

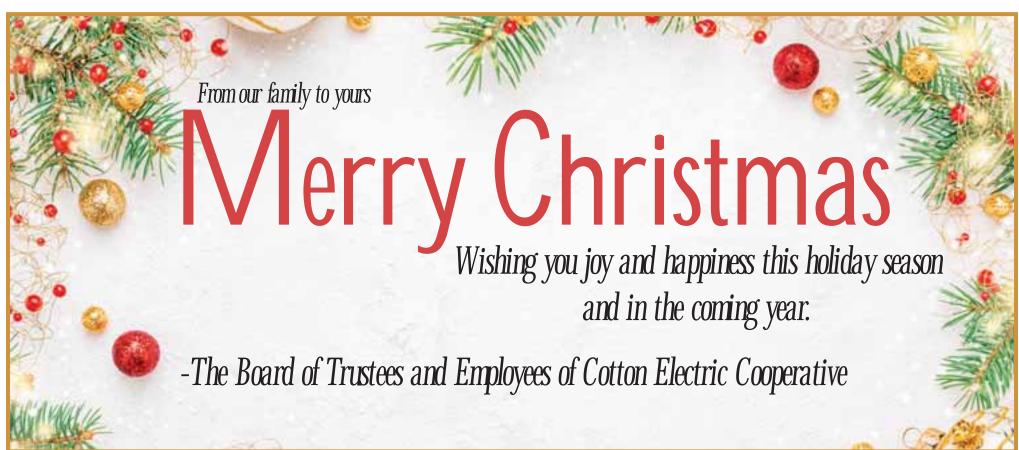
A Publication of Cotton Electric Cooperative Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



## "The Current - Informing Our Members Since 1957"

December 16, 2019 VOLUME 63 NUMBER 4



## Cooperative partners with Generac, members benefit

By Danielle Quickle

Cotton Electric prides itself on having an average of 99.96 percent system resiliency for its members. However, despite best efforts, outages are inevitable.

In 2018, 55 percent of the co-op's outages were caused by either animal- or weather-related incidents.

"At the end of the day, we can't always control outages," said Heath Morgan, Cotton Electric's energy efficiency coordinator. "Most of the time it is out of our

It is part of the co-op's mission to provide the most reliable and innovative electric system to members. In an effort to achieve this mission, Cotton Electric is excited to announce its partnership with Generac.

Generac is a manufacturer of whole-home backup generators and has partnered with a number of cooperatives across the county to offer special pricing to co-

Cotton Electric has worked with Generac-certified contractors to develop a base package designed to meet the needs of the majority of the co-op's membership.

cludes a 22kW Generac generator, an automatic transfer switch, battery, concrete pad and up to 50 feet of combined gas and electrical line. All equipment, installation and an extended 7-year warranty will be available to members for a special price of \$7,900.

"In most cases, this program will save members over a thousand dollars and will extend their warranty by two years," Morgan said.

To participate, members can call Cotton Electric at 580-875-3351 and ask to speak with Heath Morgan.

"When a member calls in, we will begin the process of scheduling an initial appointment," Morgan said. "The homeowner, Generac's certified contractor and myself will work to pin down a date to meet at the member's

This initial appointment allows Generac's certified contractor to look over the installation to make sure the base package will meet the needs of the member. If not, the contractor will then offer suggestions for the member and provide a quote.

"The base package is meant to meet the needs of most of our members," Morgan said. "However, some logistics will come into play, such as if they don't want the generator too close to their home and we exceed that 50-foot combined line there will be some additional cost."

This appointment also gives members an opportunity Available now to members, the base package in- to ask any questions they may have about the product, installation, maintenance or financing. Generac will be offering financing to members with approved credit.

> After the initial meeting, equipment is ordered and is handed over to one of two Generac certified contractors in Cotton Electric's territory to make the installation. Time of installation may be estimated at the initial appointment, but is dependent upon arrival of equipment and the work load of the contractor.

> 'We see value in this program for our members," Morgan said. "It will provide resiliency to our system and give each member an opportunity to ensure, when there is an outage out of our control, they have backup power immediately ready."

> Beyond providing resiliency, the co-op's hope for this program is to provide safety to members and employ-

> "If a generator is not properly installed on our system it can cause damage to equipment and pose a threat to our linemen and members if the generator is back feeding onto power lines uncontrolled," Morgan said. "Ensuring the generators are installed properly will increase safety for our linemen as well as our members."

> To learn how to take advantage of this exclusive offer for Cotton Electric members, contact Heath Morgan by calling 580-875-3351.



## **INCLUDES:**

- \* 22kW Generac generator
- \* Automatic transfer switch, battery and concrete pad
- \* 50 feet of combined gas and electrical line
- \* Installation by a Generac certified contractor
- \* 7-year warranty

FOR ONLY \$7,900



#### Power Cost Adjustment Calculated

The power cost adjustment now being applied to bills mailed after Dec. 1, 2019, is (\$0.006) per kWh.

On a member's average bill of 1250 kilowatt hours (kWh), this will amount to a credit of \$7.50 on the December bill.

#### November 2019 Temperature Extremes High Low Avg. Day High Low Avg. 24 27 65 45 16 66 62 47 67 32 17 33 50 72 30 18 74 32 53 51 72 78 57 36 19 36 54 69 45 57 20 74 58 66 63 55 55 44 36 50 22 45 37 41 52 35 23 60 33 47 73 49 30 52 24 69 28 38 58 25 67 28 48 56 26 39 27 30 43 54 23 39 28 39 41 24 58 41 29 53 42 48 31 25 53 15

Average Daily High: 63 Average Daily Low: 34

#### Did You Know?

Cotton Electric offices will be closed Dec. 24 and for The Current or do you Dec. 25 for the Christmas need to place an ad? If so, holiday. Emergency calls let us know. will be answered at 580-875-3351 or 800-522-3520.

The next issue of The Current should arrive in line at Cotton Electric 2020

#### Contact Us

Do you have a story idea (

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

You can also drop us a Jan. 21, Current, 226 N. Broadway, Walters, OK 73572.

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More news at cottonelectric.com

### From the CEO

## Members encourage, inspire cooperative

The holiday season is upon us. I love decorating for Christmas and recently converted our outdoor decorations to LED lights. The primary benefit is more energy-efficient lighting plus I could connect 22



Jennifer Meason, CEO

strands of LED lights instead of being limited to only five or six with our incandescent lights. I may have channeled my inner "Clark Griswold" this year. Our friends and family definitely won't miss the turn this year as they come to visit.

Now that the decorations are done and most of the shopping is complete, I've taken some time to reflect on the past year and the many things for which I am grateful including my faith and family. I'm thankful for the employees and Trustees that I have the privilege of working with daily who are dedicated to making sure that Cotton Electric continues to

improve the quality of life for our members.

I'm also grateful for you, the members of Cotton Electric. My list of reasons could go on like a child's Christmas wish list but I'd like to share a few with you.

Your support of Cotton Electric and the employees encourages us daily. You're the reason we are here and we value your input. Many of you call, email, or reach out via social media throughout the year and we appreciate the time you take to contact us. As a memberowned co-op, we're here to work for you and we will continue to be available whether you want to visit us in person or call us on the phone.

Your generosity is an inspiration. Through your contributions to Operation Round Up, we've made a significant impact in our communities. Because of your generosity, the Cotton Electric Charitable Foundation has awarded grants totaling over \$1.2 million since we began in 2004. You've helped our local schools, senior centers and volunteer fire



departments to name just a few. Many thanks for your continued participation.

Thank you again for all you do for your coop and your communities. Southwest Oklahoma is my home by birth and continues to be my home of choice because of people like you.

From my family to yours, I wish you a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!

## **CECF** fourth-quarter grants

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

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

The funds are pooled and administered by the Cotton Electric Charitable Foundation, a board of directors that meets quarterly to consider grant applications. The board consists of Jennifer Meason, the co-op's CEO; Ken Layn, president of the co-op's board of trustees; and three representatives from the Cotton Elec- CECF grant will help purchase STEM tric service area: Danny Marlett, Carter lab pods. Waid and Cindy Zelbst.

several grant applications. Grants total- new freezer for the facility. ing \$17,149.46 will be distributed to 6 of the applicants. Fourth-quarter grants \$1,654.46 CECF grant will provide

- Big Pasture Education Foundation: ple public schools. A \$2,000 CECF grant will purchase two AEDs for the school's campus.
- Center for Creative Living: A \$2,500 CECF grant will purchase a new stove hood vent.
- \$3,000 CECF grant will help purchase a tric.com.



Download CECF grant applications at CottonElectric.com. Deadline for first-quarter 2020 grant applications is Feb. 11.

new train for Kiddie Land.

- Empire Public School: A \$5,000
- Grandfield Senior Citizens Center: The board met in November to review A \$2,995 CECF grant will purchase a
  - Oklahoma Family Network: A training for teachers at Walters and Tem-

CECF has awarded or pledged grants totaling \$1,218,058.81 since the foundation was established in 2004.

Applications for 2020 first-quarter grants are due Feb. 11. Downloadable Chisholm Trail Kiwanis Club: A applications are available at CottonElec-

# The Current

## 2020 Publication Schedule

The Current will complete its 63rd year of publication in 2020. We look serve display advertising space, deadline stories, photos and the ever-popular clas- should expect your copy of The Current sified ads.

Dates listed below are deadlines to reforward to serving the membership with to submit a classified ad and the day you to arrive in your mailbox.

#### January Ad Sales Jan. 3 Classified Jan. 8 Publish Date Jan. 21

Februa	ary
Ad Sales	Jan. 31
Classified	Feb. 5
Publish Date	Feb. 18

	17141	
	Ad Sales	Feb. 28
	Classified	Mar. 4
	Publish Date	Mar. 16
•		

March

# **April**

Ad Sales	Mar. 27
Classified	Apr. 1
Publish Date	Apr. 13

iviay		
Ad Sales	Apr.	24
Classified	Apr.	29
Publish Date	May	11

	June	e
	Ad Sales	May 29
	Classified	June 3
	Publish Date	June 15

## July

Ad Sales	June	26
Classified	July	1
Publish Date	July	13

Augu	st
Ad Sales	July 24
Classified	July 29
Publish Date	Aug. 10

Septem	ber
Ad Sales	Aug. 21
Classified	Aug. 26
Dublish Date	Sept 8

## October

Ad Sales	Sept.	18
Classified	Sept.	23
Publish Date	Oct.	5

## November

Ad Sales	Oct. 23
Classified	Oct. 28
Publish Date	Nov. 9

Decem	ber
Ad Sales	Nov. 25
Classified	Dec. 2
Publish Date	Dec. 14



## **Energy Efficiency** Tip of the Month

**Laundry Tip:** Dry towels and heavier cottons separately from lighter clothing. You'll spend less time drying the lighter-weight items.

Source: energy.gov

## **ELECTRIC CO-OP** Mission Statement

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

## October 2019 Operating Stats

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
Total Amount Billed/Accrued	\$4,888,439	\$4,928,245
Cost of Purchased Power	3,332,069	3,107,347
Taxes	93,039	98,632
Total Operating Expense Per Mile	946	895
Average Farm and Residential Bill	125	124
Average Farm and Residential kWh	1,088	964
Total Meters Billed (farm, residential)	18,478	18,407
Miles Energized	5,201	5,165
Density Per Mile	3.55	3.56
New Service Connects YTD	277	248
Services Retired	107	99

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> Postmaster Send #3579 To The Cotton Current 226 North Broadway Walters, OK 73572

This institution is an equal opportunity provider & employer.

## Cotton Electric seeks addresses for returned capital credit checks

Burks, TJ

Burton, Denny B

Burton, Francis E

Buxton, Brayden

Bybee, Marion P

Calhoun, Charlotte A

Calhoun, Gwenda

Callaway, Heather

Campbell, Grace G

Cantrell, Kathy A

Cappellano, Jim

Capshaw, L E

Cardey, Karen

Carlson, Lynn I

Carroll, Frances

Carter, Ronald

Carter, Athalie

Cartwright, Lana

Casteel, Teedy D

Cervantes, Kevin A

Chambers, James

Chandler, James

Chandler, Walter

Charton, Charles E

Cheek, Norman E

Childers, Thelbert

Clark, Kenneth

Clayburn, Bill D

Cleveland, Clint

Clouse, Steve

Cluck, Neil T

Cochran, Kay

Cocke, JR

Cochran, Ginny M

Coffman, Michael A

Coleman, Alan

Coleman, Dale B

Coleman, Lillian

Coleman, Dale B

Compton, Danny

Conner, Cecil C

Connolly, Kevin

Cook Lee O

Coon, Lloyd A

Cooper, C

Conway, Jennifer

Cook, Gregory S

Cooper, Sandy D

Courtright, Tricia

Cox, Rachel J

Cox, William A

Coxsey, Patricia

Crane, Michael S

Cramton, Clayton M

Cox, Tammy

Courtney, Kimberly L

Clay, Delbert

Cline, A

Chambers, Ronald M

Carson, Jonathan P

Careathers, Rose M

Calhoun, Reta

Byrd, Alvin L

Cadell, Phil

C

amounting to \$1,150,148.64 were issued remembers listed here were returned to the cocently to people and businesses listed here.

A retirement of capital credits demonstrates addresses. how a not-for-profit electric cooperative works. Annually, money over and above the finding the people listed here. If you see a cost of operations and other necessary expens- name on the list that you recognize and if you es and reserves is declared margins. When the have information about a current address, board of trustees determines that a portion of please call 580-875-3351 or email info@cotthose margins can be refunded, members who tonelectric.com. contributed to those margins receive a share.

check was mailed to the latest known valid MEMBER'S IDENTITY.

Beed, Phillip R

Belew, Charlene

Bench, Laura N

Berglund, Melanie

Bernard, Jessie M

Betcher, Evanna

Biegler, Robert F

Birkenfeld, Leslie

Bitanga, Ricardo R

Blomberg, Christine

Blomberg, Christine

Bohannan, Judy M

Boice, Rebecca A

Bonderson, Rusty

Booth, John W

Bordeaux, Carl

Boseman, Kelli

Bouthot, Claude

Bowen, Hershel

Bowles, John E

Bowers, Alberta M

Bowman, Bryan C

Bowman, Fannie

Bowyer, Duffer H

Bozone, Peter A

Bradley, Kimberly

Bradley, Leesa J

Branch, Evelyn

Brantley, W

Bridges, Sally

Brimer, Carol

Briscoe, Valerie J

Brooks, Kevin L

Brooks, Carl W

Brooks, Kenneth

Brown, Claude E

Brown, Kenneth G

Brown, Ronald D

Brown, Patricia M

Brown, Helen M

Brown, Paul V

Bruce, Weldon

Bruns, Pauline

Bryant, Dean A

Burch, Terry

Bucceri, Christopher

Buchanan, Rebecca L

Bruce, Ilene

Bromlow, Delbert R

Bradford, Ramona R

Bradshaw, Michae IJ

Borders, R

Bingham, Rodger D

Bewley, Verlin

Bigio, Julio

Bisbee, M

Bisbee, Arlo L

Blair, Lynn D

Bleisner, Donna

Boers, Wayne

Boggs, Bayle

Bevington, Mona R

Bennett, Paul

Berry, Chris

Berry, S

Befort, Sean

Abbott, Jacqueline M

Abney, Doyle L

Acevedo, Andrew

Adair, Tammy G

Adams, Davie G

Adams, Megan

Adams, Sondra L

Adamson, John R

Agee, Lester A

Alexander, Don

Alexander, Shirley

Alexander, Ruby

Alexander, Eric

Allen, Morris

Allen, Richard J

Alsup, Wanda F

Alsobrook, Marisue

Anderson, Dustin W

Anderson, Chase

Anderson, Joe C

Antunez, Eva M

Arnold, Thomas

Arnold, Karoline

Artre, James D

Ash, Makinzie R

Baggett, Eva

Bailey, Robert

Baker, Jeremy

Baker, Bryant

Baker, Jessica

Balcom, Diane

Bandy, John G

Barakat, Jeff S

Barfield, Lupe

Barger, Ronnie

Barker, Lauren

Barnes, Loyd R

Barnett, Jeannie C

Barnhisel, Lee H

Barraza, Lucas F

Barrios, Abby J

Barron, James T

Bass, James P

Battle, Morris

Baugus, Tom

Bayman, Kevin

Beasler, Michael

Beck, Robert M

Beckham, Michelle L

Bates, Brittany S

Baumback, Lloyd E

Barrington, Donald R

Barmettler, James G

Balthrope, William

Barfield, Frederick

Atkins, Margaret L

Apple, Shane

Anderson, Rosetta

Alpers, Joe C

Ahdosy, Rose

Adams, Margaret K

G&T and CEC capital credit checks address for the member. Checks addressed to operative because of incorrect or insufficient

Cotton Electric Cooperative needs help

TO CLAIM A CAPITAL CREDIT A share of the capital credits was allocated **CHECK**, **WE REQUIRE A SOCIAL SE**among active and inactive members and a CURITY NUMBER TO VERIFY THE

> Cranfill, Brent Crims, Christina A Crow, Charles L

Crump, Jesse J Cuellar, Miquel A Cunningham, Mildred C Cunningham, Donald D Cunningham, Jr, John H

Curtsinger, Rollen D Dacus, Sandra N Dale, John W Dalrymple, Leland Dalton, William A Daney, Johnny W Darrow, Richard E Davidson, John L Davis, Carl L Davis, Deanna S Davis, Delbert Davis, Don K Davis, James D Davis, Russell L Davis, Steve

Davis, Kenneth Davis, Don K Davis, Steve Davis, Ricky A Davis, Teresa J Deabenderfer, Michael W Dearden, Amanda N Deasy, Marius B Deaton, Nicole E Deaver, Glenn Dees, Gary L

Denham, Lori J Dennis, Arthur B Dennis, John L Dentici, Keegan X Derrickson, Karen C Desonie, Eric Dewbre, Leroy Dews, Charles C Diaz, Luis

Dickins, Frederick H Dillard, Jody S Dinkins, Ruth Dixon, Richard E Doak, Jonothan Dodson, L Dorian, R Dorian, R Douglas, Jr., Clyde G Douthit, Patricia L Douthit, Gretchen

Downey, Kathy M Drewery, Carolyne D Drewery, Darlene C Dubois, Lance L Dugger, Leo H Dungan, Roy Dunn, Chaneeka Durant, William T Durham, Jeffrey Duvall, Melissa

Dyches, Heyward B Dye, Jim A Ε

Early, David E Eason, Diana Eberhart ,Brenda S Echols, Michael Edmond, Alexander M Edwards, Bonny Elledge, Debbie Ellett, Billy M Ellis, Steven Ellis, Joshua E Elmore, Sonny Elroy, Amanda D Embach, Charles Engelhardt, Jared Eoff, Douglas W Erwin, Mac Erwin, Amanda Eschlager, Debi Estrada, David Evans, Daniel M Evans, Steve E Evans, Billy L Evans, Richard Evans, Charles

Ezelle, Rodney J

Fancher, Karen Farias, Rodolfo M Farley, David C Farley, Gaylen L Farmer, Cindi J Farmer, Anthony D Farris, Peggy D Farris, Peggy D Faulkner, Inez Ferguson, Ronald G Fesl, Ronald Fica, Monty R Fierro, Mike Fisher, David Flanagan, LG Fletcher, J Ford, Ronald Ford, Irene Fore, Clark W Foster, Brian M Foster, Michael B Foster, Linda Fowler, Ila

Fulsom, Paul J Gagne, Amanda S Gallagher, James F

Fox, Arline

Fox, Linda

Fox, Rachel L

Franklin, Margie

Franks, Joshua D

Freeman, Angela D

Fuhlendorf, Michael

Fuller, John M

Gitsham, Tammey S Glass, Kenneth G Glazier, Arthur L Glenn, Allen Glenn, J Glenn, William B Glenn, Kenneth Glover, Boyd Glover, DA Glover, Jamie Godfrey, L Goggans, Christoph C Goltry, Dorothy S Gomez, Alcario Gorman, Charketta V Graham, Barbara E Graham, Tip Granger, Patricia A Graning, Jason S

Gallagher, Patrick

Garmen, William A

Garrison, Jr, James

Galway, Harry T

Garncarz, Brian

Garrett, Jerry R

Gattis, James H

Gauthun, Cathy L

Gazaway, Nicole

Gerald, Naomi C

Gibbs, Carl

Gillian, Roy

Giacomucci, Jason D

Gibson, Rebecca D

Gibson, Morgan

Gilmore, Teletha

Gilstrap, Lonnie

Gipson, Billie J

Gilmore, John

Garrett, Gala

Grasso, Faith Grecinger, David A Green, Tom Green, Vinnie J Green, Meghan Green, Justina H Grice, Marvin E Griffith, GA Griffith, Justin M Griffith, Seleana Griffith, Sherrie R Grissom, Herbert W Grubb, Ralph Guajardo, Annalisa Gunnarson, Gylfi Gunsolus, Tammie J Gunter, Shawnda K Gutierrez, Adam J н Haddad, Fred

Haines, Evelyn S Hallstrom, Michael Haney, NC Hankins, Herman Hannah, James H Hardage, Wayne C Harfield, Sue Harrelson, Clarence Harris, Daniel T Harris, Kevin L Hartman, Joseph D Hartzell, Randall W Hatley, Glen Hatley, Mark Haun, Coral Havard, Joseph M Haynes, Kenneth J Haywood, Michael Headley, Ronnie J Hefner, James Heilman, Gary J Hellbusch, A Heman, Hollis Heman, Hollis Henderson, Timothy E Hendricks, Monte Hepburn, Shannah R

Hequembourg, Nancy

Hernandez, Cynthia J

Hestland, Billy

Hicks, Danny

Hickam, Leland D

Hicks, Freddie Higdon, Johnny W Higgins, Thomas G Higgs, Charles Hilgert, John Hill, Cecil F Hinton, Jennifer L Hoard, Francies M Holcomb, Dorothy Holland, Chris Hood, Charles H Hoodenpyle, James L Horton, Billiy W Hovis, Joyce A Howard, E Howell, Fannie O Huerta, Anna Huey, Marvin E Huff, Scott Humphreys, III, LL Hundley, Amanda Hungerford, Dessie Hutchins, Benny F Hutsell, Heather

Isenberg, W

J Jackson, Stephanie James, Kevin A James, Tammy L Jansen, Andrew R Jasper, Darlene L Jenkins, Kevin D Jenkins, Martha Jennings, Kami J Jessen, Zachary Jindra, George Jobe, David Johnson, Jimmy D Johnson, Ray Johnson, Greg D Johnson, John D Johnson, Bettye L Johnston, Randy Jones, Deborah J Jones, Ed F Jones, Eula M Jones, Kerci Jones, Robert Jones, William A Jones, Henrietta L Jones, Kristen B Jones, Deann Jones, Shannon Jordan, Ira W Juarez, Theodore Jung, Anthony P

Justus, Brent D Kaywaykla, Bill Keeley, Paul C Keenan, Matthew Keener, Debra Keith, Jimmy D Kelsey, D Kendall, Nancy J Kennedy, Mitch Kennedy, Scott A Kesterson, John Ketchum, Walter J Ketner, Clifford W Key, Kenneth Kick, Fred Killsfirst, Kristopher B Kincade, Arthur King, Martha R Kirkpatrick, Benny Knouse, Kendra Kohler, Janet K Kolker, Eric A Kottke, Cheryl Kowena, Rhoda Kozak, Mary C

La Deaux, Ricky D Labar, Daniel Labe, Thomas Lambert, Carole L Lambeth, AL

Lawson, Carroll Lawson, ReneeM Leach, Steve W Leathers, Michael J Ledbetter, William B Ledford, Keegan V Lee, H Lee, Carrie Leggett, Jason Leggett, Coy Leonard, Doyle R Lessner, Elizabeth E Lewis, Mike Lewis, Belva J Lewis, Lacy Lewis, Jerry L Lewis, Janice M Liles, Vernon C Lipe, Chance Livingston, Russell Long, Anita M Looney, Pearleta S Looper, Brandye L Lorah, Cecil Lott, Shaun S Loughridge, Mattie Love, Janetta F Lovelady, E Lover, Michael R Lowe, Steven A Lowery, Martha Lowry, David W Luna, Sandra

Lytle, Danny

Mahan, Leo

Maddox, James D

Mahoney, Billy J

M

Laminack, Anthony L

Lanham, Jonathan T

Lanier, Miles E

Laubinger, E

Lapierre, Jason M

Laquey, Melissa G

Laughlin, Jacob L

Laughlin, Robert

Lawrence, Robert

Mahorney, Mary A Maldonado, Gabriel R Martin, Peggy R Martin, Shayla N Martin, Raymond M Martin, Burl Martinez, Kelli Martinez, Gilbert Mason, Evelyn Matarranz, Daniel Mathers, Rex A Mathis, Louis U Matlock, Jayme K Matthews, Terry Matthews, Craig A Mattingly, Jerome Maxey, Hovah Mayfield, John McAllister, Autumn McBride, Leon D McCartney, Anthony McCaskill, Chenelle McCaskill, Chenelle McClanahan, MI McClellan, Scott McCollum, Mike McConnell, Jerry D McCord, Shannon McCord, Shannon McCoy, Sharon McDaniel, Hazel McGinley, Brett A McGoohan, Irven L McGuire, Glenn McIntosh, Jeremy McKinney, Jessie McManus, Mark D

Names continued on Page 5

McMeans, Leslie C

McMillen, Charles E

McNally, Tommy L

McNeely, Tammy R

TO CLAIM A CAPITAL CREDIT CHECK, WE REQUIRE A SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER TO VERIFY THE MEMBER'S IDENTITY.

## Cyber criminals active during holiday shopping

The holiday season is nearing for many of us and soon millions of people will be looking to buy the perfect gifts. Many of us will shop online in search of great deals and to avoid noisy crowds. Unfortunately, cyber criminals will be active as well, creating fake shopping websites and using other tactics to scam people. In this article, we explain how you can shop online safely and avoid becoming a victim.

#### **Fake Online Stores**

Cyber criminals create fake online stores that mimic the look of real sites or that use the names of wellknown stores or brands. When you search for the best online deals, you may find yourself at one of these fake sits. By purchasing from such websites, you can end up with counterfeit or stolen items, and in some cases, your purchases might never be delivered. Take the following steps to protect yourself from fake online stores:

- When possible, purchase from the online stores you already know, trust and have done business with previously. Bookmark these online stores.
- Look out for prices that are significantly better than those you see at the established online stores. If the deal sounds too good to be true, it often is.
- Be suspicious if the website resembles the one you've you used in the past, but the website domain name or the name of the store is slightly different. For example, you may be used to shopping at Amazon, whose web- or who sell items at unusually low prices. Review the



site address is amazon.com, but end up shopping at a fake website that has a similar address, where the letter o is replaced with the number 0.

- Type the name of the online store or its web address into a search engine to see what others have said about it. Look for terms like "fraud," "scam," "never again" and
- Use a unique password for each of your online accounts. Can't remember all you passwords? Consider storing them all in a password manager.

#### Scammers on Legitimate Websites

Keep your guard up even when shopping at trusted websites. Large online stores often offer products sold by different individuals or companies that might have fraudulent intentions. Such online destinations are like real-world markets, where some sellers are more trustworthy than others.

Check each seller's reputation before placing the order. Be wary of sellers who are new to the online store

online store's policy on purchases from such third parties. When in doubt, purchase items sold directly by the online store, not by the third-party sellers that participate in its online marketplace.

#### Online Payment for Purchases

Regularly review your credit card statements to identify suspicious charges. If possible, enable the option to notify you by email, text or app every time a charge is made to your credit card. If you find any suspicious activity, call your credit card company right away and

Avoid using debit cards whenever possible. Debit cards take money directly from your bank account; if fraud has been committed, you will have a much harder time getting your money back. Another option is using well-known payment services such as PayPal for online purchases, which do not require you to disclose your credit card number to the vendor. Finally, consider using a gift card for online purchases.

Just because an online store has a well-designed, professional look does not mean it's legitimate. If the website makes you uncomfortable, don't use it. Instead, head to a well-known site you can trust or have safely used in the past. You may not find that incredible deal, but you are much more likely to end up with a legitimate product and avoid getting scammed.

Source: SANS Awareness

# Community Spotlig

listed in the January issue, please submit information by Jan. 8 by calling 580-875-3351 or send an email to TheCurrent@ CottonElectric.com.

#### Church presents Live Nativity

As part of Holiday in the Park, Central Baptist Church of Lawton presents the Live Nativity from 6 to 8 p.m. each night Dec. 21-23 at Elmer Thomas Park.

The Live Nativity is a presentation of down. the birth of Jesus Christ. Complete with authentic costumes, live animals and narration. This family-friendly event brings the Bible alive.

Nativity page on Facebook.

#### Christmas dinner begins at 11 a.m.

Designed to offer a traditional meal and fellowship for those who might be alone or unable to cook, the 31st annual Christmas dinner will be served to any and all from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Christmas Day at Stephens County fairgrounds.

Carryout meals will also be available. Volunteers will deliver some meals. Carry outs and deliveries should be arranged in advance by calling 580-255-3231.

#### CTAC present TAKE3 Jan. 17

The Chisholm Trail Arts Council presents TAKE3 on Jan. 17 beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the Simmons Center Theater in Duncan.

With a flair for the wild and unexpected, the genre-defying trio brings the refinement of a rigorous classical music background and infuses it with rock-star charisma. Known for their infectious and down to earth onstage personalities, this threesome leaves their indelible mark on captivated crowds around the country performing their arrangements favorites.

TAKE3 makes it their mission to imartistic ability as conduit for storytelling.

For information or tickets call 580-

#### CU screens 'Before Sunrise' Feb. 7

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

Sunrise," a 1995 romance film directed by Richard Linklater. On his way to Vienna, American Jesse meets Celine, a student returning to Paris. After long conversations forge a surprising connection between them, Jesse convinces Celine to get off the rain with him in Vienna. Since his flight to the U.S. departs the next morning and he has no money for lodging, they wander the city together, taking in the experiences of Vienna and each other. As the night progresses, their bond makes separating in the morning a difficult choice. With Ethan Wallace in 580-658-5773. the lead role, the cast includes Julie Delpy, Andrea Eckert and Erni Mangold.

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

#### DLT presents classic romance

Duncan Little Theatre presents "7 Brides for 7 Brothers" at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 28 and 29 and March 1, 6 and 7 at the 2929, Ext. 6. Simmons Center in Duncan.

Based off the 1954 film set in the 1850s, Milly, a pretty young cook, mar-

If you would like your community event ries Adam, a grizzled woodsman, after a brief courtship.

> When the two return to Adam's farm, Milly is shocked to meet his six ill-mannered brothers, all of whom live in his cabin. She promptly begins teaching the brothers proper behavior, and most importantly, how to court a woman.

> But after the brothers kidnap six local girls during a town barn-raising, a group of indignant villagers tries to track them

Tickets may be purchased at the door.

#### LCT kicks off 2020 season

Lawton Community Theatre pres-For more information, visit The Live ents "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time" Feb. 28 - Mar. 8, at John Denney Playhouse, 1316 NW Bell Avenue. Performances will be at 8 p.m. except those on Sundays, which are at 2

> Fifteen-year-old Christopher has an extraordinary brain - he has never ventured alone beyond the end of his road. Seven minutes after midnight, and Christopher stands beside his neighbor's dead dog, Wellington, who has been speared with a garden fork.

> Finding himself under suspicion, he is determined to solve the mystery of who murdered Wellington, and carefully records each fact of the crime. His detective work, forbidden by his father, takes him on a thrilling journey that upturns his world. The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time is a play by Simon Stephens and is based on the novel by Mark Haddon.

> Visit LawtonCommunityTheatre.com for ticket information.

#### Market returns to winter hours

Lawton Farmers Market, an initiative of the Southwest Oklahoma Growers of top pop hits, Americana and classical Association, returns for winter months in the Cameron University Animal Sciences building at the Agriculture Facilpart their love, passion and joy in music ity from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. each Saturday, making to all who hear them, using their running through the beginning of May

Shoppers will find a variety of choices 252-4160 or go online to Chisholm- at the winter market, including winter produce, sprouts, micro greens, meat, eggs, honey, nuts, and handmade and artisan items. The building is located on Southwest 38th Street and is south of Dr. Elsie Hamm Drive and the railroad crossing. Parking is available on the south side

For more information about the mar-The Feb. 7 offering will be "Before ket or becoming a vendor at the market, visit LawtonFarmersMarket.com or send an email to lawtonfarmersmarket@ya-

#### Nutrition Center open weekdays

Marlow Nutrition Center is open to the public from 11 a.m. to noon Monday through Friday at Redbud park in Marlow. Nutritious meals are served on site or as carry-out, \$2 for guests 60 years old and older or \$5.85 for guests younger than 60 years. To place carry-out orders or for further details, contact Cheris at

#### Kids' activities in Central High

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

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

For more information, call 580-685-

More Community Spotlight on Page 6

## **Upcoming Deadlines for The Current**

#### January Ad Sales Jan. 3 Classified Jan. 8 Publish Date Jan. 21

### **February**

Ad Sales Jan. 31 Classified Feb. 5 Publish Date Feb. 18

#### March

Ad Sales Feb. 28 Classified Mar. 4 Publish Date Mar. 16



Five photos to capture five generations. Cotton Electric member Leigh Ann Womack submitted this creative photo that features her grandmother, Mary, all the way down to her granddaughter Kenadi. Each mother is holding a picture of her daughter.

Enter your "best shot" in our Photo of the Month contest. Theme for January is Homemade Creations. Entries can be emailed to TheCurrent@CottonElectric.com or mailed to The Current, 226 N. Broad-

## Lodge hosts local fundraiser

The Masonic Lodge in Elgin is host- will receive a steak dinner with all the fixing a fundraiser at 5 p.m. March 7 at the ings, live entertainment from Southern Medicine Park Music Hall.

Funds raised will benefit local charipate both a silent and live auction. table endeavors such as local food banks, youth leadership and families in need. any Pilot Lodge member or call 580-With the purchase of a \$40 ticket, guest 591-2623.

Highway Band and the chance to partici-

For tickets and information, contact



It's a year-end tradition at Cotton Electric to honor board members and employees for their years of service.



**Jeff Simpson** 40 years



Ronnie Mansel 25 years

Stephanie Christman

20 years

Ronnie Bohot

10 years



**Scott Dennis** 20 years



Kim Johnson



20 years



**Bobby Shortt** 15 years



Zac Hoodenpyle





**Tracy Lindsey** 10 years



Dillon Wiygul 5 years



## Employee of the Year Josh Belcher

Josh Belcher was named 2019 Cotton Electric Employee of the Year this

As Meter Reader, Belcher's primary responsibility is maintaining the accuracy and operational quality of all single phase and three phase meter installa-

Cotton Electric members benefit from Belcher's dedication to his work. He started as a part-time helper with the coop's Vegetation Management in June of 2006 but quickly joined full-time as the meter reader in August of that same year. His nominator said, "Josh always has a smile on his face. He works well with others and can explain things to where everyone can understand. He is dedicated to the members and shows that in the work he does every single day."

Belcher admits that his favorite part of the job is the people he works with. He enjoys discussing goals with his team and accomplishing those goals to make the co-op a little better each day for its members. He married his wife, Carrie, a day after he was hired on full-time at Cotton Electric. Together they have a daughter, Lezlie, and twin boys, Christian and David. Being announced Employee of the Year was a shock to him.

"The people I work with are hardworking individuals and great people in general. Many of them I would never compare myself to," Belcher said. "With that being said, I am extremely grateful to have been selected for this. I will strive to continue to be a dependable and helpful co-worker."

# Employees recognized for accident-free service

something happen when a member flips a light switch.

"Safety," said Jarrod Hooper. "Some may say it's keeping the lights on, but I say safety is job number one for everybody at the co-op."

As CEC's Safety and Loss Control Director, Hooper of time. coordinates all safety policies, procedures and training. His focus on safety is echoed by CEO Jennifer Meason and supported by the cooperative's Board of Trustees.

Providing electric service requires equipment ranging from computer keyboards to large digging augers. About 88 CEC employees carry out tasks as varied as dent-free service.

Depending on who you're talking with, Cotton Elec-pushing reams of old documents into a paper shredder tric Cooperative's main priority isn't about making to riding a bucket 60 feet in the air to repair a highvoltage line.

> Every piece of equipment and every task presents a potential accident, yet Cotton Electric employees have a pretty good safety record that extends over quite a bit

> That is an important accomplishment, so important that once a year the co-op recognizes employees whose safety records have passed five-year increments. In 2019, seventeen CEC employees achieved those fiveyear marks for a combined total of 200 years of acci-

Employees recognized include Greg McComber, Glendel Cole, Quaid Ogletree, Larry Williams, Larry Crowell, Zach Smith, Michelle Taylor and Ryan Noland who have worked five years without a time-loss accident.

Karen Kaley, Cody Pennington, Justin King and Shelly Sehrt have worked accident-free for 10 years, while Mike Ottinger has 15 safe years.

Scott Crew has a 20-year safety record and Terry Foster celebrates 25 safe years.

Finally, Stacy Abbe and Lisa Bowers were recognized for 30 accident-free years.

#### TO CLAIM A CAPITAL CREDIT CHECK, WE REQUIRE A SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER TO VERIFY THE MEMBER'S IDENTITY.

McPherson, JE McQuilliam, Henry R Meador, Lauretta J Medcalf, Jack Mejia, Rudy R Meyers, Terry C Michalak, Leah Miksell, Bobbie A Miller, Justin Miller, Dennis E Miller, Kevin P Miller, Dan T Miller, Brent Miller, James Mills, Kara Mink, Randall J Mitchell.Carl Mitchell, Kara Mitchell, Robbie Monsey, Johnny O Moore, Danielle Moore, William N Moore, G Moore, Ronald L Morales, Carlosl Morgan, Keith A Morgan, Paige Morgan, Paul Morgan, Jonathan Morris, Erin W Morris, JD Morris, Lindsey Morris, Melissa J Morris, Jr, Jerome G Morrison, Cathryn S Mortensen, Kimberly Mott, Danny Mott, Rodney Mowers, Arthur F Mullen, Wilbur Mullins, Rickey D Muncy, Reba K Murphree, Alton P Murray, Crystal M

Muwwakkil, Tahir L Nahquaddy, Jr, Edward A Nail, Charlie Nalley, Pam J Nation, Pamela L Neal, J Neel, Christy L Nelson, Kenneth E Nettle, Linda A Newell, Melissa M Newhouse, A Niederjohn, Henry Nix, Diana J Nix, Anthony

Nix, Michelle L

Norrell, Dora A

Norris, Ron B Norris, M Nuncio, III, Pablo Nunley, Clayton Nunn, Scott P Nuttall, John

0 Odell, Sherrie B Ogle, A Oholorogg, Dana L Oliver, Bertha Oswalt, Walter Overton, James A Owens, Robert C Owens, Sarah V Owings, Mae J

Paris, Robert S Parker, Shelley D Parker, K Parker, Nora Parks, Donnie Parsons, Julian L Pasowicz, Kenneth J Passmore, Allen A Patton, Bruce A Paxton, Charles E Payne, Betty R Payne, Diana K Payne, Donnie R Payne, Allen T Peck, Jack D Peery, W Pelton, Ann M Pendergast, Edward J Penland, Guy W Perkins, II, David Peterman, Sandi Peters, Lottie Peterson, Richelle Pier, Edward Pinao, Charlene N Pless, Tori L Plimmer, Steven Plowman, Alvin L Plumley, Regina K Poco, Margaret

Pollard, Lamar

Porterfield, B

Pratt, Boyd

Pratte, John

Pressy, Elisha

Prewitt, Claude

Prickett, David W

Price, Tandy

Pyles, Cindy

Pyles, Cindy

Pollock, Marion E

Pomerantz, Linda G

Prendergast, John J

Q Quillen, David A Quinones, Jose A

Randell, Teresa P Ransone, Catherine Rather, Kenneth W Ratliff, James E Rauschenberg, Sarah Ray, Ronald O Redwing, Heather Reece, Gordon L Reed, Steven G Reynolds, Bonnie E Richardson, Charles N Richardson, James D Richardson, Carrie Rick, Ladonna Riddle, Jackie Ridley, Charley Ritter, Bill Ritter, John H Riviera, Juan R Roberson, Darren Roberts, Freeman W Robertson, Amber M Robertson, John Robinson, Brenda J Roche, Crystal Rogoff, Dena Rollins, MichaelR Rosario, Jesus Rose, Robert E Rothrock, Rita A Rothwell, Buren T Rowe, Larry Rowton, Phillip J Rudder, Tom Ruiz, Guadalupe Russell, Jim

Russell, Alvin W S Saldana, Jose Sanchez, Joe D Sanchez, Ricky Sanchez, Jr, Thomas Sanders, Kenneth D Sanford, Matthew Sanmann, Ed Sanmann, Ed Sanner, H Santos, Leslie J Savage, Sandra L Scammahorn, Cheryl A Schoonover, James A Schrader, Brian Schrader, Russell E Schuler, Ryan E

Schulte, Julius

Schwindt, William

Scott, Ronnie Scott, Dennis R Scott, Nick R Seabolt, Reggie V Seely, Jeremy D Seibold, Helen M Sellers, Carolyn L Sellman, Stephen Seymour, Elmer Sharrar, Thomas M Shelton, Todd Shelton, W E Shelton, Michael Shelton, Sharon J Shimmel, Arnold Shipley, Pam J Shirley, Ladonna Shirley Jr, BJ Sholl, Bill Shrier, W Shultz, S Sides, William

Scifres, Joey D

Scott, Jonathan J

Simpson, Don L Sing, Derek Singletary, James R Skeen, Michaelc Skeen, David W Slavin, Albert L Sleeker, Sam Slonecker, Calvin Smart, Jeri D Smith, William G Smith, Scott D Smith, Travis R Smith, Charley Smith, Darrell R Smith, Jean A Smith, Russell Smith, Grover Smith, Mary C Smith, Joseph C Soles, Dorothy A Soloman, Dondi D Sparkman, Mary M

Spicklemier, Glenna R St Arnold, Sarah M Stair, E Stair, A Standifier, Theresa D Standridge, Tina G Stanley, Dennis C Staton, Eddie L Stephens, B Stephenson, Dana Stevenson, Mary L Stewart, Douglas Stewart, Sherry Stimpson, Etta Stineburg, William L

#### Businesses

To claim a capital credit check for a business, we require a Federal ID number. Geronimo Assembly of God Roger's Quality Automotive

Heritage Library

Hillman Foods Inc

Adroit Homes, Inc. Alexander Oil Co. Blue Sky Outdoor Advertising Bullard-Sanner Oil Co. Busy Bee's Learning Center, Carol Glenn DBA Nichols Drive Core Resources Management Cotton Corner Country Expressions Don's Tank Trucks

Farmland Mutual Insurance Co

G Co. Co. Construction

G L M Enterprises Inc

Jast Inc K & J Enterprises Inc Kennedy &Hill Loco Oil Company Manhattan Const Okla Well Servicing Co Polar Air QC Energy Resources R.J.A. Enterprises Red River Oil Co Redland Const Co

W

Royal Petroleum Company Shears, Inc. Sperling School Steve Paramore Enterprises Telecom Relay Serv Inc The Red Door Gallery Velma Feed & Supply Velma Magneto Serv Vickery Oil & Gas Wade Construction Co. Walters Livestock Barn Wedel & Wedel, LLC Wetherell Excavation & Trucking

Wilhite, Donna

Williams, Bill

Williams, Carl L

Williams, Tim

Williams, LD

Williams, K

Williams, John C

Williams, Marilyn S

Williams, Thomas L

Wilkerson, Bryant

Wilkerson, Constance

Stoker, Guy S Stone, Cletis E Story, Marie A Stricklin, Joseph D Strong, Kris Strong, Cherokee N Stuever, Joe P Sullivan, K Sullivan, Barney E Sullivan, Linda M Sullivan, Russell Sullivan, Kenneth L Summers, Thomas A Sunday, Bobbie J Suttles, Jessica L Swafford, Paula K Swalley, Jeffrey E Swallow, JC Sweetin, Hillary J Swinson, Connor Switzer, Richard D

T Tahah, Robby Taptto, Scott Tate, Elizabeth R Taylor, Terry W Taylor, Bob Taylor, Bobby V Taylor, Charles M Taylor, Dewayne Taylor, Vic L Teel, Jessica F Terrell, Cornelius Teufel, John R Thomas, Rod Thomas, James Thompson, Everett W

Thompson, Ronnie L

Thorp, Mary J

Tidmore, Louis A

Thompson, Jr, Larry W

Tilghman, Stephen E Tilley, Sherry R Tillman, Stephanie Tims, A Tinney, Mike Tinsley, Sherrie K Titchaunerwe, Mona Tivis, Sheri S Tolison, Freda L Tomlinson, Stacy M Toppah, Carol Torres, Tandy M Torres, Tara Torres, Julio Toure, Alassane Traylor, Kacey L Treadway, Kenneth R Trent, Benny D Trimble, Justin Troyer, Patrick N Trujillo, Amber N Tuck, Thomas Turiansky, George W Turner, Jennifer L Turner, Tony Turtle, Billie Tyler, Jackie D Tyrone, Stanley F U

Uthe, Floyd J Utt, Bruce L

V Valentine, Roy L Vallery, Kristina G Vandiver, Madge Vangura, Stephen Vannoy, John T Vardeman, Jr, Wade J Velazquez, Julia L

Vernon, Allie

Waggoner, William Waggoner, Dixie L Waite, Edmund Walden, Shawn D Walker, Lew E Wall, Randy D Walser, Kathryn R Ward, Jamie L Wardeski, Teddy J Wares, Frank W Warkentin, Carmen M Warren, Robin Warren, JL Wasden, Henry M Wasson, Johnie R Waters, Alfred E Watkins, Jerry L Watson, David E Watson, Rachel R Weaber, Bradley A Weaver, Richard Weaver, Danny Webb, Jayne Weeaks, Roy Weir, Candice N Weiss, Mason S Welch, Melissa M Wesner, Lew R West, Apri IG West, Ron L Westcott, Edward Wettengel, Margaret Whaley, Norma Wheeler, Nelson O Whicker, Harold J Whitehead, Berlin M

Whitfield, David T

Whitney, Ingeborg

Wible, Thomas B

Whitson, Steve

Wiley, Sam L

Williams, John L Willis, Bobbie J Willmon, Lori M Wilmore, Edward Wilson, Kimberly A Wilson, Bill Wilson, George E Winscott, Gary Witham, David B Wohlers, Joshua D Wolf, J Wolfe, Adam Wood, Henry A Wood, E Woodall, Rick Woods, Gaylen Woods, Freddy B

Yates, Virgle L Yob, Louis P Young, Carrie Young, Doug Young, Billy J Young, Zackery R Youngblood, Ron

Zimmerman, Eric V Zimmerman-Wer, Cheryl

## WIN A WEEK-LONG TRIP

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## Cotton offers youth-geared opportunity

portunity available for high school juniors in the serton, D.C., for a week in June. vice area.

This year's topic, "What do you find most interesting about electric cooperatives?" will be the key focus for all submissions.

interview and oral presentation of the essay. The top info@cottonelectric.com.

Cotton Electric Cooperative has an incredible op- four entrants win an all-expense-paid trip to Washing-

Information packets with Youth Tour contest rules Students can submit a 600-word essay for a chance and regulations, entry forms, cooperative information to participate in the annual Rural Electric Youth Tour. and basic details of the contest have been distributed to area English and Ag teachers and counselors.

The registration deadline for entering is Jan. 6, 2020. For information about Youth Tour, contact the Mar-The contest features three rounds: Essay submission, keting departments at 580-875-3351 or by email at

## Community Spotlight

#### Senior center hosts weekly dances

Duncan Senior Citizens Center presents country and western dances from 7 to 9:30 p.m. every Tuesday and Saturday. Tuesdays feature Bill Dewbre and Old Country. Buzz Carter and the Shadow Riders play every Saturday.

Admission is \$6 and includes free coffee and soft drinks. Donations are appreciated.

The center is at 1110 N. Seventh. For information, call the center at 580-255-6902.

#### Chapter of the Blind meets monthly

on the third Saturday of each month at the Stephens County Historical Museum, 1402 W. Beech Ave.

This is an opportunity for those who are visually impaired or blind and their caregivers to learn about the availability of services and equipment such as white cane training and large lighted magnifiers. The group also provides information about free access to an extensive library of audio books.

transportation to the monthly meeting, call 580-786-8041 or 736-8454.

#### Food pantry opens twice monthly

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

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

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

#### Honor guard serves SW Oklahoma

Seeing a need in the area, several military veterans formed an honor guard in 2007 to provide services at funerals for all military veterans. The guard is made up of veterans from all branches of the armed forces and three veterans' organizations.

The uniformed guard furnishes a 21-gun salute, plays taps and folds a flag for presentation to the family. The guard travels anywhere in Stephens, Cotton, Coman-

che and Jefferson counties, and has made special trips into Grady and Carter counties.

There is no charge for the service, though donations are accepted.

For information about joining the guard or securing its services, call Kenneth Youngblood at 859-684-5128 or Clinton Swanson at 580-251-0629 or visit The-SCHG.com.

#### Monthly lecture at The Foreman Prairie House

Join the docents and volunteers at The Foreman Prai-Duncan Chapter of the Blind meets at 1:30 p.m. rie House at noon every third Thursday of the month for lunch and lecture. Listen to artists, historians and craftsmen while enjoying a homemade artisan-style

> The subject and speaker for the lecture change every month so you get new knowledge with every freshly prepared meal.

Cost is \$12 per person. Reservations are required and For information about the group or to arrange free can be made by dialing or texting 580-512-9153.

#### SWOBA meets monthly

Southwest Oklahoma Beekeeper Association meets at 7 p.m. every second Thursday of the month at the Stephens County Fairgrounds.

The association strives to improve beekeepers and beekeeping methods for the local community and provide a beneficial resource to facilitate and augment the cultivation and conservation of wild and managed bee populations across the great state of Oklahoma.

More information can be found by visiting OkBees. org/SWOBA.

#### Blessings Boutique open monthly

Marlow First United Methodist Church opens its Blessings Boutique every first and third Tuesday of the month. Clothing donations drop-off days are Tuesdays, or donors can call the church at 580-658-2765 to make other arrangements.

## **UNCOMFORTABLE?**

#### Does your home have any of these symptoms?

- Rooms that get too hot or too cold?
- High utility bills?
- Thermostat wars with your spouse?
- **High humidity in summer?**
- House just never seems comfortable?
- There doesn't seem to be enough airflow?
- Dust buildup within 2 days of dusting?
- Problems with your system since it's been installed?
- Anyone with allergies or asthma?
- AC starts and stops frequently or runs all the time, and house is still not cool?
- □ Have been told by other contractors that the problem cannot be fixed?

#### If you answered <u>YES</u> to any of these questions, we can help!

Pippin Brothers has specialists that can pinpoint and correct these problems and, in many cases, you don't even have to replace your equipment, with the solution usually being easier and costing a lot less than you may think. There is no other contractor in Lawton more qualified than Pippin Brothers at diagnosing and correcting these annoying, inconvenient, unhealthy, comfort-compromising and energywasting concerns. Call us today and let us make your home Feel As Good As It Looks! After all, your home is your largest investment and you and your family deserve to be comfortable - don't you?



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#### **Brick Home on 2.0 Acres** 237 North 74th Street Duncan, Oklahoma

Improvements Include: A Nice 3 Bedroom Brick/ Stucco Home (Approximately 1,845 Square Feet) a Large Den with a Nice Wood Burning Stove, Large Dining Room, Office with Storage Closet, Large Kitchen with Island and Nice Cabinets, Walk-in Pantry, Dinette and 1 3/4 Baths.

**Improvements also Include:** The Home has an Attached Garage and a Large Covered Back Porch. A Detached Carport, a Large Sheet Metal Shop with a 9' Overhead Insulated Door and Concrete Floor with an Attached Breezeway. The Home also has a Lean To (24'x30'), Storm Shelter, a Storage Building (8'x14') and a Green House. All Situated on a Nice 2 Acre

Parcel with Perimeter Fencing in a Great Location. Directions: In Duncan, Oklahoma; Go 5 Miles Wes on Beech Avenue, then North on 74th Street, 1/8 of a Mile. The Real Property with Improvements is Situated on the West Side of 74th Street.

**Broker's Note:** This is a nice Home Place with a Shop and Improvements situated on 2 Acres. The Real Property is located Approximately 1 Mile East of the Territory Golf Course. This is a Great Location. Please see to Appreciate.

Owner Says Sell! \$114,900

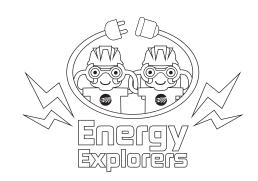
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(Auctioneer/Broker) website: garycriswellauctioneers.com 



## Happy Holidays from Your Electric Co-op

Wishing you a merry and bright holiday season!





#### **ACROSS**

- 1. No longer on the market
- 5. W. African lan-
- guage 9. A way to open
- 11. A type of pigeon
- 13. Japanese warrior 15. Pelvic areas
- 16. No seats available
- 17. Not working
- 19. In a way, soaks
- 21. Growing outward 22. Ritzy local \_\_\_ Air
- 23. Telegraphic
- signals 25. Metric units
- 26. Large win cask 27. Fiber from the
- husk of a coco-
- 29. Gets up
- 31 French river
- 33. Witnesses 34. They make great
- neighbors 36. The sun does it
- 38. Used to store
- 39. First Chinese

ashes

- dynasty 41. Network of
- nerves 43. Word element
- meaning ear 44. Metric unit of length
- (Brit.) 46. Tributary of the
- Danube 48. Off-limits
- 52. Appeal earnestly
- 53. It's good to have them
- 54. Commercial flying company
- 56. Acted out in protest
- 57. Took to the sea
- 58. Cuckoos
- 59. Drove fast

#### 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 22 20 21 26 23 24 25 29 30 27 28 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 40 41 42 43 44 47 45 48 50 52 49 51 53 54 55 56 58

#### **DOWN**

- 1. Trapped
- 2. About osmosis
- 3. Romanian monetary unit
- 4. Form of Persian
- 5. Cold wind
- 6. Leave out
- 7. Small vehicle
- 8. A little off
- 9. Soviet Union 10. A narrow path or
- 11. Contrary beliefs

- 12. One who speaks
  - Gaelic
- York
- 15. Jackson and Townsh-
- end are two 18. Soldier in an airborne
- unit
- 20. Taken illegally 24. Capital of Valais
- 26. Male reproductive organs
- 28. State capital 30. One with supernatu
  - ral insight

32. Starts all over again

- 34. Jai alai arena
- 35. Star Wars antagonist 14. Private school in New 37. Freestanding struc-

  - 38. The ideal place
  - 40. The extended location of something
  - 42. Made level
  - 43. Distinctive smell
  - 45. Greek goddess of discord
  - 47. Got older
  - 49. Type of monkey 50. Travels to
  - 51. Geological times 55. Edge

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## Apache Video

Wednesday 10 a.m. 580-588-3840 800-926-9696





#### ンプンプンプンプンプン For Sale

#### 273253 Sunset Road **Lakeview Addition** Hastings, Oklahoma

Real Property Consists of: A 1983 MANATEE Feet) with 3 Bedrooms, Living Room/Kitchen/Dining Area Combination and 2 Full Batters. Manufactured Home (Approximately 1,120 Square Area Combination and 2 Full Baths. Interior of Home is very nice with a Free Standing Stove (Country Flame) in the Living Area.

Also Included with the Real Property: A 2007 JAYCO-JAY FLIGHT 31' Travel Trailer (Like New). The Travel Trailer is Covered with a Canopy. Interior of Home is really Nice and has One Slide and a Wooden Deck with a Scenic view of a Nice Pond. The Home has a Creek that runs through the Property.

Additional Improvements Include: A Detached Utility Room (8'x10') Very Nice. A Sheet Metal Shop with Concrete Floor and 110 Electricity with a Carport Canopy and Chicken Coop, Metal Storage Building / Bunk House with 2 Large Sliding Doors, Steel Bin with Concrete Floor and Horse Pens. All Situated in Block 1, Lot 23 and Lot 24 (Approximately 8 Acres) Fenced and Cross Fenced in the Lakeview Addition. **Directions:** In the City of Comanche, Oklahoma

from the Intersection of Highway 81 and Highway 53, Go West 9 Miles to 2730 Road, Go South 2 1/2 Miles to Hillcrest Drive, Go 1 Mile to Sunset Drive and Follow Sunset Drive to Home Site on East Side

Broker's Note: This Real Property has a Number of Improvements situated about 1/4 of a Mile from the Waurika Lake Shoreline. This is a Nice piece of Property. See to Appreciate! Please call Sales Associate, Becky Doyle at 580-251-0228 to schedule an Appointment.

\$69,900

**Gary Criswell Auction Service & Real Estate, Inc.** (Auctioneer/Broker) garycriswellauctioneers.com (Cell Phone)

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# Stephens County cook-off winners announced

Cook-Off was held the first Monday in received a certificate and kitchen spatula. November. Participants included many their best recipes. The young cooks preappearance.

Awards were presented to the top three in each category. First-place winners received a monogrammed apron, and second- and third-place winners received as well as on Page 9.

The 36th annual Stephens County kitchen items. Cloverbud participants

4-H members submitted recipes in 15 Cloverbuds and 4-H'ers who entered categories and the top eight were chosen for the final competition. Cloverbuds pared recipes to be judged on taste and brought one of their favorite recipes to the final competition. Awards wer sponsored by Stephens County Farm Bureau

A few of the winners are featured here,



#### **Chocolate Caramel Pretzel Bars**

Rebecca Taylor - Bray-Doyle

12 oz semi sweet chocolate chips 8 oz mini pretzel twists 11 oz bag od Kraft Caramels Sea Salt for sprinkling

Line a large, rimmed baking sheet with parchment paper. Melt 8 oz of the chocolate chips gently in the microwave( on low heat, stirring every 15 seconds) until smooth.

Spread Chocolate evenly over the parchment. Immediately add the pretzels hardened. 15 servings.

over the top and gently press them into the chocolate.

Add caramel bits to a microwave safe bowl with 2 Tbsp water and melt according to package directions (high for 2 minutes).

Stir well and drizzle the melted caramel over the top of the pretzels. Melt remaining 4 oz of chocolate and drizzle over caramel.

Sprinkle with sea salt. Refrigerate until



### **Tasty Tomato Pie**

Ayden Hinds - Comanche/Teen leaders

Crust:

1/2 Cup (1 Stick) butter, softened 3 Tbsp. Sugar

1 Cup Flour

1 Cup Shredded Mozzarella

3/4 Cup mayonnaise

Salt and Pepper

Crust: Mix butter, sugar and flour together. Kneed well. Roll out and place in 9 inch pie plate.

Bake at 375 degrees for 10 minutes.

**Filling:** Peel and slice tomatoes. Place tomatoes in a colander in the sink in a single layer. Sprinkle with salt and allow them to rest for 10 minutes.

Next, use a paper towel and pat-dry the tomatoes and make sure most of the excess juice is out. Layer the tomato slices, basil and onion in your already baked pie shell, Season with salt and pepper.

Now, you will combine the grated cheeses and mayonnaise together. Spread cheese mixture on top of the tomatoes and then sprinkle parmesan cheese on top. Bake for 30 minutes or until lightly browned.

Allow to rest for 15 minutes or more before cutting and serving. Serves 8-10.



#### Warm Gumbo Dip

Hannah Riley - Stephens County Teenleaders

4 Tablespoons unsalted butter 1 cup chopped assorted bell peppers

3/4 cup sliced okra pods 2 ribs celery, diced

6 green onions, chopped 2 cloves garlic, minced

1 1/2 teaspoons Cajun/Creole seasoning

1 1/2 lbs. large shrimp, peeled, deveined and chopped 8 oz. cream cheese

1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese Toasted baguette slices, for serving

Preheat the oven to 400° F. Melt the **Filling:** butter in a large skillet over medium-high 5 Roma tomatoes, peeled and

Add the bell pepper, okra, and celery to 10 fresh basil leaves, chopped the pan and sauté until beginning to soften, 1/2 cup Green onion, chopped about 6 minutes.

Stir in the green onions, garlic, and Ca- Cheese jun seasoning. Cook 1 minute more, just 1 Cup Shredded Cheddar Cheese until fragrant.

Stir in the shrimp, cream cheese, and Par- 2 Tbsp fresh grated Parmesan mesan. Stir over low heat until the cream Cheese cheese is melted and everything is evenly mixed. Spoon the mixture into a baking

Bake for 25-30 minutes or until the top is browned and bubbling. Serve warm with toasted baguette slices. Serves 8.

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#### Creamy Dreamy Pumpkin Pie

Treasure Gibbs - Teen Leaders

Crust: 1 1/4 cups (18 squares) graham cracker crumbs 3 Tbs sugar 1/2 tsp cinnamon

1/4 tsp nutmeg 1/8 tsp cloves

1/3 cup butter or margarine, melted

Filling:

1 (16 oz.) can vanilla frosting 1 cup dairy sour cream 1 cup canned pumpkin 1 tsp cinnamon

1/2 tsp ginger 1/4 tsp cloves 1 (8 oz.) container Cool Whip, thawed

Heat oven to 350 degrees F.

In small bowl, com-time. Serves 8.

bine all crust ingredients; stir until blended.

Reserve 2 tablespoons of crust mixture for topping.

Press remaining crust mixture in bottom and up sides of 9-inch pie pan.

Bake at 350 degrees F. For 6 minutes. Cool.

In large bowl, combine all filling ingredients except Cool Whip; beat 2 minutes at medium speed.

Fold in 1 cup of the Cool Whip; poor into prepared crust.

Refrigerate until set.

Spread remaining Cool Whip over filling; sprinkle with reserved crust mixture.

Refrigerate at least 4 hours or until serving





#### Tailgating Favorite Smoked Bologna

Hudson Billings - STAR 4-H

Yellow mustard

5-pound log bologna (I prefer Boar's Head beef bologna.) 1 lb Favorite hard Cheese cut into cubes 1 pound bacon Cracked black pepper

Preheat your smoker to 225 degrees F. I like a good hickory or apple wood for

Core the center out of the bologna and stuff with cube cheese

a diamond pattern on all sides of the bo-

Smoke with the lid closed for at least 3 hours, but up to 4 hours. Bologna is pre-cooked, so you're just going to the amount of color and smoke flavor on the

Slice and enjoy. Serve with crackers, Using the tip of a sharp knife, score the make sliders, or eat alone. Serves 10+.

# bologna about 1/8th of an inch thick in

Slather the bologna chub with the yellow mustard

Wrap with bacon in a weave pattern. outside of your bologna that you like.

#### dessert routine by using seasonal fresh fruits and dried fruits as the last course. You will experience different flavors and fuel your body with nutrients it can benefit from.

Fruit adds different flavors

Baking, grilling, sautéing and broiling accentuate the natural sweetness of fruit, decreasing the need for added sugar. Cooking does alter some vitamin and mineral levels, but other nutrients, like polyphenols, are unaffected or enhanced. Switching apple pie for baked apples with cinnamon adds a significant

Fruit for dessert can be elegant, nutritious and delicious. During the season of sugary treats, consider changing up your

calories and fat. Baked apples are not the only fruitforward dessert option. Pears can be poached or roasted and stuffed with nuts and dried fruit. Stone fruit can be grilled or baked and drizzled with sauce. Figs can be slathered with goat cheese. Dates can be wrapped with bacon.

amount of fiber with less added sugar,

sonal fresh fruits mixed together and older get 1.5 cups of fruit and adult men served with low fat yogurt or chocolate. Go for dark chocolate with a high cocoa content to get a double dose of nutrients that promote health.

Some fruits are better to cook with than others. It is best to consult several recipes before going to the store to choose a type of fruit. For example, Red Delicious apples are good for sauces, but goal.



Food THOUGHT

Granny Smith, Jonagold, or Honeycrisp are better for baking due to flavor and

Bosc and Anjou pears are best for cooking because they maintain their shape.

The Dietary Guidelines for Americans You can also keep it simple with sea- recommended adult women age 51 or age 50 or older get 2 cups of fruit per day. Are you meeting those recommen-

> Fruit pies and fruit cakes don't count, but dessert with fruit as the main ingredient and limited added fat and sugar can certainly count toward your daily



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#### JOB OPENINGS AT EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

The Emergency Communications District Board is accepting applications for the following positions. Applications may be picked up at 129 East Colorado, Walters, OK and returned with resume to PO Box 485, Walters, OK 73572 or by email to cc911trust@gmail.com closing date 12/31/2019

#### COMMUNICATIONS ADMINISTRATOR, E911

Responsible for the overall management and administration of the E911 Center, which provides emergency and non-emergency communication services for the Police and Fire Department as well as other public safety agencies. Performs a full range of call taking and dispatching responsibilities, operates complex communications equipment including radio console, multi-line telephone system, and computer terminals to access information to dispatch police, fire, and other city assets. Other duties as assigned. Position open until December 31, 2019.

#### **EMERGENCY TELECOMMUNICATOR**

Performs a full range of call taking and dispatching responsibilities, operates complex communications equipment including radio console, multi-line telephone system, and computer terminals to access information to dispatch police, fire, and other city assets. Other duties as assigned. Positions open until December 31, 2019.





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740 ac, Jefferson Cty, 1910 Monument Hill Road-\$1,850,000
100 ac, Stephens Cty, - 1 mile West, 3 South of Midway-\$180,000
11 1/2 ac, with home 300575 Old Hwy 7, Velma-\$170,000

• 80 ac, North of Chattanooga on Hwy 115- \$128, 000  $\bullet\ 272\ ac, 3\ miles\ NE\ of\ Faxon.\ Cultivation, improved\ grasses,\ cross\ fenced,\ barns,\ pens,\ good\ water.\ -\ \$612,000$ • 160 ac, Tillman Cty,- Excellent grass qaurter/improved bermuda, cross fenced, flo thru ponds, good pens. - \$224,000 • 160 ac, Tillman Cty,- Approx 1/2 cultivated, (wheat), Mequites have been cleared, Good native/bermuda grass

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· 251 ac, 1/2 mile West of 81 on Paul Road-\$577,400 • 119 ac, Cow Creek, Stephens-Jefferson Cty Line- call for details UNDER CONTRACT!

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living quarters and CH&A. \$599,900 NEW LISTING! • 2300 Fairway Dr. Gorgeous home that backs up to the 16th green at the Duncan Golf and Country club. Approx.  $3,700 \text{ sq ft 2 story home with Florida rooms both upstairs and downstairs, full wet bar for entertaining guests and$ 

outdoor hot tub with Pergola. \$247,500 NEW LISTING! • 915 N. 13th-Duncan, 3 bed-2 bath doll house, corner lot- \$86,000

• Cole Creek Addition, 7 executive home building sites available in beautiful Cole Creek addition. 2.5 miles East on

• 1710 Parkwood-Duncan, 3 bed-2 bath, immaculate, move in ready. Storm shelter. -\$165,000 PRICE REDUCED!

• 2 Acre tract County Road 1610, Marlow, OK

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• 50x150 lot at the corner of 5th & Hackberry • 150x150 lot between 3rd & 4th on Hackberry

worshop, garage w/opener & carport. \$65,380 UNDER CONTRACT!

• 168466 9 mile rd. 3 bedroom, 2 bath home on 6+ acres. \$220,000 • 170104 Cole Creek Dr. 2.5 miles East on Camelback. Custom 4 bedroom, 3 1/2 bath sitting on just over a acre. Absolutely stunning Executive home. 30x40 shop.

Jefferson County Listings

• 6474 E 1950 Rd Approx. 13.85 acres. Small silo, water well with solar panel, small pond.

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ullet 6699 E 1950 Rd 3 or 4 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath brick home sitting on one acre. Home is remodeled with new tile and granite kitchen counter tops. Beautiful sunroom. Deck with hot tub. Loafing shed. 1310 Nth Meridian 2 bedroom, 1 bath cozy home. Hardwood floors, completely updated with a great open floor plan

## Cost of space heater operation adds up

outdoor temperatures continue to fall, many of our electric bills are on the rise. This increased use of energy is typically due to a higher heating load for your home. As outside tem-



Heath Morgan, **Energy Efficiency** Coordinator

peratures get colder, energy required to maintain the same indoor temperature increases. During many high usage calls, we determine that electric space heaters tal. Then multiply your daily or monthly are responsible for unusually high energy use. Normally, a heating system will account for about half of electrical use in that appliance. As an example, we will the home, but as space heaters are added to the equation, that number can grow substantially.

I've found a lot of misleading information on the true effect these heaters have erate from around 5 p.m. until 8 a.m. the electric bills. Manufacturers claim that using one of their space heaters will lower your bill; this is true only if you elimi- 1.5 kilowatts/hour. Now calculate kilonate a larger source of heat and electrical consumption. In other words, if you turn off a central unit used to heat your whole home, and replace it with a space heater days= 675 kilowatts. With the normal to heat only one room in your home, you cost per kilowatt being between \$0.08 may be able to lower your consumption.

However, if you operate a space heater in combination with a larger central unit, you are liable to increase your bill by a significant amount. In some cases, these heaters may be a necessity, or may actually help to reduce a member's bill if For prepaid accounts, this equals almost they are utilized properly. Knowing how to calculate the cost of operation, and having a basic understanding of the different types of heaters can help alleviate an unanticipated high bill this winter.

Electric space heaters are pretty simple devices, they convert input electrical energy into heat. While there are a numheaters, you need to know that they all look the same to your electric meter.

Government standards limit the output of portable space heaters to 1,500 watts, which is the electrical measurement for power and the basis for how you are billed for electrical usage. Browsing the aisles of your local home improvement store, you will find prices ranging categories: Fan-forced, convection or from under \$20 up to \$300 for these space heaters. While the price range varies, the electrical consumption does not. Pricing variance is normally based on the which then leaves the heater, warming up different types of heating elements and the surrounding room. They can provide features.

Regardless of the price point, the consumption of almost every available heater elements such as humidity levels and air is the same 1,500 watts. Some models do offer high and low settings for heating. Normally the high setting is 1,500 watts operation to fan-forced models, minus and the low is around 900 watts. Other the fan. These heaters utilize natural air features that may be beneficial to members are thermostatic control or a built in the appliance and room. Some convectimer that will help to limit the operating tion heaters incorporate a heat transfer time of the heater.

fects an electric bill, we will have to do heaters is that the liquid acts as a type a little bit of math. Members are billed of heat storage, meaning the heater can

for electrical use based on the number of kilowatts-hours (kWh) used each day or month depending on the type of billing. The simple formula to calculate the consumption of any appliance is the wattage of the appliance divided by 1,000 equals kilowatts consumed per hour of opera-

Take this number and multiply that by the number of hours per day that the appliance operates. This will give a total number of kilowatts consumed by the appliance in a single day for daily or prepaid billing. Simply multiply that number by the days in the month for a monthly tototal by the price per kilowatt-hour to give you an approximate cost to operate use a single 1,500-watt space heater that is turned on after work to heat a room throughout the night.

We will assume that the heater will opfollowing morning. Convert wattage to kilowatts per hour: 1,500 watts/1,000= watts per day: 1.5 kW/hr x 15 hours= 22.5 kilowatt hours per day, and then total kilowatts for the month 22.5 x 31 and \$0.09, I like to calculate at \$0.09 to

Taking the estimated kilowatts per month of 675 multiplied by \$0.09 per kilowatt-hour, you get a total cost of \$60.75 to operate a single space heater. two dollars per day to operate. This is a rough calculation, but you can see how quickly and drastically running multiple space heaters can affect a bill.

I see many times that these heaters are being used for primary heating of a home to avoid the cost of repairs to a central heating system. Now that you have an ber of different types of electric space idea of what these will cost to operate each month, it may help determine money that could be saved by spending the money to have a heating system repaired.

If you determine that there is a need for an electric space heater, you'll need to understand the different options available when shopping for one.

Heaters normally fall into one of three radiant. A fan forced heater is a heater that works by using a fan to pass air over a heating element. This heats up the air, rapid heating of a room; however, they can be noisy. By directly heating the air, quality can be affected.

Convection heaters are very similar in currents to circulate the heat through liquid, such as oil, that is heated by the To explain how this consumption af- electric element. The benefit of these



Fan-forced space heater



Radiant space heater



Convection space heater

cycle on less and provide a more constant BTUs produced by each heater, but these source of heat.

Finally, radiant heaters use electrical energy to create heat within a conductive material. Radiant heaters warm objects rather than air, meaning they have no effect on humidity levels or air quality. Radiant heat is a unique transfer of energy that naturally searches out colder objects to heat. The limitation to radiant heaters is they only heat objects in their line of sight.

There are no organizations or agencies that test the performance of all space heaters. There are some websites that will list some product specifications, such as 875-3351.

numbers are based on manufacturer testing and have not been verified by a third

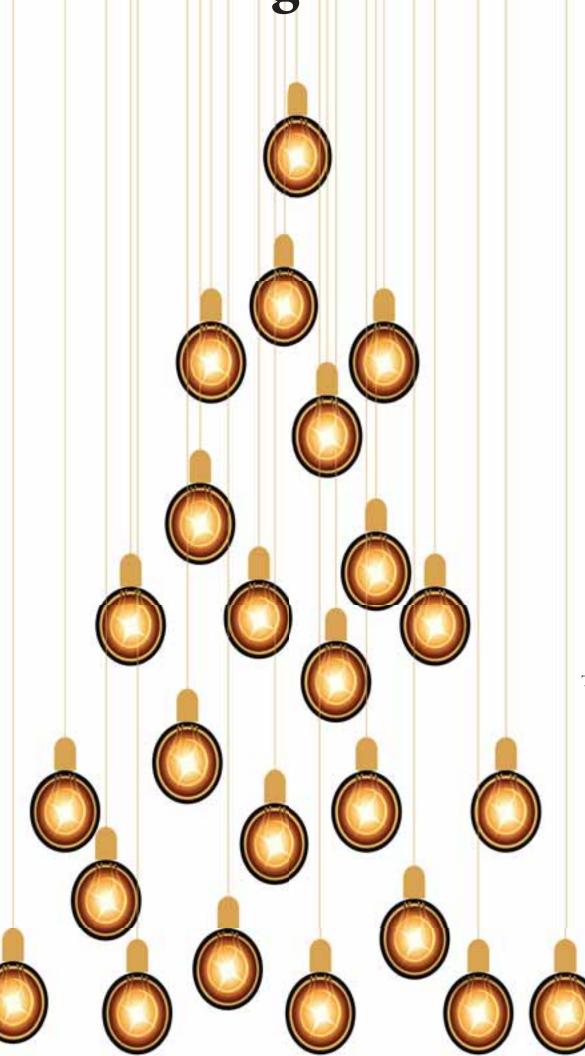
We want to remind members of the safety concerns involved with the operation of space heaters. All safety and operations guidelines from the manufacturer should be followed.

As always, if you have any questions or would like to schedule a free in-home evaluation to determine where your money can best be spent to help lower energy bills, please contact me at 580-





# 'Twas the Night Before Christmas Outage



# Merry Christmas

'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the state, Not a creature was stirring, there was nothing to debate. The rights of way had been cleared by the men with care, Just in case a big ice storm like 2010 should appear. The cooperative members were nestled in their beds, While visions of capital credit checks danced in their heads.

I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter. Away to the window I flew like a flash, Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash. The moon brightly shining on the new fallen snow, Gave the luster of mid-day to the objects below. I reached for the light switch and gave it a turn, The power was out, I quickly did learn. When, what to my wondering eyes should appear, But four bucket trucks with eight strapping men and their gear.

When out of the sky there arose such a clatter,

With two charismatic supervisors, so lively and quick, I knew in a moment it must be Saint Chad and Saint Clint. More rapid than eagles their linemen they came, And they whistled and shouted and called them by name: "Now Braylin! Now Evan! Now Terry and Ronnie! Now Kyle! Now Matt! Now Larry and Bobby!" To the top of the pole, to the break in the line, Now climb away, splice away, fix it in time! As dry leaves that before the wild storm fly, When they meet with an obstacle, they raise to the sky. So up to the pole-top the linemen they flew, With the truck full of wire, and their supervisors, too. And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the lines, The banging and work and the trimming of pines. As I drew in my head and was turning around, Up the pole they went with a bound. They were dressed in protective gear, from their head to their toes,

And their hard work was evident by the dirt on their clothes. A bundle of equipment was hooked on a belt. And the ice on the power lines just started to melt. Their eyes – how they twinkled – their dimples how merry! Their cheeks were like roses, Their nose like a cherry! Their mouths were a think line, drawn with determination, They were certain they could fix the situation. A line splice and fuse link held tight in their hands, Knowing they would again light up the land. They had bright smiles and a great attitude, The members would soon be filled with gratitude. With good training and preparation, they were confident and

The power to homes would be restored before long. With a wink of their eyes and a twist of their heads, They soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread. They spoke not a word, but went straight to work, Fixed the situation, then turned with a jerk. They brought down the bucket, the crew gave a shout, And away they all drove to the next open cut-out. But I heard them exclaim as they drove out of sight, "Happy Christmas to all, and to all ... you now have light!"

Source: NRECA



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#### Anatomy of a **Cotton Electric** power bill

Your monthly Cotton Electric bill includes a lot of information. On the next page is an explanation of some of the numbers and terms.

#### Don't want a paper bill?

Sign up for an e-bill through our website, CottonElectric.com.

#### Don't want to worry about due dates?

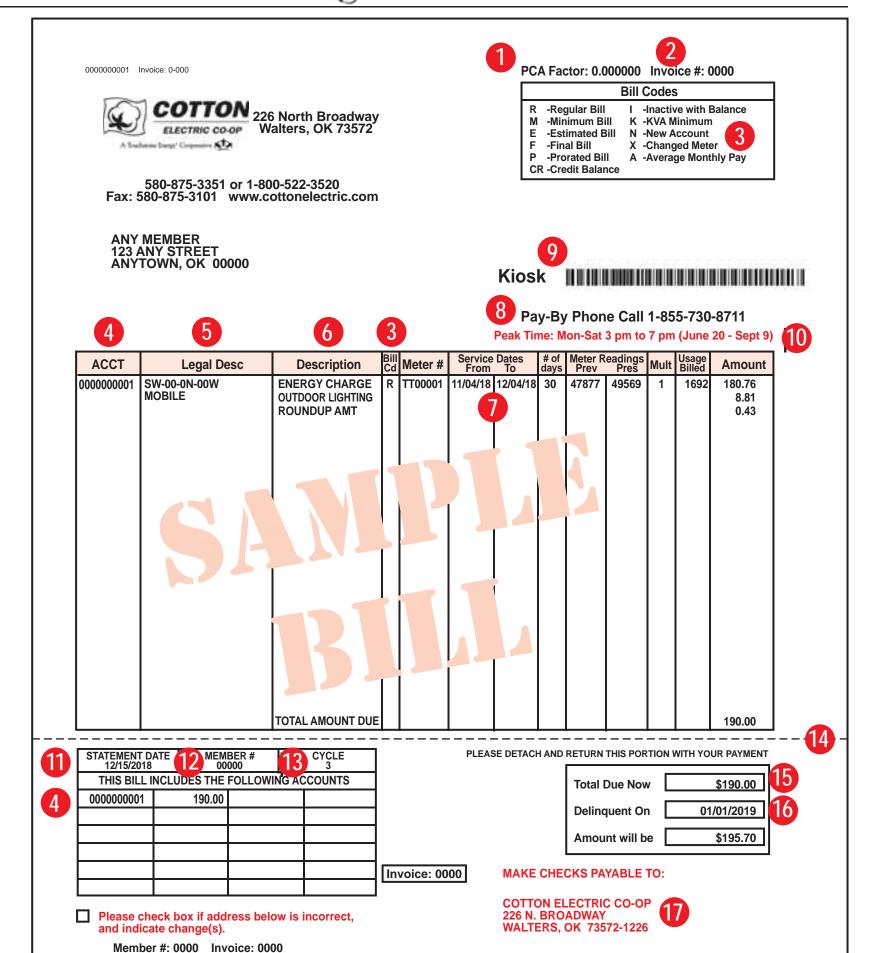
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# Understanding your electric bill

#### 1. PCA Factor

Cotton Electric Cooperative purchases power from Western Farmers Electric Cooperative (WFEC). The power comes from a blend of fuel sources such as hydro, coal, natural gas, wind and solar. The cost of each source fluctuates each month and Cotton Electric applies a power cost adjustment (PCA) to member bills to reflect the fluctuation. The PCA has been a credit for eight out of the 12 months from January through December 2019.

#### 2. Invoice Number

Bills showing charges for more than one meter will have an invoice number. In addition to simplifying bookkeeping, it saves on the cost of printing and postage for a separate bill for each meter.

#### 3. Bill Code

regular bill.

#### 4. Account Number

This is a unique number assigned to every meter Cotton serves. The number is derived from where the meter is located 7. Service Dates & on the service territory grid. It appears at the top of the bill and below the perforation so both parts will show the number or numbers when they are separated.

#### 5. Legal Description

This is a commonly used locating number. It is not as precise as the Cotton Electric grid numbering system.

#### 6. Description

There may be only one line here for a meter's energy charge, which consists of the customer charge, usage charge, PCA

## Billing cycles tied to fixed dates

Cotton Electric Cooperative uses day of the month. "Cycle Billing" with billing based on meter readings obtained by the cooperative's automated meter reading system and from meter reader personnel.

Cycle billing means that meter readings and billing occur on specific cycles. Instead of mailing bills to all members on the last day of the month, bills are mailed in two groups. Billing, bank draft and penalty dates are all tied to fixed dates within each month.

**CYCLE ONE** has black lettering. Bills are mailed the **5TH DAY** of each 15th day of the month. Penalties will be assessed on bills paid after the 20th necessary penalty charges.

CYCLE THREE has some red lettering. Bills are mailed the 15TH DAY of each month. Bank drafts are made on the 25th day of the month. Penalties will be assessed on bills paid after the first day of the following month.

The calendar sometimes results in additional days of usage to be included in the meter reading and billing period. Your bill indicates the approximate number of days for which you are being billed.

The date on which payment is due month. Bank drafts are made on the is also indicated. Returning your payment on time will help you avoid un-

In most cases, this will be an R for a light may be listed here. Participants in up the account when exposed to the bar Operation Round Up can see how much code reader of a payment kiosk at the Cotton Electric office at 1101 W. Oak the bill is rounded up to the nearest dolin Duncan. Cash or credit/debit card lar, an amount that will never be more payments can be made at any time at this 16. Delinquent On & outside kiosk.

### Number of Days

The number of days in a billing period will vary, usually because of the number of days in a calendar month.

#### 8. Pay By Phone

than 99 cents in any month.

Electronic check or credit/debit card payments can be made at any time via this phone number. Listen carefully and follow the prompts.

#### 9. Kiosk Bar Code

This bar code is unique to each mem-

#### 10. Peak Time

Energy consumption peaks between 3 and 7 p.m. in the summer months. Conserving energy during those hours will help control your power bill.

#### 11. Statement Date

This will be either the 5th or the 15th of the month. Your billing cycle determines which day of the month your statement will be issued.

#### 12. Member Number

This a second unique number assigned and some taxes. Charges for a security ber account. It will automatically pull to each membership. An individual ing and grey screens is a Cycle 1 bill.

member may have many meters that fall under the member number. However, each membership counts as one in matters such as voting at district and annual meetings – one membership, one vote.

#### 13. Cycle

Cycle 1 statements are in the mail on the 5th of each month and payment is delinquent after the 20th. Cycle 3 statements are in the mail on the 15th and payment is delinquent after the first day of the following month.

#### 14. Perforation

When paying by mail, please tear off the bottom portion of your bill and return it with your payment. When paying in person, please bring the entire bill with you

#### 15. Total Due Now

All bills are due upon receipt. It is each member's responsibility to pay his or her power bill in a timely fashion.

## **Amount Will Be**

Cycle 1 bills are considered delinquent after the 20th day of the month; Cycle 3 bills are considered delinquent after the first day of the following month. A 3% late penalty is assessed after the delinquent date.

#### 17. Color

Some bills will have some red text in the bottom portion of the bill. There may be a red screen in the heading across the top of the grid showing the account information and charges. Red indicates a Cycle 3 bill. A bill with only black letter-

# **2020 Electrical Rates**

**General Service** Monthly Rate

**Customer Charge:** Single-Phase Service \$30.00 per month Three-Phase Service \$35.00 per month

**Energy Charges:** All kWh \$0.08950 per kWh

The rate includes 6.25 cents per kWh of wholesale wer in our base charge for electricity. Any amount above or below 6.25 cents will be computed in the Power Cost Adjustment.

#### Available To:

Available to general service customers for farm, home and residential use subject to the established rules and regulations of the Cooperative. No resale, standby or auxiliary service permitted.

Type of Service:

Single-phase, at available secondary voltage or three-phase at the discretion of the Cooperative. Minimum Charges:

(1) A charge of \$30.00 per month for single-phase

service and \$35.00 per month for three-phase service; (2) Compliance with Operational Policy 556, if appli-

cable, of the Terms and Conditions of Service. (3) A charge of \$30.00 per month for single-phase

service and \$35.00 per month for three-phase service, plus a charge of \$1.00 per kVA of transformer capacity in excess of ten (10) kVA.

#### Adjustments:

The above rates do not include power cost adjustments, gross receipts tax, city tax and franchise taxes where applicable.

#### Service Reconnection:

When a reconnection of service is made for a Member at the same location within a 12-month period after the date the service was disconnected at the Member's request, a charge equal to the sum of the minimum monthly bills determined for the months that service was disconnected will be billed to the customer and must be paid, in addition to the charges for connection in compliance with Operational Policy 553 of the Terms and Conditions of Service.

#### General Service HD

Monthly Rate **Customer Charge:** 

Single-Phase Service \$25.00 per month Three-Phase Service \$30.00 per month

**Energy Charges:** All kWh \$0.07690 per kWh

The rate includes 6.25 cents per kWh of wholesale power in our base charge for electricity. Any amount above or below 6.25 cents will be computed in the Power Cost Adjustment. Available To:

Available to residential consumers in franchised municipal areas with a line density of 11 customers per mile or greater, subject to the established rules and regulations of the Cooperative. No resale, standby or auxiliary service permitted.

#### Type of Service:

Single-phase, at available secondary voltage or three-phase at the discretion of the Cooperative. Minimum Charges:

#### (1) A charge of \$25.00 per month for single-phase

service and \$30.00 per month for three-phase service;

(2) Compliance with Operational Policy 556, if applicable, of the Terms and Conditions of Service.

(3) A charge of \$25.00 per month for single-phase

service and \$35.00 per month for three-phase service. plus a charge of \$1.00 per kVA of transformer capacity in excess of ten (10) kVA.

#### Adjustments:

The above rates do not include power cost adjustments, gross receipts tax, city tax and franchise taxes where applicable.

#### Service Reconnection:

When a reconnection of service is made for a Member at the same location within a twelve-month period after the date the service was disconnected at the Member's request, a charge equal to the sum of the minimum monthly bills determined for the months that service was disconnected will be billed to the customer and must be paid, in addition to the charges for connection in compliance with Operational Policy 553 of the Terms and Conditions of Service.

#### Commercial Service Monthly Rate **Customer Charge:**

Single-Phase Service \$40.00 per month Three-Phase Service \$45.00 per month

**Energy Charges:** All kWh \$0.08620 per kWh

The rate includes 6.25 cents per kWh of wholesale power in the base charge for electricity. Any amount above or below 6.25 cents will be computed in the Power Cost Adjustment

Available To: Available for commercial and industrial consumers up to fifty (50) kVA of transformer capacity, subject to the rules and regulations of the Cooperative. Available for commercial and industrial consumers to one hundred fifty (150) kVA of transformer capacity at the discretion of the Cooperative. Service under this rate is not available wherein transformer capacity requirements exceed one hundred fifty (150) kVA. No resale, standby or auxiliary service permitted.

Type of Service:

Single-phase or three-phase at available secondary voltages.

#### Minimum Charges:

(1) A charge of \$40.00 per month for single-phase and \$45.00 per month for three-phase service plus a charge of \$1.00 per kVA of transformer capacity in excess of ten (10) kVA; or

(2) Compliance with Operational Policy 556,if applicable, of the Terms and Conditions of Service.

#### Adjustments:

The above rates do not include power cost adjustments, gross receipts tax, city tax and franchise taxes where applicable.

#### Commercial Service HD Monthly Rate **Customer Charge:**

Single-Phase Service \$35.00 per month

Three-Phase Service \$40.00 per month **Energy Charges:** 

#### All kWh \$0.07940 per kWh

The rate includes 6.25 cents per kWh of wholesale power in our base charge for electricity. Any amount above or below 6.25 cents will be computed in the Power Cost Adjustment.

#### Available To: Available for commercial and industrial consumers

up to fifty (50) kVA of transformer capacity, in incorporated areas with a line density of 11 customers per mile or greater, subject to the rules and regulations of the Cooperative. Available for commercial and industrial consumers to one hundred fifty (150) kVA of transformer capacity at the discretion of the Cooperative. Service under this rate is not available wherein transformer capacity requirements exceed one hundred fifty (150) kVA. No resale, standby or auxiliary service permitted.

#### Type of Service:

Single-phase or three phase, at available secondary

#### Minimum Charges:

(1) A charge of \$35.00 per month for single-phase service and \$40.00 per month for three-phase service plus a charge of \$1.00 per kVA for transformer capacity in excess of ten (10) kVA; or

(2) Compliance with Operational Policy 556,if applicable, of the Terms and Conditions of Service.

#### **Irrigation Rate** Monthly Rate

Customer Charge \$32.50 per month Energy Charge \$0.06650 per kWh Horsepower Charge \$2.70 per horsepower of connected load per month

#### Available To:

Available to Members for pump irrigation service subject to the established rules and regulations of the Cooperative. Service under this rate shall be under the standard Cooperative contract. Motors shall be ten (10) horsepower or greater. No resale, standby or auxiliary service permitted.

#### Type of Service:

Single-phase or three-phase, at available secondary voltages.

#### Minimum Charges:

(1) \$32.50 plus a charge of \$2.70 per horsepower of

connected load per year; or (2) Compliance with Operational Policy 556, if appli-

#### cable, of the Terms and Conditions of Service. Service Reconnection:

When a reconnection of service is made for a Member at the same location within a twelve-month period after the date the service was disconnected at the Member's request, a charge equal to the sum of the minimum monthly bills determined for the months that service was disconnected will be billed to the customer and must be paid, in addition to the charges for connection in compliance with Operational Policy 553 of the Terms and Conditions of Service.

#### Interruptible Irrigation Monthly Rate

Customer Charge \$32.50 per month Energy Charge \$0.06650 per kWh

Horsepower Charge \$2.70 per horsepower of connected load per month

The Interruptible Irrigation Rate includes 6.25 cents per kWh of wholesale power in the basic charge for electricity. Any amount above or below 6.25 cents will be computed in the Power Cost Adjustment.

#### Available To:

Available to Members for pump irrigation service subject to the established rules and regulations of the Cooperative. Service under this rate shall be metered with "Time-of-Day" metering or shall have "load interrupting" devices installed on the service. Electric power and energy usage under this rate is prohibited from June 20 through Sept. 9, between the hours of 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Each year, Members will be given credit for horsepower charges, applied toward but not to exceed energy charges, if no power was used during the prohibited time period. No resale, standby or auxiliary service permitted.

#### Minimum Charges:

(1) \$32.50 plus a charge of \$2.70 per horsepower of

connected load per year; or

(2) Compliance with Operational Policy 556, if applicable, of the Terms and Conditions of Service.

#### Service Reconnection:

When a reconnection of service is made for a Member at the same location within a twelve-month period after the date the service was disconnected at the Member's request, a charge equal to the sum of the minimum monthly bills determined for the months that service was disconnected will be billed to the customer and must be paid, in addition to the charges for connection in compliance with Operational Policy 553 of the Terms and Conditions of Service.

#### Large Power Rate

Large Power Rates are available for large industrial loads with a transformer capacity of more than 50 kVA. For details about LP Rates, contact the cooperative at 580-875-3351. Special rates also are available for Cotton Gins.

#### **Outdoor Lighting**

Monthly Rate (1) Where an approved Outdoor Light is installed on an existing pole; and (a) where the Outdoor Light is installed on the Cooperative's side of the meter, the monthly charge per light shall be \$8.81 for 175-Watt Mercury Vapor, 100-Watt High Pressure Sodium or LED; and \$20.87 for 400-Watt Metal Halide; or (b) where the Outdoor Light is installed on the consumer's side of the meter, the monthly charge per light shall be \$2.60 for 175-Watt Mercury Vapor; \$3.12 for 100-Watt High Pressure Sodium or LED; and \$5.98 for 400-Watt

Metal Halide. (2) Should the Member desire a location other than an existing pole, the cost of installation shall be determined by figuring the total cost of labor, materials installed, plus digging and hauling charges, and will be incurred by the consumer. The wire, pole and material

#### will become the property of the consumer. Available To:

Available to all Members of the Cooperative for illumination of outdoor areas at any point on the distribution or service lines, subject to the established rules and regulations of the Cooperative.

#### Vandalism:

In the event the Outdoor Light is damaged by vandalism, such as gun shots, rocks, or any other type of vandalism, the Member shall be responsible for the cost of repairing the Outdoor Light.

#### Power Cost Adjustment:

Due to fluctuations in the cost of fuel for generating wholesale power, it is impossible to buy electricity at the same cost per kWh each month. The base rates include 6.25 cents per kWh of wholesale power cost. Any variation above or below 6.25 cents per kWh of wholesale power cost must be computed as Power Cost Adjustment. The actual PCA factor is indicated on each power bill and is reported in your monthly Cotton Electric Current. Occasionally, when hydro or other low cost generating power is available, a credit is shown on your bill.

This adjustment shall be based on 70 kWh per month per 175-Watt Mercury Vapor Light, 40 kWh per month per 100-Watt High Pressure Sodium Light or 160 kWh per month per 400-Watt Metal Halide, applicable to Rate (1), Plan (a). Adjustments:

#### The listed rates do not include power cost adjust-

ments, gross receipts tax and franchise taxes where Cotton Electric is required to collect a 2%

state gross receipts tax on all power bills.