

The Current

A Publication of Cotton Electric Cooperative Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

“The Current - Informing Our Members Since 1957”

VOLUME 61

February 20, 2018

NUMBER 7



Above, Fred Buchanan operates the skid steer. Below, a saw rests on mulch created by the skid steer, while Billy Kennard and Ryan Ledford wrestle cut limbs into place for another pass of the skid steer. Below right, Ryan Ledford, left, and Billy Kennard work on a weak spot in a fence while Fred Buchanan looks on.



ROW expands, efficiency skyrockets

By Karen Kaley

If you’ve ever driven down a country road in southwest Oklahoma, you know there are some spots where vegetation is so dense it obscures the fence lines. In addition to the tall grass, poison ivy and yucca, there are woody plants ranging from bushes and saplings all the way to mature trees, stretching up into the power lines.

Think of a particularly overgrown spot and imagine how long it would

take you and a buddy to clear 15 feet on either side of that fence line with chainsaws and a chipper. Could you clear 100 feet in a day?

That’s what Cotton Electric’s in-house vegetation management team did during 2017. Fred Buchanan and Billy Kennard cleared right-of-way by walking along a fence line, cutting out the growth and dragging the debris to a chipper.

Altogether, their efforts and those of other Cotton Electric line

workers cleared 22,176 feet of line. Sounds impressive until you convert the feet to miles and it becomes 4.2.

To make better progress along the 5,169 miles of line serving members in eight counties, Cotton Electric contracts with outside businesses every year to work on prescribed areas. For example, Bacco Tree Service is working on lines extending west from the Paradise substation, about 30 miles of line.

See Skid Steer, Page 9




Power Cost Adjustment Calculated

The power cost adjustment now being applied to bills mailed after March 1, 2018, is \$0.00043 per kWh.

On a member’s average bill of 1250 kilowatt hours (kWh), this will amount to a charge of \$0.54 on the March bill.

January 2018 Temperature Extremes							
Day	High	Low	Avg.	Day	High	Low	Avg.
1	26	9	18	16	26	8	17
2	23	10	17	17	36	4	20
3	51	10	31	18	53	11	32
4	46	18	32	19	65	15	40
5	57	17	37	20	72	40	56
6	61	24	43	21	73	46	60
7	59	46	53	22	56	27	42
8	61	30	46	23	59	21	40
9	69	27	48	24	62	19	41
10	63	40	52	25	67	19	43
11	50	24	37	26	68	49	59
12	40	18	29	27	63	32	48
13	42	22	32	28	62	19	41
14	53	18	36	29	50	24	37
15	45	19	32	30	65	19	42
Source: srb.noaa.gov/oun/				31	76	36	56
Average Daily High: 55				Average Daily Low: 23			

Did You Know?



Daylight Saving Time Begins!

Daylight Saving Time begins at 2 a.m. Sunday, March 11. Turn clocks forward one hour.

The next issue of The Current should arrive in mailboxes on March 19.

Contact Us

Do you have a story idea for The Current or do you need to place an ad? If so, let us know.

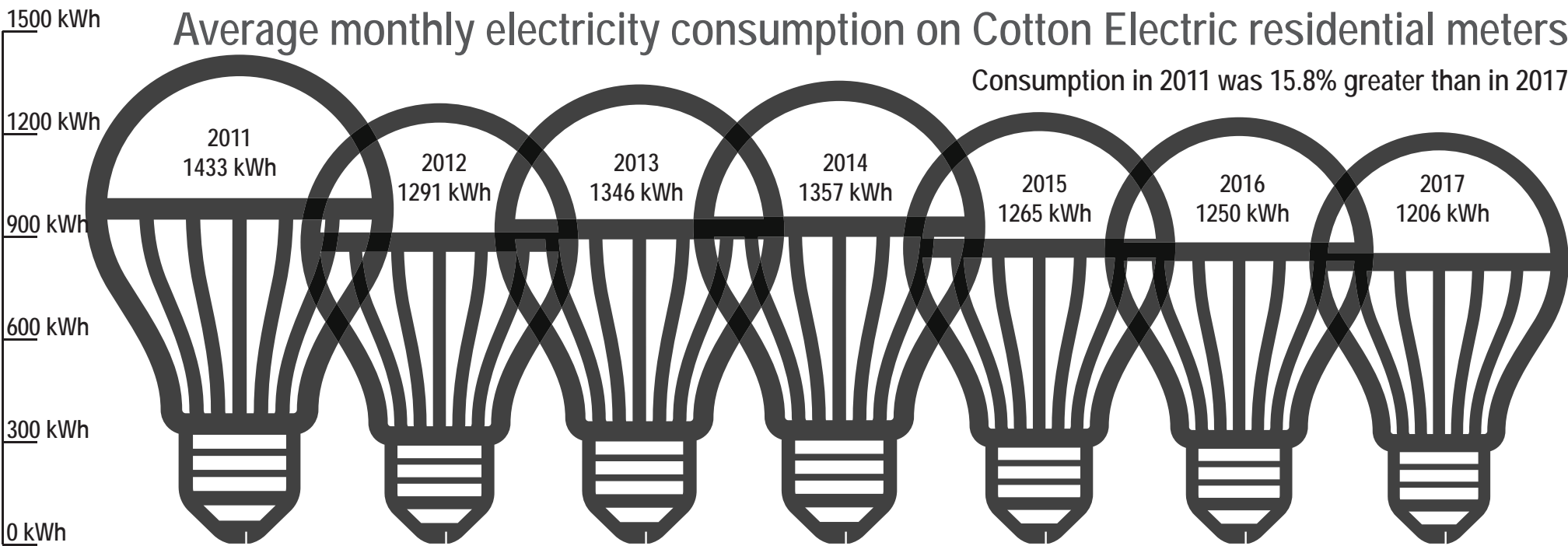
We can be reached at 580-875-3351 or by email at info@cottonelectric.com.

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

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More news at cottonelectric.com



From the CEO

Members doing more with less energy

How many of us remember dropping into a Cotton Electric office with our parents and grandparents to pay the light bill? I remember making the rounds with my mom each month as we dropped off payments for our utilities. We have a few more payment options these days but whether you pay in person, by mail or online, paying your monthly bill does a lot more than just keep the lights on.

Electricity keeps us connected to our modern world. Consider all the necessities and conveniences we enjoy in part because of the power lines running to the electric meter outside your home.

Count up your televisions, your desktop, laptop and tablet computers, printers, your gam-



Jennifer Meason, CEO

ing consoles, music and video players and personal assistant devices. Whether they get used every day or just occasionally, the electricity that keeps them working comes from Cotton Electric Cooperative.

Have you looked around your kitchen lately? Between the coffee maker and toaster and the microwave and electric skillet, a lot of us have added several modern small appliances.

If you've got a craft nook or workshop, the power tools and machines you use to cut and shape your projects are either plugged in or recharged from the outlets connecting your household wiring to Cotton Electric Cooperative.

We use electricity to run all these new devices, plus keep the

lights on, cook our meals, heat and cool our homes, and get hot water from the tap. When you start thinking about everything we use electricity for, you would think that the average kWh usage per home would be increasing. But that's not the case.

Co-ops across the country have reported a 9 percent decline in average residential use per household since 2010. In 2017, Cotton Electric residential members used fewer kWh than in the previous six years. Cotton's residential meters used an average of 1,206 kWh per month last year compared to 2011 when the average usage was 1,433 kWh.

Weather certainly plays a part but we're also doing more things with less energy.

When it comes to value, electricity is a clear winner, but we're

always looking for ways to work with you to make it even better. Cotton Electric encourages energy efficiency education by providing in-home energy consultations and by promoting technology like programmable thermostats and our SmartHub app. All are designed to give you more information about your electricity use and help families, couples and individuals trying to live within their budgets.

We know how important reliable and affordable power is to you. Each day we continue to find ways to improve, and we welcome any suggestions you might have.

As a co-op, we grow stronger when we work together. To share your thoughts, call me at 580-875-3351 or send an email to jmeason@cottonelectric.com.

Powers, Brantley attend 2018 Leadership Summit



High school seniors Murray Powers, left, and Blair Brantley represented Cotton Electric Cooperative at the 18th annual Touchstone Energy Leadership Summit.

High school seniors Murray Powers and Blair Brantley represented Cotton Electric Cooperative at the 18th annual Touchstone Energy Leadership Summit held Jan. 27 at Chesapeake Energy Finish Line Tower in Oklahoma City. They were among 27 students from across the state selected to participate in the event sponsored by Cotton Electric and other Touchstone Energy cooperatives in Oklahoma.

Murray and Blair were chosen from the finalists participating in Cotton Electric's 2017 Youth



Tour essay contest. Murray attends Powers Academy Home-school in Loco and is the son of Sidney and Wendy Powers. Blair is a senior at Marlow High School and is the daughter of Daryn and Angie Brantley.

During the summit, designed to excite and motivate high school students to become leaders of their communities, Murray, Blair and other attendees heard from nationally known speaker Rhett Laubach. He presented topics to encourage and inspire the students to reach within and find their inner leader.

In addition to leaving the workshop energized with new communications tools and greater leadership knowledge, each teen in attendance took home a \$250 college scholarship.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Consider insulating your hot water pipes. Doing so can reduce heat loss, allow you to lower the temperature setting and save an additional 3 to 4 percent per year on water heating.

Source: energy.gov

TheCurrent

Published Monthly at Walters, Oklahoma
By Cotton Electric Cooperative, Inc.
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"Cotton Electric Current" (USPS #134-020)
is published monthly by: Cotton Electric Co-op,
226 North Broadway, Walters, OK 73572
Periodicals Postage paid at
Wichita Falls, Texas 76307-9998

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

This institution is an equal opportunity provider & employer.



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.

December 2017 Operating Stats			
	2017	2016	
Total Amount Billed/Accrued	\$5,568,978	\$5,981,974	
Cost of Purchased Power	3,791,800	3,826,667	
Taxes	95,118	97,099	
Total Operating Expense Per Mile	962	1,066	
Average Farm and Residential Bill	163	179	
Average Farm and Residential kWh	1,578	1,648	
Total Meters Billed (farm, residential)	18,315	18,267	
Miles Energized	5,169	5,162	
Density Per Mile	3.54	6.54	
New Service Connects YTD	268	255	
Services Retired	141	106	

Community Spotlight

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

Lenten Fish Fry runs through March

Fish, fries, slaw, beans, dessert and drinks are on the menu from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. every Friday from Feb. 16 through March 23 at the annual Lenten Fish Fry sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, Council 5168. All are welcome to dine under the blue roof at the Marlow Catholic Church at 4th & Comanche or take a great meal home.

Meals are \$9 for adults, and children under 10 eat free. All proceeds go to community projects serving children and those less fortunate.

DLT presents ‘Wizard of Oz’

Duncan Little Theatre presents “The Wizard of Oz” at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 23 and 24 and March 1, 2 and 3 at the Simmons Center in Duncan.

When a tornado rips through Kansas, Dorothy and her dog, Toto, are whisked away in their house to the magical land of Oz. They follow the Yellow Brick Road toward the Emerald City to meet the Wizard. Along the way, they meet a Scarecrow who needs a brain, a Tin Man missing a heart, and a Cowardly Lion who wants courage. The Wizard asks the group to bring him the broom of the Wicked Witch of the West to earn his help.

Tickets may be purchased at the door.

Pro Musica spring concert is Feb. 24

The 15th season of Lawton Pro Musica includes a spring concert at 7 p.m. Feb. 24 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.

Magic Lantern screens film classics

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

The March 2 offering is “Tsotsi,” a 2005 film directed by Gavin Hood. Set in an Alexandra slum, in Johannesburg, South Africa, the film tells the story of Tsotsi, a young street thug who steals a car only to discover a baby in the back seat. The film won the 2006 Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film and was nominated for the Golden Globe for Best Foreign Language Film in 2006.

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.

Horse club hosts Coggins clinic

Duncan Lake Horse Club is having its annual Coggins Clinic from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 3 at Duncan Lake Pavilion. In addition to Coggins testing, other vaccines will be offered, including Eastern/Western, tetanus, rabies, West Nile and flu/rhino.

Coggins testing will be \$20 per horse. The clinic, conducted by Dr. Connie McLemore of Countryside Veterinary, is open to the public with no limit on the number of horses. Rain date will be March 10.

Other DLHC activities that day for members include the annual Chili Cook

Off at 6 p.m. at the Pavilion. New members are encouraged to attend these events. Annual dues are \$12 for an individual and \$15 for a family.

For information, call 580-475-7190.

SW Pride performs March 9 and 10

Southwest Pride is preparing “Barbershop at the Old Watering Hole” for its 2018 barbershop show March 9 at the Simmons Center in Duncan and March 10 at McMahon Auditorium in Lawton. Both performances begin at 7:30 p.m.

Advance tickets can be purchased in Lawton from Scott’s House of Flowers, McMahon Auditorium or chorus members. In Duncan, advance tickets are available at Ace Hardware and the Simmons Center.

For information, send an email to info@swpridechorus.com or visit SW-PrideChorus.com.

Home, garden show begins March 23

Find practical home improvement ideas and visit professional home and garden service providers during Lawton Home Builders 54th annual Home and Garden Show. Drop by the Cotton Electric booth to visit with employees and get information about services we offer.

Doors will be open from 5 to 8 p.m. March 23, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. March 24, and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 25 in the Great Plains Coliseum and Annex. Admission is free.

ParkStomp runs March 23-25

ParkStomp is three days of live bluegrass music in Medicine Park. The weekend also includes V-Dubs in the Park, a campout and show event. Full lineups have not been completed but some of the acts are listed below.

First acts perform on March 23. Performance by Just Strangers begins at 7 p.m. The Squarshers take the stage at 11.

Music on the main stage begins at noon March 24. Entertainers include Just Strangers, The Squarshers, Red Oak Ruse and Chuck Waggs. Final performances begin at noon March 25 and Steamboat Bandits and Arkansas.

V-Dubs in the Park is set for March 25. Open to all Volkswagens, whether air- or water-cooled, show quality or a work in progress. Only VWs will be allowed to park in the show area. Details about competition and camping are available at MedicinePark.com.

Passion play is March 24 and 31

“The Prince of Peace” Passion play begins at 8:30 p.m. March 24 and 31 at the Holy City of the Wichitas in the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge. The performance is expected to end around 10:45 p.m., and is broadcast on 88.5 FM.

Admission to the nation’s longest-running Easter Passion play is free. Patrons are encouraged to take chairs and blankets, dress in layers and pack a picnic. There will be music and food trucks.

For information, visit The Holy City Lawton of Facebook or send an email to TheHolyCityLawton@yahoo.com.

Apache rattler fest coming in April

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

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

More Community Spotlight on Page 4

Upcoming Deadlines for The Current

March		April		May	
Ad Sales	Mar. 2	Ad Sales	Mar. 30	Ad Sales	April 27
Classified	Mar. 7	Classified	Apr. 4	Classified	May 2
Publish Date	Mar. 19	Publish Date	Apr. 16	Publish Date	May 14

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



This sweet photo of Henslee Rose Dumos, 3, is particularly special to her parents, Cotton Electric members Clay Dumos and KK Rule of Velma. Both participate in rodeos and their daughter is horse crazy, says her mom. “Henslee has cerebral palsy and she doesn’t use her left hand ... but she used it to pet Virgil!”

March is Music in Schools month. Show us your band or chorus student in our Photo of the Month contest. 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.

Winter Market Saturdays in Lawton

Lawton Farmers Market is holding a Winter Market in the Cameron University Animal Sciences building at the Agriculture Facility each Saturday through the end of March.

Shoppers will find a variety of choices at the winter market, including winter produce, sprouts, micro greens, meat, eggs, honey, nuts, and handmade and artisan items. Hours are 8 a.m. to noon. The building is located on Southwest 38th Street and is south of Dr. Elsie Hamm Drive and the railroad crossing.

For more information about the market or becoming a vendor at the market, visit LawtonFarmersMarket.com or send an email to lawtonfarmersmarket@yahoo.com.

WE ALL USE ENERGY DIFFERENTLY



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

Visit CottonElectric.com to discover the power of your co-op.

YOUR SOURCE OF POWER. AND INFORMATION.



COTTON

ELECTRIC CO-OP

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Community Spotlight

LCT presents ‘Rumors’

Performances of Lawton Community Theatre’s presentation of “Rumors” are set for April 13-22 at John Denney Playhouse, 1316 NW Bell Avenue in Lawton. Neil Simon’s two-act farce, set in Palisades, shows a dinner party gone topsy-turvy. An enjoyable romp that has been staged countless times, this is one of Simon’s most celebrated comedies. But it carries a subtle undercurrent of sadness, which becomes more clear when we set it alongside the events of the playwright’s life. For information, visit LCT-OK.org or call 580-355-1600.

LPO spotlights ‘Terrific Tuba’

Lawton Philharmonic Orchestra presents “The Terrific Tuba” at 8 p.m. April 21 at McMahon Auditorium, 801 NW Ferris Avenue, Lawton. The music of John Williams rounds out the LPO season, and features Jon Voth playing the Tuba Concerto. Williams writes for more than just the movies, but you’ll also hear some of his greatest film scores, like Star Wars, Indiana Jones and Harry Potter. Buy tickets online or call 580-531-5043. For information, visit LawtonPhil.com.

Lions seeking queens / ambassadors

Open to any male or female between the ages of 8 and 24, Duncan Noon Lions is seeking contestants for its annual Queen / Ambassador contest. The contest is a crucial component of the group’s main fundraiser, the Duncan Noon Lions Open Rodeo. Candidates will sell advance tickets to the rodeo taking place June 21-23 at Claud Gill Arena, just south of Stephens County fairgrounds. In addition to the title of Queen or Ambassador, candidates compete for a three-horse slant, bumper-pull trailer and will represent the Duncan Noon Lions for a year. Find an application and a complete list of rules on the Duncan Noon Lions Facebook page. Queen / Ambassador applications will be taken through May 31.

Chapter of Blind meets in Duncan

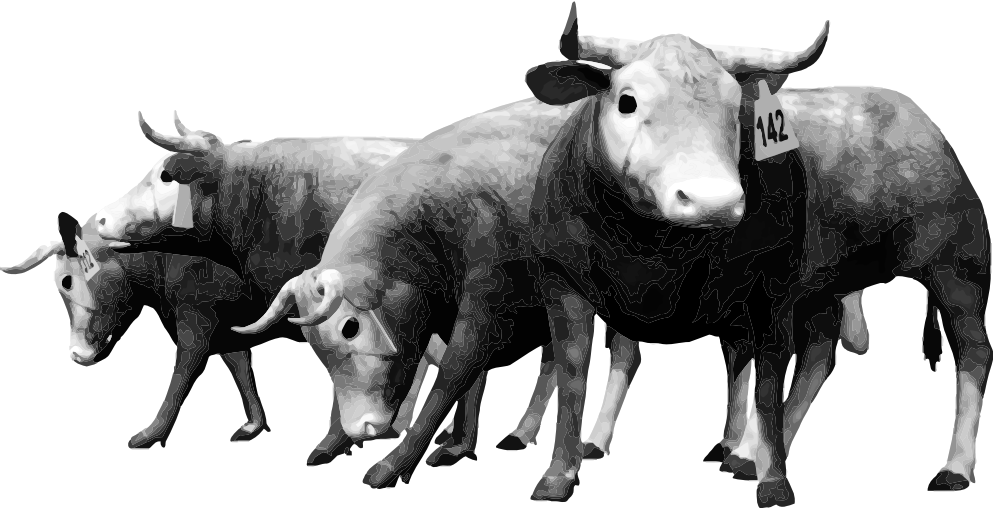
Duncan Chapter of the Blind meets at 1:30 p.m. on the third Saturday of each month at New Hope Baptist Church, 200 S. 42nd Street. This is an opportunity for those who are visually impaired or blind and their caregivers to learn about the availability of services and equipment such as white cane training and large lighted magnifiers. The group also provides information about free access to an extensive library of audio books. For information about the group or to arrange free transportation to the monthly meeting, call 255-786-8041 or 427-2933.

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.

WMASC offers many activities

Wichita Mountains Area Senior Citizens Center offers a variety of activities and sponsors weekly and monthly events at the Legion Building near Medicine Park. Potluck dinners, games and TV are offered every Monday from 6 to 10 p.m. Games, quilting, yoga and Tai Chi are offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays. A dance is held each Friday. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., dancing begins at 7. Delicious fundraisers are held on second Saturdays with Indian tacos offered in January, April, July and October; and a fish fry in February, May, August and November. All activities are held in the Legion Building on Wildhorse Road near Medicine Park. From Interstate 44, take Exit 45 to Oklahoma Highway 49. Traveling east, bear right onto Wildhorse. The building is on the right.



Master Cattleman Program begins March 8

Registration is underway for a series of valuable educational opportunities for area cattle producers. The 2018 Master Cattleman Program (MCP) in south-central Oklahoma begins March 8, meets every other week and concludes with a graduation on Oct. 18. Introduced in 2004 by the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, the MCP can enhance the profitability of beef operations and the quality of life of beef cattle producers by equipping them with vital information on all aspects of beef production, business planning, risk management and marketing. Upon completion of the program, an Oklahoma Master Cattleman has knowledge of sustainable practices in production, business management, herd health and natural resources. Curriculum also covers quality assurance, nutrition and reproduction. For information about schedules, cost and registration, contact the following OSU Extension offices: Carter County – 580-223-6570 Jefferson County – 580-228-2332 Stephens County – 580-255-0510 Comanche County – 580-355-1176 Cotton County – 580-875-3136



AARP provides free tax assistance

AARP offers free tax assistance and preparation for taxpayers with low to moderate income on a first-come, first-served basis beginning Feb. 1 through the tax due date of April 15 at several locations in the Cotton Electric service area. No appointment is necessary but certain documents are. Taxpayers should take last year’s income tax return, all W-2 and 1099 forms, information about any other income, adjustment and deduction documents, Social Security cards for each person on a return, and property taxes if he or she plans to itemize. Trained IRS volunteers will be available from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays, and from noon to 4 p.m. Wednesdays at the Center for Creative Living, 3501 Dr. Elsie Hamm Drive, Lawton. Volunteers will be on hand from 4 to 6:30 p.m. Mondays, 1 to 3:30 p.m. Wednesdays and 9 to 11:30 a.m. Thursdays at Lawton Public Library, 110 SW 4th Street. During February only, volunteers will be available from 4 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays at the Lawton library. The free service is available from 8:30 to 11 a.m. Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays in Room B123 of the business center at Red River Technology Center in Duncan.

HIGH'S AUCTION & REAL ESTATE SERVICE

DETAILS AND PICTURES OF ALL LISTINGS AT
WWW.HIGHSAUCTION.COM
580-875-6500

RESIDENTIAL LISTINGS

WALTERS AREA • NEW LISTING

- New listing: 300 Willow Creek Drive : Price: \$210,000.** 2 bed, 2 bath, 2473 sqft, steel frame, stainless steel appliances, custom cabinets, large corner lot
- 503 E. South Boundary: Price: \$65,000.** 3 bed, 2 bath, 1962 sqft, 3 living areas, vaulted and beamed ceiling, updated CHA, updated water heater, 2 car garage, fireplace, dry storm cellar.
- 214 E. Texas, Walters: \$86,500:** 1896 sqft, detached garage, new CHA, metal roof, updated interior.
- 625 E. Texas: Price \$64,900.** 3 bed, 1 bath, 1500 sqft, full brick. Updates include; Granite counters, cabinetry, floor, windows
- 603 E. Kansas, Walters: \$197,000** 2275 sqft, 4 bed, 2 bath. Close to Youth Park, newer construction, large yard, well maintained.

LAND LISTINGS

- 98 Acres East Cache Creek: \$117,600.** From 277 & Logue Chappell go East 4.5 miles. All in cultivation with East Cache Creek border

RESIDENTIAL LOTS

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

Brink Auction Service's 31st Annual, Spring 2018 Community Farm Equipment Auction

★ NOW TAKING CONSIGNMENTS! ★

SELLING TRACTORS, TRUCKS, AUTOMOBILES, LIVESTOCK EQUIPMENT, FARM MACHINERY, COTTON TILLAGE & HARVESTING EQUIPMENT

Brink Auction Service will hold its 31st ANNUAL SPRING 2018 COMMUNITY AUCTION of Farm Equipment and Farm Related items. We invite you to let us turn YOUR equipment into CASH! If you or your neighbors have any items to sell, please contact us NOW!

April 7, 2018
Located 1 mile South of Frederick on Hwy. 183
Frederick, Oklahoma

TERMS OF THE AUCTION

- All Consignors will be charged a pro-rated share of the advertising expenses (based on dollar amount sold).
- 6% per item over \$500 - 15% per item under \$500.
- Please, no household related items.
- Equipment hauling to sale site available.
- Any items left on auction site for 30 days will be sold for storage and all proceeds retained by Brink Auction Service unless previous arrangements have been made.
- Brink Auction Service assumes no liability on any item that has a title. If any litigation arises, Buyer and Seller assume all responsibility.

Whether you have a complete line-up of farm and ranch equipment, or a small offering, call us today. We will be glad to come to your farm or ranch, with no obligation, to advise you on the best way to market your equipment.

Terry H Brink, CAI Auctioneer
580-335-4126
PO Box 928 • Frederick, OK 73542

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580-248-6526 • metalandmoreinc.net

DO NOT TAMPER WITH YOUR ELECTRIC METER

Meter tampering can result in electric shock, is illegal and increases electricity rates for other co-op members.



- Never break a meter seal.
- Never open a meter base.
- Never remove a meter or alter an entrance cable in any manner.

If you know or suspect that someone has tampered with their meter, please contact us immediately.



COTTON
ELECTRIC CO-OP
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

580-875-3351
800-522-3520



Geothermal U.S. Tax Credit is back!

30%
And it's retroactive!

Lawmakers in Washington, D.C., passed a budget deal on Feb. 9 that includes a couple of tax breaks for homeowners choosing energy-efficiency. The geothermal credit is of particular interest because it is retroactive and can have a significant impact on 2017 tax returns.

Geothermal and small wind residential energy tax credit. For geothermal systems and residential wind turbines placed in service from Jan. 1, 2017, through 2019, the credit is 30 percent of the cost of the system. It drops to 26 percent for 2020 and 22 percent for 2021. It expires Dec. 31, 2021.

\$500 energy-efficient home improvements credit. Listed under energy extenders, this affects a homeowner's personal tax return. You can get a tax credit – a dollar-for-dollar reduction in tax liability – of 10 percent of the amount paid up to \$500 for making energy-efficient home improvements such as installing new windows or upgrading HVAC equipment

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MID CONTINENT LIFT

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580-255-3867
Matt Rogers 580-656-3989

Editor's Note: During National Cyber Security Awareness Month, we received so much information to share with co-op members, we couldn't fit it all into one month. We'll feature two or three suggestions each month through July 2018.

Sarah Kiely, who works in IT Community Support for National Rural Electric Cooperatives Association, sent a

list of 20 suggestions to keep personal information safe. Each suggestion includes a few paragraphs of explanation and links to websites.

An easy way to investigate links: Find The Current at CottonElectric.com under Member Services. The online version of The Current features live links, where a click will take you directly to the page.

Robo call NO!
Take time to take your name off these lists

Register home and cellular telephones with the National Do Not Call Registry

The National Do Not Call Registry gives you a choice about whether to receive telemarketing calls at home. Telemarketers should not call your number once it has been on the registry for 31 days. If you receive telemarketing calls after you have been listed in the registry for 31 days, you can file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission.

It is also important to note that **legitimate telemarketing companies** screen their call lists against the National Do Not Registry, so any call you receive after registering your number is almost certainly a scam, attempt at identity theft, or some other type of criminal activity. **Legitimate telemarketing companies** don't call numbers listed in the National Do Not Call Registry. <https://www.donotcall.gov>

Remove your name from online directories and public people finders

On-line directories and public people finders gather data from public records (cooperative.com is a private finder) and other sources and then make the aggregation of that data available online. You can have your personal information removed from these directories by following the opt-out procedures provided by these companies. It is important to note that removing yourself from these directories does not remove your information from the original source where it was gathered. However, removing your personal information from these directories does help protect your privacy when

someone is conducting online searches in an attempt to locate you. There are dozens of companies aggregating personal information from public records.

Below are some of the well-known companies and links to their opt-out page.

- AnyWho - <http://www.anywho.com/help/privacy>
- Been Verified - <https://www.beenverified.com/faq/opt-out>
- Intelius - <https://www.intelius.com/optout.php>
- Instant Checkmate - <https://www.instantcheckmate.com/optout>
- LexisNexis - <http://www.lexisnexis.com/privacy>
- PeekYou - <http://www.peakyou.com/about/contact/optout>
- People Finder - <http://www.peoplefinder.com/opt-out.php>
- People Smart - <https://www.peoplesmart.com/optout-go>
- Phone Detective - https://www.phonedetective.com/PD.aspx?_act=OptOutPolicy
- Pipl - <https://pipl.com/directory/remove>
- Private Eye - <https://secure.privateeye.com/opt-out-form.pdf>
- Spokeo - http://www.spokeo.com/opt_out/new
- US Search - <http://www.ussearch.com/privacylock>
- USA People Search - <http://www.usa-people-search.com/manage>
- Veromi - <http://www.veromi.net/Help#26>
- White Pages - http://www.whitepages.com/suppression_requests
- ZabaSearch - http://www.zabasearch.com/block_records

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All Polleds, 88 are Homo Polled

our herd averages

AVG BW: 71	AVG WW: 684
AVG. YW: 1265	AVG FRAME: 5.6
AVG EPDS	CE BW WW YW MK
	11 0.9 76 112 26
% RANK	30% 50% 15% 20% 40%

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Is your capital credit retirement check trying to find you?

By Karen Kaley

Cotton Electric sent out 13,574 capital credit checks on Dec. 27, 2017. Did you get one?

The checks were the result of a \$500,000 retirement of capital credits. That is a portion of capital funds retained by Cotton Electric in order to build and maintain the system that serves more than 20,000 meters across eight counties in southwest Oklahoma.

A board of trustees monitors many things about the cooperative, including its financial strength. Annually, the board determines whether a retirement of capital credits is feasible.

It is the responsibility of co-op employ-

ees to carefully track each active and former member's contribution to the pool of capital funds through the purchase of electricity. When capital credits are retired, each member's share of the retirement is directly related to the amount of electricity purchased.

When checks are issued, they are in amounts of \$5 or more.

So, if you are an active or inactive member of Cotton Electric and did not get a check recently, there are two likely reasons:

Your retirement was less than \$5. If that is the case, the funds will be added to the next retirement. If the total then is over \$5, you will receive a check.

Check tip:

Be sure to cash or deposit your capital check promptly. The checks include this notation: Check is void in 90 days. Your bank should not honor the check after March 27, 2018.

We don't have a good address for you.

Of the 13,500-plus checks sent out, some 420 have been returned as undeliverable.

Capital credit checks represent funds dating back many years. If your mailing address changes, let us know. If you move out of our service territory, keep us up-

dated with your new address. You never know when we might have a check for you.

There are many ways to update your contact information. Call us at 580-875-3351 or 800-522-3520. Send an email to info@cottonelectric.com. Drop us a line at 226 N. Broadway, Walters, OK 73572.

Keep an eye on The Current. We announce capital credit allocations annually and retirements when they occur. Twice after a retirement, we publish a list of names associated with the returned checks. Below is the second, updated version of the list from the December 2017 retirement.

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

Cotton Electric seeks addresses for returned capital credit checks

Cotton Electric capital credit checks amounting to \$500,000 were issued recently to people and businesses listed here.

A refund of capital credits demonstrates how a not-for-profit electric cooperative works. Annually, money over and above the cost of operations and other necessary expenses and reserves is declared margins. When the board of trustees determines that a portion of those margins can be refunded, members who contributed to those margins receive a share.

A share of the capital credits was allocated among active and inactive members and a check was mailed to the latest known valid

address for the member. Checks addressed to members listed here were returned to the co-operative because of incorrect or insufficient addresses.

Cotton Electric Cooperative needs help finding the people listed here. If you see a name on the list that you recognize and if you have information about a current address, please call 580-875-3351 or email info@cottonelectric.com.

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

A Abery, Doyle L Adams, Lonnie Adams, Steven L Allen, Morris Andreas V, Harold Archibald, Bruce A	C Cain, Seldon Calhoun, Lisa D Cantwell, Levi Capron, Jessica L Careathers, Rose M Carpenter, Janelle Carter, Athalie Cartwright, Lana Casteel, J Casteel, Scott L Castlebury, Doris E Cates, Richard Caudell, Alan Chaffins, Charles O Chambers, Charles M Chaney, Robert L Chapman, Ernest Chapman, Penny Chibitty, Mead Cleland, Zachary Clomberg, Christine Clowser, Maxine Coaly, C Cockrell, Shanda Cody, Jonathan H Coffey, Stuart Coleman, Dale B Collier, James A Collins, Curtis Condit, Lynn Cook, Charles A Cooper, Sandy D Copeland, Barry Cox Jesse R Cox, Earl Cox, J C Crane, Bandit Crims, Christina A Cronemeyer, Tim J Cunningham Jr., John H Cvikich, Jonathan	D Dalton, Rubye Daugherty,Louie Davidson, Brant Davis, Carl L Davis, Johnny J Davis, Kenneth Davis, Lella B Davis, William E Dell, Dustin M Denewith, Frank M	Dennis, Erick Denny, Lawrence Dettman, John D Devine, George M Diaz, Luis Dixon, Donovan Dodd, Reta B Douglas, Billy D Dowdy, Zelma G Draper, Lou Drewery, Carolyn E Drummond, Theo G Drury, L Durham, Ron	E Eaton, E Edmunds, Elliot Eiser, Tom Emery, Gladys G Estes, A Esteves, Carmen	F Ferguson, Patricia A Fizer, Leslie A Ford, Norman Foster, Billie J Foster, Michael B Fowler, Don Friesen, Mike Fuller, B	G Garcia, Rita Garrison Jr., James George, Gertrude Gilbert, Justin Gipson, Billie J Goggans, Christopher C Goode, Darrin Gouin, R Graham, Barbara Granger, Patricia A Graves, Marie A Green, Paige Green, Russell L Greenlee, Lisa L Griffith, Justin M Griffith, Seleana Groves, Melynda Gunter, W	H Haggard, F	Hall, Joanna Hallstrom, Michael Haney, N C Harris, Paul E Harris, R Hartman, Joseph D Headley, Ronnie J Heald, Doyle Hefner, James Hendricks, Monte Henson, Mary Hequembourg, Nancy Hernandez, Manuel Hershey, Charles A Hess, Lee M Hilgert, John Hill, U Hirsch, Rachel Hoahwah Jr, Carlton H Holdbrook, Donald R Holsomback, Ronald W Holt, Wesley L Hood, Charles H Horne, Preston L Howell, Charlie Huddleston, Daniel Huey, Marvin E Huffman, Jerry D Huntley, Lynda P Hurley, James F	I Inman, Virgil Isenberg, W Isham, Garry	J Jackson, Jewell J Jacobs, Larry D Johnson, Crystal G Johnson, Dorothy Jones, Amber L Jones, Kristin Jones, Mark Jones, Mary B Jordan, Jeff T Juarez, Trinidad M	K Kaywaykla, Bill Keck, Fred Keener, Debra Keeter, Cecil Kendall, Howey Kennedy, Ronald G	Kennedy, W H Ketch, A Killsfirst, Kristopher B Kinnaird, Howard C Kinnarid, J Kirkland, Harry A Kohler, Janet K Komula, Paul D Kozark, Mary C Kubiak, Cody M	L La Deaux, Ricky D Lackey, Elvis Lafon, Stanley F Lane, Sarah Langston, Bill Laubinger, E Lawson, Eric M Lee, Robert Leonard, W C Lewis, A Lewis, Lacy Lister, Kerry D Lohrer, Byron Louis, Djeunie S Lowery, Paula J Ludwick, Christopher P	M Maddox, James D Magby, Stanley R Mahoney, Lindsay Manuel, Joyce Marsh, Edward A Mathey, Bill McAlister, Roger McBride, Bruce A McClusky, Glen McCorkle, James McDaniel, George McFall, Steven R McFarland, Christan L McIntosh, Larry D McKemie, Keith McLeary, David J Metheny, Harold Meyer, Michael E Milburn, Lee R Mildren, Mary L Mittasch, Bob Monroe, Harold A Montgomery, Don Moore, Daryl L Moreno, Martin L	N Natividad, Bobby Nelson, Kenneth E Neugebauer, Bob Newell, Melissa M Newton, Brent Nichols, Stefani Nicholson, Vardaneil Noel, Preston Nolan, A L	O Oliphant, L	P Palmer, Thomas R Pangus, Nancy F Paris, Robert S Parsons, Julian L Passmore, Allen A Patton, Gertrude M Paxton, Charles E Peacock, Kathy S Pearson, Michael D Peck, J D Perkins, Tommy Peters, Lottie Pettijohn, Ronald G Petty, Bill Pier, Edward Plowman, Alvin L Pogue, Ruth E Pollard, G Ponder, Clay A Poole, William Porterfield, B Prater, Jerry L Pratt, Boyd Pratte, John L Prendergast, John J Price, Glenda F Prickett, David W Puckett, Gary G Pugh, Bill K Putter, Lloyd M	R Ray, Andrew Readings, Joe W Reddin, Sonya Remy, Roger B Reyes, Alberto S	Rhodes, J Rice, Rondel W Richter, Travis L Riddle, Jackie Riley, Dewayne Riley, Jason Roberts, James F Robertson, Johnny Robertson, Kenny Rocha, Christine T Russell, Alvin W Ryther, Donald E	S Salazar, San J Schulte, Julius Scott, Pam Scott, Ricky Seigler, Lloyd Self Jr, Bill F Sessums, Elizabeth B Sevier, Angela R Seymour, Elmer Sherman, Orvial Shipley, Leland R Shirley, Ladonna Shropshire, Vickie S Shultz, Jeneell M Sikes, Larry D Simmons, Danny B Simon, Mildred M Singletary, James R Skeen, David W Smith, Christopher Smith, Lorene Smith, Rose M Sonstegard, Curtis Spicer, Wilma J Spinks, Felisha Spivey, Darrell R Stander, David J Stephen, Michael Stewart, Sherry Stineburg, William L Stitch, D Strawderman, Linda Strickland, Hnery P Stricklin, Joseph D Sullivan, Barney E Sullivan, Earl D Sullivan, Kenneth L Sullivan, Russell Summers, John V Sutton, Jim Sylvester, Fred L	Thomas, Edgar Thompson, Jamie Thompson, Kayla L Thurber, Loren K Tims, A Toahly, Gladice R Toppah, Carol Townsend, Heidi Trent, Benny D Tucker, Angela Tugman, Leon	U Underwood, Douglas R	V Vangura, Stephen M	W Waggoner, James K Walker, George H Walker, Ronnie L Wares, Frank W Wares, Frank W Warner, Gene Wasson, Bradley Watkins, Jerry L Watson, Ricky Weatherly, James R Weaver, Danny Webster, Walter P Wells, Mark A Weston, Jeff Whetstone, Robert G White, Charles W Whitlock Sr, Robert T Wiersema, Billie Wilcoxson, Frank Wilkerson, Tammy Williams V, Mike Williams, K Williams, Lynn Willingham, D Willson, Curtiss D Willson, M Wilson, Bill Windham, Joseph D Wolf, John Wood, Cheryl Wood, Henry A Woolf, Patty B Worthington, Robert L III Wright, Chris Wright, Roberta L	Y Yaden, Bryon T Yarbrough C D Yob, Louis P Young, Jim B	Z Zemke, Gardner Ziolkowski Jr, Chester T
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TO CLAIM A CAPITAL CREDIT CHECK, WE REQUIRE A SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER TO VERIFY THE MEMBER'S IDENTITY.

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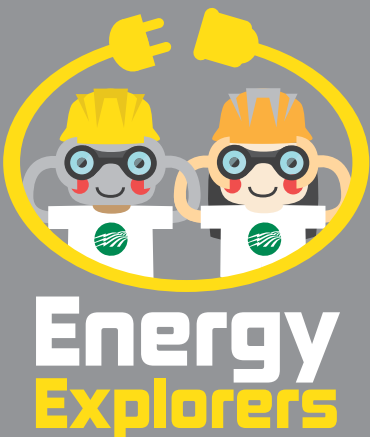
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VALENTINE'S MONTH WORD SEARCH

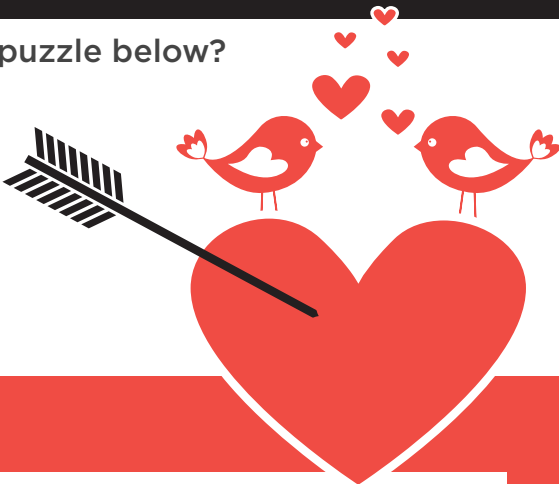
Valentine's Day was last week, but that doesn't mean we can't be sweet all month!



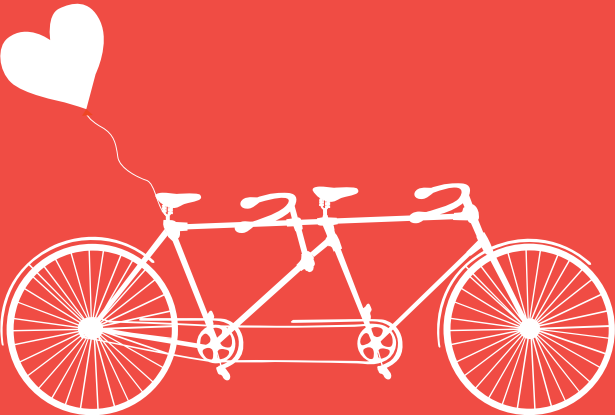
Can you find the associated words in the puzzle below?
Use the word bank to check your work.

CANDY
FLOWERS
HUGS
VALENTINE'S DAY
CARD

FRIEND
LOVE
CHOCOLATE
HEART



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



ACROSS

1. Emperor of Russia
5. Abounding in rocks
11. Increase in speed
14. Music app
15. Not nice
18. Tables (Span.)
19. Decomposes
21. ___ student: learns healing
23. Nursemaid
24. Joke-teller
28. Male parent
29. Group of countries (abbr.)
30. "Rambling Rose" actor Lukas
32. Midway between south and southwest
33. Cartoon Network (abbr.)
35. Peacock network
36. Principal ethnic group of China
39. Made of fermented honey and water
41. Exclamation of surprise
42. Evaluates skill or knowledge
44. Stage in ecological succession
46. Ethnic group of SE Asia
47. Not small
49. A cat is one
52. Broken piece
56. French president
58. Artist's workroom
60. Ability to apply knowledge and skills
62. Visually stunning
63. Ancient region south of Dead Sea

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10				
11					12							13		
14									15				16	17
		18								19				20
						21		22				23		
							24		25	26	27		28	
						29			30			31		32
						33		34		35				
36	37	38			39			40			41			
42			43			44			45					
46									47		48			
49					50	51				52		53	54	55
	56						57		58					59
			60					61						
				62								63		

DOWN

1. Used to pour beer
2. Con game
3. Skin disorder
4. Communists (slang)
5. Subjects to hostility
6. A major division of geological time
7. Hitting statistic (abbr.)
8. British thermal unit
9. Influential envoy to Woodrow Wilson
10. Fits on neck of animal
12. Fertile soil
13. Type of battery
16. Khoikhoi peoples
17. Consist of two parts
20. Small group of trees
22. Execute or perform
25. Millihenry
26. 007's creator
27. Associated with esoteric doctrine
29. Electronic counter-measures
31. Schenectady County Airport
34. No (Scottish)
36. Position of leadership
37. Statement
38. Raccoons belong to this genus
40. One who diagnoses
43. True mosses
45. Blood type
48. Albanian
50. Emergency response notification system
51. College reservists
53. Away from wind
54. Tough outer layer
55. Art __, around 1920
57. Born of
58. The greatest of all time
59. Georgia rockers
61. Natural logarithm

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FEBRUARY 1-24

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Receive one (1) e-drawing entry for every 25 points earned.
Drawings for up to \$250 Comanche Credit on Fridays & Saturdays, February 2-23 from 7PM-11PM and Sundays, February 4-18 from 4PM-8PM. **\$500 Cash Prize Drawing on Saturday, February 24 at 11PM.**
Participants may win only two (2) drawing prize per night.

Actual vehicle may vary from image shown. Grand prize of \$1,000 cash and vehicle(s) **only** available at Comanche Nation and Red River Casinos. Points can be earned at all four Comanche Nation Entertainment Casinos. See Comanche Club for details.

Sweet Winnings TWO SWEET WAYS TO WIN!



FEBRUARY 1- MARCH 1

Each 10 points on your Comanche Card earns an e-drawing entry for the March 1 drawing for up to \$250 in Comanche Credit. Drawings every half hour from 6PM-10PM.

See Comanche Club for details.

MILITARY MONDAYS!

NOON-10PM

Earn five (5) points for \$10 in Comanche Credit when you and your spouse show your Comanche Card and Military ID.

Senior Day



TUESDAYS NOON-6PM

Guests 50+ earn two (2) points for \$5 in Comanche Credit and a free meal at Comanche Star Grill.

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Walters, OK 73572

ComancheNationEntertainment.com



See Comanche Club for details.
Gambling Problem? Call 1-800-522-4700.



Monitoring with SmartHub makes bills less surprising

By Karen Kaley

Winter power bills can be as startling as stepping out of a warm home into a blast of frigid air. We tend to spend more time all cozy and comfy indoors and sleep through the bitterest and coldest part of the 24-hour cycle. We open the front door to head out into the day and ... woo-hoo! Gonna need a heavier coat.

In the same way, it's particularly disorienting when the bill for a freezing month arrives on a balmy day. It is easy to forget that a bill reflects energy consumed weeks ago. Open the envelope and ... woo-hoo! Gotta send a bigger check.

It's also hard to remember that it takes more energy to stay comfortable on the coldest day in winter than on the hottest day in summer. The gap between thermostat setting and outdoor temperature is wider in the winter.

Here's example math: Thermostat on 68 minus outdoor temperature of 32 equals 36 degrees HVAC system has to compensate versus outdoor temperature of 100 minus thermostat on 78 resulting in a 22-degree compensation. That example shows a 14-degree difference in winter versus summer HVAC demands.

Every degree an HVAC system works to achieve, whether up or down, can add as much as 5 percent to the heating or

cooling portion of your power bill.

During January 2018, the average daily high was 55 degrees and the low average was 23. There were 26 days with the low at freezing or below. Your HVAC system consumed A LOT of energy to keep your home comfortable.

The SmartHub screenshot shown here is a comparison of high, low and average temperatures (red, blue and black lines) with a Cotton Electric member's energy use (green bars). Note that the lower the temperatures fell, the higher the energy consumption in this particular home.

All Cotton Electric members have access to their account through SmartHub. Members using our MyChoice prepay option are already familiar with SmartHub, but those using the traditional monthly billing option can use it to monitor power use, too.

SmartHub is a great way to keep tabs on electricity use in your home during the weeks between the arrival of paper bills. Take a look during the scorching days of summer or during the days of the next cold snap.

You might be surprised by the difference in energy consumption on those days. It will forewarn you, though, and it might make the monthly power bill a little less startling.

SmartHub provides account access and two-way communication with Cotton Electric online or via your mobile device.

Manage payments, notify customer service of account and service issues and check your power use all at the touch of a button.

SmartHub is available on Android and iOS smartphones and tablets as well as on the Web.

- Bill reminders
- Bill payment
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- Contact customer service
- Free!

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Looking for ways to make your home more energy efficient?

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Skid steer ups the game for ROW

Continued from Page One

The contractors accomplish a lot more using heavy equipment and more manpower. Cotton Electric’s vegetation management coordinator Scott Crew felt the in-house crew could do more, too, if there more than two men, chain-saws and a chipper to work with.

Cotton’s management and board of trustees agreed and the right-of-way (ROW) department began the new year with two new helpers: Ryan Ledford and a skid steer.

Ryan is loving the chance to work outdoors, though it has required some bundling up during January. Billy is in his second year with ROW, becoming familiar with the skid steer while helping Ryan become familiar with the job. Fred has worked with this type of equipment for many years and can make that skid steer move as though it weighed 140 pounds instead of 14,000.

And, oh, does that skid steer move. And, oh, does it get the job done.

“Our productivity has skyrocketed,” Fred said. “In the first two weeks we used it, we cleared nearly 8,000 feet.”

At that rate, the ROW crew will surpass 2017 numbers by the end of February.

The skid steer can address trees up to 30 inches in diameter. After pulling trees down, it mows in place, shredding the debris into mulch.

“The big advantage there is that every bit of nutrient that tree sucked out of the ground goes right back into the landowner’s soil,” Fred said.

The vegetation crew is mindful of the land-owners and makes considerable effort to contact them before doing the clearing work. The skid steer is big and heavy and won’t be used in areas where members are already mowing.

“This is strictly for pastures and fields and other wild areas,” Fred said.

And, while Fred is operating the heavy equipment, Billy and Ryan are still using chainsaws for more delicate work, such as relieving a fence of a sapling that has grown into the barbed wire. They splice lengths of new wire into spots where they had to cut to gain access or that had been weakened by the vegetation.

They leave the spot in better shape than they found it. With the turning of the seasons, the area will green up quickly. The grasses will flourish, wildflowers will spring to life. Quail, turkey and deer will appear in the new wildlife food plot.

And, the lights won’t blink as much along that particular country road.



Inset: A tree grown into a fence. Billy Kennard works to remove the tree by hand, minimizing damage to the fence.

Clearing, trimming, spraying to continue in 2018

Cotton Electric’s Right-of-Way program is a proactive effort to ensure quality power delivery. Aggressive and preventive vegetation management is a good value to the co-op’s members from a service and an economic perspective. Keeping trees away from power lines is also a matter of safety.

Scott Crew, vegetation management coordinator for Cotton Electric, oversees an in-house crew and several contract crews in the year-round effort to clear trees and prevent regrowth.

He said all tree-clearing crews make every effort to contact land and home owners in person as they move into an area. In some cases, they will leave bright-colored door hangers either at the house or tied to a gate post.

“Please call the number on the hanger or call me at 580-875-4224. Plan to leave a message,” he said, noting that he is likely to be out on the job.

After trees are cleared, crews return to the area at regularly scheduled intervals to apply a specially formulated herbicide that will prevent tree growth while protecting grasses. Spraying is done only during the growing season.

ROW update

During the first quarter of the year, contract crews are working in these areas:

Bacco Tree Service of Claremore is completing re-trim work on lines extending west from the Paradise substation. The lines are north and west of Lake Ellsworth in Comanche County.

Bacco has another crew working on lines extending from the Walters, Hulen and Stephens substations. They will begin south of U.S. Highway 70 in the Cache Creek area and work their way north to Oklahoma Highway 7.

Family Tree Service is finishing work on lines in the Hastings area. Branch Out Tree Service crew is working in the residential areas of Velma.

The ROW department is assessing the condition of lines serving Clear Creek and Lake Humphreys. Action

in those areas will begin in spring. As always, Cotton’s vegetation management crews will work with district linemen on ROW clearing where needed throughout the service area.

Crew said his crews are always looking for land and home owners in need of free untreated wood chips. Because these chips are untreated, it is not recommended to use them next to a structure.

Landowners looking for material to help with erosion problems may want to contact the co-op, too. With the new skid steer, the ROW crew can deliver stumps and other debris too large to chip or mulch.

Chips and large debris will be delivered to members nearest the day’s work location. Work crews will deliver wood chips only to members they can reach by phone and whose location is nearest the day’s work. There is no guarantee a member will receive wood chips at any particular time.

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Cotton Electric Co-op members are getting some extra relief by presenting their Co-op Connections Card when getting prescriptions filled at participating pharmacies. During the month of January 2018, members used their cards at pharmacies in the service area when filling 138 prescriptions not covered by insurance. A total of \$2,245.61 was discounted on 70 prescriptions for an average savings of \$22.66 per use. The total savings since the program's inception in April 2008 has been \$640,501. The card is free to all members and can be obtained by calling 580-875-3351.

Big Rx savings for members presenting Co-op Connections Card

Wow! During 2017, Cotton Electric members enjoyed just over \$25,500 in prescription savings by using the Co-op Connections® Card. This is just another benefit of being a Cotton Electric Cooperative member. Best of all, the Co-op Connections Card is free for you to use.

With your card, you can get discounts from businesses in our community including dining, shopping, automotive and much more. Additional benefits include 10 to 85 percent off prescriptions at more than 60,000 participating pharmacies including CVS, Walgreens, Walmart, Target and many local independent pharmacies such as West End Drug in Cache, Eck Drug in Waurika, Cotton County Drug in Walters, Fikes Pharmacy in Grandfield and Elgin Discount Pharmacy.

To locate providers in your area, you can:

- Call 800-800-7616.
- Log onto www.locateproviders.com. Click the Group

Log in tab. Type 22203 into the Group field and click 'log in' to start your search.

Next, enter your zip code to search for nearby pharmacies.

Don't forget to visit www.rxpricequotes.com to find the best deal in town for your particular medication.

Your Co-op Connections Card can save you money with local merchants as well. We added five Co-op Connections partners during 2017: A Scent For You, Cast & Bang Outfitters, Elegance & Events, Kimberly's Made in America and Plumb Right. See details about these and other local merchants on Page 16.

As a Touchstone Energy® cooperative, we are always looking out for you. For more information and to start saving, visit CottonElectric.com and click on the Co-op Connections link. If you have any questions or would like us to mail you a card, please contact us at 580-875-3351 or info@cottonelectric.com.



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Cooperative



Application deadline is March 5

Eighth-graders interested in developing leadership skills, learning about electric cooperatives and energy delivery, and having some great summertime fun are encouraged to enter the annual Energy Camp youth writing contest.

To participate, students will be required to write a short paragraph, 50 words or less, on why they would like to attend Energy Camp. Students and their families must be Cotton Electric members.

Winners from Cotton Electric’s service area will be selected from contest participants to attend the 2018 Youth Power Energy Camp held May 29-June 1 at Canyon Camp near Red Rock Canyon, southeast of Hinton.

At Energy Camp, which is sponsored by Oklahoma’s electric cooperatives, students learn first-hand

the world of electric co-ops through demonstrations by electric crews. There will be opportunities to put on a lineman’s work belt and gloves before climbing a pole and to see the camp from 60 feet above in the basket of a utility truck. Plus, students will set up and run their own cooperative business.

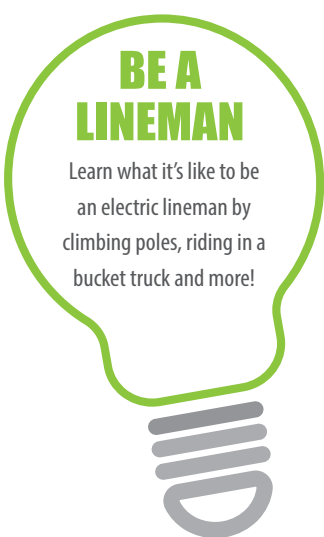
Activities will include nature hikes, games and other outings with other students representing cooperatives from across Oklahoma.

Contest information has been distributed to area English teachers and is available on the Cotton Electric website under Member Services / Youth Programs. Students should ask for contest rules and entry forms, or contact Cotton Electric Cooperative at 580-875-3351 or by email at info@cottonelectric.com

Deadline for entry is March 5.


WHAT IS ... 

Energy⚡Camp?



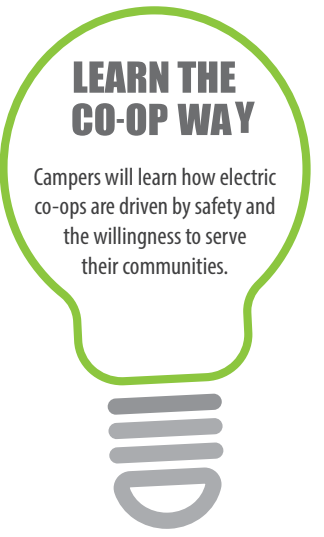
BE A LINEMAN

Learn what it's like to be an electric lineman by climbing poles, riding in a bucket truck and more!



MAKE FRIENDS

At Energy Camp, lifelong friendships are made through small group interactions and competitions



LEARN THE CO-OP WAY

Campers will learn how electric co-ops are driven by safety and the willingness to serve their communities.



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Read labels with heart health in mind

Eating for heart health is fairly simple if you stick with lean meats, whole grains, fruits and vegetables, and healthy fats. Packaged foods can be a challenge unless you know what to look for.

Luckily, packaged foods come with nutrition facts labels and ingredient list. Knowing what nutrients and ingredients to look for can help you make heart smart decisions.

When thinking about the heart healthy status of a packaged food, sodium is the best place to start. Sodium is very important to the body, but consuming too much sodium can worsen the gradual increase in blood pressure that happens with age. If you already have high blood pressure, excess sodium intake can be dangerous.

Sodium is easily identified on the Nutrition Facts Label. The Dietary Guidelines for Americans recommends limiting sodium intake to 2300 mg per day. Meat, fruits, vegetables, pasta, rice, and other grains are naturally low in sodium.

Sodium creeps into packaged foods because salt is used as a preservative. Americans consume most of their sodium from these foods: Pizza, breads, rolls, cheese, lunch meats, cured meats, mixed meat and pasta dishes, soups, and savory snacks like chips. When choosing these foods, examine the nutrition facts label and opt for those that have the least amount of sodium.

And of course, go easy on the salt shaker.

Fiber is good for your heart. It



Kim Bandelier, MPH, RD, LD

Food For THOUGHT

can help lower your cholesterol and blood pressure and help you maintain a healthy weight. There are two types of fiber: soluble and insoluble.

The Nutrition Facts Label does not currently distinguish between the types of fiber, but it does list the amount of fiber per serving. When choosing packaged foods, select the brand that has the highest amount of fiber per serving.

Fats can be good and bad for your heart. Unsaturated fats are heart healthy. Trans fats are bad for your heart and should be avoided completely. Saturated fat has been shown in the past to increase cholesterol.

The Nutrition Facts Label makes it easy to avoid trans fats and consume less saturated fat, but unsaturated fats are not always listed. For the amount of unsaturated fats, you have to do a little math. Unsaturat-

ed fat is included in the amount of total fat.

As well, the following ingredients are high in unsaturated fat: Vegetable and nut oils, avocados, nuts, seeds, and fish.

One word about health claims on food labels regarding fat: Don't pay attention to them. Fat-free foods are not necessarily healthier.

The same goes for foods "low in saturated fat." If saturated fat has been replaced by carbohydrates, the food is actually worse for your heart.

Choose foods with more unsaturated fat than saturated fat and avoid foods with trans fats.

Added sugars should be limited in a heart healthy diet. When looking at the Nutrition Facts Label, the amount of sugar in a serving is found under "Total Carbohydrate." Some food labels only list "Sugars," and some food labels tell you how much of the Total Sugar is "Added Sugar."

You can also check the ingredient list for added sugars, although the types of added sugars that food manufacturers use grows longer every year. In general, any ingredient that ends in -ose, or includes syrup, nectar, malt, molasses or juice is an added sugar.

While the easiest way to maintain a heart healthy diet is to stick to lean sources of protein, fruits, vegetables, and whole grains, you can maintain your heart health with packaged foods as long as you pay attention to the Nutrition Facts Label and ingredient list.

Hearty dish takes chill off winter days

(Family Features) One way to warm up from the inside-out is with family meals centered around a delicious bowl of comfort food like pasta, soups and stews.

By planning your weeknight menu to include wholesome, organic foods, you can create hearty and flavorful dishes that will have everyone in the family eager to dig in.

With a high quality, organic sauce in your pantry like one of the Bertolli USDA-certified Organic Pasta Sauces, you can whip up a warming and indulgent winter dish while still keeping your resolutions to cook with more quality ingredients. For example, this recipe for Campanelle with Prosciutto and Peas uses Creamy Alfredo Sauce, made with organic cream, aged parmesan cheese and spices, is sure to become a cold-weather family favorite!

Find more recipes to kick-start taste-tempting family mealtimes through every season at Bertolli.com.



Campanelle with Prosciutto & Peas

Cook time: 10 minutes

Prep time: 10 minutes

Servings: 6

- 12 oz. uncooked campanelle pasta
- 1 tablespoon Bertolli Extra-Virgin Olive Oil
- 1 large shallot, finely chopped
- 1/2 cup dry white wine
- 1/2 cup frozen peas
- 3 ounces thin sliced prosciutto
- 1 jar (15 ounces) Bertolli Organic Creamy Alfredo Sauce
- 4 ounces Fontina cheese, shredded
- 6 eggs
- 1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

In pot of salted water, cook pasta 2 minutes less than directed on package. Drain pasta.

In large skillet over medium-high heat, heat oil and shallots. Cook 3-4 minutes, or until softened. Add wine; cook 3-4 minutes, or until most liquid has evaporated. Stir in peas, prosciutto, Alfredo sauce and cheese. Add pasta; toss gently. Cook and stir 1-2 minutes to coat pasta with sauce.

In saucepan, bring water to boil and add eggs. Cook 6 minutes. Transfer eggs to ice water and cool before peeling. Top each serving with soft-set egg and black pepper.

Notes: Gouda or Gruyere can be substituted for Fontina. Unpeeled, cooked eggs can be stored in refrigerator up to one week.

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Some restrictions may apply. Weather radio and bill credit valid for February 2018. Winners will be randomly selected from eligible VIPs. Prompt Payer VIPs are considered those who pay on or before the 16th of the month. All In VIPs are considered those who have phone, internet and television services with SRC. Services where available. Complete reward program rules available upon request.

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Make kitchen time easier

(Family Features) Throughout 2018, you can create easy, healthy and delicious family meals by using time-saving recipes.

For example, these “Cook Once, Eat Twice” recipes from CanolaInfo start with pork chops that double as the base for lunch or dinner the following day.

“The more you cook your own meals, the more you can control portion sizes and ingredients,” said Manuel Villacorta,

registered dietitian. “Knowing the right oil to use is essential. I like using canola oil to keep the flavors of your dishes intact due to its neutral taste and light texture. Plus, it contains high levels of monounsaturated fat and plant-based omega 3 fat, and is low in saturated fat. I use it regularly in my home kitchen and recommend it to my clients.”

For more time-saving recipes, visit canolainfo.org.



- Pork Loin Chops with Sweet Balsamic Mushrooms**
Servings: 8
- 8 boneless center-cut pork loin chops (4 ounces each), trimmed of fat
 - 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper
 - 2 tablespoons canola oil, divided
 - 12 ounces sliced portobello mushrooms
 - 2 garlic cloves, minced
 - 1/2 teaspoon salt, divided
 - 2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
 - 2 tablespoons water
 - 2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce
 - 1 teaspoon sugar
 - 2 tablespoons chopped green onions

Sprinkle both sides of pork with pepper.

In large skillet over medium-high heat, heat 1 tablespoon canola oil. Cook pork chops 4 minutes on each side, or until internal temperature reaches 160 F.

Reserve four pork chops in refrigerator to make Pressed Pepperoncini-Pork Sandwiches.

In skillet over medium-high heat, heat remaining canola oil; tilt skillet to coat bottom lightly. Cook mushrooms 4-5 minutes, or until tender and juices begin to release, stirring occasionally. Stir in garlic and 1/4 teaspoon salt; cook 15 seconds, stirring constantly. Place over pork chops; cover to keep warm.

To pan residue, add vinegar, water, Worcestershire sauce, sugar and remaining salt. Bring to boil over medium-high heat and boil 1 1/2-2 minutes, or until reduced to 2 tablespoons, scraping bottom and sides of skillet. Drizzle sauce over pork and mushrooms. Sprinkle with onions.



- Pressed Pepperoncini-Pork Sandwiches**
Servings: 4
- 12 oz. crusty French bread, unsliced
 - 4 leftover pork chops from Pork Loin Chops with Sweet Balsamic Mushrooms recipe
 - 2/3 cup pepperoncini slices
 - 1 plum tomato, chopped
 - 1/4 cup finely chopped red onion
 - 2 garlic cloves, minced
 - 1 1/2 tablespoons canola oil
 - 1 1/2 tablespoons cider vinegar
 - 1 1/2 teaspoons dried oregano
 - 1/4 teaspoon dried pepper flakes
 - 3 slices ultra-thin sliced Swiss cheese, cut in half
- Hollow out top and bottom halves of

bread, leaving 1/2-inch thick shell.

Place pork on bottom half of bread. In bowl, combine pepperoncini, tomato, onion, garlic, canola oil, vinegar, oregano and pepper flakes. Spoon pepperoncini mixture and any accumulated juices on top of pork and top with cheese.

Cover with top half of loaf. Press down firmly to flatten sandwich and allow flavors and juices to absorb. Cut filled loaf crosswise into four equal pieces.

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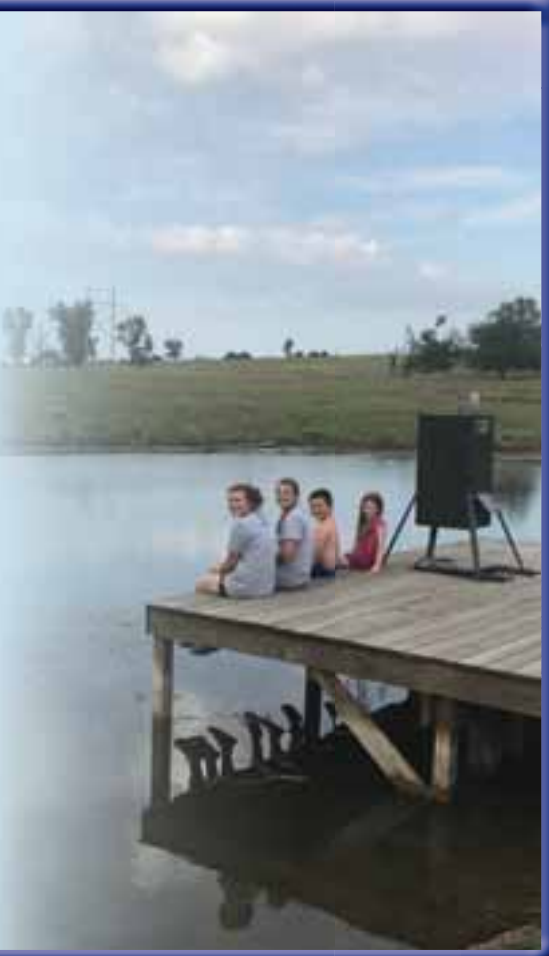
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LAND AUCTION

SATURDAY FEB. 24TH, MULTI PARCEL AUCTION

Five Cotton County farms to be sold at public auction. Don’t miss this opportunity!!! First sale begins with tracts 1 & 2 at 9 a.m. then Tract 3 at 11 a.m., Tract 4 at 1 p.m., Tract 5 at 3:15 p.m. Each sale on site. Details, directions, pictures, maps and video links at www.highsauction.com. Over 920 acres to be sold Sat. Feb. 24th at public auction!!!!

9:00 A.M. TRACTS 1 & 2 : Offered individually and then combined.

Directions: From Highway 5 & 5A junction South of Walters, go East 2 miles to NS 2640, then S. on NS2640 for 1 mile. Watch for signs!!

TRACT 1: NW S31 T3S R10W Cotton County

- 150 Ac. m/l: 97 +/- ac. Cultivation/bal. in timber/grass
- East Cache Creek, Excellent hunting, presently in wheat
- Estimated taxes: \$390.55 : Temple Schools
- Possession: 7/1/2018, Surface and Minerals owned

TRACT 2: NE S31 T3S R10W, Cotton County

- 160 Ac. m/l: 101 +/- ac. Cultivation/bal. in timber/grass
- East side higher ground, electricity, pond
- Excellent hunting, presently in wheat
- Estimated taxes: \$390.55, Temple Schools
- Possession: 7/1/2018, Surface and Minerals owned



You tube: Highs Auction Tracts 1 & 2 9 am

11:00 A.M. TRACT 3 : NE S22 T4S R11W, COTTON COUNTY 160 ACRES

Directions: From Walters, go South on Highway 5 to 5A intersection, then West 1 mile to Highway 5B, then South 5.5 miles on 5B to property on West side of 5B

TRACT 3: NE S22 T4S R11W, Cotton County

- 160 Ac. m/l : 54.81 Ac. Cultivation/Bal. in native grass
- Highway 5B access, Surface & Minerals owned
- Just south of West Cache Creek
- Known in hunting camps as the Endless Draw
- Cultivated acres are not in production
- Possession 7/1/2018
- Large pond, Electricity, Excellent hunting
- Estimated taxes: \$329.96, Temple Schools
- Rising terrain on South side of Quarter



1:00 P.M. TRACT 4: 160 ACRES : SW S17 T4S R11W, COTTON COUNTY

Directions: From Randlett, 4 miles East on Highway 70 to NS 2580, then North 2 miles to Southwest corner, or North of Randlett on Highway 277 to EW 1940, then East 4 miles to property.

- 160 Acres more or less, with 132 acres cultivation
- Surface and minerals owned to transfer
- 1/2 mile South of Deep Red and West Cache Creek
- Portion of north side of farm occasionally floods
- Productive soils, rising elevation to the South
- Tillman Rural Water line in the Southwest corner
- Electricity available, prospective building site, views
- Excellent all weather county road access
- 2 miles North of Highway 70 or 4 East of 277
- Big Pasture schools, Estimated taxes: \$306.23
- Within 5 minutes to I44 access or 10 min. to Casinos
- Possession July 1st 2018 highsauction.com

You Tube Highs Auction tract 4



3:15 P.M. TRACT 5: 280 ACRES: LOCATED IN S16 T3S R13W, COTTON COUNTY

Directions: From I44 & Walters Exit, go 2.5 miles West on Highway 5 to highway 277/281, then 5 miles South on 277/281 to E1880 Road, then West 6 miles on 1880 to SE corner of property.

From Randlett: North 6 miles on 277/281, (1 mile past Cookietown) to E1880, then West 6 miles on 1880 Rd. Watch for signs!!!! Highsauction.com You tube : Rick High Tract 5

- Legal: SW S16 T3S R13W 160 Acres AND S1/2 & NW OF THE SE S16 T3S R13W, 120 Acres
- 197 base acres (cultivation), Surface & Minerals owned
- Deep Red hunting, Turkey, Wild hogs, Deer, Bob cat
- Year round water supply with Deep Red channel
- Productive soils, bottom lands occasional flooding
- Levies already constructed, large ponds, cross fencing
- Estimated total real estate taxes: \$759.00
- Higher ground, native pecan trees, excellent habitat
- Big Pasture Schools
- Possession 7/1/2018, no crop planted



** Auctioneers Note: We have 3 different owners selling on Sat. February 24th. All are located out of the area and have decided to sell their respective properties. Rarely do you get all surface AND minerals owned!!*

** All 5 tracts have their own unique characteristics. Some have more bottom land than others. Some have timber and creeks while others have less timber and more cultivation. Access to utilities and proximity to highways.*

**We have something for everyone on Saturday, Feb. 24th. Check out highsauction.com & youtube*

Terms: Buyer to provide 10% of purchase price day of sale with balance due at closing. Personal checks with proper i.d. accepted day of sale. Certified funds required for closing. Closing to be held Friday March 23rd. Sovereign Title of Lawton to administer closing proceedings. Seller to provide clear and marketable title. Sale is not subject to buyer financing contingencies. Property sold as-is where-is. Title opinions, lender fees, appraisals or any required surveys shall be the responsibility of the buyer. Taxes and rent shall be pro-rated to date of closing. Bidding constitutes acceptance of all terms. See you at the auction!!

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