	101	77	89
7	108	72	90	22	100	77	89
8	105	70	88	23	111	78	95
9	91	74	83	24	107	77	92
10	90	63	77	25	103	74	89
11	95	73	84	26	100	71	86
12	102	80	91	27	99	68	84
13	106	73	90	28	99	71	85
14	106	78	92	29	99	76	88
15	107	79	93	30	93	72	83
				31	95	73	84

Source: www.srh.noaa.gov/oun/
Average Daily High: 103 Average Daily Low: 73

Did You Know?

Cotton Electric offices will be closed Monday, Oct. 14 for All Employee Training Day. Emergency calls will be answered at 580-875-3351 or 800-522-3520.

The next issue of *The Current* should arrive in mailboxes Oct. 11, 2024.

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 TheCurrent@cottonelectric.com.

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



COTTON
ELECTRIC CO-OP

Mission Statement
Our mission is to safely deliver reliable and affordable power, provide excellent member service, and improve the quality of life in the communities we serve.

From the CEO

Help protect reliable energy

As a member of your electric cooperative, you're an invested owner in the infrastructure and service that Cotton Electric Cooperative provides to you and to the communities we serve. It is our mission to deliver safe,

reliable, and affordable electricity to you and all of our member-owners. In the past, co-op members have been instrumental in stopping costly legislation. Today, we're battling proposed power plant regulations from the U.S. Environmental Protec-

tion Agency (EPA) that aim to eliminate dispatchable fossil fuel resources and threaten the reliability we all depend on.

We need your help as co-op members and ask that you join Voices for Cooperative Power (VCP). VCP is a network of electric co-op members working together to influence elected officials who are making energy policy decisions that impact our co-ops and, by extension, our way of life. You can sign up at <https://voicesforcooperative-power.com/register/>.

You can also help support members of Congress who agree to advocate for sensible rulings that support the mission of rural electric cooperatives. If you are interested, you can join me, other electric cooperative consumer members, employees and trustees nationwide who are part of our national, nonpartisan political action committee, America's



Jennifer Meason, CEO

Electric Cooperatives PAC. By contributing to America's Electric Cooperatives PAC, you help make a difference in shaping the future of rural America, including Cotton Electric Cooperative.

If you would like to contribute, please visit our website at www.cottonelectric.com/your-co-op-your-voice or return the completed form found on Page 3, and we will add your contribution to your monthly bill. It's a small investment that allows our voices to be heard in Washington, D.C.

Thank you for your consideration and continued support of Cotton Electric Cooperative.



Cotton Electric CEO Jennifer Meason and other Oklahoma electric cooperative representatives met with Senator Markwayne Mullin and other elected officials at the National Rural Electric Cooperatives Association Legislative Conference. Photo courtesy of Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives.

Help protect reliable power

Your Co-op, Your Voice.

Sign up for America's Electric Cooperatives PAC or Voices for Cooperative Power and join the fight for reliable energy

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Now is the time to schedule annual maintenance for your home's heating system. During fall months, HVAC technicians are typically less busy, making this an excellent time for maintenance and any necessary repairs before the winter months.

A qualified technician can clean filters, check for leaks and ensure all system components are working efficiently to keep your home cozy and warm when the temperatures begin to drop.

Source: www.energy.gov

July 2024 Operating Stats		
	2024	2023
Total Amount Billed/Accrued	\$7,405,312	\$7,741,003
Cost of Purchased Power	5,028,597	5,133,271
Taxes	139,945	133,495
Total Operating Expense per Mile	1,297	1,315
Average Farm and Residential Bill	185	197
Average Farm and Residential kWh	1,653	1,726
Total Meters Billed (Farm, Residential)	19,723	19,511
Miles Energized	5,274	5,262
Density per Mile	3.74	3.71
New Service Connects YTD	259	257
Services Retired	133	115

Upcoming Deadlines for The Current	
October	
Ad Sales	Sept. 27
Classified	Sept. 27
Publish	Oct. 11
November	
Ad Sales	Oct. 25
Classified	Oct. 25
Publish	Nov. 8

The Current

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

Jennifer MeasonCEO
Shane Bowers..... Vice President
Zach YoungDirector
Carli Eubank Communications Specialist

**Cotton Electric Cooperative, Inc.
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To The Cotton Current
226 North Broadway
Walters, OK 73572**

This institution is
an equal opportunity provider & employer.

Energy Efficiency

Understanding the difference in LED lightbulb quality

LED lightbulbs have revolutionized the lighting industry, offering better efficiency, longer life span, and better-quality light. However, not all LED bulbs are created equal. The market is being flooded with a long list of options, and understanding the differences in LED lightbulb quality is essential for making an informed purchase that will meet your specific needs.

The improvement of energy efficiency in LED technology is significant, but can vary between brands and styles. Typically, you can expect LED

replacement bulbs to consume less than a quarter of the energy used by a traditional incandescent bulb. When that reduction in energy use is multiplied by the number of lights in your entire home, you can see some real savings on your utility bill.

Quality influences life span

One of the primary advantages of LED bulbs is their long life spans, but the quality and longevity of the bulb can depend greatly on the manufacturer. High-quality LED bulbs typically offer a life span of 25,000 to 50,000

hours. Lower-quality bulbs may last far less, sometimes as low as 10,000 hours. The estimated life of the bulb will be indicated on the packaging. Some of the factors affecting a bulb's life span include heat dissipation and the build quality. LED bulbs produce far less heat than traditional bulbs, but the bulb's design can shorten its life span if it doesn't effectively dissipate that heat. Better-quality materials used in high-end bulbs help them to retain their reliability longer.

Low efficacy, low efficiency

Efficacy is another key measurement to distinguish higher-quality LED bulbs from others. Efficacy is measured in lumens per watt (lm/W), and indicates how well a bulb converts electricity into visible light. Better-quality bulbs often have higher efficacy, meaning they produce more effective light using less energy. Lower lumens at the same wattage indicates more heat produced as a product of waste due to a lack of efficiency in the process.

Research the right combination

Not all LED bulbs are equal when it comes to their dimming capabilities. It should also be noted that not all dimmer switches are equal or compatible with LED bulbs. The compatibility between dimmers and bulbs is very important, and something you should pay close attention to during the selection process. Quality LED brands offer a smooth, flicker-free dimming across the full range of brightness levels. Poor-quality bulbs can be very sensitive to flickering and have gaps in their dimming range. This is one of the particular areas where we have seen the most member-reported issues.



Heath Morgan,
Energy Efficiency
Coordinator

Flickering lights can be a nuisance, and typically indicate an issue within the circuit. That could be the bulb, fixture, switch, wiring, or one of the connection points in the circuit.

Ensure lighting consistency

By now we have all been exposed to the wide range of color temperatures LED bulbs are available in. These color temperatures are measured in kelvins (K). Warmer soft whites start around 2,700 K, with the brighter daylight range extending to 6,500 K. Color consistency can be another issue in lower-quality bulbs and should be considered when uniform lighting is desired or necessary.

When choosing LED bulbs, it is crucial to consider factors beyond just price. The differences in life span, brightness, efficiency, color consistency, dimming capabilities, and overall quality can significantly impact your experience. Investing in quality bulbs may require a higher initial investment, but the long-term benefits such as performance, energy consumption, and frequency of replacement make them a smarter choice.



When purchasing LED bulbs, consider these factors that can influence their longevity and efficiency. Photo courtesy of Anete Lusina.

Heating Degree Day and Cooling Degree Day Calendar

AUGUST

HDD YEAR CDD



Degree days measure how cold or warm a location is by comparing the average of the high and low (mean) of the outdoor temperatures recorded in that location to the standard U.S. temperature, which is 65 F. The assumption is that we don't need heating or cooling to be comfortable when this is the outdoor temperature.



Your Co-op, Your Voice.

Yes! I want to help keep the voice of rural electric cooperatives heard in the state and national political process by participating in America's Electric Cooperatives PAC.

Please add the following amount to my monthly electric bill:

- Co-op Owners Member: \$2.08/month (\$25/year)
- Ambassador Club: \$4.17/month (\$50/year)
- Century Club: \$8.33/month (\$100/year)
- Other: \$ _____

I affirm that my contribution has been made with non-corporate funds:

Name: _____

Account #: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

*Federal Election Law requires the following information for contribution equal to or exceeding \$200:

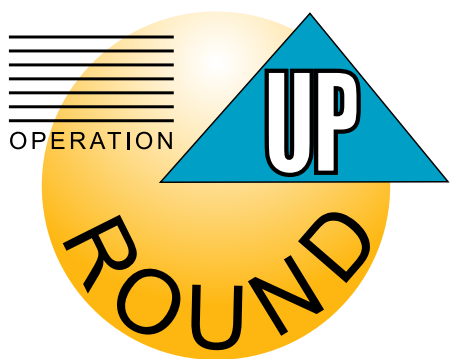
Employer: _____

Occupation: _____

Signature: _____

Please return the completed form to:
Cotton Electric Cooperative
226 N. Broadway, Walters, OK 73572





Cotton Electric Charitable Foundation

CECF announces third-quarter grant recipients

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 (ORU) 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 (CECF), a Board of Directors who meets quarterly to consider grant applications from individuals and organizations in the area. The Board consists of Jennifer Meason, the co-op’s CEO; Shan Files, president of the co-op’s Board of Trustees; and three representatives from the Cotton Electric service area: Cindy Zelbst, Polly Krasser and Carter Waid.

The board met in August to review several grant applications. Grants totaling \$21,569.65 will be distributed to eight of the applicants. Third-quarter grant recipients include: AmVets Post 11, Geronimo VFD, Indianoma Community Food Bank, Indianoma Public Schools, Leadership Duncan Class XXVIII, Marlow Samaritans, Meridian VFD and EMS, and Velma Community Outreach Center.

Fourth quarter applications are due Nov. 12, 2024. The CECF Board of Directors will meet again in November to review applications for the quarter.

CECF grant guidelines and applications can be downloaded and completed at www.cottonelectric.com/grant-applications. Applications can also be submitted by email to zyoung@cottonelectric.com or by mail to 226 N. Broadway, Walters, OK 73572.

AmVets Post 11	\$704.25 for a flagpole
Geronimo VFD	\$4,572.40 for hoses
Indianoma Community Food Bank	\$2,500 for food
Indianoma Public Schools	\$1,000 for tables
Leadership Duncan Class XXVIII	\$500 for canine training for the Duncan PD
Marlow Samaritans	\$550 for a misting fan
Meridian VFD & EMS	\$4,243 for an AED
Velma Community Outreach Center	\$7,500 for food

Red River
TECHNOLOGY CENTER

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Fax: 580.875.2149
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TH & SAT: 7:30 - 12:00

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Each RE/MAX office is independently owned and operated

LAWTON FARMERS MARKET

Saturdays 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
77 SW 4th St.

A year-round market located in the heart of downtown Lawton, Oklahoma.

For vendor inquiries please call:
Cindy Nocton (580) 678-9472

LawtonFarmersMarket.com

W W W LIVESTOCK SYSTEMS

281810 EAST 1810 ROAD
COMANCHE, OK 73529

1-800-657-6062

Bowie's Second Monday
has evolved into one of the largest flea markets on five acres!

SECOND MONDAY TRADE DAYS takes place the weekend prior to the second Monday of every month.

NEXT TRADE DATES
Oct. 11-13

Business Hwy 287 & Hwy 81 (Wise Street),
Bowie, TX 76230
940-872-4861

Information Hours
Monday - Friday • 8am - 5pm
secondmonday@cityofbowietx.com

Event Hours
Saturday & Sunday • 8am - 5pm

www.cityofbowietx.com

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North Hwy 81 & Camelback Rd, Duncan OK
580-255-0275 or 580-252-1331

Share your voice: Help us improve your cooperative experience

At Cotton Electric Cooperative, prioritizing our members and delivering excellent member service is a core part of our mission. We highly value any questions, concerns, or feedback from our members. One way you can help us enhance our services is by voluntarily participating in our annual survey.

Cotton Electric has partnered with Inside Information to develop a survey designed to gather valuable insights on how we can improve. The feedback from this survey will influence our American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI®) score and Cooperative Attitude and Performance Score (CAPStone), which help us gauge member satisfaction relative to other utilities and industries.

In early October, Inside Information will send postcards and emails to a randomly selected group of members, inviting them to take the survey online. Participation is voluntary, but we strongly encourage you to share your valued feedback to help us better serve you.

For any questions or more information about the survey, please contact our office at 580-875-3351.



Join us for
COFFEE WITH COTTON

DISTRICT 4
OCT. 3 | 7:30 A.M.

ANN'S COUNTRY KITCHEN
26020 STATE HWY 58, LAWTON

We hope to see you there!



Is Your Water Safe?

Give Your Back a Break...Stop Adding Salt to Your Softener

Minerals in your water form scale deposits that build up inside your pipes, water heater, shower heads, and other water using equipment like cholesterol in your arteries. These deposits significantly decrease the efficiency of your plumbing systems. Drinking water and icemakers are also negatively affected, as are health quality of water and taste. Hard water is not safe for you, your family or your home.

Benefits of a No-Salt Water Conditioning System:

- ▣ Maintain healthy calcium & magnesium levels
- ▣ No sodium added to water
- ▣ No waste water vs. up to 10,000 gallons per year with salt softeners
- ▣ No environmental discharge of salt or chemicals
- ▣ Reduces iron staining
- ▣ Extends appliance life by 50% or more
- ▣ Descales inside of pipes & water heater
- ▣ Cleaner bodies, clothes, and dishes
- ▣ 25% or more reduced detergent use
- ▣ Clothing will last longer
- ▣ Cleaner more refreshing water
- ▣ Improves water heater efficiency and thus lowers energy bills

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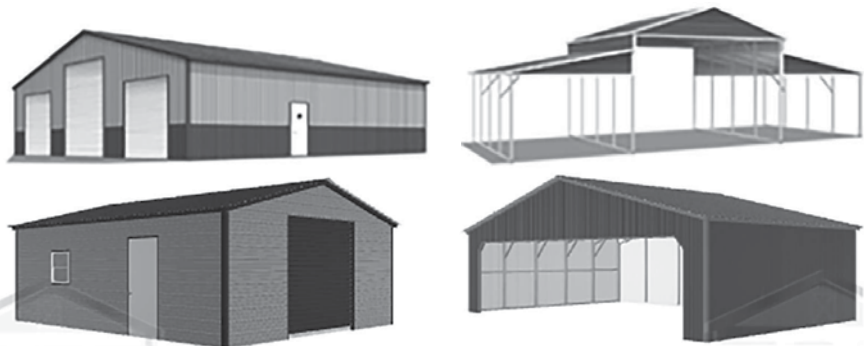
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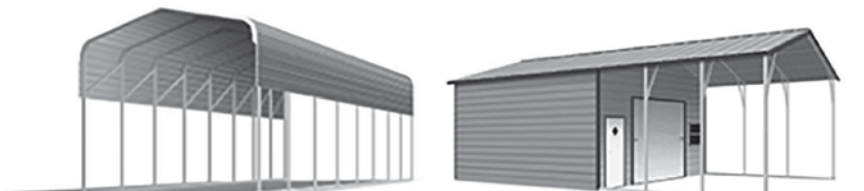


Visit us on Facebook for weekly Market Reports

Carports, Garages, Barns, Metal Buildings



Come Check Out Our SALE!



Stop by our display yard at **Land Pros** in Duncan, across from the Stephens County Fairgrounds on South Hwy 81. Let us design and price your custom building.



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Learn more at

www.cottonelectric.com/energy-efficiency or
www.touchstoneenergy.com.



OCTOBER 17TH • 18TH • 19TH

STEPHENS COUNTY FAIR & EXPO ARENA

DUNCAN, OK 7:30pm NIGHTLY

FEATURING THE TOP COWBOYS & COWGIRLS FROM OKLAHOMA, KANSAS AND NEBRASKA

TICKETS

Adult
\$12/Advanced \$15/At Door
Ages 4-12
\$8/Advanced \$10/At Door

3 and Under Free

Advanced Tickets Available at these locations:



CHISHOLM TRAIL SHOPPER
1898 N Hwy 81
Duncan, OK



2024 Funny Man
Allen Dessel

2024 Specialty Act
Flying Arena Stars



FRIDAY NIGHT
Wear Pink in Support of Breast Cancer Awareness

BACK THE BLUE
SATURDAY NIGHT
Support our Local Police, Fire, EMT and Sheriff Depts



www.prairiecircuitfinalsrodeo.com

Cantwell recognized for Youth Tour alumni scholarship

Q: How did you learn about the Glenn English scholarship?

A: Like most things, I learned about the Glenn English scholarship through NRECA's Youth Tour Instagram page.

Q: What was the application process like?

A: The application process was a fairly easy one. I had to film a 3-5 minute video detailing my involvement with my school, community and cooperative world. Then in the application itself, there was an essay portion where I was asked to describe how Youth Tour affected my view on community and community involvement. The video portion was the hardest part for me, but I had prepared for months. I wrote out my script for the video and had a friend help me with filming.

Q: Why did you choose to apply?

A: I had known about the Glenn English scholarship for a few years, but honestly, I was nervous about applying. I had always felt like I didn't have a shot at winning. However, when I went to Washington, D.C. in 2023, I was a Blue Shirt at Youth Tour with a previous Glenn English recipient, Wil-

liam Tuchtenahgen. Before the application opening, I spoke with him about the application process and the likelihood of my receiving a scholarship. In our conversation, he encouraged me to apply because not applying only guarantees I received nothing. I originally only applied because I needed the money to help me finish my undergraduate degree; however, as I was preparing my application, I realized just how passionate I was about the things that Youth Tour taught me.

Q: Describe the day and/or emotions when you received the scholarship at Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives.

A: Honestly, I had no idea what to expect going into my visit at OAEC. I was nervous about meeting so many new people, and honestly, I was worried I would be bored. Instead, I really loved getting to sit in and learn about all of the things that the electric cooperatives of Oklahoma are doing for our state. While I was there, I met so many kind and welcoming people. Visiting OAEC and all the people I met left me with a sense of pride. I was proud to be a small representation of an organization that really cares about people.

Q: Are you attending any educational programs and/or colleges? What are your plans afterward?

A: I am finishing my final year at Victory Family Leadership College in Norman, Oklahoma. I am also completing my bachelor's degree in Church Leadership from Nelson University. After completing my undergrad, I hope to take a small break to travel before pursuing a master's in business administration. My end goal is to eventually pursue a career in nonprofit.

Q: How has being connected to Youth Tour and the electric co-op industry impacted you over the years?

A: My involvement with Youth Tour and the electric co-op industry helped me to realize how important it is to dream big and give back to my community. In Washington, D.C., I met so many people who,



Olivia Cantwell in Washington, D.C. during her time on Youth Tour in 2023 as a Blue Shirt with National Rural Electric Cooperative. Photo courtesy of Olivia Cantwell.

like me, were from smaller towns. Even though I am from a small town, I realized I could have big dreams of changing at least my part of the world. Learning about the co-op world and the communities they serve, I have developed a deeper appreciation for the towns I was raised in.

Q: How would you encourage other students to apply for Youth Tour?

A: I always share the Youth Tour content on my Instagram, and if I know anyone about to be a junior, I tell them about it as well. I want to encourage English teachers to get their students to apply for Youth Tour. This trip is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. The people I met and the opportunities I got through Youth Tour have really impacted my life. Honestly, even the students who don't win the trip to D.C. gain so much valuable experience through Cotton Electric's selection process.

Q: What does earning the Glenn English scholarship mean to you?

A: Earning the Glenn English scholarship means I will have some financial help as I finish my undergraduate degree. This scholarship is helping me to pursue my dream of one day helping people through nonprofit. Not only that, but I am proud to say that I received a scholarship from an organization that has helped me gain the confidence I needed to chase my dreams.

For more information about Youth Tour, visit our website at www.cottonelectric.com/youthtour.



Olivia Cantwell was recently recognized at Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives for receiving the Glenn English Scholarship. Photo courtesy of Olivia Cantwell.

Public Auction

320 Acres + in Tillman County, Oklahoma Sold in 2 Separate Tracts

LOCATION: 2½ miles North of Grandfield, OK on Hwy. 36 (watch for signs)
GPS Address: 18924 State Hwy. 36 - Grandfield, OK 73546

Saturday, September 28, 2024 ★ 9:30 a.m.

AUCTION ORDER: (1) Farm & Ranch Items (2) Real Estate at approx. 11:00 a.m.

TRACT #1:

160 Acres ± - NW ¼ - 28 - 3S 14 WIM w/improvements
 2019 Stone Exterior Home with 1,698 sq. ft., Completely Furnished



TRACT #2:

160 Acres ± - NW ¼ - 21 - 3S 14 WIM ½ mile North of Tract #1 on Hwy. 36
 (watch for signs) - 121.75 Acres ± Cropland

Magarin's Ranch, LLC, Owner

Auction Conducted By:

TERRY H. BRINK
 CAI Auctioneer/Real Estate Broker
 Frederick, Oklahoma 73542
 580/335-4126
 TXS Auct. Lic. #OKS-118-006033
 E-mail: brinkauction@gmail.com



JOHN D. BUTCHEE, Auctioneer
 TX Lic. #17755 - 580/471-7937
 TxS. Auct. Lic. #11052
LISA SANMANN, Web Designer
CARLA BOWDEN, Clerk
ELLEN L. BRINK, Cashier

(Announcements day of sale supersede any and all other advertising)

For more info. and pictures, visit our website at www.brinkauction.com

Beyond opening the box: Take steps to operate a generator safely

When the electricity goes out, your initial thought might be to run to the local hardware or big box store and buy a generator. However, using a generator should not be taken lightly, since it can be dangerous and even life-threatening if used incorrectly. There are several steps you should take before ever starting one up.

But first, homework

Before purchasing a generator, the first step is to research the best option for your home and budget. The second, and more important step, is to educate yourself on how to use one safely.

Homeowners can choose from two types of generators: standby and portable. Standby generators are installed directly into the home's electrical system and are typically powered by natural gas or propane. These generators start automatically when the power goes out.

A portable generator is usually gas powered and is, well, portable. You can power appliances by plugging them into it. Your generator should have more output than the wattage of the electronics plugged into it. This way, the generator can create the extra electricity it takes for the initial power surge. Make sure there is nothing plugged into the generator when turning it on.

Safety tips

When you refuel a portable generator, make sure the engine is cool. Keep children and pets away from the generator, as it could burn them.

Generators pose electrical risks, especially when operated during inclement weather. Use a generator only when necessary during wet conditions. Protect the generator by operating it under an open, canopy-like structure and on a dry surface where water cannot form puddles or drain under it.

Generators can be dangerous

Carbon monoxide fumes emitted by the gasoline engine on the generator can be deadly. Always operate your portable generator outdoors at least 20 feet from your home.

Misusing a portable generator or using a standby generator that is not installed correctly (and does not meet the electrical code) can cause backfeed, which puts others in danger. Backfeed happens when a generator feeds electricity back through a home's electrical system and meter into the power lines. To prevent this dangerous scenario, standby

generators should have a transfer switch installed by a licensed professional. Do not plug a portable generator directly into a home outlet or electrical system. Instead, use a properly rated extension cord to plug appliances into an outlet on the generator for power.

When not in use

Operate your generator once a month for 10 minutes to ensure it is running properly. Keep your generator well maintained and follow all manufacturer's instructions. Have a standby generator installed in an easily accessible, weatherproof area.

For more information, visit www.cottonelectric.com/safety or www.safeelectricity.org.

WHAT IS backfeed?

Backfeed happens when a person connects their portable generator to a wall outlet, which allows power to flow in reverse – that is, the alternate power source feeds energy back through their home's electrical system, their meter and back into the power lines.

Potentially deadly backfeed can also happen with permanently installed generators that are not used or installed correctly. They should be wired into your home by a qualified electrician, who will install either an automatic or manual transfer switch, depending on the generator. The job of this switch is to transfer a power source safely from its primary source to a backup source.

To keep utility crews safe, never plug a portable generator directly into a wall outlet or electrical system, and ensure transfer switches are professionally installed and working properly. Electric lineworkers thank you in advance.

Avoid deadly backfeed and help keep lineworkers safe.

Learn more at: SafeElectricity.org

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Know the risk of investing - and not investing

Investing involves risk — and so does not investing. You should know how both these types of risk can affect your ability to reach your financial goals.

Let's start with the risks associated with investing. There's not a single investment risk because different types of investments carry different types of risk. Here's a look at three investment



categories and some of the risks connected with them:

- Stocks – When you invest in stocks or stock-based mutual funds, you will incur the risk that the value of your investments may decline. Stock prices can fall for any number of reasons – lower-than-expected earnings, a change in management, change in consumer tastes, and so on. Although the historical trend for stocks has been positive, there will always be periods when prices are down. One way to help defend against this volatility is to hold stocks for the long term, rather than constantly buying and selling, and to own a mix of stocks from different industries and even

different countries.

- Bonds – When market interest rates rise, the value of your bonds can decline because investors won't pay full price for them when they can get the newer ones that offer higher rates. Another type of risk associated with bonds is credit risk, which essentially describes the risk that the bond issuer may default, potentially disrupting your flow of interest payments. However, you can help mitigate this risk by purchasing investment-grade bonds that receive the highest credit ratings from independent rating agencies.

- Certificates of deposit (CDs) – Although CDs are generally considered safe

because their principal is guaranteed, they do carry reinvestment risk — the risk that you won't be able to reinvest the proceeds of a maturing CD at the same interest rate. To help protect against this risk, you could own CDs of varying maturities. When market rates are low, you'll still have your longer-term CDs paying higher interest, and when market rates rise, you can reinvest the money from your maturing shorter-term CDs into the new, higher-paying ones.

Now, let's turn to a completely different type of risk — the risk of not investing. And this risk is easy to understand: If you don't invest, or if you consistently invest

only in the most conservative vehicles, your money may not grow enough to allow you to reach your important long-term goals, such as a comfortable retirement.

Of course, this doesn't mean you should never own conservative investments, including CDs and some types of bonds. When you're saving for a short-term goal, such as a down payment on a house, a wedding or a long vacation, you want the money to be there when you need it, so an investment that offers protection of principal may be appropriate, even if it doesn't provide much in the way of growth.

For those long-term goals, though, you may need to

build an investment portfolio that contains growth potential and that reflects your personal risk tolerance and time horizon. Over time, your risk tolerance may change.

As you get closer to retirement, you may want to take a somewhat more conservative approach — but you'll always need some elements of growth.

When you invest, risk can't be eliminated, but it can be managed. Keeping this in mind, consider a long-term investment strategy that allows for risk but also offers the possibility of reward.

Edward Jones, Member SIPC

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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

The power of preparation

In honor of National Preparedness Month in September, Cotton Electric wants to remind members of our community about the power of preparation.

Even at a modest level, preparation can help reduce stress, anxiety and lessen the impact of an emergency event. We recommend starting with the basics.

Here are general guidelines recommended by the Federal Emergency Management Agency:

- Assemble a grab-and-go disaster kit. Include items like nonperishable food, water, diapers, batteries, flashlights, prescription medications, first-aid kit, battery-powered radio and phone chargers.
- Develop a plan for communicating with family and friends (i.e., via text, social media, third party, etc.).
- Have some extra cash available; during a power outage, electronic card readers and cash machines may not work.
- Store important documents (birth certificates, property deed, etc.) in safe place away from home (for example, a bank safe deposit box).
- Keep neighbors and coworkers apprised of your emergency plans.
- Fill your car with gas.
- Organize your supplies so they are together in an easily accessible location that family members know about.

Caring for vulnerable family members

If you have older family members or those with special needs, make sure they have enough medication and supplies for a few days. If they don't live with you, arrange for a neighbor to check in on them. If a severe weather event is expected, consider having your relative stay with you if feasible, otherwise call them daily. If you have an infant or young children, make certain that you have ample formula, diapers, medication and other supplies on hand to weather an outage lasting several days or more.

Keeping four-legged family members safe

For families with pets, having a plan in place in the event of a prolonged outage or an emergency will help reduce worry and stress especially if you need to make a decision during an emergency.

- Bring pets indoors at the first sign of a storm or other emergency. Pets can become disoriented and frightened during severe weather and may wander off.
- Microchip your pet and ensure the contact information is up to date.
- Store pet medical records on a USB drive or in an easy-to-remember location.
- Create an emergency kit for pets (include shelf-safe food, bottled water, medications and other supplies).

Your co-op cares about your safety. Planning for an emergency situation today can help give you more confidence to deal with severe weather in the future.

MORE THAN A FEW CANS OF SOUP...

Which Foods Are In Your Emergency Kit?



THE FOOD IN YOUR EMERGENCY KIT SHOULD:

- Have a long storage life.
- Require little or no cooking, water or refrigeration.
- Include nourishment for infants and toddlers if applicable.
- Meet special dietary needs.
- Include the needs of pets if you have them.

WATER AND PREP ITEMS

Include in your supplies:

- One gallon of water per person per day to last at least three days.
- A manual can opener and cooking supplies.
- Indoor warming methods, such as chafing dishes and fondue pots.

EMERGENCY STASH

Plan for several days' worth of food for each person in your household. Edible items could include:

- Canned meats, fruits and vegetables.
- Grains, such as crackers and multigrain cereals.
- Protein or fruit bars.
- Dried fruit.
- Peanut butter.
- Canned soups, meats and beans.
- Powdered milk.
- Dried meat/jerky.
- Oatmeal or breakfast bars.

BE PREPARED TO KEEP THOSE YOU LOVE SAFE, NOURISHED AND HYDRATED DURING AN EMERGENCY.

Safe Electricity.org

Sources: FEMA and CDC



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PUBLIC AUCTION

Saturday, September 14, 2024
10:00 A.M.

614 West Rose Road
Marlow, Oklahoma

Living Estate of Mr. and Mrs. Gilbreth (Paul and Patti)

Gary Criswell Auction Service & Real Estate, Inc. has been commissioned by Mr. and Mrs. Gilbreth to offer at Public Auction their Personal Property situated at 614 West Rose Road, Marlow, Oklahoma. **Note:** The Auction includes 13 Shotguns, 6 Rifles, 4 Swords, 1 Bayonet and a Variety of Ammunition.

Rifles: (1) Marlin Rifle-Model-336-30, SN -7082451, 100 Year Commemorative, (2) World War II-1942 Rifle, 82 Years Old, SN-H15730, British 303-In Field #4, (3) Remington-Model 700 25-06, SN-56261036, BDL with Sling and a Leupold-Vari-X III Scope, (4) Thompson Center 50 Caliber (Never Fired) SN-207271 Muzzle Holder, (5) Wards-Western-Field 22 Long Rifle SN-04M489B, Missing Cock and Brass-Receiver, As-Is, (6) RUGER-MINI-14-223 Caliber, SN-18318914 with Sling.

Shotguns: (7) Browning - Sweet Sixteen - 16 Gauge, Semi-Automatic, SN-X44203, (8) Browning - Sweet Sixteen-16 Gauge, SN-22567, Belgium, (9) Remington - Model 11-48, 12 Gauge - Semi Automatic SN -5049652, (Good Shape), (10) Remington-Wingmaster, Model-870, 16 Gauge Pump Shotgun, SN-152312W, (11) Winchester, Model 12, 20 Gauge Pump, SN-1495107, (12) Winchester Model 12, 20 Gauge-Pump, SN-851832, (13) LC Smith-Double Barrel 12 Gauge-Field Grade, SN-11807, (14) Baker Gun Company - Double Barrel, Model-1897, SN-35743, (15) Remington Arms - 12 Gauge Double Barrel, SN-239533, (16) LC Smith- Double Barrel- 20 Gauge-Field Grade, SN-190321, (nice), (17) LC Smith - Double Barrel, 12 Gauge - Field Grade, SN-15144, (nice), (18) Browning 16-Gauge Barrel, SN-None. (19) Browning-16 Gauge Barrel - Belgium, Vent Rib, SN-03598.

Swords-Bayonet: (20) CS Sword -33" Metal Sheath, Calvary Sword, Confederate State of America, (21) Sword-30" Metal Sheath, SN-113591, (22) Bayonet 20.5" French Writing 1879, SN-R65979, (23) Sword-9919-No Sheath, (24) Sword USA - Union US-JH1859, Ames MFG Co., Chicopee, Mass. April 9, 1965.

Ammo-Variety: Remington 20 Gauge -10 Boxes, Federal 20 Gauge, Winchester 16 Gauge, Federal 16 Gauge, 22 Magnum, 303 British, 25-06 Remington, 223 Remington, 357 Magnum and Gun Cleaning Kit (like new).

Please go to www.auctionzip.com, Enter Auctioneer ID #35817 to View Pictures of Firearms, Ammunition and Swords

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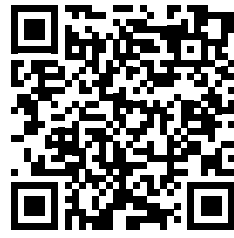


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Estate AUCTION

SAT. SEPT. 14TH 2024 9:02 AM
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 - Javorsky 30' Field Cultivator
 - Krause 12' offset Disc (Good Disc)
 - 12 Shank Krause Plow
 - 30 Fold Up JD Chisel Plow
 - 7 Shank 3 Pt. Big Ox
 - Grain Bed and Auger
 - 24' Sunflower Fold Up Disc
 - 32 Shank Sunflower Chisel Spring Loader

- Hay Equipment:**
- 2015 - 569 Mega Wide Plus J.D. Baler, Not sure on number of Bales but in super good condition.
 - 8 Wheel H&S Hay Rake
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 - 6 Bale Hay Trailer (Shop Made)
 - Bale Spike Attachment for Frontend Loader
- Miscellaneous:**
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 - 10 Joints Sucker Rod & 2" Pipe
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Community Spotlight

If you would like your community event listed in the October issue, please submit information by calling 580-875-3351 or send an email to TheCurrent@CottonElectric.com by Sept. 27. Only events occurring after Oct. 11 will be published in the next issue.

Editor's Note: We recommend checking for cancellations with local sources before attending any event.

United Way Annual Barbecue Showdown

Enjoy barbecue for a good cause as the United Way 6th Annual Barbecue Showdown comes to Duncan's Fuqua Park from noon to 2 p.m. Sept. 14. Judging will begin at 10 a.m., and awards will be announced at noon. This event supports United Way of Stephens County's partnering agencies. Admission price is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 10 and under. For more information, call 580-255-3648 or visit www.unitedwayofsc.org.

2024 International Festival

Lawton's annual International Festival is a free event to promote greater awareness and appreciation of Lawton's diverse heritage. This family-oriented event is full of fun, food, games, artists, retailers, concerts and multicultural experiences that make the Lawton Fort Sill Community so unique. This event is from Sept. 25 to 27 at Elmer Thomas Park, Third and NW Ferris Avenue, Lawton. For more information, call 580-581-3470.

SORTPO public hearing

The Southwest Oklahoma Regional Transportation Planning Organization (SORTPO) will hold a public hearing at 10 a.m. on Sept. 26, to consider approving a resolution adopting amendment #3 to the Public Participation Process document. The document is available to review at <https://sortpo.org>, SWODA Office, 420 Sooner Drive, Burns Flat, OK and ASCOG Office 802 W. Main St. Duncan, OK.

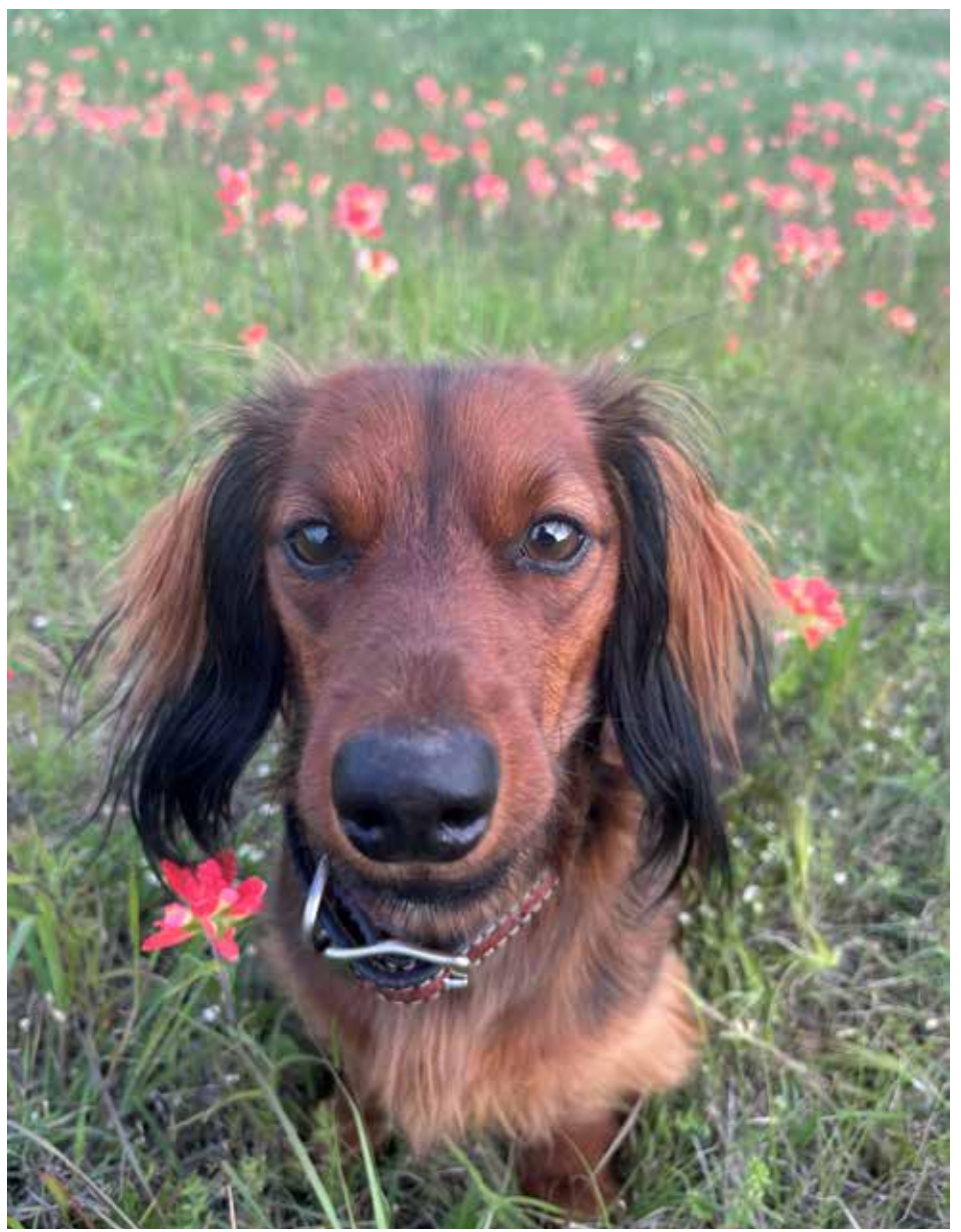
Food pantry open once monthly

Walters Community Food Pantry is open from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month. The pantry is at 131 1/2 W. California St. Pantry organizers try to provide a two-week supply of basic staples to anyone with identification and proof of Cotton County residency. Monetary donations may be sent to Food Pantry, c/o Paul Metcalfe, 211 E. Colorado St., Walters, OK 73572. For information, call Roger Noland at 580-591-6826.

Blessings Boutique open monthly

Marlow First United Methodist Church opens its Blessings Boutique from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. every first and third Tuesday of the month. Clothing donation drop-off days are Tuesdays, or donors can call 580-658-2765 to make other arrangements.

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Kinley Keyser showcased her two-year-old pet dog, Moe, for the September photo contest.

Enter your "best shot" in our Photo of the Month contest. The theme for October is My Co-op! 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.



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The confusion between sugar, carbohydrates and healthy eating



Kim Bandelier, MPH, RD, LD

Food For THOUGHT

The definition of sugar according to the Oxford dictionary is “a sweet crystalline substance obtained from various plants, especially sugar cane and sugar beet, consisting essentially of sucrose, and used as a sweetener in food and drink.”

A carbohydrate is a molecule of carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen found in many food sources (plants, seeds, nuts, dairy, and, in very small amounts, meat). Carbohydrates are broken down into sugar components before being absorbed into the bloodstream.

It is sugar, specifically “added sugar,” that is a source of extra calories and should be limited in your diet. Carbohydrates are sources of calories, vitamins, minerals, and other nutrients, like fiber, beneficial to the body.

The Nutrition Facts Label has a dedicated row for “added sugars” in the “Total Carbohydrate” section. Added sugars include white sugar, brown sugar, cane sugar, honey, syrup, etc. They do not include naturally occurring sugars such as lactose, which is found in animal milk. Added sugars are purely a source of extra calories and do not significantly contribute any other beneficial nutrient to the diet. Added sug-

ars like brown sugar and honey are not healthier than white sugar. All should be limited in your diet.

When reading a Nutrition Facts Label and deciding if the food will help you reduce added sugar intake, look at the “Added Sugars” row first. Then look at fiber, which is counted as a carbohydrate on the food label but is very beneficial and not metabolized into sugar. Then look at total carbohydrates. If added sugars are zero or minimal and the food contains fiber, it could be considered a decent addition to the diet as long as the other nutrients are in sync with your dietary needs (for example, protein, calories, fat, sodium).

As the public is bombarded with nutrition misinformation, it is important to use correct terms. We are to limit added sugars. We are to watch our total carbohydrate intake to avoid eating too many calories. If and when

you have questions about healthy eating, reach out to a registered dietitian or registered dietitian nutritionist at <https://www.eatright.org/find-a-nutrition-expert>.



When trying to limit extra calories in your diet, be sure to look at the Added Sugars row on nutrition labels. Photo courtesy of Metro Creative.



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Members to vote on proposed bylaw amendments

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the bylaws, last updated Aug. 23, 2003, and is recommending a number of amendments to the cooperative's bylaws with your approval.

The entire set of cooperative bylaws is presented in this special section of *The Current* with strikethroughs representing language that will be removed and underlined sections representing language that will be added to the bylaws.

The reasons for requesting these bylaw changes are to modernize language and update processes. These changes can generally be grouped into four categories.

The first category of changes is bylaw amendments, which can best be categorized as cleanup amendments. For example, changing the generic reference of "him" to "the member" or "him/her."

The second category of changes involves amendments that would expand the definition of "Joint Membership." Currently, only spouses can hold a joint membership. The proposed revisions would allow a "Joint Membership" to be held by two qualifying adults. For example, a parent may add an adult child as a joint member or two unrelated individuals may hold a joint membership.

The third category of changes involves amendments that would allow more flexibility in the order of business at the Annual Meeting. We are currently limited to the "Order of Business" as outlined in the bylaws. This amendment would allow for more flexibility to the agenda to be set by the Board of Trustees, which would still be reported to the membership in the Annual Meeting notices.

The fourth category of changes involves amendments to the Voting District requirements, Trustee election process, and qualification and tenure. Currently, the bylaws state that the territory served by the cooperative shall be divided into nine districts, which shall contain approximately the same number of members. However, a number of factors should be considered when evaluating Board districts, including meter count and geographical representation. This amendment removes the requirement that the districts contain approximately the same number of members and keeps the current voting districts as they are currently. The amendments also add language from the cooperative's current policy governing Trustee Elections to the bylaws and adds requirements to the Qualification and Tenure section, which applies to the eligibility to become and remain a cooperative Trustee.

The proposed Bylaw Amendments will be voted on at the drive-thru Annual Meeting to be held Sept. 26 at the Great Plains Coliseum and the Stephens County Fairgrounds. Once members have registered, they will be issued a ballot that will be deposited into ballot boxes as they exit the venues.

We appreciate your consideration and hope to see you exercise the Cooperative Principle of Democratic Member Control at the Annual Meeting. If you have any questions regarding the Bylaw Amendments, please call 580-875-3351.

ARTICLE I Membership

Section 1 - REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP

Any person, firm, association, corporation, ~~cooperative, company, partnership, trust~~ or body politic or subdivision thereof may become a member in Cotton Electric Cooperative (hereinafter called the "Cooperative") by:

- Filing a written application for membership therein;
- Agreeing to purchase from the Cooperative electric energy as hereinafter specified;
- Agreeing to comply with and be bound by the Articles of Incorporation and bylaws of the Cooperative and any rules and regulations adopted by the Board of Trustees, and
- Paying a nonrefundable membership fee as set by the Board of Trustees.

Section 2 - JOINT MEMBERSHIP

~~A husband and wife may apply for joint membership and, subject to their compliance with the requirements set forth in Section 1 of this Article, may be accepted for such membership.~~ The term "member" as used in these bylaws shall be deemed to ~~include a husband and wife be a jointly held membership if the membership application is signed by both persons. When such membership is held in the name of two persons, holding a joint membership, and~~ any provisions relating to the rights and liabilities of ~~any member or~~ memberships shall apply equally with respect to ~~each the~~ holders of a joint membership. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the effect of the hereinafter specified actions by or in respect to the holders of a joint membership shall be as follows:

- The presence at a meeting of either or both shall be regarded as the presence of one member and shall constitute a joint waiver of notice of the meeting;
- The vote of either separately or both jointly shall constitute one vote;
- A waiver of notice signed by either or both shall constitute a joint waiver;
- Notice to either shall constitute notice to both;
- Expulsion of either shall terminate the joint membership;
- Withdrawal of either shall terminate the joint membership;
- Either but not both may be elected or appointed as an officer; or trustee, provided that both meet the qualifications for such office.

Section 3 - CONVERSION OF MEMBERSHIP

(a) A membership may be converted to a joint membership upon the written request of the holder thereof and the agreement by ~~such holder and his or her spouse the person who wishes to become a member~~ to comply with the Articles of Incorporation, bylaws and rules and regulations adopted by the Board of Trustees.

(b) Upon the death of ~~either spouse any person~~ who is a party to the joint membership, ~~all rights and benefits, including any capital credits, of~~ such membership shall be held solely by the survivor, who shall be responsible for all debts due the Cooperative. The estate of the deceased shall not be released from any debts due the Cooperative.

(c) Upon the death of any individual member, the estate of the deceased shall not be released from any debts due the Cooperative.

Section 4 - PURCHASE OF ELECTRIC ENERGY

Each member, for so long as such are directly occupied or used by ~~the member him,~~ shall purchase from the Cooperative electric power and energy used on all premises described in ~~the member's his~~ application for membership, or to which electric service has been furnished by the Cooperative through such membership, and shall pay therefore, monthly at rates which shall from time to time, be fixed by the Board of Trustees. Each member shall pay to the Cooperative such minimum amount per month as shall be fixed by the Board of Trustees from time to time, regardless of the amount of energy consumed. Each member shall also pay all amounts owed to the Cooperative as and when the same shall become due and payable.

Section 5 - TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Any member may withdraw from membership upon compliance with such uniform terms and conditions as the Board of Trustees may prescribe. The Board of Trustees of the Cooperative may, by the affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds of all the trustees, expel any member who shall have refused or failed to comply with any of the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation, bylaws or rules or regulations adopted by the Board of Trustees, but only if such member shall have been given written notice by the Secretary of the Cooperative that such refusal or failure makes him liable to expulsion and such refusal or failure shall have continued for at least ten days after such notice was given. Any expelled member may be reinstated by vote of the Board of Trustees or by vote of the members at any annual or special meeting.

Upon the withdrawal, death, cessation of existence or expulsion of a member, the membership of such member shall thereupon terminate. Termination of membership in any manner shall not release a member from any debts due

the Cooperative.

The membership of a member who has ceased to purchase energy from the Cooperative shall be cancelled effective on the date the electric service is disconnected.

Section 6 - EASEMENTS

Each member shall execute and deliver to the Cooperative grants of easements or right-of-ways on or over such lands owned by the member, and in accordance with such reasonable terms and conditions, as the Cooperative may require for the furnishing of electric service to ~~the member his~~ or other members, for the construction operation, ~~and~~ maintenance, or ~~the~~ relocation, of the Cooperative's electric facilities.

ARTICLE II

Rights And Liabilities Of Members

Section 1 - PROPERTY INTERESTS OF MEMBERS

Except as modified by Article VIII of these bylaws, members shall have no individual or separate interests in the property or assets of the Cooperative; however, in case of dissolution of the property belonging to the Cooperative, any assets of the Cooperative remaining after all debts and liabilities of the Cooperative are paid, and remaining after all capital credits furnished through patronage shall have been paid without priority on a pro rata basis as provided for in Article VIII of these bylaws, shall be distributed among the members and former members, to the extent practicable, in proportion which the aggregate patronage of each bears to the total patronage of all current and former members. Provided further that the actual and necessary cost incurred by the Cooperative in complying with the provisions of said Article VIII of these bylaws, may be treated as debts and liabilities of the Cooperative, and shall be subtracted before any distribution is made.

Section 2 - NON-LIABILITY FOR DEBTS OF THE COOPERATIVE

The private property of the members shall be exempt from execution or other liability for the debts of the Cooperative and no member shall be individually liable or responsible for any debts or liabilities of the Cooperative.

Section 3 - TRANSFERABILITY

No membership shall be transferable.

Section 4 - OWNERSHIP

No member may hold more than one (1) membership in the Cooperative.

ARTICLE III

Meetings of Members

Section 1 - ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the members of the Cooperative shall be held each year on a date to be fixed by resolution of the Board of Trustees of the Cooperative, at such place within the area served by the Cooperative as shall be fixed by the Board of Trustees of the Cooperative, and such time and place of the holding of such annual meeting shall be designated in the notice of the meeting.

Such annual meeting of the members of the Cooperative shall be held for the purpose of passing upon reports for the previous fiscal year and for transacting such other business as may come before the meeting. Failure to hold the annual meeting at the designated time and place shall not work a forfeiture or dissolution of the Cooperative.

Section 2 - SPECIAL MEETINGS

Special meetings of the members may be called by resolution of the Board of Trustees, or upon written request signed by any three trustees, by the President, or by five percent or more of all the members, and it shall thereupon be the duty of the Secretary to cause notice of such meeting to be given as hereinafter provided. Special meetings of the members shall be held in the service area of the Cooperative as specified by the Board of Trustees.

Section 3 - NOTICE OF MEMBERS' MEETINGS

Written or printed notice stating the place, day and hour of the meeting and, ~~in case of a special meeting, or an annual meeting at which business other than that listed in Section 6 of this Article, is to be transacted,~~ the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is called, shall be delivered not less than ten days, nor more than twenty-five days before the date of the meeting, either personally or by mail, by or at the direction of the Secretary, or upon a default in duty by the Secretary, by the persons calling the meeting, to each member. If mailed, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when deposited in the United States mail, addressed to the member at his/~~her~~ address as it appears on the record of the Cooperative, with postage thereupon prepaid. In case of a joint membership, notice given to either ~~husband or wife member~~ shall be deemed notice to both.

Section 4 - QUORUM

Five percent (5%) of the members shall constitute a Quorum. If less than a Quorum is present at any meeting, a majority of those present in person may adjourn the meeting from time to time without further notice; provided, that

Article I

Section 1 Cleanup amendment

Section 2, 3 This amendment expands the definition of Joint Membership to allow more flexibility for Members. Currently, only spouses can hold a joint membership. The proposed revisions would allow a Joint Membership to be held by two qualifying adults. For example, a parent may add an adult child as a joint member or two unrelated individuals may hold a joint membership.

Article III

Section 3, 6 These amendments allow for more flexibility in setting the agenda for the business meetings of the membership. Additional cleanup amendments.

the Secretary shall notify any absent members of the time and place of such adjourned meeting.

Section 5 -VOTING

Each member shall be entitled to only one (1) vote upon each matter submitted to a vote at a meeting of the members. All questions shall be decided by a vote of a majority of the members voting thereon in person except as otherwise provided by law, the Articles of Incorporation or these bylaws. Voting by proxy or mail shall not be permitted.

Section 6 - ORDER OF BUSINESS

The order of business at the annual meeting of the members and so far as possible, at all other meetings of the members, shall be set by the Board of Trustees and sent to the members with the Annual Meeting notices, essentially as follows:

1. Report as to which members are present in person in order to determine the existence of a quorum;
2. Reading of the notice of the meeting and proof of the due publication or mailing thereof, or the waiver or waivers of notice of the meeting, as the case may be;
3. Reading of unapproved minutes of previous meetings of the members and the taking of necessary action thereon;
4. Presentation and consideration of reports of officers, trustees and committees;
5. Unfinished business;
6. New business;
7. Adjournment;

ARTICLE IV

Trustees

Section 1 - GENERAL POWERS

The business and affairs of the Cooperative shall be managed by a board of nine trustees which shall exercise all the powers of the Cooperative except such as are by law, the Articles of Incorporation or these bylaws, conferred upon or reserved to the members.

Section 2 - VOTING DISTRICTS

The territory served or to be served by the Cooperative shall be divided into nine districts, each of which shall contain approximately the same number of members. Each district shall be represented by one trustee. The nine districts shall be as follows:

DISTRICT 1: Beginning at a point being the southwest corner of Section 31, Township 2 South, Range 6 West; thence north to a point being the northwest corner of Section 6, Township 1 North, Range 6 West; thence east to a point being the northeast corner of Section 1, Township 1 North, Range 4 West; thence south to a point being the northeast corner of Section 1, Township 1 South, Range 4 West; thence east to a point being the northeast corner of Section 6, Township 1 South, Range 3 West; thence south to a point being the southeast corner of Section 31, Township 2 South, Range 3 West; thence west to the point of beginning.

DISTRICT 2: Beginning at a point being the southwest corner of Section 34, Township 1 North, Range 9 West; thence north to a point being the northwest corner of Section 10, Township 2 North, Range 9 West; thence east to a point being the northwest corner of Section 7, Township 2 north, Range 6 West; thence North to a point being the northwest corner of section 31, Township 3 North, Range 6 West; thence east to a point being the northeast corner of Section 35, Township 3 North, Range 6 West; thence south to a point being the southeast corner of Section 35, Township 2 North, Range 6 West; thence west to a point being the southeast corner of Section 36, Township 2 North, Range 8 West; thence south to a point being the southeast corner of Section 36, Township 1 North, Range 8 West; thence west to the point of beginning.

DISTRICT 3. Beginning at a point being the southwest corner of Section 34, Township 1 North, Range 11 West; thence north to a point being the northwest corner of Section 22, Township 2 North, Range 11 West; thence east to a point being the northwest corner of Section 19, Township 2 North, Range 10 West; thence north to a point being the northwest corner of Section 6, Township 4 North, Range 10 West; thence east to a point being the northeast corner of Section 1, Township 4 North, Range 7 West; thence south to a point being the Southeast corner of Section 1, Township 2 North, Range 7 West; thence west to a point being the southeast corner of Section 4, Township 2 North, Range 9 West; thence south to a point being the southeast corner of Section 33, Township 1 North, Range 9 West; thence west to the point of beginning.

DISTRICT 4: Beginning at a point being the southwest corner of Section 7, Township 1 North, Range 13 West; thence north to a point being the northwest corner of Section 31, Township 5 North, Range 13 West; thence east to a point being the northeast corner of Section 36, Township 5 North, Range 11 West; thence south to a point being the southeast corner of Section 13, Township 2 North, Range 11 West; thence west to a point being the southeast corner of Section 16, Township 2 North, Range 11 West; thence south to a point being the southeast corner of Section 4, Township 1 North, Range 11 West; thence west to a point of being the southeast corner of Section 6, Township 1 North, Range 11 West; thence south to a point being the southeast corner of Section 7, Township 1 North, Range 11 West, thence west to the point of beginning.

DISTRICT 5: All territory in Ranges 14 West, 15 West and 16 West in Cotton County, Comanche County and Tillman County.

DISTRICT 6: All territory in Township 1 North, Range 7 West; and Township 1 South, Range 7 West, in Stephens County.

DISTRICT 7: Beginning at a point on the Oklahoma state line being approximately at the southwest corner of Section 31, Township 4 South, Range 13 West; thence north to a point being the northwest corner of Section 18, Township 1 North, Range 13 West; thence east to a point being the northwest corner of Section 17, Township 1 North, Range 11 West; thence north to a point being the northwest corner of Section 8, Township 1 North, Range 11 West; thence east to a point being the northeast corner of Section 9, Township 1 North, Range 11 West; thence south to a point being the southeast corner of Section 33, Township 1 North, Range 11 West; thence west to a point being the northeast corner of Section 5, Township 1 South, Range 11 West; thence south along the section lines to a point on the Oklahoma state line in the

vicinity of the Red River, being at a point approximately at the southeast corner of Section 5, Township 5 South, Range 11 West; thence along the Oklahoma state line in a westerly direction to the point of beginning.

DISTRICT 8: Beginning at a point on the Oklahoma state line being approximately at the southwest corner of Section 4, Township 5 South, Range 11 West; thence north to a point being the northwest corner of Section 4, Township 1 South, Range 11 West; thence east to a point being the northeast corner of Section 1, Township 1 South, Range 8 West; thence south to a point being the southeast corner of Section 12, Township 2 South, Range 8 West; thence west to a point being the southwest corner of Section 8, Township 2 South, Range 9 West, thence south along the section lines to a point on the Oklahoma state line in the vicinity of the Red River being at a point approximately at the southeast corner of Section 17, Township 5 South, Range 9 West; thence along the Oklahoma State line in a westerly direction to the point of beginning.

DISTRICT 9: Beginning at a point on the Oklahoma State line being approximately at the southwest corner of Section 16, Township 5 South, Range 9 West; thence north to a point being the northwest corner of Section 16, Township 2 South, Range 9 West; thence east to a point being the northwest corner of Section 18, Township 2 South, Range 7 West; thence north to a point being the northwest corner of Section 6, Township 2 South, Range 7 West; thence east to a point being the northeast corner of Section 1, Township 2 South, Range 7 West; thence south to a point being the northeast corner of Section 1, Township 3 South, Range 7 West; thence east to a point being the northeast corner of Section 6, Township 3 South, Range 3 West; thence south to a point being the southeast corner of Section 31, Township 3 South, Range 3 West; thence west to a point being the southeast corner of Section 35, Township 3 South, Range 6 West; thence south along the section lines to a point on the Oklahoma state line in the vicinity of the Red River, being at a point approximately at the southeast corner of Section 2, Township 8 South, Range 6 West; thence along the Oklahoma state line in a westerly direction to the point of beginning.

The exact boundaries of the districts are shown on an official service area map located in the offices of Cotton Electric Cooperative, Walters, Oklahoma and incorporated herein by reference.

SECTION 3 - ELECTION OF TRUSTEES BY DISTRICTS FOR STAGGERED TERMS

The Board of Trustees shall each year, by a resolution adopted not later than sixty days preceding each annual meeting of the members fix a date for the holding of district meetings of members residing therein in such districts as are scheduled to meet during the year as set forth herein. The date of any such meeting shall not be less than fourteen nor more than thirty days preceding the annual meeting of the members; provided, however, that all district meetings held each year need not necessarily be held on the same date.

The purpose of such district meeting shall be for electing, by ballot, by and for the members of each such district, a trustee to serve as trustee of the Cooperative, for such term as herein-after set forth.

For the purpose of establishing three-year staggered terms for trustees, district meetings for the purpose of electing trustees shall be held as follows: In the year 1959, Districts 1, 3 and 5 shall meet and each shall elect or hold over a trustee to serve for a term of two years or until his successor shall be elected and qualified, and District 4 and 9 shall meet and each shall elect to hold over a trustee to serve for a term of three years or until his successor shall be elected and qualified.

In the year 1960, Districts 2, 6 and 8 shall meet and each shall elect to hold over a trustee to serve for a term of three years or until his successor shall be elected and qualified, and District 7 shall meet and elect or hold over a trustee for a term of two years or until his successor shall be elected and qualified.

Thereafter, each year district meeting shall be held only in those districts the proper term of whose trustee will expire during such year, and at such meeting each such district shall elect or hold over a trustee to serve for a term of three years or until his successor shall be elected and qualified.

The Board of Trustees shall fix the time and place for each district meeting of the members and cause notice of each such meeting to be mailed by the Secretary to each member not less than five days before the meeting, which notice shall indicate the district to which each member belongs.

Any member desiring to be a candidate for election as Trustee from the district of his/her residence, shall provide written notice of his/her candidacy and intention to stand for election to the office of Trustee from his/her district. Such notice shall be given on a form provided by the Cooperative ("Notice of Candidacy"). The Notice of Candidacy shall be filed inside the Headquarters Office of the Cooperative, with the Chief Executive Officer or his/her designee, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. during the official filing period. The official filing period shall be established by the Board of Trustees and provided to the members with the notice of district meeting. Only persons filing such written Notice of Candidacy shall be eligible for election as Trustee at said district meeting. If no member files such Notice of Candidacy within the time prescribed above, then the office shall be declared vacant by the Board of Trustees at their next regular meeting and said office shall be filled in accordance with the provisions of Article IV, Section 7 of these Bylaws.

Each such meeting shall be called to order by the trustee representing such district, or such other person as may be designated by the Board of Trustees. The members shall then proceed to elect a Chairman, who shall be someone other than a trustee, and the chairman shall appoint a secretary, each to act for the duration of the meeting.

The presence of at least five percent (5%) of the members of the Cooperative registered in such district at such duly called district meeting shall constitute a quorum; if less than a quorum is present at the meeting, a majority of those present in person may adjourn the meeting from time to time without further notice, provided that the Secretary shall notify absent members of the time and place of such adjourned meeting and any subsequent meeting called must be held prior to the annual meeting.

The member in each voting district receiving a majority number of votes cast at the election at such district meeting, shall be elected a trustee of the Cooperative to take office immediately following the ensuing annual meeting of members and serve his/her proper term and until his/her successor shall have been elected and qualified. In the event a quorum is not present at said meeting, the incumbent trustee shall holdover for the applicable proper term and

Article III

Section 3, 6 These amendments allow for more flexibility in setting the agenda for the business meetings of the membership. Additional cleanup amendments.

Article IV

Section 2 This amendment removes the requirement that the voting districts contain approximately the same number of members and keeps the voting districts as they are currently. A number of factors should be considered when evaluating Board Districts, including meter count and geographical representation.

Section 3, 4 These amendments add language from the Cooperative's current policy governing Trustee Elections to the Bylaws and adds requirements to the Qualification and Tenure guidelines, which apply to the eligibility to become and remain a Trustee. Additional cleanup amendments.

Section 6 Cleanup amendment

until his/her successor is elected and qualified.

The Chairman and Secretary of each district meeting of members shall certify the minutes of the meeting and shall immediately deposit the same with the Secretary of the Cooperative and said minutes shall show the name of the person elected as trustee by the district.

There shall be no electioneering within 100 feet of any voting place while a district meeting for the purpose of electing a trustee is in progress.

Section 4 - QUALIFICATION AND TENURE

No person shall be eligible to become or remain a trustee ~~or hold any position of trust in the Cooperative~~ who:

~~(a) Is not an active member of the Cooperative with at least one (1) year of continuous membership prior to the district meeting; or~~

~~(b) Who ceases to be a member of the Cooperative after election as Trustee; or~~

~~(c) Who has not received electric service from the Cooperative at their primary permanent residence in the~~ ~~Is not a bona fide resident of the~~ particular district ~~from~~ which the person is to represent ~~for one (1) continuous year prior to the district meeting; or~~

~~(d) Who ceases to receive electric service from the Cooperative at the Trustee's primary permanent residence in the particular district which the person represents after election as Trustee; or~~

~~(e) Is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or a business selling supplies and services to the Cooperative. These proscriptions shall not apply if and where the degree of the prohibited activity, as determined by the Board of Trustees, is so inconsiderable and incidental as to pose no reasonable prospect of conflict of interest; or~~

~~(f) Is the incumbent of or candidate for an elective public office in connection with which a salary or compensation in excess of one hundred dollars per month is paid; or~~

~~(g) Has been convicted, plead guilty or nolo contendere to a felony offense under the laws the of the State of Oklahoma or another jurisdiction; or~~ ~~is a convicted felon;~~

~~(h) Is, becomes, or was an employee of the Cooperative or a subsidiary of the Cooperative during the preceding five (5) years prior to the time of filing his/her Notice of Candidacy; or~~

~~(i)~~

A trustee shall inform the Board of Trustees of any act or fact that would disqualify him/her under this section.

Upon establishment of the fact that a trustee is holding office in violation of any of the foregoing provisions, it shall immediately become incumbent upon the Board of Trustees to remove such trustee from office.

Nothing contained in this section shall affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Section 5 - PROTESTING ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

Any member desiring to protest the election of any trustee at any district meeting held for the purpose of electing a trustee shall file a written protest with the Secretary of the Cooperative within five (5) days after the date of such election. The written protest shall set forth the facts and circumstances comprising the basis of the member's protest, and shall be considered by the Board of Trustees at a special meeting of the Board of Trustees called for the purpose of considering the aforesaid protest of said election. Said meeting shall be held at least one (1) day prior to the annual meeting of the members at which the trustee is to be installed and three (3) days notice of said meeting in writing shall be furnished to the members of the board, the person filing the protest, and the trustee-elect.

All parties concerned shall be entitled to be present at said meeting of the board, and to be heard in person or by counsel and to present evidence in support of, or in opposition to the written protest. After the evidence has been presented, the remaining trustees shall go into executive session and consider the question of the validity of the election which has been protested, and shall decide by a majority vote of the members of the trustees to the validity of the election, provided that the removal of said trustee by the members pursuant to Article IV, Section 6, or if a vacancy is created by virtue of a protest pursuant to Article IV, Section 5 of these bylaws, then the Board of Trustees, within 120 days from the date of the office becomes vacant, shall call an election pursuant to Article IV, Section 3 of these bylaws, and the member thus elected as trustee shall serve for the unexpired portion of the term of the trustee in respect of whom the vacancy has occurred.

In the event a quorum is not present at said special meeting, the vacancy shall be filled by a majority vote of the Board of Trustees at their next regular or special meeting, and said trustees so appointed shall serve for the unexpired portion of the term of the trustee in respect of whom the vacancy has occurred.

Section 6 - REMOVAL OF TRUSTEE BY MEMBERS

Any member may bring charges against a trustee for cause by filing such charges in writing with the Secretary, together with a petition signed by at least ten percent (10%) of the members and request the removal of such trustee by reason thereof.

The trustee against whom such charges had been brought shall be informed in writing of the charges at least five (5) days prior to the meeting at which the charges are to be considered and shall have an opportunity at the meeting to be heard in person or by counsel and to present evidence in respect of the charges; and the person or persons bringing the charges against him/her shall have the same opportunity.

The question of the removal of such trustee shall be voted upon at the next regular or special meeting of the members called for such purpose, and any vacancy created by such removal shall be filled in accordance with Article IV, Section 7 of these bylaws. Provided further that the new trustee must reside in the same district as the trustee in respect of whom the vacancy occurs.

Section 7 - VACANCIES

Vacancies occurring in the Board of Trustees of Cotton Electric Cooperative, Inc. shall be filled by a majority vote of the remaining trustees for the unexpired portion of the term of the trustee in respect of whom the vacancy occurs except that a vacancy occurring as a result of removal of said trustee by the members pursuant to Article IV, Section 6, or if a vacancy is created by virtue of a protest pursuant to Article IV, Section 5 of these bylaws, then the Board of Trustees, within 120 days from the date of the office becomes vacant, shall call an election pursuant to Article IV, Section 3 of these bylaws, and the member thus elected as trustee shall serve for the unexpired portion of the term of the trustee in respect of whom the vacancy has occurred.

In the event a quorum is not present at said special meeting, the vacancy shall be filled by a majority vote of the Board of Trustees at their next regular or special meeting, and said trustees so appointed shall serve for the unexpired

portion of the term of the trustee in respect of whom the vacancy has occurred.

Section 8 - COMPENSATION

Trustees shall not receive any salary, as such for their services, but may, by resolution of the Board of Trustees receive a fixed sum and expenses for attending each meeting of the Board of Trustees, or for attending any function or performing any act in behalf of the Cooperative. No trustee shall receive compensation for serving the Cooperative in any other capacity, provided however, that trustees shall be entitled to receive such benefits as may from time to time be offered trustees of all Rural Electric Cooperatives under programs sponsored by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

No close relative of any trustee shall receive compensation for serving the Cooperative, unless the payment of compensation shall be specifically authorized by a vote of the members or the service of such trustee or close relative shall have been certified by the Board of Trustees as an emergency measure.

ARTICLE V Meetings of Trustees

Section 1 - REGULAR MEETINGS

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees shall be held monthly at such time and place within one of the counties served by the Cooperative as designated by the board, such regular monthly meeting may be held without notice other than such resolution fixing the time and place thereof.

Section 2 - SPECIAL MEETING

Special meetings of the board may be called by the President or by any three board members, and it shall thereupon be the duty of the Secretary to cause notice of such meeting to be given as hereinafter provided. The President or board members calling the meeting shall fix the time and place for the holding of the meeting.

Section 3 - NOTICE OF TRUSTEES' MEETING

Written notice of the time, place and purpose of any special meeting of the Board of Trustees shall be delivered not less than five days previous thereto, either personally or by mail, by or at the direction of the Secretary, or upon a default in duty of the Secretary, by the President or the trustees calling the meeting, to each trustee. If mailed, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when deposited in the United States mail addressed to the trustee at his address as it appears on the records of the Cooperative, with postage thereon prepaid.

Section 4 - QUORUM

A majority of the Board of Trustees shall constitute a quorum, provided that if less than such majority of the trustees is present at said meeting a majority of the trustees present may adjourn the meeting from time to time; and provided further, that the Secretary shall notify any absent trustees of the time and place of such adjourned meeting. The act of the majority of the trustees present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE VI Officers

Section 1 - NUMBER

The officers of the Cooperative shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and such other officers as may be determined by the Board of Trustees from time to time. The office of Secretary and Treasurer may be held by the same person.

Section 2 - ELECTION AND TERM OF OFFICE

The officers shall be elected by ballot annually by and from the Board of Trustees at the first board meeting of the Board of Trustees held after the annual meeting of members. If the election of officers shall not be held at such meeting, such officers shall hold office until the first meeting of the Board of Trustees following the next succeeding annual meeting of the members or until successors shall have been elected and shall have been qualified. A vacancy in any office shall be filled by the Board of Trustees for the unexpired portion of the term.

Section 3 - REMOVAL

Any officer, agent or employee elected or appointed by the Board of Trustees may be removed by the Board whenever in its judgment the best interest of the Cooperative will thereby be served. However, such removal shall not be effectuated inconsistently with any written contract between the Cooperative and such officer, agent or employee unless that person so consents.

Section 4 - PRESIDENT

The President shall:

(a) Be the principal officer of the Board of Trustees and, unless otherwise determined by the members of the Board of Trustees, shall preside at all meetings of the members and the Board of Trustees;

(b) Sign any deeds, mortgages, deeds of trust, notes, bonds, contracts and other instruments, authorized by the Board of Trustees to be executed except in cases in which the signing and execution thereof shall be expressly delegated by the Board of Trustees or by these bylaws to some other officer or agent of the Cooperative, or shall be required by law to be otherwise signed or executed; and

(c) In general, perform all duties incident to the office of President and such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Trustees from time to time.

Section 5 - VICE PRESIDENT

In the absence of the President, or in the event of his inability or refusal to act, the Vice President shall perform the duties of the President, and when so acting, shall have all the powers and be subject to all the restrictions upon the President. The Vice President shall also perform such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to him/her by the Board of Trustees.

Section 6 - SECRETARY-TREASURER

The Secretary-Treasurer shall be responsible for:

(a) Keeping the minutes of the meetings of the members and of the Board of Trustees in one or more books provided for that purpose.

(b) Seeing that all notices are duly given in accordance with these bylaws or as required by law;

(c) The keeping of the corporate records and of the seal of the Cooperative and affix the seal to all documents the execution of which on behalf of the Cooperative under its seal is duly authorized in accordance with the provisions of these bylaws;

(d) Keeping a register of the names and post office addresses of all members;

(e) Having general charge of the books of the Cooperative in which a record of the members is kept;

(f) Keeping on file at all times a complete copy of the Articles of Incorporation and bylaws of the Cooperative containing all amendments thereto, which copy shall always be open to the inspection of any member, and when requested by a member so to do, shall forward, at the expense of the Cooperative, a

copy of the bylaws and of all amendments thereto to each member; and

(g) In general, perform all duties incident to the office of Secretary-Treasurer and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to him/her by the Board of Trustees.

Section 7 - CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The Board of Trustees may appoint a Chief Executive Officer who may be, but who shall not be required to be, a member of the Cooperative. The Chief Executive Officer shall perform such duties and shall exercise such authority as the Board of Trustees may from ~~time to time~~time-to-time vest in him/her.

Section 8 - BONDS OF OFFICERS

The Treasurer and any other officer or agent of the Cooperative charged with responsibility for the custody of any of its funds or property shall give bond in such sum and with such surety as the Board of Trustees shall determine. The Board of Trustees in its discretion may also require any other officer, agent or employee of the Cooperative to give bond in such amount and with such surety, as it shall determine.

Section 9 - COMPENSATION

The powers, duties and compensation of any officer, agents and employees shall be fixed by the Board of Trustees, subject to the provisions of these bylaws with respect to compensation for trustees and close relatives of trustees.

Section 10 - REPORTS

The officers of the Cooperative shall submit at each annual meeting of the members reports covering the business of the Cooperative for the previous fiscal year. Such reports shall set forth the condition of the Cooperative at the close of such fiscal year.

ARTICLE VII

Special District Meetings

Section 1 - SPECIAL DISTRICT MEETINGS

In addition to the district meetings called for the purpose of electing trustees, meetings of the members within a particular district may be called by resolution of the Board of Trustees, or upon a written request signed by the trustee residing in the particular district, or by ten percent or more of the members located within such district for the purpose of making recommendations to the Board of Trustees or the entire membership with respect to any matters pertaining to the business of the Cooperative, and it shall thereupon be the duty of the Secretary to cause notice of such meeting to be given as hereinafter provided.

Such meeting may be held at any place within the district as specified in the notice of the meeting. The presence of a least ten percent of the members of the Cooperative resident within the district at a duly called district meeting shall constitute a quorum. The members shall elect a chairman and a secretary to act for the duration of the meeting.

Section 2 - NOTICE OF SPECIAL DISTRICT MEETING

Written or printed notice stating the place, day and hour of the meeting and the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is called shall be delivered not less than five days before such meeting. Meetings shall be opened for discussion of any matters pertaining to the business of the Cooperative, regardless of whether or not such matters were listed in the notice of the meeting, except that as to a meeting at which a trustee is to be elected, the notice must specify that such action is to be taken at the meeting.

ARTICLE VIII

Non-Profit Operation

Section 1 - DEFINITIONS

In this article the term "Patron" shall mean (a) a member to whom the Cooperative furnishes electric energy on a cooperative basis in accordance with Article I of these bylaws and (b) a non-member to whom the Cooperative furnishes electric energy on a Cooperative basis by authorized contractual authority.

Section 2 - INTEREST OR DIVIDENDS ON CAPITAL PROHIBITED

The Cooperative shall at all times be operated on a cooperative non-profit basis for the mutual benefits of its patrons. No interest or dividends shall be paid or payable by the Cooperative on any capital furnished by its patrons.

Section 3 - PATRONAGE CAPITAL IN CONNECTION WITH FURNISHING ELECTRIC ENERGY

In the furnishing of electric energy the Cooperative's operations shall be so conducted that all patrons will through their patronage furnish capital for the Cooperative. In order to induce patronage and to assure the Cooperative will operate on a non-profit basis, the Cooperative is obligated to account on a patronage basis to all its patrons for all amounts received and receivable from and directly related to the furnishing of electric energy in excess of costs and expenses properly chargeable against the furnishing of electric energy, hereinafter referred to as "margins".

All such margins from and directly related to the furnishing of electric energy on a cooperative basis at the moment of receipt by the Cooperative are received with the understanding that they are furnished by the patrons as capital. The Cooperative is obligated to pay by credits to a capital account for each patron such margins from and directly related to the furnishing of electric energy on a cooperative basis.

The books and records of the Cooperative shall be set up and kept in such a manner that at the end of each fiscal year the amount of capital, if any, so furnished by each patron is clearly reflected and credited in an appropriate record to the capital account of each patron and the Cooperative shall, within a reasonable time after the close of the fiscal year, notify each patron of the amount of capital so credited to his/her account; provided, that individual notices of such amounts furnished by each patron shall not be required if the Cooperative notifies all patrons of the aggregate amount of such excess and provides a clear explanation of how each patron may compute and determine the specific amount of capital so credited to the patron's account.

All such amounts credited to the capital account of any patron shall have the same status as though they had been paid to the patron in cash in pursuance of a legal obligation to do so and the patron had then furnished the Cooperative corresponding amounts for capital.

Notwithstanding any provision in Article VIII, the margins from and directly related to the furnishing of electric energy, which are required to be allocated to the patrons on the basis of patronage, shall be the greater of regular federal taxable income or alternative minimum taxable income as determined before the exclusion for allocations of patronage capital under federal law. The Board of Trustees, however, does have the authority to adopt a reasonable

alternative in lieu of the greater of regular federal taxable income or alternative minimum taxable income.

If the cost and expenses exceed the amounts received and receivable from and directly related to the furnishing of electric energy, hereinafter referred to as "loss", then the Board of Trustees shall have the authority to prescribe a fair and equitable manner in which such loss shall be handled, including but not limited to, (1) the cancellation of prior year capital credits of the loss year patrons, (2) the carrying forward of the loss to offset future allocations of patronage capital to patrons from the margins resulting from and directly related to the furnishing of electric energy, and/or (3) the offsetting of the loss against unallocated non-operating reserves. The cancellation of prior year capital credits will be done in the order of priority against capital first received by the Cooperative from those patrons who were active patrons of the Cooperative in the year of the loss. Losses subject to this paragraph will be determined in the same manner and method that capital credits are calculated and allocated to members as provided above with respect to the preexisting obligation to allocate patronage capital.

In the event of dissolution or liquidation of the Cooperative, after all outstanding indebtedness of the Cooperative shall have been paid, outstanding capital credits shall be retired without priority on a pro rata basis before any payments are made on account of property rights of members. If, at any time prior to dissolution or liquidation, the Board of Trustees shall determine that the financial condition of the Cooperative will not be impaired thereby, the capital then credited to patrons' accounts may be retired in full or in part.

After August 19, 1976 and thereafter, the Board of Trustees shall determine the method, basis, priority and order of retirement, if any, for amounts furnished as capital. Provided further, however, that the Board of Trustees shall have the power to adopt rules providing for the separate retirement of that portion of capital credited to the accounts of patrons which corresponds to capital credited to the account of the Cooperative by an organization furnishing electric service to the Cooperative.

Such rules shall (a) establish a method for determining the power supply portion of capital credited to each patron for each applicable fiscal year, (b) provide for separate identification on the Cooperative's books of the power supply portion of capital credited to the Cooperative's patrons, (c) provide for appropriate notifications to patrons with respect to the power supply portion of capital credited to their accounts and (d) preclude a general retirement of the power supply portion of capital credited to patrons for any fiscal year prior to the general retirement of other capital credited to patrons for the same year or of any capital credited to patrons for any prior fiscal year.

In no event, however, may any such capital be retired if such retirement would reduce the capital of the Cooperative to such an extent as to violate the terms of any mortgage or financial covenant.

Capital credited to the account of each patron shall be assignable only on the books of the Cooperative pursuant to written instruction from the assignor and only to successors in interest or successors in occupancy in all or a part of such patron's premises served by the Cooperative unless the Board of Trustees, acting under policies of general application, shall determine otherwise.

Notwithstanding any other provision of these bylaws, the Board of Trustees, at its discretion, shall have the power at any time upon the death of any patron, who was a natural person, if the legal representatives of his/her estate shall request in writing that the capital credited to any such patron be retired prior to the time such capital would otherwise be retired under the provisions of these bylaws, to retire capital credited to any such patron immediately upon such terms and conditions as the Board of Trustees, acting under policies of general application, and the legal representatives of such patron's estate shall agree upon; provided, however that the financial condition of the Cooperative will not be impaired thereby provided further, however, that the aggregate amounts so retired in any one year shall not exceed five percent (5%) of the Cooperative's patronage capital to be retired and provided further, however, that, if acting under policies of general application the percentage mentioned above is not sufficient to retire the capital credited to any such patron or patrons, such patron or patrons shall have the capital credited to them retired in the next succeeding year before any other retirements are made in any succeeding year.

The Cooperative shall have the right to offset the retirement approved by the Board of Trustees for a patron against the debt owed to the Cooperative by such patron. The Cooperative, before retiring any capital credit of any patron's account, shall deduct from the retirement of capital credits any amount owing by such patron to the Cooperative. This provision shall apply to all retirements of capital credits.

The patrons of the Cooperative, by dealing with the Cooperative, acknowledge that the terms and provisions of the Articles of Incorporation and bylaws shall constitute and be a contract between the Cooperative and each patron, and both the Cooperative and the patrons are bound by such contract, as fully as though each patron had individually signed a separate instrument containing such terms and provisions. The provisions of this article of the bylaws shall be called to the attention of each patron of the Cooperative by posting in a conspicuous place in the Cooperative's office.

ARTICLE IX

Disposition Of Property

The Cooperative may not sell, mortgage, lease or otherwise dispose of or encumber all or any substantial portion of its property unless such sales, mortgage, lease or other disposition or encumbrance is authorized at a meeting of the members thereof by the affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds of all of the members of the Cooperative, and unless the notice of such proposed sale, mortgage, lease or other disposition or encumbrance shall have been contained, in the notice of the meeting, provided, however, that notwithstanding anything herein contained, the Board of Trustees of the Cooperative, without authorization by the members thereof, shall have full power and authority upon an affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds (2/3) of the Board of Trustees to authorize the execution and delivery of a lease-leaseback transaction only where the Board of Trustees determines that such transaction will not impair the ability of the Cooperative to use the assets as needed to serve the members; provided, however, that such transactions shall apply only to the physical assets of a Cooperative and shall not be used to effect a sale or other disposition of the Cooperative business entity itself; and further, shall have full power and authority to authorize the execution and delivery of a mortgage or mortgages or a deed or deeds of trust upon, or the pledging or encumbering of any or all of the property, assets, rights, privileges, licenses, franchises and permits of the Cooperative, whether acquired or to be acquired, and wherever

Article VI

Section 6, 7 Cleanup amendment
Section 9 Format change

Article VIII

Section 3 Cleanup amendments

situated, as well as the revenue and income therefrom, all upon such terms and conditions as the Board of Trustees shall determine, to secure any indebtedness of the Cooperative to the United States of America, any instrumentality or agency thereof, or to any corporation or financial institution authorized to assist in the credit and financial needs of Rural Electric Cooperatives.

**ARTICLE X
Seal**

The corporate seal of the Cooperative shall be in the form of a circle and shall have inscribed thereon the name of the Cooperative, the words, "Corporate Seal, Walters, Oklahoma."

**ARTICLE XI
Financial Transactions**

Section 1 - CONTRACTS

Except as otherwise provided in these bylaws, the Board of Trustees may authorize any officer or officers, agent or agents to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name and on behalf of the Cooperative, and such authority may be general or confined to specific instances.

Section 2 - CHECKS, DRAFTS, ETC.

Except as otherwise provided by law or in these bylaws, all checks, drafts, or other orders for the payment of money, and all notes, bonds or other evidence of indebtedness issued in the name of the Cooperative shall be signed by such officer, officers, agent or agents of the Cooperative, and in such manner as shall from time to time be determined by resolution of the Board of Trustees.

Section 3 - DEPOSITS: INVESTMENTS

All funds of the Cooperative shall be deposited or invested from time to time to the credit of the Cooperative in such bank or banks or in such financial securities or institutions as the Board of Trustees may select.

Section 4 - FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the Cooperative shall begin on the first day of January of each year and end on the thirty-first day of December of the same year.

**ARTICLE XII
Miscellaneous**

Section 1 - MEMBERSHIP IN OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

The Cooperative, by a majority vote of the Board of Trustees, may become a member of other organizations which are organized and operated to further the interest of rural electrification, and may also become a member of the various Chambers of Commerce organized in the area served by the Cotton Electric Cooperative.

Section 2 - WAIVER OF NOTICE

Any member or trustee may waive in writing, any notice of a meeting re-

quired to be given by these bylaws. The attendance of a member or trustee at any meeting shall constitute a waiver of notice of such meeting by such member or trustee, except in case a member or trustee shall attend a meeting for the express purpose of objecting to the transaction of any business because the meeting shall not have been lawfully called or convened.

Section 3 - RULES AND REGULATIONS

The Board of Trustees shall have power to make and adopt such rules and regulations, not inconsistent with law, the Articles of Incorporation or these bylaws, as it may deem advisable for the management, administration and regulation of the business and affairs of the Cooperative.

Section 4 - ACCOUNTING SYSTEM AND REPORTS

The Board of Trustees shall cause to be established and maintained a complete accounting system which shall conform to generally accepted accounting principles, and, so long as the Cooperative is indebted to the Government or any agency instrumentality thereof, to such accounting system as may from time to time be designated by the Administrator of the Rural Utilities Service of the United States of America.

All accounts of the Cooperative shall be examined by a committee of the trustees appointed by the Board of Trustees which shall render reports to the Board of Trustees at least four times a year at regular meetings of the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees shall also within sixty days after the close of each fiscal year, cause to be made a full and complete audit of the accounts, books and financial condition of the Cooperative as of the end of such fiscal year. Such audit report shall be submitted to the members at the annual meeting next following the close of such fiscal year.

Section 5 - RULES OF PROCEDURE

Parliamentary procedure at all meetings of the members, of the Board of Trustees, provided for in these bylaws and of any other meeting of the members, of the Board of Trustees, which may from time to time be duly established, shall be governed by the most recent edition of Roberts Rules of Order, except to the extent such procedures are otherwise determined by law or by the Cooperative's Certificate of Incorporation, or bylaws.

**ARTICLE XIII
Amendments**

These bylaws may be altered, amended or repealed by the affirmative votes of a majority of the votes cast by the members at any annual or special membership meeting, but only if the notice of such meeting shall have contained a copy of the proposed alteration, amendment or repeal, or an accurate summary explanation thereof.

Join us for Annual Meeting!

Members will receive a **\$20 energy voucher**, limited edition hat and be entered into our prize drawing!

SEPT COTTON 85 MEETING 2024

Join us for the 2024 ANNUAL MEETING AND MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY

Sept. 26, 2024

DRIVE-THRU LOCATIONS AT:
 STEPHENS COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS, DUNCAN & GREAT PLAINS COLISEUM, LAWTON

REGISTRATION FROM 2 P.M. TO 6 P.M. | BUSINESS MEETING WILL BE LIVESTREAMED BEGINNING AT 8 P.M.

We hope to see you there!



Photo courtesy of Unsplash

7 budget-friendly gardening hacks

(Family Features) Gardening can be a simple way to beautify your yard, relieve stress and save money on your grocery bill, but like any hobby, you can get carried away buying necessary equipment.

Fun, frugal and environmentally friendly, these tricks can help you create a cost-effective garden:

1. Use a yardstick and permanent marker to mark inches and feet on the handle of your rake, shovel or hoe. The next time you plant, simply lay the marked handle along the row to create perfectly spaced holes for seeds.

2. Line the bottom of a clay pot with a coffee filter to keep soil from leaking out the bottom.

3. Use empty plastic water bottles or clear milk jugs to fill the bottom of large pots. They reduce the weight of the pot and require less soil to fill.

4. To test your seeds to see if they're still viable for this planting season, place a wet paper towel inside a zip-top bag, drop in 3-4 seeds and wait a week to see if anything grows.

5. One way to help prevent weeds is lining your garden with a layer of newspaper. Just top two or three sheets of newsprint with a layer of pine needles, grass clippings or dried leaves for an eco-friendly and inexpensive weed barrier.

6. Keep gardening twine handy. Nail a funnel to your potting bench with the spout pointing downward, feed the twine through and your string will never go missing. For a more portable solution, place a ball of twine inside a canning jar, make a hole in the lid and feed the end of the twine through the hole. Now, you can take twine anywhere, tangle-free.

7. There is no need to buy expensive potting systems for starting seedlings. Place several cardboard toilet paper rolls inside a clean plastic clamshell, like those used for premade salads. Fill each cardboard tube with potting soil and plant. Once your seedlings grow too tall for the clamshell, simply tear off the top lid.

Find more ideas for creating a garden without spending a bundle at eLiving-today.com.

Solve your side dish search with an easy, cheesy spud

(Family Features) The main course at family dinners may be the main event, but that doesn't mean you should have to settle for bland, boring sides. Fret not – there is a better way to pair favorite proteins with tasty potatoes.

Try these Parmesan Potato Wedges that are boiled before they're baked for a moist middle and crispy exterior that's perfect alongside favorite meals. Discover more delicious side dishes at Culinary.net.

Parmesan Potato Wedges

Recipe courtesy of "Cookin' Savvy"

5 golden potatoes
2 cups grated Parmesan cheese
1 tablespoon garlic powder
1 tablespoon onion powder
salt, to taste
pepper, to taste
1 cup oil, for drizzling

Heat oven to 375 F.
In medium bowl, mix Parmesan cheese, garlic powder and onion powder. Add salt and pepper, to taste.

Dip wedges in Parmesan mixture, covering potatoes well. Place on cookie sheet drizzled in oil then drizzle oil on wedges. Bake 15 minutes then turn wedges over and bake another 15 minutes.

Boil whole potatoes for 20 minutes. Remove from water and slice into wedges.



Add a little sweetness to any occasion

(Culinary.net) It's almost impossible to beat the combination of sweet fruit and decadent desserts. This delicious recipe for Apple Cake highlights the crisp fruit but also the cinnamon sugar-flavored pastry. It's luscious but doesn't overdo it on the sweet meter with just the right mix of flavors.

The cake is baked with the apples inside as the middle layer, which creates a moist, finished product. The apples are gooey, baked in a cinnamon sugar coating, making them a sweet and light complement to the perfectly baked cake.

Start by mixing the apples with cinnamon and, of course, sugar. Set the mixture aside. Now it's time for cake. First, mix all the dry ingredients together then mix in the wet ingredients.

The secret to this cake is creating layers that will hold up. Pour half of the batter into a round springform pan first then add apple mixture and top it all with

the rest of the cake batter.

Finally, for a little extra sweetness, sprinkle 1 tablespoon of sugar over the top of the cake before baking.

Once baked, this cake can be drizzled with icing (if you'd like) to make it an even more delightful treat to satisfy any sweet tooth.

This cake is perfect for any get-together, families looking for an after-dinner indulgence or anyone who just loves fruity desserts. It's delectable enough for fancy occasions, but also simple enough to make at home for just a couple.

With fluffy cake layers and a soft apple center, this cake does it all. Not to mention the drip of icing at the end that all but guarantees everyone will be asking for seconds.

Find more recipes and sweet desserts at Culinary.net.

Apple cake

Servings: 8-16

Ingredients

3 cups Honeycrisp apples, peeled, cored and diced
3 teaspoons cinnamon
6 tablespoons, plus 2 cups, sugar, divided
3 cups flour
3 teaspoons baking powder
1 teaspoon salt
1 cup oil
4 eggs, beaten
1/4 cup orange juice
1 teaspoon vanilla
icing (optional)

Directions

Heat oven to 350 F.
In medium bowl, mix apples, cinnamon and 5 tablespoons sugar until combined. Set aside.
In large bowl, mix flour, 2 cups sugar, baking powder and salt until combined. Form well in middle of mixture. Add oil, eggs, orange juice and vanilla; mix until blended.
In springform pan, pour half of batter. Add apple mixture. Pour remaining batter over apple mixture. Sprinkle remaining sugar over batter.
Bake 40-50 minutes, or until top is golden brown and tester comes out clean and dry.
Drizzle with icing, if desired.



There's always room when it comes to pizza

When it comes to pizza, it is often difficult to stop after just one slice. Although pizza originated in Italy, people from all around the world have made pizza their own by experimenting with different flavor combinations and toppings.

Whether you're in the camp who thinks it isn't pizza if there's more than mozzarella cheese and red sauce on the crust or the one who feels the sky's the limit for pizza adventures, it's hard not to like "Buffalo Chicken Pizza." This recipe pairs the heat and tang of Buffalo wings with the familiarity of pizza's crunch. Try this medley of flavor, courtesy of "30-Minute Meal Prep: 100 Healthy and Delicious Recipes to Eat All Week" (Sourcebooks) by Robin Miller.

Buffalo Chicken Pizza

Serves 4

Ingredients

1 13.8-ounce container refrigerated pizza dough
1 cup ricotta cheese
3 tablespoons powdered ranch dip/dressing mix
2 cups shredded cooked chicken
1/4 cup hot sauce, such as Frank's, or hot sauce of choice
1 cup shredded mozzarella cheese
Chopped fresh chives for serving (optional)
Bottled ranch dressing for serving (optional)

Directions

Preheat the oven to 400 F. Line a large baking sheet with parchment paper or aluminum foil.

Unroll the pizza dough on the pre-

pared pan, and shape as desired. I chose a 10-by-12-inch rectangle. Bake for 6 minutes.

Meanwhile, in a small bowl, combine the ricotta and powdered ranch, and mix well.

In another bowl, combine the chicken and hot sauce, and mix to cover the chicken with the sauce.

Spread the ricotta mixture all over the pre-baked crust, to within half an inch of the edge.

Arrange the chicken over the ricotta, and top with the mozzarella.

Bake for 6 to 10 minutes, until the edges of the crust are golden brown and the cheese melts.

Top with fresh chives (if using), and serve with ranch dressing on the side (if using).



Fresh potato chips can't be beat

Everyone has his or her own idea of comfort food. For some, it is biting into a piping-hot slice of pepperoni pizza. Others can't get enough of a hearty bowl of beef stew.

Snack foods also can be categorized as comfort foods - and potato chips are no exception. Potato chips come in different flavors and cuts, including crinkle and kettle chips. While it's easy to pick up a bag at the store, why not whip up a fresh batch right at home? You will have complete control over the ingredients and enjoy the freshest chips around. Try this recipe for "Homemade Potato Chips" courtesy of home cook, and country living blogger Kathy from Beyond the Chicken Coop.

Homemade Potato Chips

Ingredients

6 medium russet potatoes
2 tablespoons white vinegar
Water
Oil for frying (vegetable, canola or peanut oil)
Salt

Directions

Peel potatoes and place potato in a bowl filled with water.

Slice potatoes to 1/16 inch thick. Use a mandoline to get an even, consistent size. Immediately place sliced potatoes in another bowl filled with cold water and 2 tablespoons of white vinegar. Allow potatoes to soak for at least 1 hour.

Drain potatoes and rinse with cold water. Leave potatoes in colander and allow all water to drain.

Place drained potatoes on a clean, dry kitchen towel. Pat lightly to remove any remaining water.

Fill pot with 2 inches of oil. Preheat oil to 380 F. Use a thermometer to test temperature of oil.

Test oil temperature. Ideal temperature will vary from 370 to 380 F. Fry one or two slices in the oil and cook until they are nicely browned. If the potatoes brown quicker than 3 minutes, lower the temperature by 5 degrees.

Place one handful of sliced potatoes in the oil. Stir gently to prevent potatoes from sticking to each other. Cook until golden; 3 minutes.

Scoop out and place on a baking sheet lined with a baking rack.

Sprinkle with salt immediately and repeat until all potatoes are cooked.

Tips: Soaking the potatoes helps remove excess starch and prevents the potatoes from sticking together. It also helps them fry up more crispy. Chips are best eaten the day they are made. Store in an airtight container for up to 2 days.

Put a twist on the traditional cupcake

Cupcakes are diminutive, hand-held treats that come in a variety of flavors and styles. Each December, the humble cupcake gets its own day of celebration (December 15), but people know well that cupcakes are enjoyed throughout the year, particularly during birthdays and other special occasions.

It may seem like there is no way to reinvent the cupcake, but "Sticky Cinnamon-Walnut Spirals" marry the best of cinnamon rolls with the convenience of a muffin/cupcake tin preparation to form a flavor-packed product that can either be breakfast, brunch or dessert. Try this recipe, courtesy of "Small Sweet Treats" (Gibbs Smith) by Marguerite Marceau Henderson, to elevate your cupcake game.

Sticky Cinnamon-Walnut Spirals

Serves 6

Ingredients

1/2 cup dried currants
1 cup hot water
1 sheet frozen puff pastry (from 17.3-ounce package), room temperature
1 tablespoon butter, melted
1 teaspoon finely grated orange zest
1/2 cup finely chopped walnuts
1/2 cup packed dark brown sugar
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1 tablespoon butter, melted
1 tablespoon sugar

Directions

Place currants in a bowl and pour hot water over top to cover. Steep for 15 minutes and then drain off excess water. Cool currants to room temperature.

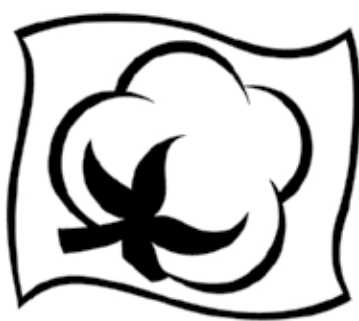
Roll out the pastry on a work sur-

face. Brush the pastry with the melted butter. Combine the orange zest, walnuts, brown sugar, cinnamon, and reserved currants in a bowl. Spread the mixture evenly over the pastry. Roll up jelly-roll style, loosely. Place seam side down and cut into six slices, each about 2-inches wide.

Brush the interior of the muffin tin with the remaining tablespoon of melted butter and sprinkle with sugar. Place the cut slices of pastry into each muffin cup. Bake on the middle rack of a preheated 400 F oven for 22 to 25 minutes until golden brown and puffed. Allow to cool for a minute or two before removing from muffin pan.

Note: This recipe easily can be doubled. Just use two sheets of pastry, double the filling, and use a 12-cup muffin tin.





COTTON

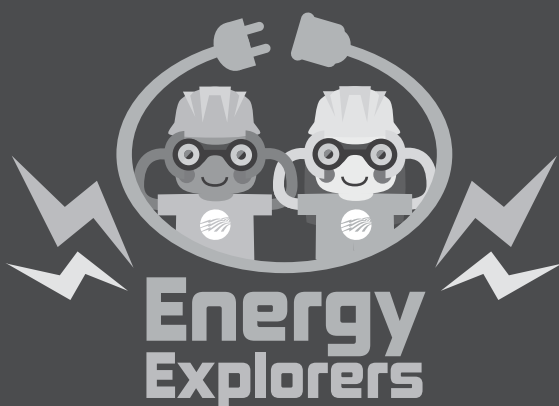
ELECTRIC CO-OP

PREPAREDNESS MONTH WORD SEARCH

Did you know September is National Preparedness Month? There are several ways you and your family can be prepared for an emergency.

Read the tips below, then find and circle the bolded words in the puzzle.

(Use the word bank as a guide.)



PREPAREDNESS TIPS:

Keep a list of emergency **phone numbers** in a location that's easy to find.

Learn about different types of **emergency alerts** and understand what they mean.

Make an emergency **kit** that includes items like flashlights, batteries, water, non-perishable food and a First Aid Kit.

Designate a **safe area** in your home in the event of a severe storm. This should be an area in the center of the home, away from windows.

Make sure **smoke alarms** are installed on every floor of your home and outside bedrooms. Test alarms every month to ensure they're working properly.

S	T	R	E	L	A	F	P	E	G	P	R	J	M	H
J	X	N	N	H	W	T	M	R	U	H	L	H	T	U
E	N	P	Z	H	X	E	M	S	C	O	P	D	K	E
V	T	Y	Q	U	R	D	V	R	A	N	R	P	T	R
T	O	W	J	G	A	E	M	U	E	W	J	N	X	
O	Z	X	E	L	M	E	P	T	X	N	K	D	U	F
U	Z	N	Q	F	O	R	Q	K	R	U	H	Y	W	K
T	C	R	Q	O	V	A	X	C	V	M	R	D	R	W
Y	O	M	O	B	Y	E	A	H	H	B	S	S	Y	P
E	K	J	W	T	F	F	D	N	U	E	T	S	J	S
E	U	B	J	B	H	A	N	C	E	R	A	I	D	G
A	Q	R	B	W	B	S	Q	N	S	S	J	K	L	
S	M	O	K	E	A	L	A	R	M	S	Z	P	W	P
E	C	U	T	G	Z	B	B	B	I	O	Y	J	M	N
A	Y	M	T	Z	I	G	K	Z	Q	N	B	Y	L	S

WORD BANK: phone numbers, emergency, alerts, kit, safe area, smoke alarms



PUBLIC AUCTION

Saturday, September 14, 2024
10:00 A.M.

614 West Rose Road
Marlow, Oklahoma

Gary Criswell Auction Service & Real Estate, Inc. has been commissioned by the Living Estate of Mr. and Mrs. Gilbreth (Paul and Patti) to offer at Public Auction Their Personal Property located at 614 West Rose Road, Marlow, Oklahoma. **Note:** Firearms and Ammunition will be offered at 11:00 A.M. and Trailers and Farm Implements will be offered at 12:00 Noon.

Rifles and Shotguns: Gun Cabinet, Remington 12 Gauge Slide Shotgun, LC Smith 12 Gauge Double Barrel Shotgun and 2 Tone Case, Browning Sweet 16 Shotgun and Lightbrown Case, Wards Western Field 22 Long Rifle, Browning Sweet 16 Shotgun, LC Smith 12 Gauge Double Barrel Shotgun, Remington 12 Gauge Shotgun, Remington Model 700 25-06 Silver Barrel with a Leopold Scope and Sling, LC Smith (Bellgrade) Double Barrel 12 Gauge Shotgun, Ruger Mini 14 CAL 223 with Shoulder Strap, Thompson Center Arms 50 Cal Blackpowder Rifle, Marlin 30-30 Rifle (New), Winchester 12 Gauge Pump Shotgun, Remington Model 870 Pump 16 Gauge Shotgun, Baker Double Barrel 10 Gauge Shotgun, Remington Double Barrel 12 Gauge and a Remington Model 514 22 Short Rifle.

Farm Implements: 3 Horse Feeders, Bowman Longhorn Chute, Rhino Batwing Brush Hog (15'), John Deere Tandem Disc (9'), 2 Seed Cleaners, Rhinopost Hole Digger, Diamond J (Rush Springs) 4 Round Bale Trailer, 3 Pt Rototiller, 3 Pt Seed/Fertilizer Spreader, Stock Panels, Heavy Duty Stock Panels, Lincoln-Ranger 8 Welding Machine, High Pressure Washer, Lick Tank, 5-Ton Bunk Feeder, 1-Ton Calf Creep Feeder and Cage, 2 Bunk Feeder and a 250 Gallon Water Trailer.

Bass Boat: 1985 CHARGER BASS BOAT 17' with a 140 Horsepower Johnson Motor with 2 Live Wells (Recently Serviced); Trolling Motor and Life Jackets.

Tractor: JOHN DEERE Tractor (50 HP) with a JOHN DEERE 520 Front End Loader. Trailers: Cherokee 20' Bumper Pull Aluminum Stock Trailer with Mats and 2 Compartments, a Sooner Trailer 24' Goose Neck Aluminum Stock Trailer with Tackroom, Red Flatbed Trailer (Single Axle), Cotton Trailer and a Trailer with Dual Axles (16').

Tools: Wire Cutters, Drill Press, Sander, Variety of Chainsaws, Craftsman Tablesaw (10 In.), Beltdriver (3HP), Acetylene Bottles-Tank Dolly and a Cement Mixer.

Saddles: Hereford Saddle, English Riding Saddle, Saddles-2 (Nice), Halters and Lead Ropes.

Household Furnishings: Stainless Steel Double Sink, Cast Iron Kitchen Sink, Old Maytag Ringer Washer, Washer Stand with 2 Tubs, Refrigerators (2), Wood Circulating Heaters (2), 10 inch Buffet China Cabinet and a Portable Dishwasher.

Miscellaneous: Hubcaps, Trophies, Large Shop Fans (2), White Camper Shell Long and Wide, White Camper Shell Short and Wide, Bumper Guard for Chevy Truck and a Large Office Cabinet.

Terms of Sale: Personal Property-Cash, Personal or Company Check and Credit Card accepted. Valid I.D. Required. All Buyers must provide Company a copy of Sales Tax Permit if Tax Exempt (**No Buyers Premium**).

Preview of Public Auction: Will be held Friday Afternoon, September 13, 2024 from 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Announcements made Day of Auction Supersede all other Advertisements. Please Attend this Auction.

Auctioneer's Note: This is a Nice Public Auction with a Cherokee 20' Bumper Pull Aluminum Stock Trailer, Sooner Trailer 24' Goose Neck Aluminum Stock Trailer, Diamond J (Rush Springs) 4 Round Bale Trailer and a JOHN DEERE Tractor (50 HP); A Variety of Household Furnishings, Saddles, Variety of Firearms and Ammunition. Please Plan to Attend this Public Auction. Please go to auctionzip.com. Enter Auctioneer ID #35817 to View Pictures.

Gary Criswell Auction Service & Real Estate, Inc.
580-255-8162 • 806 West Main • Duncan, OK • 580-467-2248
(Auctioneer/Broker/REALTOR) email: garymcriswell@gmail.com

ACROSS

- 1. Engine additive
- 4. A type of test
- 8. Curtail
- 10. Irish surname
- 11. The opposite of good
- 12. Got rid of
- 13. Central parts of a church building
- 15. Stylistically
- 16. Intestinal
- 17. Negative potential outcomes
- 18. Lived up to a standard
- 21. Snag
- 22. Time units (abbr.)
- 23. Ad __
- 24. "Partridge" actress Susan
- 25. For each
- 26. __ Paulo, city
- 27. League titles
- 34. More intensely

1	2	3							4	5	6	7
8			9						10			
11									12			
13				14				15				
16								17				
18						19	20					
						21						
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						27				28		
						29	30	31	32	33		
						34				35		
36										37		
38										39		
40										41		
42												43

DOWN

- 1. Idyllic
- 2. South Pacific island nations
- 3. Shrub of the olive family
- 4. Boundaries
- 5. Encircle
- 6. Weights
- 7. Samberg is one
- 9. Sheep sound
- 10. European country
- 12. Respected group of people
- 14. Trigraph
- 15. Prosecutors
- 17. Assign a nickname
- 19. Huge size
- 20. Partner to cheese
- 23. Fastballs
- 24. Principle underlying the universe
- 25. Distinct units of sound
- 26. Title of respect
- 27. Against
- 28. Foot (Latin)
- 29. One point east of due south
- 30. Concerning the blood
- 31. Type of pentamer
- 32. North American peoples
- 33. Layers of rock
- 34. Georges __, French philosopher
- 36. Lengthy tale



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Mowers, Forks, Etc.



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Thank you to Cotton Electric members in District 1 who joined us for our recent Coffee with Cotton event in Velma. Photo courtesy of Carli Eubank.

ESTATE AUCTION

Doris & the late Walter Byers Estate

Saturday, October 12, 2024 10:00 am

281500 E 1800 Rd (Oliver Road) Comanche, Oklahoma

Directions: 1st House on the East side of New Hwy 81 on Oliver Road

Auction Note: Join us for an extraordinary Estate Sale honoring the life of Walter Byers, who recently passed away. His beloved wife, Doris Byers, is relocating back to Indiana to be close to Family. This Sale features an impeccably organized collection of Tools, Tractors and Equipment that Walter was renowned for. Doris has sold her home, and now its time for the Tools, Tractors and other Treasures to find new owners.

You won't find a cleaner neater Estate Sale anywhere.

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October 26, 2024 @ 6:00 pm
Stephens County Fair Grounds

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Comanche Seed and Grain 3 Lakes Feed and Supply Two coin tosses 6 and under and ages 7-10

Free concert after!
Blake Hall & Dayne Ledford

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\$50 contractor
\$50 pot
\$5000 ADDED MONEY



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