

The Current

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

"The Current - Informing Our Members Since 1957"

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NUMBER 12



Local high school juniors Gavin Banks, Calli Ray, Gabhriel Barber and Cole Newport pose in front of the White House during the 2018 Rural Electric Youth Tour.

Area teens experience nation's capital

By Danielle Quickle

A five-minute speech about energy efficiency earned these four students a two-way ticket to the nation's capital.

Cotton Electric sent Calli Ray, Gavin Banks, Cole Newport and Gabhriel Barber to Washington, D.C. as representatives of the co-op at the 2018 Rural Electric Youth Tour.

Each of these high school juniors went through an intense selection process that began with a call by the co-op for essay submissions over the topic of energy efficiency.

More than 100 submissions were judged and narrowed down to the top 25 who received invitations to Cotton Electric headquarters for face-to-face interviews.

Successful interviewees became the top 10 finalists in Cotton Electric's Youth Tour competition and were given the opportunity to orally present their essays in front of a panel of judges, Cotton Electric employees and their own family and friends.

On the evening of March 29, speeches were given and the four who would serve as representatives for the co-op in Washington, D.C. were selected. Rural Electric Youth Tour is an annual, week-

long event in June during which almost 1,800 high school juniors from all across the United States convene in our nation's capital to learn more about government, leadership and electric cooperatives.

More than 2,500 Oklahoma students have been sponsored to attend Youth Tour since the 1950s.

This year, Oklahoma Youth Tour had 70 student participants, one teacher and nine chaperones who followed an itinerary arranged by the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives (OAEC). OAEC has been an active sponsor of Youth Tour since 1964.

The six-day agenda included as many activities as possible and was coordinated by Stacy Howeth, the director of member services at OAEC.

"All in all, it was a great year," Howeth said. "It was one of the best 'right place, right time, perfect weather' years I've ever had."

Students toured historical places such as George Washington's home at Mount Vernon, Ford's Theatre and Arlington National Cemetery.

A guard of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier spotted the group while at Arlington National Cemetery and asked to visit with the students. Being from Okla-

homa, he shared an inspirational story of his journey that got him where he is today.

Students interacted with the political atmosphere of D.C. by visiting the White House, the Library of Congress and the United States Capitol. U.S. House Representative Markwayne Mullin and his wife, Christy, hosted a private tour of the Capitol.

Mullin represents the second district of Oklahoma and spent more than four hours with the group, sharing with them the process of the U.S. government and answering questions.

There was also time to explore various attractions such as the Holocaust Museum, the Smithsonian museums and the Newseum, an interactive museum that promotes free expression and the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, while tracing the evolution of mass communication.

Youth Tour is designed to help students better understand the values of rural electrification and become more familiar with the historical and political environment of the nation's capital.

Students learn leadership and cooperation skills while gaining friends and acquaintances.

Upon reflection, Cotton Electric representatives were grateful to the co-op for the once in a lifetime opportunity.

"Thank you, Cotton Electric, for allowing us the opportunity to go on this amazing trip to Washington, D.C.," Calli Ray said. "We had such a great time touring our nation's capital."

“It was an ‘electrifying’ experience to be able to visit the Arlington Cemetery where we saw the changing of the guards at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and go to places like the Library of Congress and meet at the Capitol,” Gavin Banks said. “It was just an awesome experience. Thank you so much, Cotton Electric.”

"I want to thank Cotton Electric for giving us the 'co-opportunity' to be able to come here and see things that would be otherwise unfathomable without getting to experience in person," Cole Newport said. "It has been a blast and I have loved every minute of it."

"I wanted to thank Cotton Electric for their generous sponsorship," Gabriel Barber said. "We were able to generate leadership, make friends and see amazing places like presidential monuments and the Capitol building."

Power Cost Adjustment Calculated	June 2018 Temperature Extremes								Did You Know?	Contact Us	What's Inside
The power cost adjustment now being applied to bills mailed after July 1, 2018, is (\$0.00809) per kWh.	Day	High	Low	Avg.	Day	High	Low	Avg.	Cotton Electric members in Districts 1, 3 and 5 will have an opportunity to meet and elect representatives this year. Times, dates and places of District Meetings will be in the August issue of the Current . The next issue of The Current should arrive in mailboxes on Aug. 13,	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.	Operating Stats 2 Co-op News 2-3 Community 4,12 Co-op News 5-6 Puzzles 7 Recipes 8-9 Co-op News 10-13 Classifieds 14-19 More news at cottonelectric.com
	1	100	75	88	16	97	77	87			
	2	98	73	86	17	95	75	85			
	3	89	61	75	18	93	74	84			
	4	87	59	73	19	91	73	82			
	5	97	68	83	20	95	70	83			
	6	98	73	86	21	99	66	83			
	7	93	70	82	22	99	68	84			
	8	93	69	81	23	97	70	84			
	9	98	68	83	24	93	71	82			
	10	98	70	84	25	94	65	80			
	11	99	72	86	26	99	74	87			
	12	90	74	82	27	103	75	89			
	13	100	73	87	28	104	74	89			
	14	99	70	83	29	101	78	90			
15	99	75	87	30	97	73	85				

Source: srh.noaa.gov/oun/

Average Daily High: 97 Average Daily Low: 71

From the CEO

Co-op dedicated to providing information

I'm a big fan of home improvement TV shows. You name one and I've probably watched at least a few episodes. There's one in particular that fascinates me: "Building Off the Grid." The program features folks who want to live a simpler lifestyle, disconnected from the grid and the modern world.

The opening of the show features a line about life without a utility bill. Off the grid homes may not have a utility bill each month but there can be a hefty price tag up front to install a wind or solar system. So, how do you weigh your options when considering a traditional utility service versus wind or solar?



Jennifer Meason, CEO

more than 174 million search results. Whether you want to be 100 percent off the grid or incorporate some renewable energy options at your homestead, I encourage you to contact your electric cooperative to help evaluate your options before making a decision.

Listen and gather all the information you can from a potential third party energy provider, but please give Cotton Electric a call as well. We can verify or correct any information you might receive in regard to how the Cooperative's rates work with a distributive source of power, such as wind or solar.

Cotton Electric has been in existence since 1938 to serve our rural members in southwest Oklahoma. Third party energy providers, many of whom are located out of state, may present information that is not completely accurate to our region.

Distributive generation has some positive applications, but if you are gathering information on how Cotton Electric's rates apply to solar or other power sources, due diligence should include a discussion with us.

As members, you're already benefiting from energy produced by renewable sources. Western Farmers Electric Cooperative, the generation and transmission utility that provides your power, has 605 MW of wind and 51 MW of solar in its generation mix.

Last year, 32 percent of our regional load was scheduled by the Southwest Power Pool to be served by hydro, wind and solar resources. Cotton Electric's community solar installation located in Devol is part of WFEC's solar mix and has generated 469 MWh of solar power over the past 12 months.

Remember, too, that being connected to the electrical grid provides tremendous value. When you're connected to the grid, electricity is at your fingertips and available whether the sun is shining or the wind is blowing. Even when Mother Nature throws us a curve ball,

power is restored quickly. During 2017, our Average System Availability Index (ASAI) was 99.9384 percent. The ASAI is a measure of the overall reliability of the system and represents the percent of time during the year that you had power.

You also have the benefit of Cotton Electric employees who are devoted to keeping the lights on. The wire from the grid to your home not only brings you power, it also guarantees you have access to the expertise and commitment of 87 cooperative employees dedicated to you, our members.

That dedication includes providing accurate, local information for members considering alternate power sources.

Whatever you decide, please make sure any investment in distributive generation includes a long-term cost-benefit analysis using rates and cost projections that are realistic. We are happy to answer any questions you may have and validate any data you might receive to ensure you make the most informed decision.

2018 Youth Tour essay topic:

Energy Efficiency: How it affects me and Cotton Electric

Saving energy gains efficiency

Editor's Note: Four area high school juniors won a trip to Washington D.C., in Cotton Electric's annual Youth Tour essay contest. Each of the essays will appear in The Current.



Gavin Banks
Marlow High School

Imagine this: You and three other people are hopelessly floating on a small raft in the middle of the huge Pacific Ocean.

Now how you got to this point is not the standard "lost at sea" kind of story. Let's just say you were on a cruise and you happened to go for a dip in the pool the night the cruise ship workers were draining it. You were sucked down into the drainage pipe, flung into the salty seas and left in the trail of the ship.

Just by chance, as you are swimming in no particular direction, you see a small island, or so you think. The island turns out to be a small raft that contains two Coast Guard pilots and an astronaut.

Apparently, the Coast Guard pilots were rescuing the astronaut in a helicopter from his mission when a seagull ran into their helicopter, leaving only the raft from the astronaut's craft to live on.

You join them on their raft to find that they have space-food and water to live off of. Now, there are very limited amounts of the space-food and water and you have to survive for 45 days when the next cruise ship



comes by the area. You and the three people decide to ration the food and you survive for 45 days due to your brilliant, efficient method of rationing.

Efficiency can be very life-changing, or lifesaving in this example, and there are several ways you can be efficient with your electricity within your own home.

First things first: Turn off what you aren't using! By turning off lights, hot water, and household appliances when you don't need them, you effectively save consumable energy for other electrical appliances. Always turning your lights off when leaving the room or house is a very savvy way to save energy.

Another big way to use your electricity wisely is by

caulking cracks, openings, and windows. Air conditioning contributes a lot to your electricity bill, over half, and is constantly running to bring your home to a comfortable temperature.

While you can't change the weather to your temperature needs, you can seal up cracks and around windows to better keep your delightful, cool or warm air from escaping. By doing this, you will keep your air conditioner from working double time, saving you energy.

Something else that is constantly working alongside your air conditioner is your water heater. This appliance fuels your hot water for showers and cooking, along with sanitation. Electricity is continuously flowing into the water heater to keep it at a set temperature.

One easy way to keep this energy consumption low is by turning the set temperature low; 120°F is a desirable number. Also, if you are leaving for vacation, turn the water heater off to yield a maximum efficiency while gone.

In conclusion, you can save energy and become a savvy homeowner by following these simple tips. These tips not only benefit you, but also energy distributors as they provide your electricity.

Cotton Electric encourages these tips, as one of our local electricity cooperatives. Save energy and gain efficiency, using what you need and not what you don't.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Here's a cool tip for your fridge! Cover liquids and wrap foods stored in your refrigerator. Uncovered foods release moisture, causing the compressor to work harder.

Source: energy.gov

The Current

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May 2018 Operating Stats

	2018	2017
Total Amount Billed/Accrued	\$4,551,795	\$4,321,943
Cost of Purchased Power	3,393,340	3,284,977
Taxes	88,920	84,493
Total Operating Expense Per Mile	967	947
Average Farm and Residential Bill	110	101
Average Farm and Residential kWh	970	839
Total Meters Billed (farm, residential)	18,360	18,271
Miles Energized	5,173	5,166
Density Per Mile	3.55	3.54
New Service Connects YTD	118	109
Services Retired	43	56

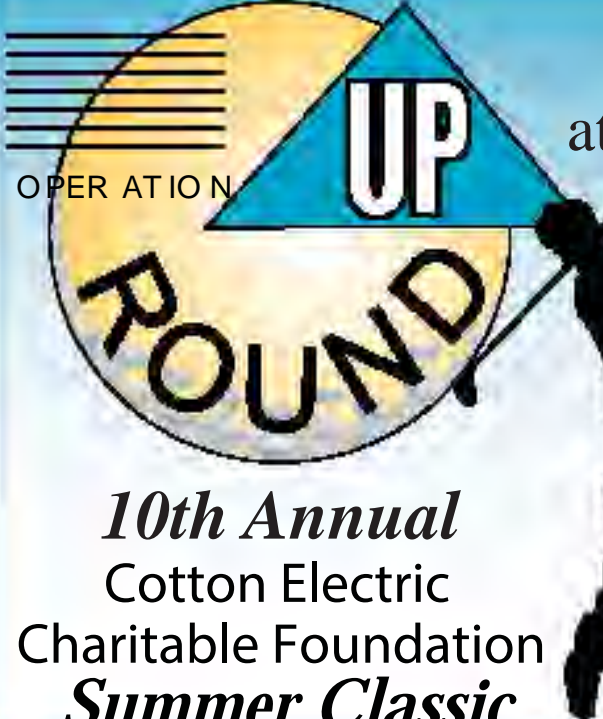


COTTON

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.



OPERATION ROUND UP

10th Annual Cotton Electric Charitable Foundation Summer Classic

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CECF hosts 10th annual Summer Classic

By Danielle Quickle

It has been said, "If you don't like the weather in Oklahoma, wait a minute and it'll change." Not many were hoping for change at the 10th annual Cotton Electric Charitable Foundation (CECF) Summer Classic golf tournament.

The morning of June 25 started as a gloomy one. Storms had been rolling through southwest Oklahoma all night, making for favorable conditions of light wind and overcast skies that golfers enjoyed well into the morning.

Every year, the CECF Summer Classic is held at one of the state's top clubs, The Territory. Hidden away on the outskirts of Duncan, The Territory has been the home of NCAA Super Regionals and South Central PGA Section events. Golf Digest awarded it as one of the top six courses in the state for five consecutive years.

Twenty-five teams made their way to the course at 7:30 a.m. to register for the four-man scramble. Each

golfer received complimentary golf balls and a glove before teeing off at 8:30 a.m.

After a round of 18 holes at the nationally recognized championship course, golfers enjoyed a lunch at The Territory's own Prairie House.

The event concluded with drawing of door prizes and the presentation of awards.

JH Davidson and Associates received the honor of Championship Flight Champion by shooting 18 under for the day. Team members included Judd Davidson, Bryce Hooper, JJ Russell and Jimmie Dedmon. Behind them by only two strokes was the Championship Flight Runner-Up, City Mart Energy. Members of the team included Ross Hutson, Jeff Elroy, Derrick Jones and Zach Dennis.

A second flight of teams were recognized at the tournament. Hornbeek Vitali and Braun were named the A Flight Champions with a score of 7 under. Team members included Dan Bryan, Ray Patterson, Lane

Claussen and John Fagan. Only one stroke behind them was the A Flight Runner-Up, First Farmers Bank. Golfers forming the runner-up team were Carter Waid, Jon Waid, Kyle Waid and Lodge Scott.

CECF Board President Carly Douglass couldn't remember better conditions for the Summer Classic.

"This time of year has potential to be so dry," Douglass said. "But the course looked great and the weather couldn't have been better."

The tournament serves as the only fundraiser for the CECF throughout the year. Money acquired goes directly into the CECF fund to be distributed by the board to local schools, non-profits, and other organizations who apply.

Third-quarter grant applications are due Aug. 15. For a detailed list of grant guidelines and a downloadable version of a grant application, look under the Operation Round Up tab at CottonElectric.com.

See photos from the Summer Classic on Page 10

CECF announces second-quarter grants

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

Most Cotton Electric members participate in ORU, in which power bills are rounded up to the nearest dollar.

The amount rounded up each month can be as little as 1 cent and is never more than 99 cents. On average, each participating member contributes about \$6 each year.

The funds are pooled and administered by the Cotton Electric Charitable Foundation, a board of directors that meets quarterly to consider grant applications.

The board consists of Jennifer Meason, the co-op's CEO; 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 June to review 16 grant applications. Grants totaling \$36,529.11 were pledged to eight of the applicants. Second-quarter grants include:

- Addington Fire Department: A \$8,900 CECF grant will purchase pumper equipment for their firetruck, allowing it to meet Insurance Service Office requirements.

Did you know? Third-quarter applications are due Aug. 15

- Comanche Fire Department: A \$5,000 CECF grant will purchase two sets of bunker gear.
- Jeffco Helping Hands Food Pantry: A \$4,250 CECF grant will purchase a trailer to assist with food transportation.
- Randlett Volunteer Fire Department: A \$6,480 CECF grant will provide structural fire boots for volunteers.
- Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma: A \$3,500 CECF grant will support the

Kids Backpack Program by providing food for local elementary students.

- Sterling Public Schools: A \$2,839.11 grant will support the science program with lab equipment and supplies.
- Walters Public Schools: A \$560 CECF grant will purchase a washer, dryer and freezer to aid students in need of food and clean clothing.
- CECF has pledged \$5,000 to Indianoma Alumni Association in support of a project to purchase a projector and screen for the Indianoma Public School's auditorium. The grant will be issued once all funds are raised.

CECF has awarded or pledged grants totaling \$1,093,330.22 since the foundation was established in 2004.

Applications for 2018 third-quarter grants are due Aug. 15.

Downloadable applications are available at CottonElectric.com.

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Community Spotlight

If you would like your community event listed in the August issue, please submit information by Aug. 1, by calling 580-875-4255 or send an email to TheCurrent@cottonelectric.com.

CTHC hosts new summer program

Chisholm Trail Heritage Center has introduced Free Family Art Mondays, a new summer program held from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. every Monday until Aug. 6 in Duncan.

This come and go event does not require reservations and welcomes all ages with accompanying adults. Guests are encouraged to explore their creativity or follow the “project of the day.” Art supplies will be included.

For more information, call the Heritage Center at 580-252-6692 or visit [Facebook.com/OnTheChisholmTrail](https://www.facebook.com/OnTheChisholmTrail)

Summer Movie Camp in Lawton

AMC Patriot 13 is continuing their Summer Movie Camp at 10 a.m. July 18 with the showing of Despicable Me 3 in Lawton.

Every Wednesday of summer, kids can purchase a movie ticket and kids pack for \$4 plus tax at the 10 a.m. showing. “Captain Underpants” will show on July 25 and “Nut Job 2” will end the camp on Aug. 1.

Tickets are available at the box office only. For more information, call 580-215-4645.

Leadership Lawton hosts fundraiser

Area supporters are invited to attend the Leadership Lawton Fort Sill Board of Directors Wine Dine and Dance fundraiser on July 20 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Lawton.

A \$50 charitable contribution includes hors d'oeuvres, live entertainment, silent and live auction and a cash bar. VIP party starts promptly at 6 p.m. and doors for general admission open at 7 p.m.

A portion of all proceeds will be contributed to Hearts that Care Health Clinic. For more information, please visit llfsok.org.

CTHC celebrates 20th anniversary

Come celebrate the Chisholm Trail Heritage Center’s 20th anniversary with the National Day of the Cowboy Celebration from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. July 28 at 1000 Chisholm Trail Parkway in Duncan.

Guests will have the opportunity to visit with Oklahoma authors, Una Belle Townsend – who wrote the children’s books, “The Oklahoma Land Run” and “Grady’s in the Silo” – and Daryl Talbot, known for his cowboy cartoons.

There will be a game room for children, where they can play Western-style cowboy games, get their faces painted and more. Cowboys at Heart will be performing live at the event. Admission is free.

Chisholm Trail Heritage Center is Oklahoma’s Outstanding Attraction of the Year, and a True West Top 10 Western Museum. For information, call 580-252-6692 or email info@onthechisholmtrail.com.

Wildfire victims benefit on July 28

Rush Springs, “Watermelon Capital of the World” will be the site of a prelude fundraiser to their Watermelon Festival from noon to 6 p.m. July 28 at the Lions Club and the Family Life Center of the Southern Baptist Church.

The gathering will raise funds for the Oklahoma wildfire victims and the Rush Spring Fire Department. This year’s wildfires have taken their toll burning over 200,000 acres.

Sponsored by the Rush Springs Lions

Club and International Western Music Association (IWMAOK), the event will feature entertainment, refreshments, food, desserts and an auction of donated items.

Ribs, brisket, hamburgers, hot dogs, sides and beverages will be served in the Family Life Center. Rib and brisket dinners will be \$10 per plate with hamburger or hot dog plates being \$5. Desserts will be supplied by Sophisticated Sweets of Lawton. A few items from local residents will be available at various prices for both single and whole servings at the Lions Club.

For information, contact Ron Secoy at rsecoy@wildblue.net or 580-606-9574.

Fiesta at Fuqua is Aug. 4

Fiesta at Fuqua is a free, fun-filled day in the park for school-aged children beginning at 8 a.m. and running through 11 a.m. on Aug. 4 at the park on U.S. Highway 81 in Duncan.

There will be games, food, haircuts, dental and vision checkups as well as a teenager area. Cotton Electric’s popular Energy Bike will be among the featured activities. After completing the required number of activities, students will be presented with free school supplies. All children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

For information, call New Life Church at 580-467-2426

The Four Tops travel to Lawton

Apache Casino Hotel welcomes The Four Tops on Saturday, Aug. 11, in Lawton. Showtime is 7:30 p.m. and doors will open at 6:30 p.m.

The Four Tops are a vocal quartet from Detroit, MI, who helped define the city’s Motown sound of the 1960s. The group’s repertoire has included soul music, R&B, disco, adult contemporary, doo-wop, jazz and show tunes.

Attendees must be 21 years or older to enter. Tickets may be purchased at the box office or can be found online at ApacheCasinoHotel.com. For information, call Daniel Ferguson at 580-483-0113.

Coin show in Stephens County

Duncan’s Annual Coin Show is held from noon to 6 p.m. Sept. 15 and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sept. 16 at the Stephens County Fairgrounds.

Guests will receive appraisals on gold, silver, currency, coins, tokens and supplies. Event includes free parking, admission and refreshments.

For more information, contact Ed McGill at 580-475-4570.

Cache FFA hosts market

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

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

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

Food pantry opens twice monthly

Walters Community Food Pantry is open from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. on the second and fourth Saturday 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.

More Community Spotlight on Page 12

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Little Tynlee makes us melt like a popsicle on the Fourth of July. The Lambert family took this photo of their helper while waiting for customers at the Hillbilly Fireworks stand.

Enter your “best shot” in our Photo of the Month contest. Theme for August is Summer Fun. 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.

Library program deadline is July 31

Keep children reading this summer. Lawton Public Library is hosting its annual summer kids program, encouraging kids to read over the summer and rewarding them with prizes related to how many reading hours were logged.

One prize is a free book for a total of 10 hours read from June to August. Youth Services Librarian Tanya Organ said this program is important because it doesn’t allow for kids to hit the summer slump but keeps them reading and learning.

If you’re interested in signing your kids up you can do this until July 31 at the Lawton Public Library or Branch Library.



Putting Energy Where it Matters Most

“I get my power from my co-op, so I can put my energy into my family. Touchstone Energy Cooperatives provide much more than a way to the keep the lights on – it’s how you plug into the family, friends and neighbors that make up your local co-op.”

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Upcoming Deadlines for The Current

August		September		October	
Ad Sales	July 27	Ad Sales	Aug. 24	Ad Sales	Sept. 21
Classified	Aug. 1	Classified	Aug. 29	Classified	Sept. 26
Publish Date	Aug. 13	Publish Date	Sept. 10	Publish Date	Oct. 9



Above: Camper Phelim Jiang explains how pollutants are filtered out through his team's water filtration design. Left: Camp counselor Tyler Bishop judges the portability of the water filtration system during the Camp Champ competition.

Cameron University academy awarded CECF grant

By Danielle Quickle

If all you had to give was \$11.88 to change the lives of those in your community, would you do it? Some of you already do.

Four times a year, the CECF Board of Directors sit down and discuss the distribution of funds collected through ORU. 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 Cotton Electric's service area: Carly Douglass, Danny Marlett and Carter Waid.

Local schools, non-profit organizations and fire departments are just a few of the groups who have benefitted from grants given by CECF.

Cameron University (CU) was one such organization during our first quarter grant distributions. A \$2,700 CECF grant provided housing and food for high school students participating in the Engineering and Applied Mathematics Summer Academy in June.

The 2018 Academy focused on water quality engineering and hosted 16 highly motivated and talented high school stu-

dents for one week on the CU campus. Using a handful of common supplies, students were challenged to build a water filtration system. The system was required to be portable, aesthetically pleasing and effective in removing pollutants from a water sample taken out of a Waurika pond.

Divided into groups of four, the students put their systems to the test in the Camp Champ competition held at the end of the week.

The pond water was filtered through each system and then tested to determine the levels of dissolved oxygen, PH, turbidity, bacteria and E-coli.

A team composed of camp professors and student counselors judged each water filtration system by the effectiveness and efficiency of its design. The group that turned up the best results was crowned Camp Champ. Runner Up and People's Choice awards were also given.

Dr. Sheila Youngblood, an assistant professor of engineering at Cameron University, has been with the Academy since its introduction in 2016. She emphasizes the variety of content as one of

the unique features of the Academy with this year being the first to focus on water quality engineering. The goal is to make the Academy open ended and allow students the opportunity to explore their creativity.

"We give them learning sessions, we empower them with knowledge and then we say, 'go think,'" Youngblood said.

An Academy like this can cost around \$30,000 a week to operate. CECF was one of several sponsors that invested in the summer program.

"Food and housing are typically our highest expense for the week," Youngblood said. "To be able to get these kids here on campus and staying in the dorms really takes away the 'scary factor' as they consider going to college in the future."

Phelim Jiang, an upcoming sophomore at Walters High School, echoed Youngblood's remarks.

"Staying in the dorms lets us experience how things are going to work later on when we decide to go to college," Jiang said. "This academy gives us real-world experience in both engineering and college aspects."

Jiang was a first-time participant at the 2018 Academy. Beyond increasing his interest in physics and mechanical engineering, the academy taught him lessons he can use in other areas of his life.

"One of the most valuable things I learned was that it's OK to make mistakes," Jiang said. "Nothing is ever going to be perfect the first time around. It's important to always retry and do your best."

Cameron University has received a total of \$7,700 in grants from CECF. Cameron University provides services that benefit students and communities within our service territory.

Along with providing educational opportunities, Cameron University engages in activities and community service that have a direct impact on Cotton Electric members.

Third quarter grant applications are due Aug 15. For a detailed list of grant guidelines and a downloadable version of a grant application, look under the Operation Round Up tab at CottonElectric.com.

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Protecting credit lines and sensitive information

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 August 2018. Any 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.

Review a Copy of Your Credit Report

AnnualCreditReport.com is the official site to get your free annual credit reports. This right is guaranteed by federal law. Federal law allows you to:

- Get a free copy of your credit report every 12 months from each credit reporting company.
- Ensure that the information on all of your credit reports is correct and up to date. To get a free copy of your credit report, go to: <https://www.annualcreditreport.com>

Add a credit freeze to your credit file if you believe you are at risk.

A credit freeze (sometimes called a security freeze) is designed to prevent the information in your credit file from being reported to others. Because most creditors will check your credit report before opening a new account, a credit freeze is an effective means of protecting yourself against identity thieves who open accounts in your name.

There are some inconveniences associated with having a credit freeze / security freeze on your credit file when you try to establish new credit yourself, but for some people the additional protection provided by a credit freeze may be worth the associated inconvenience.

The Federal Trade Commission provides more information on credit freezes here: <http://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0279-extended-fraud-alerts-and-credit-freezes>. If you choose to place a credit freeze on your

credit file, you will have to contact each of the major credit reporting agencies to complete the process.

- Experian - http://www.experian.com/consumer/security_freeze.html
- Equifax - https://www.freeze.equifax.com/Freeze/jsp/SFF_PersonalIDInfo.jsp
- TransUnion - <http://www.transunion.com/personal-credit/credit-disputes/credit-freezes.page>
- Experian 1-888-397-3742 | Equifax 1-800-525-6285 | TransUnion 1-800-680-7289

Get a Paper Shredder for Your Home

To help protect yourself against identity theft, stalking, and similar crimes it is important that you never place intact documents containing your personal, private, or financial information in the trash. A paper shredder is the best way of destroying sensitive documents before disposing of them in your trash or recycle bin.

Paper shredders for home use range in price from around \$50 to several hundred dollars. For home use, a cross-cut shredder costing less than \$100 will more than meet the needs of most users. An example of a good paper shredder for home use is the Amazon Basics 8-Sheet Micro-Cut Paper/CD/Credit Card Shredder <http://goo.gl/UHYxUK>

If you can’t afford to purchase a personal shredder for your home; check with your local sheriff, police department, crime stoppers organization, or bank for information about upcoming community shred events.

Many times these organizations will hire industrial mobile shredders to allow community members to destroy personally sensitive documents for free.

Enhance Your Security Awareness with Free Online Courses

- JS-US007 - Level I Antiterrorism Awareness Training - <http://jko.jten.mil/courses/at11/launch.html>
- Cybersecurity Awareness Version 2.0 - <http://cdsetrain.dtic.mil/cybersecurity/index.htm>

- Counterintelligence Awareness and Security Brief - <http://cdsetrain.dtic.mil/ci-securitybrief/index.htm>
 - Insider Threat Awareness - <http://cdsetrain.dtic.mil/itawareness/index.htm>
 - IS-915: Protecting Critical Infrastructure against Insider Threats - <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-915>
 - New Face of Threats - http://www.lewis-mcchord.army.mil/des/OPSEC%20Training/New%20Face%20of%20Threats/module-0/0_1.html
 - Thwarting the Enemy: Counterintelligence and Threat Awareness Information to the Defense Industrial Base - <http://cdsetrain.dtic.mil/thwarting/index.htm>
 - IS-906: Workplace Security Awareness - <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-906>
 - IS-907 - Active Shooter: What You Can Do - <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-907>
 - Active Shooter Prevention Training with OSHA Message (Video) - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nKA_l8iI7nc
 - IS-912: Retail Security Awareness: Understanding the Hidden Hazards - <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-912>
 - IS-914: Surveillance Awareness: What You Can Do - <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-914>
 - IS-916: Critical Infrastructure Security: Theft and Diversion - What You Can Do - <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-916>
 - Smartphones and Tablets - http://iatraining.disa.mil/eta/smartphone_tablet_v2/launchpage.htm
 - Social Networking - http://iaseapp.disa.mil/eta/sns_v1/sn/launchPage.htm
 - Phishing Awareness - http://iatraining.disa.mil/eta/phishing_v2/launchpage.htm
- Source: Sarah K. Kiely, IT Community Supporter for NRECA*

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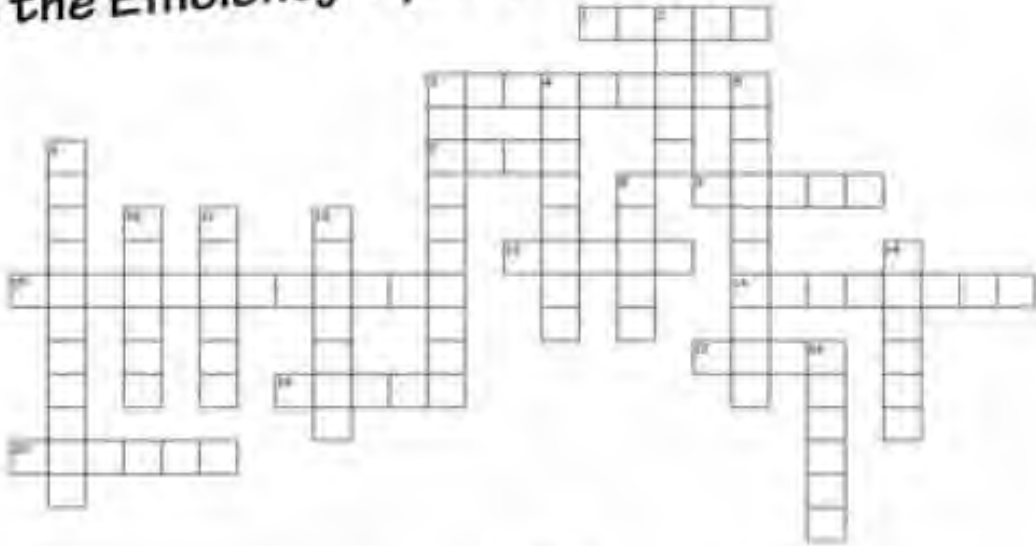
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- Across
- 1. Purchase a dishwasher that saves _____ and energy.
 - 3. Select all smart home office _____ and electronics.
 - 7. Install ceiling _____ to reduce air conditioning costs.
 - 9. Purchase clothes _____ with a moisture waver.
 - 13. _____ between window frame frames and walls.
 - 16. Install a _____ thermostat.
 - 16. Use _____ for light or heat whenever practical.
 - 17. Laundry clothes in cold or _____ water.
 - 18. Fix _____ faucets.
 - 20. Turn off plug-in chargers and _____ chargers when not in use.

- Down
- 2. Plant _____ to shelter your home from the elements.
 - 3. Upgrade to a high _____ thermostat conditioner or heat pump.
 - 4. _____ attic, exterior walls, basement, and crawl space.
 - 6. Adjust your _____ when leaving home for an extended time.
 - 8. Completely remove incandescent and other _____ light bulbs.
 - 8. _____ load all electronics, replace no more, and dryers.
 - 10. Use hot water heater no _____ than 120°F.
 - 11. Use window blinds or _____ to keep air cool at night.
 - 12. Purchase an insulating _____ for the hot water heater.
 - 14. Turn off _____ when you leave a room.
 - 15. Install _____ sensors, timers, and timers for indoor and outdoor lighting.



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Win an ATV at our ATV Adventure Giveaway! Weekly drawings Fridays and Saturdays from 7PM-11PM every hour. Starting July 5-November 11, earn one (1) entry for every 25 points on your Comanche Card to be entered into a drawing for your chance to win up to \$100 Cash and \$100 Comanche Credit.

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



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

SUNDAY SUMMER Shuffle

SUNDAYS, JULY 1 - AUGUST 26
NOON - 10PM

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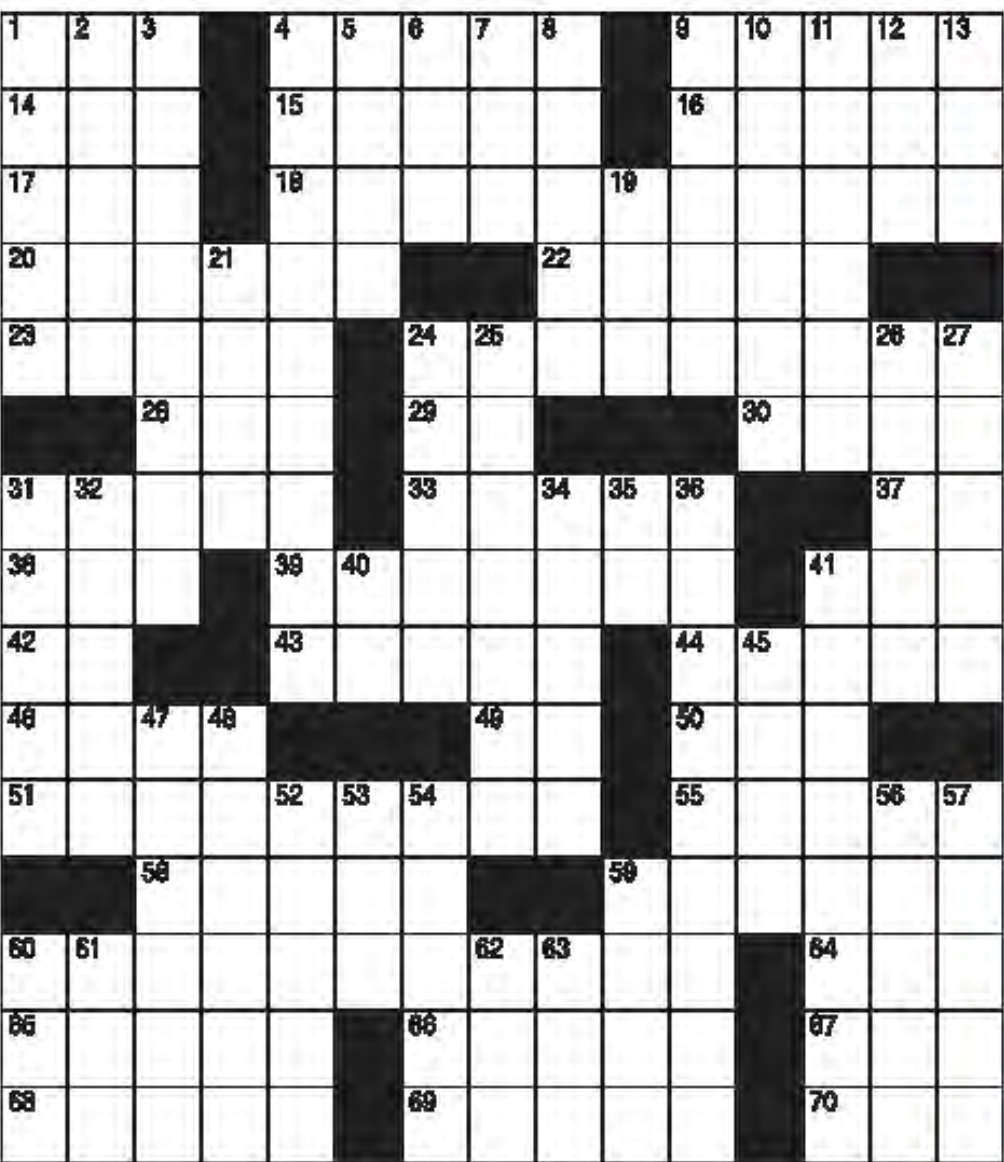
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- ACROSS
- 1. Owns
 - 4. Beef intestine
 - 9. Expression of contempt
 - 14. Expression of horror
 - 15. Famed architecture couple
 - 16. Escape
 - 17. "The Raven" author
 - 18. Chiefs' tight end
 - 20. Removes
 - 22. Pesto dish
 - 23. One who roots against
 - 24. Type of writer
 - 28. Old woman
 - 29. Early multimedia
 - 30. This (Spanish)
 - 31. Part of a play
 - 33. Elephant's name
 - 37. Home of the Flyers
 - 38. Builder's tough
 - 39. Tel
 - 41. Google certification
 - 42. Electric current
 - 43. Belonging to them
 - 44. Nostrils
 - 46. Arranges
 - 49. Commercial
 - 50. Skywalker's mentor
 - 51. Single-reed instrument
 - 55. Voodoo
 - 58. World of Warcraft character
 - 59. Paddling
 - 60. Most agreeable
 - 64. Chafed
 - 65. A way to analyze
 - 66. Remove
 - 67. Metal-bearing mineral
 - 68. Remains as is
 - 69. Large predatory seabirds
 - 70. The Science Guy



- DOWN
- 1. Central Chinese province
 - 2. The marketplace in ancient Greece
 - 3. Covered the sword
 - 4. Cleanser
 - 5. Body parts
 - 6. Returned material authorization (abbr.)
 - 7. Mega-electronvolt
 - 8. One from Asia
 - 9. A superior grade of black tea
 - 10. Thin
 - 11. Circles of light around the head
 - 12. General's asst. (abbr.)
 - 13. Tiny
 - 19. Evildoing
 - 21. ___ Connery, 007
 - 24. British sword
 - 25. Type of cyst
 - 26. Musical composition
 - 27. Advises
 - 31. Herring-like fish
 - 32. Chocolate powder
 - 34. Somalian district El
 - 35. Indicates position
 - 36. Refurbishes
 - 40. Exclamation of surprise
 - 41. Football field
 - 45. Hilly region in India near China
 - 47. Come to an end
 - 48. Most mad
 - 52. Sheets of glass
 - 53. Department of Housing and Urban Development
 - 54. Stares lecherously
 - 56. Consisting of a single element or component
 - 57. Monetary unit of Zambia
 - 59. Bones (Latin)
 - 60. Frames-per-second
 - 61. Tell on
 - 62. Gall
 - 63. Cologne

Flavorful foods for outdoor family fun

Summer can be jam-packed with camps, family reunions and more, and people can sometimes miss opportunities to enjoy time together.

This summer, savor and celebrate those simple yet memorable backyard moments with friends and family that make the season unforgettable.

Soak in the warm weather and try fresh and flavorful recipes al fresco. Dress your table with a bright tablecloth and a full spread of summer barbecue staples and ice-cold drinks.

For example, you can reinvent a summer grilling classic with these Hawaiian Ham Skewers, which combine the smokiness of Smithfield Anytime Favorites Ham with the sweetness of fresh pineapple.

As the sun begins to set, invite friends and family for a backyard game night, outdoor movie or bonfire.

Gather around the fire and take your s'mores to the next level with Smithfield Hometown Original Bacon for a perfect savory and sweet combination.

Wrap your toasted marshmallow with bacon and squish it between melted chocolate and graham crackers for a treat to end a long summer day.

To find more summer entertaining tips and recipes, visit Smithfield.com.



Hawaiian Ham Skewers

Prep time: 15 minutes
Cook time: 15 minutes
Servings: 4-6

- Hawaiian Glaze:
- 1/2 cup ketchup
 - 1/2 cup pineapple juice
 - 2 tablespoons brown sugar
 - 1/4 cup reduced-sodium soy sauce or tamari
 - 2 garlic cloves, minced
 - 1 tablespoon ginger root, minced or grated

- Ham Skewers:
- 4-6 skewers
 - 1 1/2 pounds Smithfield Ham Steaks, cut into 1 1/2-2-inch squares
 - 1 large red onion, cut into eight wedges, root end intact
 - 2-3 sweet bell peppers, cut into 1 1/2-2-inch pieces
 - 1/2 fresh pineapple, cored and cut into 1/2-inch thick slices
 - 4 ounces fresh button or crimini mushrooms, halved (optional)
 - 1 green onion, thinly sliced, for garnish

To prepare glaze: In small bowl, whisk ketchup, pineapple juice, brown sugar, soy sauce, garlic and ginger root until combined; reserve, refrigerated, for up to 3 days.

Heat grill to medium-high. Skewer ham, onion, bell pepper, pineapple and mushrooms by alternating pieces and brush with about one-third of glaze.


Grill 8-12 minutes, or until slightly charred and vegetables are cooked as desired, turning as needed. Glaze skewers about halfway through cooking and again before serving. Garnish with green onion.

For more summer entertaining tips and recipes, visit Smithfield.com.

Source: Family Features

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Smithfield Bacon S'mores

Prep time: 20 minutes

Cook time: 5 minutes

Servings: 8



- 4 strips any variety Smithfield Bacon
- 8 marshmallows
- 2 chocolate bars (about 3 ounces), broken into eight pieces
- 8 graham crackers, broken into squares

Heat oven to 375 F.

On lightly sprayed, foil-lined, rimmed baking pan, separate strips of bacon; lay flat in single layer and gently stretch each strip 1-2 inches. Bake 10-12 minutes, or until bacon begins to curl and edges just start to crisp, rotating pan halfway through cooking. Remove bacon from pans with spatula while warm, draining briefly on absorbent paper; reserve.

Cut bacon slices in half crosswise and tightly wrap around marshmallows, securing with skewer or roasting stick. Roast marshmallows over open fire until toasty brown on edges, being careful not to burn or ignite marshmallows.

Immediately sandwich roasted marshmallows between two graham crackers with piece of chocolate.

For more summer entertaining tips and recipes, visit [Smithfield .com](http://Smithfield.com).

Source: Family Features

Mid-life crisis can have positive effects on health

I turned 40 earlier this year, and while the actual number doesn't bother me (I think my maturity level is closer to 25), the way my body is reacting is very irritating. Weight, emotions, hormones -- they all seem out of whack!

Turning to the research, I find the advice I am always giving to others. Eat right, exercise, and at 70 you will be healthier.

It turns out, mid-life is not too late to change your health trajectory. In 2013, researchers from Harvard published a study looking at the effect of mid-life dietary changes on the aging process. Individuals who more closely adhered to the 2010 Dietary Guidelines for Americans or a Mediterranean diet were healthier at age 70.

Healthier at age 70 was defined as being alive at age 70 with no major chronic disease, and no major impairments in mental or physical functioning. Doesn't that sound like a great goal to have?

Most of us know what we should eat. Fruits, vegetables, lean meat, fish, whole grains, sources of calcium (dairy or non-dairy) are all essential for a healthy diet. The Mediterranean diet is more prescrip-



Kim Bandelier, MPH, RD, LD

Food For THOUGHT

tive: vegetables (excluding potatoes), fruits, nuts, whole grains, legumes, fish, minimal red/processed meats, moderate alcohol, and unsaturated fats.

However, knowing is only part of the journey. It's a challenge to eat right when you are surrounded by fast food, enormous restaurant portion sizes, a culture that celebrates with food, economic challenges, and a skewed emotional relationship with food.

There are some individuals who can eat healthy every day, never deviating from their healthy dietary pattern. Others struggle daily.

A recent study from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention uncovered that free treats at the office contributed 1300 extra calories to an individual employee's diet. It's hard to resist a doughnut in the office break room.

At mid-life, you need to begin resisting. Resist on most days and indulge only once or twice per week.

Pay closer attention to your diet, and you could rock your 70s (instead of spending your 70s in a rocking chair, or worse, not making it to your 80s).

Another key component is exercise. In mid-life, you must develop a healthy, regular exercise routine that incorporates cardio (exercises that raise your heart rate) and weight-bearing activities.

Around age 40, you begin losing 8 percent of your lean muscle mass every year. That loss accelerates as you age.

Weight-bearing activities and adequate protein intake help you lose less muscle mass. Losing less muscle means you are better able to exercise and take care of

yourself as you age, and you are less likely to become debilitated.

I would propose at age 40, it is time to change your weight goals. You need to focus on maintaining or building your muscles. Focus less on the number on the scale.

As well, as little as 15-20 minutes of brisk walking every day can help prevent the development of chronic diseases such as diabetes and heart disease.

We've all heard of the mid-life crisis -- fancy car, fancy clothes, fancy accessories. What if we all had a mid-life crisis for health?

Research predicts we can change our health destiny at mid-life if we will make and commit to dietary changes and exercise.

Dedicate your 40s and 50s to being healthy. Seek out the help of medical professionals -- physicians, registered dietitians, physical therapists -- to get on track.

Find an accountability partner. Prioritize your eating habits and physical activity in your 40s and 50s so you can continue to enjoy the life you want in your later years.

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The team of Bryce Hooper, Judd Davidson, Jimmie Dedmon and JJ Russell, representing JH Davidson & Associates, placed first with a score 54 in the Championship Flight in the 2018 CECF Summer Classic.



The team of Jeff Elroy, Derrick Jones, Zach Dennis and Ross Hutson, representing City Mart Energy, was second in the Championship Flight of the 2018 CECF Summer Classic with a score of 56.



First place in A Flight went to the team of Dan Bryan, Ray Patterson, Lane Claussen and John Fagan. Representing Hornbeek Vitali & Braun, the team scored a 65 at the 2018 CECF Summer Classic.



The First Farmers Bank team composed of Kyle Waid, Carter Waid, Jon Waid and Lodge Scott placed second in the A Flight of the 2018 CECF Summer Classic with a score of 66.



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Eighth-graders Spencer Crain, Sierra Spencer, Kasi Kelly, CJ McNally, Emily Cargill and Cooper Vaughn were selected to represent Cotton Electric at the 2018 Youth Power Energy Camp.

Students learn importance of rural electrification

By Danielle Quickle

Whether it be basketball, church or math camp, many children participate in some form of extracurricular activity over the summer. However, only a few lucky kids have the opportunity to attend the Youth Power Energy Camp.

Six local eighth-grade students were selected to represent Cotton Electric from May 29 to June 1 at Canyon Camp. They spent the week developing leadership skills, enjoying recreational activities and learning about one of rural America’s most important industries – rural electrification.

More than 20 co-ops from across the state sent students to the 2018 Youth Power Energy Camp. Campers representing Cotton Electric included: Emily Cargill of Cache; CJ McNally of Chattanooga; Kasi Kelly and Cooper Vaughn, both of Comanche; Sierra Spencer of Elgin; and Spencer Crain of Geronimo.

Camp kicked off with the explanation of the cooperative model. All 87 students became members and were divided into seven districts. Each district symbolized

one of the seven cooperative principles: Voluntary and Open Membership; Democratic Member Control; Members’ Economic Participation; Autonomy and Independence; Education, Training and Information; Cooperation Among Cooperatives; and Concern for Community.

Campers came together and elected directors to represent their districts throughout the duration of the camp. The board of directors then interviewed district elected candidates, including CJ McNally, to “hire” as the camp manager and operate a Coke and candy cooperative. Through this process, students learned about the role members have in a cooperative setting. Members exercise their member-ownership by choosing who their cooperative leaders are.

Digging deeper into the functions of an electric cooperative, campers explored the opportunity to experience life as a lineman. Each student climbed a few feet up a utility pole with real climbing gear, got a bird’s eye view of the camp when they took a ride in a bucket truck, and saw first-hand the dangers linemen face when

a high-voltage safety demonstration was presented.

Other camp activities included nature hikes, water and sport games, trivia and an outing to Celebration Station in Oklahoma City.

Cotton Electric’s representatives got a chance to share some personal thoughts about camp before heading home:

Spencer Crain: “Energy Camp was an amazing experience, I had lots of fun.”

Sierra Spencer: “I developed an understanding for how co-ops and electricity work. I will gladly look into a job at a co-op in the future.”

CJ McNally: “I learned valuable skills that I will use in the future.”

Cooper Vaughn: “It was super fun and had plenty of surprises.”

Emily Cargill: “I had the chance to come out of my shell and develop leaderships skills.”

Kasi Kelly: “Thank you so much for sponsoring me. I have made so many friends and memories.”

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Community Spotlight

Market open weekends in Cache

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

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

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

Chapter of the Blind meets monthly

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 580-786-8041 or 427-2933.

Weekly farmers market in Lawton

Lawton Farmers Market is open from 8 a.m. to noon on Wednesdays and Saturdays from April through October at the Comanche County Fairgrounds, 920 SW Sheridan Road.

In addition to local seasonal produce, expect to see specialty foods such as jams, jellies, salsas, baked goods, wine, freshly roasted coffee beans, as well as handmade soap, herbs, plants, eggs, beef and an assortment of handcrafted items and food concessionaires.

For information, visit Lawton Farmers Market on Facebook.

Honor guard serves SW Oklahoma

Seeing a need in the area, several military veterans formed an honor guard in 2007 to provide services at

funerals for all military veterans. The guard is made up of veterans from all branches of the armed forces and three veterans' organizations.

The uniformed guard furnishes a 21-gun salute, plays Taps and folds a flag for presentation to the family.

The guard travels anywhere in Stephens, Cotton, Comanche and Jefferson counties, and has made special trips into Grady and Carter counties.

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

For information about joining the guard or securing its services, call L.D. Williams at 580-439-8244.

Monthly lecture at The Foreman Prairie House

Join the docents and volunteers at The Foreman Prairie House at noon every third Thursday of the month for lunch and lecture.

Listen to artists, historians and craftsmen while enjoying a homemade artisan-style lunch.

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

Cost is \$12 per person. Reservations are required and can be made by dialing or texting 580-512-9153.

Senior center hosts 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.

For information about other activities, visit WichitaMountainSeniors.org.

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.



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- ☐ High utility bills?
- ☐ Thermostat wars with your spouse?
- ☐ High humidity in summer?
- ☐ House just never seems comfortable?
- ☐ There doesn't seem to be enough airflow?

- ☐ Dust buildup within 2 days of dusting?
- ☐ Problems with your system since it's been installed?
- ☐ Anyone with allergies or asthma?
- ☐ AC starts and stops frequently or runs all the time, and house is still not cool?

- ☐ Have been told by other contractors that the problem cannot be fixed?

If you answered YES to any of these questions, we can help!

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Summertime Savings

Hot days remind us to use energy wisely

The hottest days of summer remind us that poor energy habits can make our house uncomfortable.

It's never too late to make a few changes around the house to help keep things cool. A bonus: You could lower your energy bill during air-conditioner season.

- Check for loose or leaky window panes. And notice if your home still has single-pane windows: They're typically so energy inefficient that they allow cool air to escape from your home during the summer and hot air to escape in the winter. Replacing old, inefficient windows now is an investment that will pay for itself in energy savings all year round — and keep your home more comfortable, too.

- If you're still using your old stash of incandescent light bulbs in lamps and overhead fixtures, it's time to make the switch to compact fluorescent bulbs or LED fixtures. Both are far more energy

efficient than old-fashioned light bulbs. One reason: Incandescents produce more heat than light. And that can compete with the job your air-conditioning system is trying to do during the summer.

- When air-conditioner filters get dirty, they get clogged — and the air can't flow freely through them. That forces your a/c to work harder. Replace your dirty air filters once a month during cooling season.

- Install a programmable thermostat, which automatically adjusts the temperature so you use less energy to cool your home when no one is there. The device can save you up to \$100 a year on cooling and heating bills.

- Move appliances and lamps away from your thermostat. Because they emit heat, they can trick your thermostat into "thinking" that the house is warmer than it really is — and to work harder to cool it off more than it needs.

Source: Pointers and Prose

Demand on power plants that generate electricity for Cotton Electric members varies throughout the year, but is generally highest during the hot summer months between the hours of 4 and 6 p.m.

Cotton Electric members are encouraged to be energy aware during hot summer afternoons and evenings. Use appliances sparingly or limit to one at a time. Consider increasing the setting on your thermostat by two or three degrees or set on 78 degrees for maximum efficiency.

The cost of power is higher during peak demand times. Managing energy use during hot summer months reduces demand on power plants producing electricity and delays the need to build new ones.



ROW update

ROW moving toward new locations

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 brightly 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.

During the third quarter of the year, clearing 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.

They are also working on lines extending from the Walters, Hulen and Stephens substations. They started south of U.S. Highway 70 in the Cache Creek area and are working their way north to

Oklahoma Highway 7.

Another crew has begun trim work in the Sugden area. Work is expected to be completed and moved to the town of Loco by August.

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 this summer.

As always, Cotton's vegetation management crews will work with district linemen on ROW clearing where needed throughout the service area.

Scott 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.

Leave a message at 580-875-4224 to have your name added to the list of members willing to take wood chips.

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