

May your Christmas sparkle with moments of love, laughter and goodwill,
 May the year ahead be full of contentment and joy.
 Have a Merry Christmas.



The Board of Trustees and Employees of Cotton Electric Cooperative

Soaking up sun in southwest Oklahoma

Power supplier, Cotton Electric launch 250 kW solar array near Devol

By Karen Kaley

On bright days, we close our eyes and turn our faces up to the warm light or we step into a shady spot and feel immediate loss of that warmth. That simple, common experience is but a tiny representation of the sun's powerful influence on our daily lives.

Solar energy is the most abundant energy resource on earth, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The 173,000 terawatts of solar energy striking the Earth continuously is more than 10,000 times the energy used by the entire planet.

If we could just collect and convert that energy, we could better manage an ever-growing demand for electricity. We don't have all the answers but we're getting closer.

Bright minds have developed ways to convert fractions of solar energy to elec-

tricity. In recent years, technology has become more affordable and a solar panel industry has sprung up, complete with high-pressure salesmen. Cotton Electric members considering solar are looking for a reliable source of information before investing.

Look no further. Your cooperative and its power supplier have launched a project to collect solar energy and information and we plan to share the pros and cons with you throughout 2017.

Western Farmers Electric Cooperative (WFEC) provides electric power to Cotton Electric Cooperative and 20 other electric cooperatives in Oklahoma and New Mexico. As a wholesale producer with obligations to its member cooperatives, WFEC leaders have determined technology and cost improvements indicate it is time to explore solar as a power source.

Cotton is one of 11 Oklahoma cooperatives to host a WFEC solar site. A 250 kW site is up and generating on two acres near Devol, a half-mile south of the intersection of U.S. Highway 70 and Oklahoma Highway 36. There are 950 stationary panels at the Cotton site, facing southwest.

The positioning and angle are best to capture direct sunlight from 2 to 8 p.m. particularly from June 20 through September 9. Those times and dates represent the peak period, when demand for electricity is highest in southwest Oklahoma.

That high demand triggers a classic supply-and-demand truism and the cost of energy in the summertime is at its highest. This is significant because our power supplier must be prepared to meet the summertime level of demand at any time throughout the year.

Thus, summertime peaks drive our power supplier's readiness, which drives the bill WFEC sends to members that include Cotton Electric. Paying that bill drives the rate Cotton Electric establishes for its members – you!

How to lower the bill? Lower demand. Asking members to conserve energy during peak periods has some effect. The solar site should have an even greater impact. All power produced at the solar site will be used as it is generated, thus dropping demand.

It will take all of 2017 to collect data that can truly help with decisions about expanding. We hope the information will help Cotton's members, too, particularly those who are unsure about the value of solar panels.

Stay tuned and pull on a sweater to stay warm and reduce demand. Remember, sunny days are ahead.



Power Cost Adjustment Calculated	November 2016 Temperature Extremes								Did You Know?	Contact Us	What's Inside
<p>The power cost adjustment applied to bills mailed after Dec. 1, is \$0.00519 per kWh. PCA for bills mailed after Jan. 1, 2017 is (\$0.00010).</p> <p>On a member's average bill of 1500 kilowatt hours (kWh), this will amount to a charge of \$7.85 on December bills and credit of (\$0.15) on January bills.</p>	Day	High	Low	Avg.	Day	High	Low	Avg.	<p>Cotton Electric offices will be closed Dec. 23 and 26 for the Christmas holiday and Jan. 2, 2017, for the New Year holiday.</p> <p>Emergency calls will be answered at 580-875-3351 or 800-522-3520.</p> <p>The next issue of The Current should arrive in mailboxes on or around Jan. 23, 2017.</p>	<p>Do you have a story idea for The Current or do you need to place an ad? If so, let us know.</p> <p>We can be reached at 580-875-3351 or by email at info@cottonelectric.com.</p> <p>You can also drop us a line at Cotton Electric Current, 226 N. Broadway, Walters, OK 73572.</p>	<p>Operating Stats 2</p> <p>Co-op News 2-3</p> <p>Community 4</p> <p>Co-op News 5-6</p> <p>Puzzles 7</p> <p>News 8-12</p> <p>Recipes 13-14</p> <p>Classifieds 15-19</p> <p style="text-align: center;">More news at cottonelectric.com</p>
	1	85	51	68	16	83	41	62			
	2	84	64	74	17	78	53	66			
	3	72	55	64	18	68	39	54			
	4	65	54	60	19	53	29	41			
	5	68	59	64	20	65	27	46			
	6	62	56	59	21	72	32	52			
	7	69	57	63	22	77	52	65			
	8	63	59	61	23	65	35	50			
	9	68	44	56	24	71	29	50			
	10	69	38	54	25	61	31	46			
	11	73	46	60	26	62	26	44			
	12	65	43	54	27	64	53	59			
	13	70	39	55	28	67	48	58			
	14	77	42	60	29	64	42	53			
	15	79	40	60	30	59	28	44			

Source: srh.noaa.gov/oum/
 Average Daily High: 69 Average Daily Low: 44

From the CEO

Serving members well requires balance

Balance: a condition in which different elements are equal or in the correct proportions

This time of year is extremely hectic for all of us as we juggle holiday commitments, school events and work. We're all striving to find the right balance. As a first-year CEO, I can testify that it may be a simple word but it can be a complex goal.

Just as we work toward the goal of finding balance in our personal lives, the Cotton Electric board and employees strive to find the right balance as we invest coop-



Jennifer Meason, CEO

erative resources to improve service for the membership.

Throughout this year, we've made great progress in our vegetation management program. Our vegetation management program is a combination of tree

clearing and herbicide application that results in a clean right of way with improved safety and service quality for the membership. This approach has proven to be a great investment.

We also strive for the balance of using technology while still providing the human element that makes Cotton Electric unique.

Members can find account information online or can call our offices to speak to an employee. Payments can be made with the SmartHub app or at our Duncan kiosk. You can also visit our Duncan or Walters offices, where one of our friendly Member Service Representatives will accept your payment in person. The choice is yours.

With the winter season upon us, our operations staff has a constant eye on the weather. Advances in weather technology have been a great help, and ice predictions are increasingly accurate. This has been a great benefit for Cotton Electric as we are able to mobilize crews in advance of the storm.

Reliable contractors and suppliers help us find the right balance of manpower and materials on short notice when these events occur.

These are just a few examples of how we're working to provide the right balance of services while keeping rates affordable. The list could go on and on, much like my daughters' list to Santa!

As our world continues to evolve and change, Cotton Electric will continue to adapt to find the right balance for you, our members.

As always, please contact me with any suggestions or concerns you have about your Cooperative. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Time is running out on energy efficiency tax credits

Federal energy efficiency tax credits expire Dec. 31, 2016. Coupled with Cotton Electric's rebates for qualifying ground source heat pumps, this can be a significant savings.

Foundation established for more electrification projects

The Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives (OAEC) announces the formation of a 501(c)3, not-for-profit fund, the Oklahoma Energy Trails Foundation.

The Foundation comes as a result of a successful electrification project that took place in Riberalta, Bolivia, in August 2016 when eight Oklahoma co-op volunteers joined eight Missouri volunteers to bring electricity to remote villages in the Amazonian area of Bolivia.

According to the International Energy Agency, 1.2 billion people - or 17 percent of the world population - live without electricity. This initiative seeks to diminish this number. Electrification projects are coordinated by NRECA International, the philanthropic arm of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association based in Arlington, Va.

The OAEC International Committee, composed of trustees from the statewide association board, received an overwhelming response from volunteer linemen interested on this project. The Committee is considering future international electrification projects, which could take place in the form of a stand-alone Oklahoma project in a developing country.

"Rural electric cooperatives are known for bringing power to areas that would not otherwise enjoy electricity," Chris Meyers, OAEC general manager, said. "It's rewarding to know we made a difference in the lives of families who are striving for a better quality of life."

Contributions to the Oklahoma Energy Trails Foundation are tax-deductible and will be used to support electrification projects in developing nations. To give or to learn more, visit <http://tinyurl.com/energytrails>.

2017 rebate standards announced

Cotton Electric has announced standards for the 2017 Rebate Program for the purchase and installation of energy-efficient ground source heat pumps.

Rebate funds are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Once rebate funds have been exhausted, the program will end for the year.

Members should note that the rebates are offered only for ground source heat pumps (GSHP). A de-superheater is not required but additional rebates are available if one is part of a new GSHP installation.

Minimum standards vary for closed and open loop installations and apply to the full load operation of a GSHP, not the partial load. The

amount of rebate is determined by the size of each unit, its Energy Efficiency Rating (EER) and Coefficient of Performance (COP).

Qualifying units can receive a rebate of up to \$1,050 per ton installed if the unit meets the minimum specifications, which are 15.9 EER and 3.3 COP for closed loop systems and 18.0 EER and 3.6 COP for open loop.

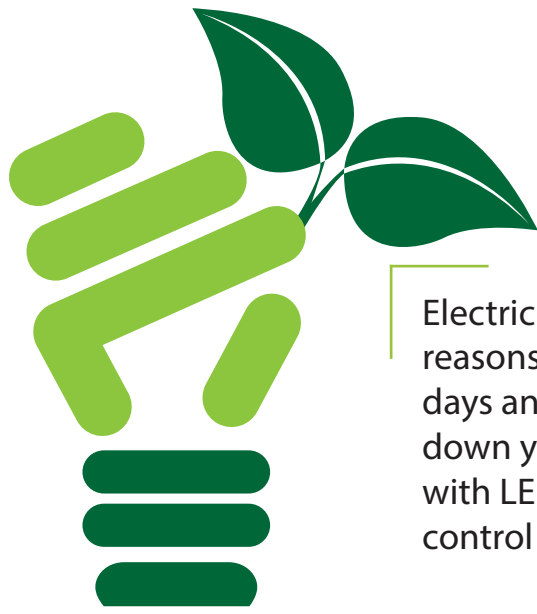
Cotton Electric offers a rebate for members replacing an existing GSHP system with a more efficient GSHP system.

To qualify for a rebate when replacing an existing GSHP system with another GSHP system, the new installation must increase the

EER by at least 3.0. The minimum specification for COP is 3.3 for closed loop systems and 3.6 for open loop. Rebates are \$375 per ton.

In order to qualify for the program, members will need to provide a copy of their itemized invoice and, from the HVAC contractor or supplier, AHRI certification and Manual J calculation. Verification by Cotton Electric personnel is also required to receive the rebate. The maximum rebate in 2017 will be \$5,000 per residence.

For more information about the rebate program, please contact Mike Stephens, Cotton Electric's energy use adviser, at 580-875-3351 or 800-522-3520.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Electric bills increase during the winter for a variety of reasons – holiday gatherings, house guests, and shorter days and longer nights. Small measures, like turning down your thermostat, replacing incandescent bulbs with LEDs and washing clothes in cold water can help control energy costs.

Source: TogetherWeSave.com

The Current

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

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

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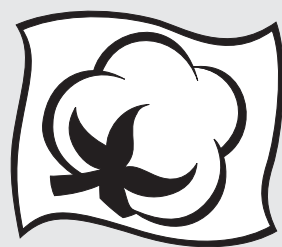
COTTON
ELECTRIC CO-OP

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 2016 Operating Stats

	2016	2015
Total Amount Billed/Accrued	\$4,905,116	\$4,783,150
Cost of Purchased Power	3,370,860	3,192,684
Taxes	100,875	98,810
Total Operating Expense Per Mile	959	921
Average Farm and Residential Bill	119	114
Average Farm and Residential kWh	938	877
Total Meters Billed (farm, residential)	18,230	18,215
Miles Energized	5,163	5,152
Density Per Mile	3.52	3.54
New Service Connects YTD	207	288
Services Retired	93	180



Departmental Spotlight
Marketing

Cotton Electric's Marketing department consists of Jennifer Kriz, marketing representative, seated left; and Karen Kaley, editor and communication specialist; and, standing, Bryce Hooper, vice president of marketing and subsidiary services; Mike Stephens, energy use advisor; and Shane Bowers, staff assistant.

Photo by Tonya Daniel

To market the co-op, we have a long list

By Karen Kaley

As residents of rural southwest Oklahoma go about their daily lives, they may spot the Cotton Electric logo on billboards and ballpark signs, on the front of a cap or the side of a truck. A longtime co-op member might look forward to pulling this very newspaper from a mailbox, while a first-time member might look through a handbook received when arranging for service in a new home.

If a person isn't aware of Cotton Electric through those examples, he or she may have learned about the generosity of the co-op's members through its Charitable Foundation. Or, clicked the Like button under a cutie in a photo contest on the Cotton Electric Facebook page.

Many young people know about Cotton Electric because they saw a hot dog get zapped during a demonstration about electrical safety or were invited to participate in competition for time at a summer camp in western Oklahoma or a trip to Washington, D.C.

Still others have been concerned about energy consumption in a home, at a school or a place of business. Someone

from Cotton Electric came out, looked things over and suggested ways to control the consumption.

Oh, and how about that big party once a year, the Annual Meeting? Many are certain to show up in Duncan or Lawton to eat a good meal, hear about the co-op and hope to win a prize drawing.

All of those examples and more are a function of the Marketing department.

"It's a long list," said Bryce Hooper, vice president of marketing and subsidiary services. "By themselves, they all seem like small things, but altogether it is an essential part of communicating and carrying out the cooperative principles."

The Marketing department embodies the principal of education, training and information by reminding members about principles outlining the ability to democratically participate in the co-op's autonomy. Marketing departments from co-ops across the state and nation collaborate in order to share messages of concern for the communities served.

Cotton Electric's Marketing department is small but mighty in the way it reaches out to the membership.

Hooper oversees all Marketing activities and carries responsibility for coordinating external advertising and maintaining relationships with large consumers, or key accounts. He also serves as chief operating officer of Cotton Electric Services, Inc., the cooperative's independent subsidiary.

Mike Stephens serves the co-op's membership as Energy Use Advisor. An excellent energy efficiency resource, Stephens performs energy audits, a free service to help members find ways to control power bills with home or business modifications. He also gives safety demonstrations in schools and coordinates the co-op's rebate program.

Jennifer Kriz manages advertising for The Current, promotes the Co-op Connections program and coordinates youth outreach programs such as Energy Camp, Youth Tour and Leadership Summit. Kriz sees to promotional items, making sure the co-op has plenty of logo-emblazoned calendars, caps, pencils and other goodies to hand out to members.

Karen Kaley is editor of The Current and is involved in the administration

aspect of Cotton Electric Charitable Foundation. She works on most of Cotton's messaging, whether in the form of printed materials or as a monitor for the co-op's online presence.

Shane Bowers joined Cotton Electric as Staff Assistant in the spring and has responsibilities in the Administration and Marketing departments. In addition to his primary functions overseeing human resources and benefits, he will play a larger role in the charitable foundation and executing the annual membership meeting.

Summing up, Hooper described the Marketing department as a partnership with the cooperative's members and with fellow employees.

"We let members know what's going on at co-op and in the industry. We help members understand their power bills, help explain why consumption might be high. We want our members to be as efficient as possible. We want to keep them up-to-date on the latest technology.

"We want to be a part of our members' communities. We want those communities to succeed."

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Estate Planning Tips for Blended Families

Most of us need to do some type of estate planning, but it's especially important if you are part of a "blended" family. And the best time to start is now – before these plans need to be implemented.

Estate planning can be complex, so you will need help from a qualified legal professional. But here are a few general suggestions that can be suitable for blended families:

Update beneficiary designations – and think about multiple beneficiaries. Update the beneficiary designations on your retirement accounts and insurance policies to reflect the reality of your blended family. These designations can supersede the instructions you provided in your will. So if your will states that your current spouse should inherit your assets, but you had named your former spouse, or a child, as the primary beneficiary of an IRA, then your former spouse or your child – not your present-day spouse – will indeed receive

the IRA.

To ensure that "everyone gets something," you could name your current spouse as primary beneficiary and your children from a previous marriage as equal contingent beneficiaries. But the primary beneficiary will receive all the assets and is free to do whatever he or she wants with the money. To enact your wishes, you can name multiple primary beneficiaries and designate the percentage of the asset each beneficiary will receive.

Create a living trust – and consider a professional trustee. A living trust can help you avoid the time-consuming and costly process of probate, while giving you great freedom to determine how, and when, you want your assets distributed. After you pass away, the trust, if structured properly, can provide your surviving spouse with income for life; then, after your spouse dies, your children from an earlier marriage would receive the remainder of the trust.

So far, so good. However, issues can arise if you name your surviving spouse or one of your children as the "successor trustee" who will take charge of the trust upon your passing. Your spouse, acting as successor trustee, could choose to invest only in bonds for income, but if he or she lives another 20 or so years, the value of the investments within the trust will probably have diminished considerably – leaving your children with very little. Conversely, if you name one of your children as trustee, the child could invest strictly in growth-oriented investments, leaving your surviving spouse with greatly reduced income. To be fair to everyone, you may want to engage a professional third-party trustee. This individual, or company, is not a beneficiary of the trust, is not entitled to share in the assets of the trust, and, ideally, should have no "rooting interest" in how proceeds of the trust are distributed.

Consider a prenuptial agreement.

When it's time to settle an estate, a prenuptial agreement can help avoid disputes among members of a blended family. If you and your new spouse have agreed to keep your assets separate so that each of you can pass an inheritance to your own children, you need to spell out that separation in your "prenup," your will, your living trust and any other relevant estate-planning arrangements.

Above all else, share your estate-planning intentions with members of your blended family. You may not be able to satisfy everyone, but through open communications, you can help prevent bad feelings – and unpleasant surprises.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

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Community Spotlight

If you would like your community event listed in the January 2017 issue, please submit information by Jan. 6 by calling 580-875-4259 or send an email to info@cottonelectric.com.

Christmas meal offered for all

Designed to offer a traditional meal and fellowship for those who might be alone or unable to cook, the 28th annual Christmas dinner will be served to any and all from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Christmas Day at Stephens County fairgrounds.

Some meals can be delivered ONLY if advance arrangements are made by calling 580-255-3231. Calls must be made between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. No calls will be taken after Thursday, Dec. 22.

CTHC showcases horse-themed art

Chisholm Trail Heritage Center is currently showcasing "Horsing' Around: Out of the Vault," a collection of artworks exploring the role of the horse in the American West. The works will be on display through Dec. 22.

An exhibition featuring the work of Edmond artist Jennifer Cocoma Hustis opens Jan. 5. Her work captures the spirit of animals through expressive drawings, paintings, prints photographs and sculpture. Her work has been on display in galleries and museums throughout Oklahoma. The show at the Heritage Center will run through Feb. 25.

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

Cotton Electric members can present a Co-op Connections Card to get \$1 off the admission price, per card per visit.

Cox's Store VFD sets annual meeting

Annual meeting for Cox's Store VFD is set for 7 p.m. Jan. 12, 2017, at the fire station, three miles north of Oklahoma Highway 7 on Oklahoma Highway 65. Offices for re-election are treasurer and member-at-large.

This meeting is open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

CTAC hosting St. Louis Big Band

CTAC Live concert series opens 2017 with the St. Louis Big Band. Modern interpretations of great American standards as well as unique covers of pop hits will begin at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 28 in the Simmons Center in Duncan.

The St. Louis Big Band was founded in 2010 by visionary alto saxophonist and composer Ryan Sheehan. His mission was to create a modern big band that has the energy, emotion and passion of the great bands of yesteryear. The St. Louis Big Band seeks to embody the spirit, energy, and passion that originally brought big band music to the forefront of popular music.

Tickets are available at the door.

Magic Lantern screens classic films

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

The Feb. 10 feature is "Taming of the Shrew." In this 1967 film adaptation of the classic Shakespeare play, Grumio and Hortensio both long to wed the same beautiful young woman. Unfortunately, her wealthy father will not let his daughter marry unless her hot-tempered sister, Katherina, also has a suitor. Luckily, Petruchio is looking for an affluent woman to marry, so Grumio and Hortensio pay him to try to woo Katherina.

Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton star in this film directed by Franco Zeffirelli.

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.

Chapter of Blind to host Kay Love

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

At the Dec. 17 meeting, the group will hear from Kay Love. The blind double-amputee is the president of the newly-formed Lawton Council of the Blind. Love will share her experience with an Orion3 microprocessor knee, her prosthetic legs and her service dog, Lightning.

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

LCT stages 'Pitmen Painters'

Lawton Community Theatre presents "The Pitmen Painters" Jan. 20-29, 2017, at John Denney Playhouse, 1316 NW Bell Avenue. Performances will be at 8 p.m. except those on Sundays, which are at 2 p.m.

The pitmen embark on one of the most unusual experiments in British art as they learn to become painters. Within a few years, their work is taken for prestigious collections and they are celebrated throughout the British art world. But, every day they work, as always, down in the mine.

Visit LCT-OK.org for information.

DLT presents 'Into the Woods'

Duncan Little Theatre presents "Into the Woods" at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 17, 18, 24 and 25 at the Simmons Center in Duncan.

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



We had many entries in our FIRST CHRISTMAS photo contest. See all of them on Cotton Electric's Facebook page.

These kissing cousins were about to experience their FIRST CHRISTMAS when the families took them to the park for pictures. Kristie Mason said her son, Trevor, loved to give kisses and immediately leaned in when placed next to Kaylee. Trevor's parents are Cotton Electric members Gabe and Kristie Mason. Cousin Kaylee is the daughter of Josh and Stephanie Morris. All live in Lawton.

Enter your "best shot" in our Photo of the Month contest. Theme for January is Favorite Shot of 2016. Entries can be emailed to info@cottonelectric.com or mailed to The Current, 226 N. Broadway, Walters, OK 73572. Winners will receive a Cotton Electric prize package of CEC goodies.

This musical makes use of professional lighting, sound effects, fantastic set design and clever costuming to intertwine the plots of several fairy tales. As the result of the curse of a once-beautiful witch, a baker and his wife are childless. Three days before the rise of a blue moon, they venture into the forest to find the ingredients that will reverse the spell and restore the witch's beauty. During their journey, they meet Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, Rapunzel and Jack, each one on a quest to fulfill a wish.

Tickets may be purchased at the door.

Lawton Pro Musica sets spring event

The 14th season of Lawton Pro Musica includes a spring concert at 7 p.m. Feb. 25 at Trinity Baptist Church, 1916 W. Gore Blvd.

Lawton Pro Musica Choir is composed of some of southwest Oklahoma's finest singers. The group's mission is to enrich the area with outstanding choral music. It provides opportunities for vocal artists and education and inspiration for young singers.

There is no admission fee for performances, but donations will be accepted.

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

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Trivia Contest



Call 580-875-3351 for details.

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



Employee of the Year Chace Penn

Chace Penn was named 2016 Employee of the Year recently.

As system engineer, Penn works closely with the engineering and dispatch departments. He is a 5-year employee who has had a significant impact.

His nominator said, "Chace goes the extra mile to research, which allows him to better aid employees. He is always available and willing to help anybody. His behind-the-scenes involvement with our outage system dur-

ing storms has a huge on helping linemen get the lights back on. By keeping critical systems running smoothly, he guarantees outages will be as short as possible." Congratulations, Chace!



Harlin Mallow
40 years



Brian Jones
35 years



Cindy Benefield
30 years



Greg Kohout
25 years



Chuck Ballard
25 years



Tonya Daniel
25 years



Angel Bowles
25 years



David Break
20 years



Larry Williams
15 years



Ty Logan
10 years



Eric Woods
10 years



Mike Darnell
10 years



Josh Belcher
10 years



Jennifer Kriz
10 years



Monty McDaniel
5 years



Adam Metcalfe
5 years



Chace Penn
5 years



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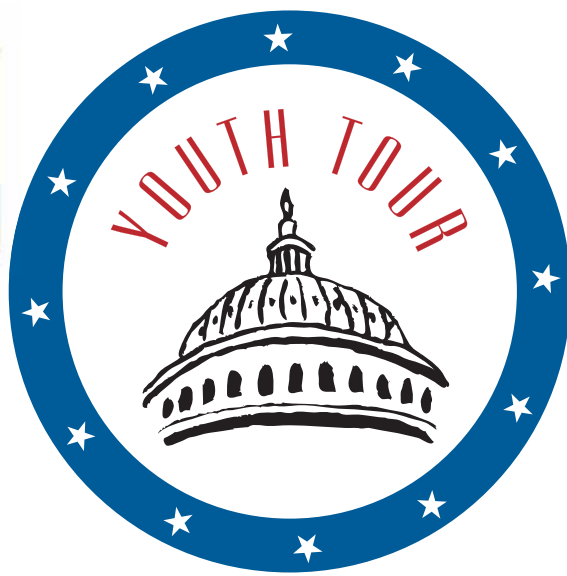
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Ask Around About How Great It Is At These Local Business Users:
 Cotton County Drug Store
 Walters City Hall
 Walters Library



Deadline to apply for youth-gear opportunities is Jan. 20

Cotton Electric Cooperative has a pair of opportunities available for students in the service area.

Area juniors can submit a 600-word essay for a chance to participate in the annual Rural Electric Youth Tour. This year's topic, "The Power of the Cooperative Model," will be the key focus for all submissions. Students may choose to address a member of the future or the past.

The contest features three rounds: Essay submission, interview and oral presentation of the essay. The top four entrants win an expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., for a week in June.

Another summer opportunity is available for eighth-graders whose parents are Cotton Electric

members. This contest requires a short paragraph about why the entrant would like to attend the 2016 Youth Power Energy Camp from May 30 through June 2 at Canyon Camp in Red Rock Canyon, southeast of Hinton.

Information packets with Youth Tour and Energy Camp contest rules and regulations, entry forms, cooperative information and basic details of the contest have been distributed to area English and Ag teachers and counselors. The registration deadline for entering both contests is Jan. 20, 2017.

For information on any of the contests, contact Jennifer Kriz at 580-875-34277 or by email at jkriz@cottonelectric.com.

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Members of the Stephens County 4-H Horse Club recently carried out a project to benefit a group often overlooked during the giving season: teens in foster care. The Horse Club conducted a bake sale in early December and raised more than \$300 to purchase items both needed and wanted. Tyler Weaver, Chris White, Makenna Fishgrab, James Weaver, Fallon Warren and Kaci Stonerock delivered the gift-wrapped items to the Stephens County Youth Services office. Madison Jarrett also helped with the project.

CECF announces 4th-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 can be as little as 1 cent and is never more than 99 cents. On average, each participating member contributes about \$6 each year.

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

The board met in December to review eight grant applications. Grants total-

ing \$11,045 will be distributed to four of the applicants. Fourth-quarter grants include:

- Bray-Doyle Academic Booster Club: A \$5,000 CECF grant will purchase microscopes for the middle and high school science departments.
- Town of Chattanooga: A \$1,500 CECF grant will purchase four security cameras.
- Comanche VFD: A \$3,945 CECF grant will add a pump and motor to a brush truck.
- Indianhoma Public School: A \$600 CECF grant will add incentives to the Accelerated Reader program.

CECF has awarded or pledged grants totaling \$967,452.14 since the foundation was established in 2004.

Applications for 2017 first-quarter grants are due by March 8. Downloadable applications are available at CottonElectric.com.

Find out how the little changes add up to big savings at TouchstoneEnergy.com.

Don't Miss
The Ginger Jar of Duncan's
FAMOUS AFTER-CHRISTMAS SALE!
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NEW LISTING: WALTERS AREA
• 410 E Oklahoma, Walters: 3 bed, 1 bath, 1356 sqft, \$57,000
• 263384 E. 1810 Rd: \$350,000. 3900 sqft. country home, 5 bed, 4 bath. Country home 2 acres with more acreage available. 40x60 shop w/ quarters. Directions: 1mi east of Walters, 2 north, 1/2 west.
• 625 E. Texas: Price REDUCED AGAIN! \$69,000. 3 bed 1 bath, 1500 sqft, full brick. Updates include; Granite counters, cabinetry, roof and windows
• 1601 10TH Street, Randlette, OK: \$129,900. 3 bed 2 bath, 2286 sqft, full brick.
LAND LISTINGS
• 240 Acres, Deep Red, WRP Reduced: \$750/acre
• 60 Acres in SE S14 T3S R14W, Tillman County, REDUCED price \$78,000, Deep Red area.
• 280 Acres in S16 T3S R13W, Cotton County, REDUCED price:\$364,000, Deep Red area.
• NEW LISTING: 792 ACRES JOINING: WEST CACHE S16 & NE S21 T4S R11W, WET LAND POTENTIAL, ALL MINERALS OWNED TRANSFER: \$1080/ACRE
DETAILS AND PICTURES OF ALL LISTINGS AT WWW.HIGHSAUCTION.COM
HIGH'S AUCTION & REAL ESTATE SERVICE
580-875-6500

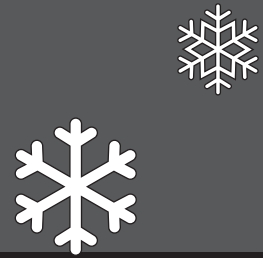
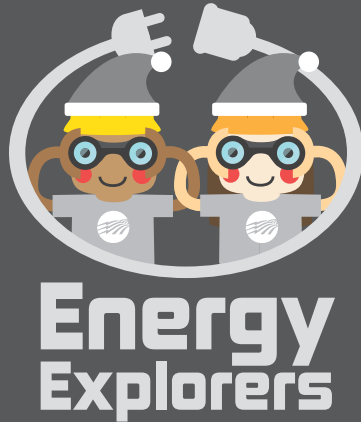
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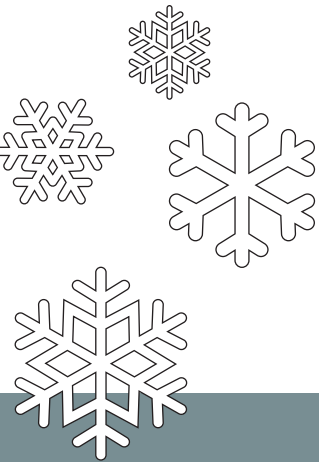
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WINTER WORD SEARCH



Find these words hidden in the puzzle below:

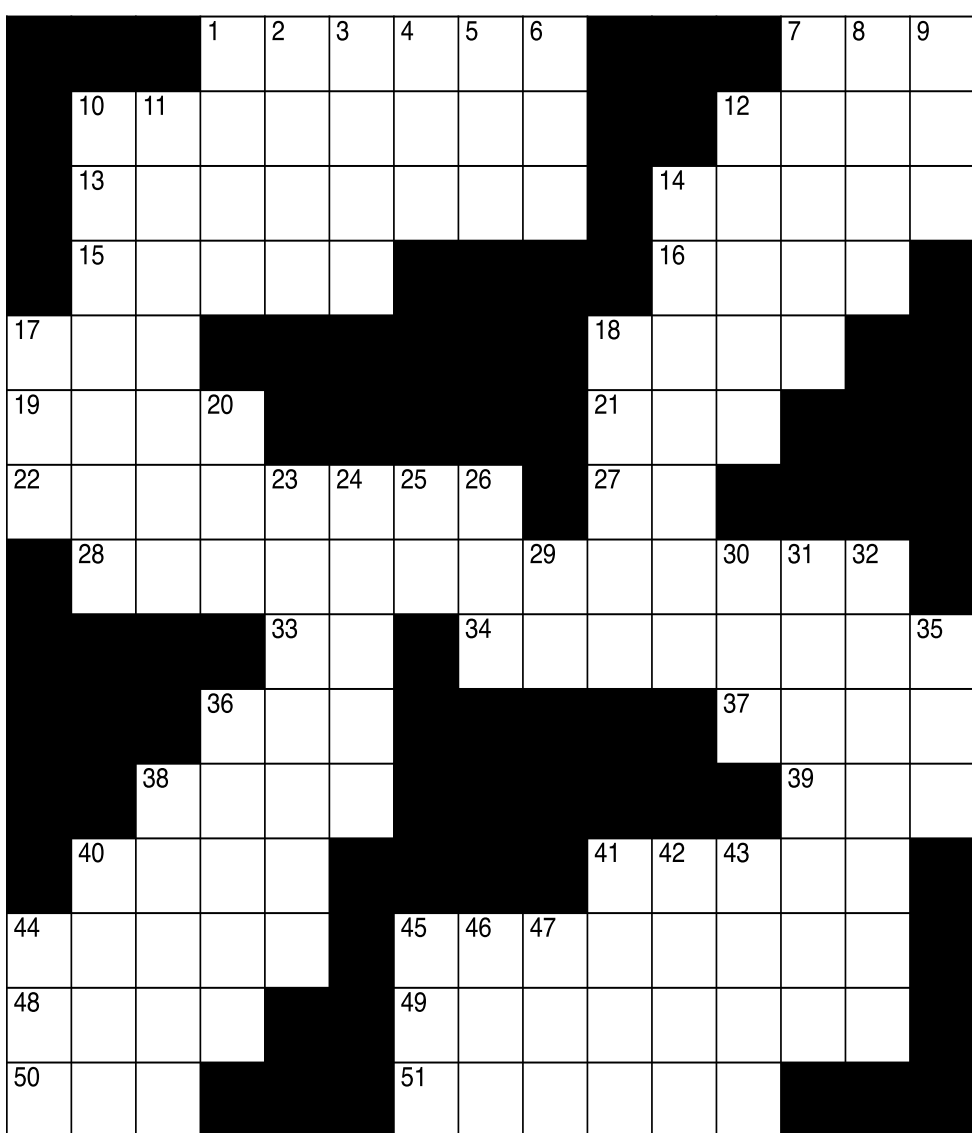
- BRRR
- MITTENS
- CHILLY
- SCARF
- HOT CHOCOLATE
- SNOWFLAKE
- ICE SKATE
- SNOWMAN
- ICICLE
- WINTER



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

ACROSS

1. Give a raucous cry
7. Mentally ill
10. Natural electrical phenomenon
12. Vessels
13. Judge the worth of something
14. South Asian garments
15. Studied intensively
16. District in Kazakhstan
17. Beloved meal ___ and cheese
18. Ceases to live
19. Home to BYU
21. What thespians do
22. Julianne Moore and Christina Hendricks are two
27. Double in chemistry
28. Clayton Kershaw plays here
33. Overdose
34. Begrudged
36. Consumed
37. A game of chance
38. A low platform
39. Shelled and crushed coffee bean
40. Dashes
41. Long lock of a woman's hair
44. Indicates silence in music
45. Positively charged
48. In bed
49. Cruciferous vegetable
50. Fuel
51. Kids' ride



DOWN

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Greenish-blue 2. Having sufficient skill, knowledge, etc. 3. Dirt 4. New Zealand mountain parrot 5. Back muscle 6. Supplement with difficulty 7. Kate and Rooney 8. How Amazon identifies its products (abbr.) 9. Emirati island 10. Contended | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. Pear-shaped fruit 12. Parks cars 14. Killing oneself 17. Austrian river 18. Older brothers 20. Home hemodialysis 23. One who is self-absorbed 24. Yellow fever mosquitos 25. Pepper or Oz 26. Soviet Socialist Republic 29. Tellurium 30. Pens are filled with it 31. Use this at dinner | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 32. Thin fibrous cartilage (pl.) 35. When you were born 36. Oohed and ___ 38. Small freshwater fishes 40. Religion in China 41. Twitches 42. Cape near Lisbon 43. Management software 44. Game for kids 45. Ed Murrow's home 46. They ___ 47. Part of the foot |
|--|--|---|



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DECEMBER 1 - 31
SATURDAY FROM 6PM TO 11PM

\$2017 IN CASH!
DECEMBER 31 AT MIDNIGHT

Join us December 1st – 31st
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Plus, you could win \$2017 in CASH on
December 31st at midnight. Receive an
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Limit one standard prize per player per
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Tuesdays 12:00-10:00PM,
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free t-shirt. 1 shirt per week
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Offer valid while supplies last.
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Comanche Credit.



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000000001 Invoice: 0-000



**226 North Broadway
Walters, OK 73572**


580-875-3351 or 1-800-522-3520
Fax: 580-875-3101 www.cottonelectric.com

ANY MEMBER
123 ANY STREET
ANYTOWN, OK 00000

1 PCA Factor: 0.000000 **2** Invoice #: 0000

Bill Codes	
R -Regular Bill	I -Inactive with Balance
M -Minimum Bill	K -KVA Minimum
E -Estimated Bill	N -New Account
F -Final Bill	X -Changed Meter
P -Prorated Bill	A -Average Monthly Pay
CR -Credit Balance	

3

8 Kiosk 

9 Pay-By Phone Call 1-855-730-8711
Peak Time: Mon-Sat 3 pm to 7 pm (June 20 - Sept 9) **10**

ACCT	Legal Desc	Description	Bill Cd	Meter #	Service Dates From To	# of days	Meter Readings Prev	Meter Readings Pres	Mult	Usage Billed	Amount
000000001	SW-00-0N-00W MOBILE	ENERGY CHARGE	R	TT00001	11/09/16 12/08/16	30	47877	49569	1	1692	180.76
		SECURITY LIGHT									8.81
		ROUNDUP AMT									0.43
TOTAL AMOUNT DUE											190.00

SAMPLE
BILL

11 STATEMENT DATE 12/15/2016 **12** MEMBER # 00000 **13** CYCLE 3

THIS BILL INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING ACCOUNTS

ACCT	Amount
000000001	190.00

Please check box if address below is incorrect, and indicate change(s).

Member #: 0000 Invoice: 0000
ANY MEMBER
123 ANY STREET
ANYTOWN, OK 00000

PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN THIS PORTION WITH YOUR PAYMENT **14**

Total Due Now	\$190.00
Delinquent On	01/01/2017
Amount will be	\$195.70

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

17 COTTON ELECTRIC CO-OP
226 N. BROADWAY
WALTERS, OK 73572-1226

Understanding Your Electric Bill

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

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 seven out of the 12 months from January through December 2016.

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

In most cases, this will be an R for a 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 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

Billing cycles tied to fixed dates

Cotton Electric Cooperative uses "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 month. Bank drafts are made on the 15th day of the month. Penalties will be assessed on bills paid after the 20th

the customer charge, usage charge, PCA and some taxes. Charges for a security light may be listed here. Participants in Operation Round Up can see how much the bill is rounded up to the nearest dollar, an amount that will never be more than 99 cents.

7. Service Dates & 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. Kiosk Bar Code

This bar code is unique to each member account. It will automatically pull up the account when exposed to the bar code reader of a payment kiosk at the Cotton Electric office at 1101 W. Oak in Duncan. Cash or credit/debit card payments can be made at any time at this outside kiosk.

9. Pay By Phone

day of the month.

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 is also indicated. Returning your payment on time will help you avoid unnecessary penalty charges.

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

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 is a second unique number assigned to each membership. An individual 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.

16. Delinquent On & 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 lettering and grey screens is a Cycle 1 bill.

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? Consider signing up for automatic bank drafts.

Want to choose when and how much you pay? Consider MyChoice, a prepaid member-managed solution that eliminates late fees and security deposits.



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\$190 per mo

\$19,840



Z122R INCLUDED

KUBOTA L2501DT PACKAGE

25 HP/4WD Tractor w/Kubota LA525 Loader & Bucket
Land Pride BB1260 Box Blade • Land Pride RCR1260 Rotary Cutter • **Z122R 42" Zero Turn Mower Included**

\$55,700



Z122E INCLUDED

KUBOTA M5-091HDC

92.5 HP • Kubota Diesel Engine • 4WD
M5 Purchase Includes Z122E 48" Zero Turn Mower

\$29,973

Cash Price



Z122R INCLUDED

KUBOTA MX4800HST PACKAGE 2 LEFT!!

48 HP/4WD Tractor w/Kubota LA1065 Loader & Bucket
Land Pride BB1272 Box Blade • Land Pride RCR1272 Rotary Cutter • **Z122R 42" Zero Turn Mower Included**

PAYMENTS AS LOW AS
\$287 per mo

\$29,999



Z122R INCLUDED

KUBOTA L4701HST PACKAGE

47 HP/4WD Tractor w/Kubota LA764 Loader & Bucket
Land Pride BB1272 Box Blade • Land Pride RCR1272 Rotary Cutter • **Z122R 42" Zero Turn Mower Included**

\$88,800

\$2000 Cash Rebate



DM2032 INCLUDED

KUBOTA M135GXDTSCF w/KUBOTA DM2032

135 HP • Kubota Diesel Engine • 4WD • Kubota DM2032 Disc Mower •

Only 3 Available At This Combo Price!!!

PAYMENTS AS LOW AS
\$286 per mo

\$29,886



Z122R INCLUDED

KUBOTA B2650HSDC PACKAGE

26 HP/4WD Cab Tractor • Kubota Loader & Bucket • 16ft Trailer • Land Pride BB1248 Box Blade • Land Pride RCR1248 Rotary Cutter •

Z122R 42" Zero Turn Mower Included

PAYMENTS AS LOW AS
\$211 per mo

\$21,997



Z122R INCLUDED

KUBOTA B2650HSD PACKAGE

26 HP/4WD Cab Tractor • Kubota Loader & Bucket • 16ft Trailer • Land Pride BB1248 Box Blade • Land Pride RCR1248 Rotary Cutter •

Z122R 42" Zero Turn Mower Included

\$20,670



KUBOTA L3901DT

39 HP/4WD Tractor w/Kubota LA525 Loader & Bucket
Land Pride BB1260 Box Blade

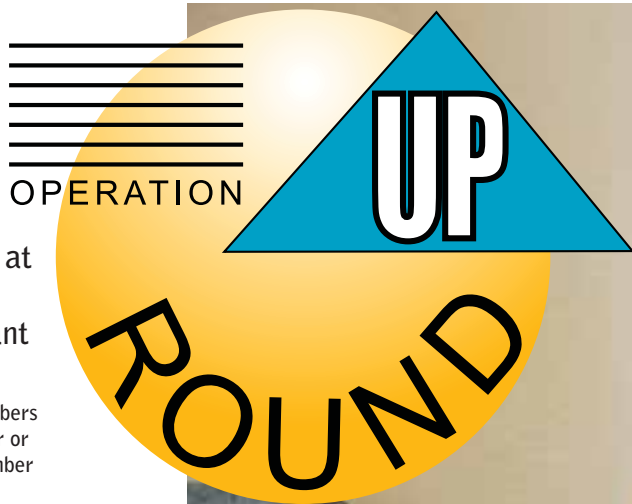
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Download CECF grant applications at cottonelectric.com.
Deadline for first-quarter 2017 grant applications is March 8.

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



Chris Largent works on an art project, one of the many activities in place at Think Ability First's day care facility for adults with disabilities.

Ability first, ahead of challenges

By Karen Kaley

Think Ability First is not just the name of a Stephens County organization serving adults with challenges. It is a mindset, a mission and an encouragement. So, let's try to think ability first: What are the abilities seen during a recent tour of the facilities on West Beech in Duncan?

Most remarkable was the ability of the agency's beneficiaries to lighten the hearts of the people serving them.

As Executive Director Robin Arter led the way through several buildings and areas housing meaningful activities for adults with developmental challenges or disabilities, she was met with a chorus of greetings. She was surrounded by people eager to tell or show whatever was on his or her mind at the moment.

She chuckled when asked about those enthusiastic greetings.

"Yes, I enjoy that," she said, "I get to be a rock star for a few minutes."

Arter's administrative office is not on the same campus as the day care, the furniture workshop, the community garden, Power Print and the furniture store. She makes the trip to the facilities often though, even when it's not needed.

"Sometimes I come here just to walk through because it's fun. When I get bogged down in paperwork and I need a breath of fresh air, this reception gets me re-energized."

Arter said the entire staff is greeted in the same way and all strive to return the treatment.

"We want each person to feel that warmth of greeting, to feel special."

The infectious cheerfulness is cultivated through the activities at the complex. The day care is well-equipped for offering opportunities of creative expression while accommodating special needs. Because adults served may have special medical and physical challenges, the ex-

perienced staff is prepared to deal with issues as they may arise.

For example, all staff members are well-trained on how to use the automatic external defibrillator (AED) mounted in high visibility areas toward the back of the day care and Power Print. Both AEDs were purchased with grants from Cotton Electric Charitable Foundation.

At the workshop, clients are able to sand, paint and otherwise refurbish donated household furnishings for resale at the furniture shop. At Power Print, they are quick to demonstrate the process of pulling ink across a screen, sending an item through a dryer and how to fold a T-shirt neatly, so the screen printing is well-displayed.

A new aspect of the facility is the community garden. A hoop house sits behind raised beds in a large area covered in mulch. When the growing season begins, the beds will be leased to anyone

interested. Lessors can choose a level of involvement from tending the beds themselves or having the facility's clients use their abilities to raise the produce.

These are just a few ways the folks at Think Ability First are reaching out to the community.

"The possibilities are limitless," Arter said.

"Our focus is on abilities and how can we empower individuals toward more independence. We want to find ways to fulfill their goals, dreams and desires."

The community can help.

Arter said, "We are looking for more jobs and exposure to opportunities. We want to be an active partner, we want to build relationships."

So, think about your ability to connect with Think Ability First. Give Arter a call at 580-252-8000 to talk about it. Ask for a tour. You're in for a treat.

The Current 2017 Publication Schedule

The Current will complete its 60th year of publication in 2017. We look forward to serving the membership with stories, photos and the ever-popular classified ads. Dates listed below are deadlines to reserve display advertising space, deadline to submit a classified ad and the day you should expect your copy of The Current to arrive in your mailbox.

January		February	
Ad Sales	Jan. 6	Ad Sales	Feb. 3
Classified ads	Jan. 12	Classified	Feb. 9
Publish Date	Jan. 23	Publish Date	Feb. 21
March		April	
Ad Sales	Mar. 3	Ad Sales	Mar. 31
Classified	Mar. 9	Classified	Apr. 6
Publish Date	Mar. 20	Publish Date	Apr. 17
May		June	
Ad Sales	April 28	Ad Sales	May 26
Classified	May 4	Classified	June 1
Publish Date	May 15	Publish Date	June 12
July		August	
Ad Sales	June 30	Ad Sales	July 28
Classified	July 6	Classified	Aug. 3
Publish Date	July 17	Publish Date	Aug. 14
September		October	
Ad Sales	Aug. 25	Ad Sales	Sept. 22
Classified	Aug. 31	Classified	Sept. 28
Publish Date	Sept. 11	Publish Date	Oct. 10
November		December	
Ad Sales	Oct. 27	Ad Sales	Dec. 1
Classified	Nov. 2	Classified	Dec. 7
Publish Date	Nov. 13	Publish Date	Dec. 18

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Slide into 2017 feeling healthy and fit

Don't become a victim of the Thanksgiving slide, where you wake up in January 10 pounds heavier, blood sugar out of control, plagued with stomach issues and, in general, feeling bad because you stayed in Thanksgiving-feast mode for four weeks. While the holidays may make it difficult to keep your health in check, there are things you can do with your food and exercise habits during the holiday season that will allow you to enjoy the holidays without spiraling out of control.

Be active as much as possible. During this busy time of year, it may be hard to find time for an intense workout or make it to the gym, so just dedicate at least 30 minutes most days of the week to some type of exercise.

If it is too cold to take a walk outside, find simple workouts online that you can do in your living room as you watch your favorite holiday show. You can break up



Kim Bandelier, MPH, RD, LD

Food For THOUGHT

the time into smaller increments, doing 10 to 15 minutes of exercise two to three times a day. Don't forget exercises that will build strength and tone your muscles.

The goal is keeping your fitness level stable during the holidays so you are ready to take on your New Year's resolutions, or just simply start 2017 as fit as possible.

Eating right is a challenge during the holidays because food is in abundance and often in the form of a mouthwatering baked good or holiday candy. While you should enjoy your favorite holiday treats in moderation, it is also important to increase your efforts to eat healthy to offset the splurges.

One strategy is to maximize veggies during the holidays. Broth-based soups, stir fry and roasted winter vegetable salads are great ways to make vegetables the centerpiece during normal meal time. Take vegetable and fruit dishes to holiday parties so you know you will have something healthy to snack on. Pack your lunch and incorporate veggies instead of eating out, saving your dining-

out splurges for the many holiday festivities you will attend or host at your own home.

Another strategy is managing the fancy coffee drinks. Anything past a latte or coffee with a little creamer could derail your holiday reasonable-eating plans if enjoyed daily. Treat your fancy coffee drink like a dessert. Ask the barista for lower-calorie options, or try creating your favorite winter drink at home with lower-calorie ingredients.

Because the holidays are very food-focused, feel confident in enjoying the holiday treats you really love. Avoid mindless snacking on foods that you don't really like.

Being mindful of what you are eating and drinking during the holidays, and staying focused on being active will allow you to enjoy your favorite treats and activities and set you up for a healthy 2017.

4-H Cook Off yields plenty of winners



The 33rd annual Stephens County Cook Off was held the first Monday in November. Participants included 34 Cloverbuds and many 4-H'ers who entered a total of 120 recipes. The young cooks prepared recipes to be judged on taste and appearance. Awards were presented to the top three in each category. First-place winners received a monogrammed apron and second- and third-place

winners received kitchen items. Cloverbud participants received a certificate and kitchen dish towel.

4-H members submitted recipes in 15 categories and the top eight were chosen for the final competition. Cloverbuds brought one of their favorite recipes to the final competition. All awards were sponsored by Stephens County Farm Bureau Women.

Savory Dips:

Mackenzie Hankins, Empire

Philadelphia Cream Cheese Dip

- 1 (8 oz.) pkg. cream cheese softened
- 1 (16 oz.) jar Pace Picante Sauce, mild

Place softened cream cheese and Pace in a bowl. Mix well. Cover and refrigerate until ready to serve.

Serves: 3

Ethnic Favorites:

Ayden Hinds, Comanche

Triple "H" Smoked Ribs

- 1 rack pork spare ribs
- 1/4 c. onion powder
- 2 T. brown sugar
- 1 T. salt
- 1 T. black pepper
- 1 T. paprika
- 2 t. Italian seasoning
- 1 t. garlic powder
- 1/4 t. cayenne pepper
- Hickory wood chips
- BBQ sauce

Remove ribs from package and rinse well. Trim excess fat, or flaps, off meat. Using a butter knife, pry off membrane from bone side of ribs. Season on both sides with rub made of all listed ingredients. Smoke ribs in smoker at 250 degrees Fahrenheit bone side down for 2 hours. Next, wrap ribs in aluminum foil, still leaving bone side down. Cook an additional 1 hour. Remove foil; cook an additional 1-2 hours. Dip rib in sauce and eat. Serves: 12

Candy & Novelty:

Cameron Freeman, Teen Leaders

Payday Fudge

- 12 oz. white chocolate chips
- 1/2 c. creamy peanut butter
- 1 (14 oz.) can sweetened condensed milk
- 1 t. vanilla extract
- 1 1/2 c. candy corn, divided
- 1 1/2 c. peanuts (regular or honey roasted), divided



Assemble all ingredients. Line 8x8 or 9x9 pan with foil and spray with cooking spray. Place white chocolate chips, peanuts butter and sweetened condensed milk in a medium saucepan. Heat over low heat, stirring often until melted and smooth. Remove from heat

and stir in vanilla. Working quickly, stir in 1 c. of the candy corn and peanuts. Quickly spread in prepared pan and top with remaining candy corn and peanuts, press to adhere them to the top. Let fudge cool to room temperature, then chill to set. Cut into squares.

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Appetizers:

Chandler Baker, Central High

Mini Cheese Ball Bites

- 8 oz. cream cheese, room temp
- 1/4 c. mayonnaise
- 1 t. Worcestershire sauce
- 1/2 t. Dijon mustard
- 1/2 t. garlic salt
- 1/4 t. onion powder
- 1/4 t. ground red pepper
- 8 oz. sharp cheddar, grated
- 1 (4 oz.) jar diced pimentos, drained
- 1 1/2 c. bacon, cooked & finely diced
- 1 1/2 c. pecans, toasted & chopped
- 1 to 2 jalapenos, minced, optional
- Salt & pepper to taste

Pretzel sticks

Beat cream cheese with electric mixer until smooth. Beat in mayonnaise, Worcestershire, Dijon mustard, and seasonings. Scrape bowl and mix in grated cheese and pimentos. Season with salt & pepper to taste. Refrigerate 4 hours or until firm. In medium bowl, combine diced bacon, pecans & jalapenos. Using a spoon or small cookie scoop, form pimento cheese mixture by heaping tablespoon into balls. Roll in bacon mixture and press coating into cheese. Refrigerate. Just before serving, skewer each cheese ball with a pretzel stick. Serves: 12-18

Soups, Stews, & Chili:

Trey Gibbs, STAR 4-H

Ballpark Nacho Soup

- 2 lbs. Queso Blanco Velveeta cheese, cut up
- 15 oz. can chili (no beans)
- 1 (15 oz.) can of water or less as desired
- 1 (15 oz.) can corn (undrained)
- 1/4 c. heavy whipping cream
- 2 T. pickled jalapeno peppers, chopped

Place all ingredients in a 2 to 3 qt. crockpot. Cook on low heat until melted, stirring occasionally. Serve with corn chips or crackers. Serves: 8-10

Sweet Dips:

Rae'kyn Rochell, Velma-Alma

Fall Pumpkin Dip

- 15 oz. can of pumpkin
- 1/2 T. pumpkin pie spice
- 5 oz. box, instant vanilla pudding
- 16 oz. container of cool whip
- 1 small pumpkin
- 1/2 T. cinnamon

Mix pumpkin, pudding mix, cool whip and pumpkin pie spice together (by hand) in a very large bowl. Chill for several hours before serving. Meanwhile, carve your pumpkin! Sprinkle with cinnamon, and serve with fresh apple slices, vanilla wafers or ginger snaps.

All Other Desserts:

Ayden Hinds, Comanche

Cinnamon Cream Cheese Roll-ups

- 1/2 loaf thin white bread
- 2/3 bar of cream cheese
- 1/2 c. powdered sugar
- 3/4 c. sugar
- 1 T. cinnamon
- 1/2 c. butter, melted

Cut off bread crust. With rolling pin flatten bread. In a small bowl combine cream cheese and powdered sugar until well blended. In a separate bowl combine sugar and cinnamon, set aside. Spread 1 to 1 1/2 T. of cream cheese on to each



flattened bread piece and roll up. Dip each roll into melted butter and then into cinnamon and sugar mix. Place on ungreased cookie sheet and bake at 350 degrees Fahrenheit for 16 to 20 minutes. Serves: 12

Beverages:

Chandler Baker, Central High

Pink Pineapple Punch

- Pink lemonade mix (about 1/3 cup)
- 2 c. pineapple juice
- 2 c. ginger ale
- 1/4 c. grenadine (or cherry juice from Maraschino cherry)
- Garnish: Lemons, pineapple, cherries



Ice

Fill a large pitcher with ice and pour in pineapple juice and grenadine. Fill the pink lemonade mix to 1 qt. line (according to mix directions, about 1/3 cup). Add to pineapple juice and stir until dissolved. Add the ginger ale and mix gently. Garnish with lemons, pineapple, and cherries, if desired. Serves: 2-4

Salads:

Brilee Combs, Comanche Countryside

Broccoli Salad

- Dressing:
- 1 c. Hellman's mayonnaise
 - 4 T. white sugar
 - 3 T. red wine vinegar

- 5 c. broccoli
- 1/2 med. red onion
- 8 slices bacon, cooked
- 1 c. grated cheese
- 1/2 c. cranberries
- 1/2 c. sunflower seeds

Mix mayonnaise, sugar, red wine vinegar together and set aside. Chop broccoli, red onion, bacon and combine in a serving bowl. Add cranberries, cheese, and sunflower seeds. Pour dressing over broccoli mixture and stir until well coated. Chill in refrigerator for 1 hour before serving. Serves: 15-20




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Parting Shot



Maggie Thompson demonstrates her careful method of folding a T-shirt bearing a screen printed design. She and other adults with disabilities produce custom designed shirts, caps, totes and many other items at Power Print, 2103 W. Beech Avenue in Duncan.

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