

A Publication of Cotton Electric Cooperative Inc.

A Touchstone Energy<sup>®</sup> Cooperative 🔨

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

VOLUME 61

March 19, 2018

# 10 energy-wasting habits to kick this spring

Without paying much attention, we use a lot of energy each day — from charging electronics to watching TV. In fact, in 2014, the average U.S. residential household consumed 10,982 kWh of electricity and spent around \$2,200 annually on utility bills. Luckily, households can lower this amount as much as 25 percent by being more proactive with energy conservation tips. Here are 10 of the biggest energy-wasting oversights people make at home and how to adjust to more eco-friendly practices

#### 2. Using Incandescent Bulbs

Incandescent light bulbs consume an exorbitant amount of energy. A quick way to reduce energy use is to switch to energy-efficient



bulbs. Energy Star certified bulbs — such as halogen incandescents and light-emitting diodes (LEDs) — use 25–80 percent less energy than traditional incandescent bulbs and last up to 25 times longer.

#### 4. Powering an Empty Freezer

Having an extra freezer in the garage is great for storing food, but does more harm than good when it is empty. A running chest freezer consumes around 103 kWh and costs an average of \$14 per

> month. When your chest freezer is empty, unplug it to save energy and money.

#### 1. Leaving the Lights On

One of the most obvious energy-wasting habits is leaving the lights on. It's also one of the easiest habits to fix. By simply turning off the lights when you leave a room or your home, you will save electricity and help your lightbulbs last longer. If you think you

ON OFF

NUMBER 8

might forget, use a smart home system to remotely monitor your lighting from your smartphone.

#### 3. Leaving Electronics Plugged In

Appliances and electronics use energy even when they're turned off. One tip to help save on energy bills, unplug all electronics — including TVs, computers, and phone chargers — when they aren't in use. Connecting multiple electronics to a power strip makes it easier to switch off unused devices all at once.

X

#### 5. Browsing Your Refrigerator

Those few seconds staring into the refrigerator add up. Every year, people spend around 10 hours looking at an open fridge or freezer, accounting for 7 percent of the appliance's total energy use. Open the fridge and freezer only



when necessary and save your browsing for the pantry.

6. Running the Dishwasher Half-Full The average dishwasher requires around 1,800 watts of electricity

7. Washing Clothes in Hot Water Almost 90 percent of a washing machine's



to run — running it daily would cost \$66 per year. Cut down on



energy use by running the dishwasher only when full. You can also save around 15 percent of the dishwasher's total energy use by switching its setting from heat dry to air dry.

#### 8. Setting the Thermostat Too High

In many households, water heater temperatures are set too high.



Even though many water heaters are set at 140 degrees by default, the Department of Energy recommends 120 degrees for energy efficiency. Cut your water heating bill by 3–5 percent for every 10 degrees you lower the thermostat.

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#### 10. Forgetting to Change Air Filters

Air filters need to be regularly cleaned for the HVAC to function effectively. As it runs, the air filter traps dust particles. Once the



air filter clogs, the HVAC expends more energy pulling in air. To reduce a system's energy use, replace its air filters every three months. For the more forgetful among us, a simple phone notification can keep you up to date and breathing cleaner air.

energy is spent heating water. You can cut energy use in half by switching from hot to

warm water, and reduce it even further by using cold water. Unless you are trying to remove oil or grease, cold water sufficiently cleans clothing, towels and sheets.

#### 9. An Unprogrammed Thermostat Heating and cooling consume nearly half



of a home's energy. A programmable thermostat helps cut down on unnecessary heating or cooling when you aren't home. Smart thermostats are even more energy efficient — they are remote controlled, can "learn" your preferred temperature, and default to energy-saving mode when no one is home.

Electricity is essential for living comfortably, but there are simple ways you can reduce your energy use, save money, and improve your home's sustainability without hindering your daily life. Try an idea or two from the list above – or even better, all of them – and see the savings add up

Layout by Danielle Quickle Source: Jonathan Deesing via TO SAVE ENERGY www.ase.org

#### Power Cost Adjustment Calculated

The power cost adjust ment now being applied to bills mailed after April 1, 2018, is \$(.00537) pe kWh.

On a member's averag bill of 1250 kilowatt hour (kWh), this will amoun to a credit of \$6.71 on th April bill.

#### February 2018 Temperature Extremes

	Day	High	Low	Avg.	Day	High	Low	Avg.
st-	1	56	35	46	15	82	59	71
ed	2	52	31	42	16	66	38	52
	3	62	31	47	17	65	32	49
ril	4	48	20	34	18	64	29	47
er	5	43	14	29	19	78	61	70
	6	35	21	28	20	70	28	49
	7	48	19	34	21	28	24	26
	8	61	17	39	22	35	28	32
ge	9	69	26	48	23	40	33	37
Irs	10	33	21	27	24	62	36	49
nt	11	41	13	27	25	65	27	46
	12	46	10	28	26	66	31	49
he	13	50	22	36	27	58	40	49
	14	78	33	56	28	72	54	63
	Source	srh nozz aou	loun/					

#### **Did You Know?**

Cotton Electric sent out 13,574 capital credit checks on Dec. 27, 2017. They included this notation: Check is void in 90 days. Your bank should not honor the check after March 27, 2018.

The next issue of The Current should arrive in mailboxes on April 16, 2018.

**Contact Us** 

way, Walters, OK 73572.

let us know.

at

com.

#### What's Inside

Do you have a story idea Operating Stats ...... 2 for The Current or do you Co-op News ...... 2-3 need to place an ad? If so, Community ...... 4,6 Co-op News ..... 5 We can be reached at Puzzles .....7 580-875-3351 or by email Co-op News ...... 8-12 info@cottonelectric. Recipes ..... 13-14 Classifieds ..... 15-19 You can also drop us a line at Cotton Electric More news at Current, 226 N. Broadcottonelectric.com



A PROGRAM OF AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

# From the CEO Are you a co-op voter?

Did you vote in the 2016 elections? If so, you were one of 500,000 MORE voters in co-op territories that went to the polls. You helped turn the tide of decreasing voter turnout in rural areas like ours ... and our elected officials took notice!



Jennifer Meason, CEO

As member-owned electric cooperatives, voting is already in our DNA. It's how we maintain an electric utility that is responsive to the members we serve. But voting also plays a crucial part in our representative democracy. Federal, state and local elections offer an opportunity to exercise a civic responsibility – to select the best leaders for our communities.

In Oklahoma, 2018 is going to be an interesting and important election year. Electric cooperatives have the opportunity to play a vital role in encouraging rural voter turnout and engaging on issues that matter in our community.

When voters miss the chance to vote, they also lose the opportunity to communicate their concern to our leaders about the issues that matter to us, where we work, live, and raise families.

Reliable electricity, rural infrastructure and

access to rural broadband are just a few of the issues we all care about. These issues will only become priorities if we continue to express our concerns to our elected officials. Registering to vote and showing up to the polls on Election Day are the most effective ways to send this message.

When we go to the polls with the cooperative principle of "Concern for Community" in mind, we instantly improve our political system. It's a system designed to produce a government "of the people, by the people and for the people." People like you and me.

Cotton Electric Cooperative has once again joined America's electric cooperatives in continuing the Co-ops Vote campaign to help get out the vote and insert issues important to co-ops and our communities into the public discussion. This effort will ensure our voices are heard loud and clear every day, and especially on the next Election Day.

Here's what you can do to help. Ensure you're registered to vote right now. Then, encourage your friends and family to register, too. Visit the Co-ops Vote website, WWW. VOTE.COOP, to get information on how to register and to learn more about your elected officials. You can also learn more about the issues that matter in our communities. Stop by one of our offices and pick up a Co-ops Vote

## Did you know?

Registering to vote in Oklahoma is easy. Registration is open to Oklahoma residents who are U.S. citizens and 18 years old or older. Exceptions apply to convicted felons and incapacitated persons.

Voter registration application forms are available at your County Election Board, post offices, tag agencies, libraries and many other public locations. You also may download an application form at https:// www.ok.gov/elections/Voter\_Info/Register\_to\_Vote/.

Visit the website to learn about changing registration, voter identification cards, when to register and other voting information.

bumper sticker, and display it proudly to let your community know you're a Co-op Voter.

Co-ops Vote is a non-partisan program developed by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national service organization that represents the nation's more than 900 private, not-for-profit, consumerowned electric cooperatives. You will join with 42 million members across the nation to ensure that electric co-ops are a powerful voice on national issues that have a local impact.

If you have any questions, please visit WWW.VOTE.COOP or contact us directly at Cotton Electric. I hope to see you at the polls!







# Send a Powerful Message

### Take the pledge to vote this election year. Visit vote.coop to take the pledge.

Co-ops across the nation are dedicated to making our voices heard at the polls. Collectively we can make a difference.

# Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

In spring and summer months, set your ceiling fans to turn in the counterclockwise direction. This will create a cool breeze. Remember, ceiling fans cool people, not rooms. Turn them off when you leave the room.

Source: energystar.gov

COTTON							
ELECTRIC CO-OP							
Mission Statement							
Our mission is to be							
the leader in provid-							
ing the most reliable							
and innovative electric							
system, with affordable							
rates, through the posi-							
tive, enthusiastic and							
professional use of its							
resources and people.							

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### January 2018 Operating Stats

	U	
	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
Total Amount Billed/Accrued	\$6,534,854	\$5,903,162
Cost of Purchased Power	4,161,290	3,783,960
Taxes	109,971	117,992
Total Operating Expense Per Mile	1,113	1,063
Average Farm and Residential Bill	202	175
Average Farm and Residential kWh	2,014	1,699
Total Meters Billed (farm, residential)	18,334	18,249
Miles Energized	5,169	5,158
Density Per Mile	3.55	3.54
New Service Connects YTD	25	12
Services Retired	11	16



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Jennifer Meason	CEO
Bryce Hooper	Vice President of Marketing
Karen Kaley	Marketing & Comm. Director
Danielle Quickle	Editor
Jennifer Kriz	Display Advertising

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# Home, secure home



# Defend physical property, too

Long gone are the days when folks in rural Oklahoma could leave their homes unlocked and keys tossed to the floor of the pickup. Unfortunately, keeping your personal belongings secure can take a lot more than remembering to lock the front door before you leave.

#### Improve security with crime prevention, Neighborhood Watch programs

• Use Checklists and Guides from the www.state.gov/documents/organiza-National Crime Prevention Council - tion/19785.pdf

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

Sarah Kiely, who works in IT Commu-Cooperatives Association, sent a list of click will take you directly to the page.

Editor's Note: During National Cyber 20 suggestions to keep personal information safe. Each suggestion includes a few paragraphs of explanation and links to

An easy way to investigate links: Find The Current at CottonElectric.com under Member Services. The online version of nity Support for National Rural Electric The Current features live links, where a





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https://www.ncpc.org/resources/homeneighborhood-safety/

in a Neighborhood Watch Program https://www.ncpc.org/resources/ home-neighborhood-safety/neighbor-

hood-watch/ or https://www.bja.gov/ Publications/NSA\_NW\_Manual.pdf

• Review the State Department Guidance on Personal Security At Home, On the Street, While Traveling – https://

You can also develop a general crime • Consider starting or participating profile of your neighborhood by using on-line databases such as:

- Spotcrime http://spotcrime.com
- Neighborhood Scout http://www. neighborhoodscout.com
- Crime reports https://www.crimereports.com
- Family Watchdog http://www.familywatchdog.us

Mark and keep an inventory of your high-value items

sonal items can mean a considerable in- ible ink" to mark the items. Marks from vestment of time.

If time is a problem, consider hiring a reputable company to compile the inven- form with descriptions including brand, tory. It will pay off if you are a victim of model number, and serial number. Keep theft or disaster.

• Mark property or valuables with an identifying mark. Choose a mark that signs in strategic places indicating your will not compromise your identity security. A license tag number may be a good

Developing an inventory of your per- choice. Purchase a UV pen to use "invis-UV pens show up under a black light.

• Inventory your marked property on a it in a safe place.

• Warn burglars away with stickers or items are marked. Decals on windows may help discourage burglary.



Mile Marker 21, H.E. Bailey Turnpike, Walters, OK 73572

For directions call: 580-875-3992

Apply at: ezgostores.com/our-ezgo-team

# **Brink Auction Service's** 31<sup>st</sup> 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 Brink E-Mail: brinkauction@gmail.com 580-335-4126 PO Box 928 • Frederick, OK 73542



Auction Service Website: www.brinkauction.com

# Starting Pay:



EZ GO supports a diverse and

drug-free workplace.

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If you would like your community event listed in the April issue, please submit information by April 3, 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.

#### Car cruises begin March 23

Ready to make the drag? The first car cruise of 2018 will run from 6 to 10 p.m. March 23 in downtown Duncan.

Car enthusiasts of all stripes gather four times a year for the Friday Night Car Cruise around downtown Duncan. Guests enjoy a fun and free parade of drivers showing off their souped-up cars as they cruise down Main Street. Main Street merchants will be open late, offering discounts and door prizes.

To cruise Main Street is \$10 per vehicle with license and insurance required. Visit the Friday Night Car Cruise Facebook page or the Main Street Duncan website to stay informed on event details including contests, concerts and movie times.

#### Home, garden show begins March 25

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.

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

#### Central High alums to gather

Tables are filling up for the Central High Alumni Banquet on March 31. Registration begins at 3 p.m. and the banquet follows at 5 p.m. in the gymnasium at Central High School.

Classmates are encouraged to purchase tickets in advance in order to sit with others from their graduation year. Advance tickets are \$12 and go up to \$15 the day of the event, when there is no seating arrangement guarantee.

Even if not planning to attend, alumni are asked to send updated contact information to Shonda Shepard Harris, 4550 Odom Road, Duncan, OK 73533. For information, call 580-658-3948.

#### Refuge tours offered on Saturdays



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This image of Mady, Harley, Addison and Haylei, fourth-graders at Walters Elementary School, is perfect for Music in Schools Month. Cotton Electric member and teacher Denise Tulloh snapped this photo of their classroom work with guitars.

Enter your "best shot" in our Photo of the Month contest. Theme for April is No Place Like Home. 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.

### AARP provides free tax assistance

AARP offers free tax assistance and able from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monpreparation for taxpayers with low to days and Thursdays, and from noon to moderate income on a first-come, first- 4 p.m. Wednesdays at the Center for served basis through the tax due date of Creative Living, 3501 Dr. Elsie Hamm April 15 at several locations in the Cot- Drive, Lawton. ton Electric service area.

tain documents are. Taxpayers should take last year's income tax return, all W-2 and 1099 forms, information about any 4th Street. other income, adjustment and deducfor each person on a return, and property taxes if he or she plans to itemize.

Trained IRS volunteers will be avail- Center in Duncan.

Volunteers will be on hand from 4 No appointment is necessary but cer- 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

The free service is available from 8:30 tion documents, Social Security cards to 11 a.m. Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays in Room B123 of the business center at Red River Technology



#### Roadshow coming to Lawton

Junk'n with 2 Hip Chicks will be noon to 7 p.m. March 23 and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 24 in Lawton at Comanche County Fairgrounds.

More than 100 vendors will offer boutique items for kids and adults, repurposed furniture, jewelry, handmade items, antiques, and one-of-a-kind finds.

First 25 through the door will get a swag bag full of goodies. Door prizes will be given away every 45 minutes.

Tickets are \$5 at the door and valid both days. Children under 12 get in 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 with Steamboat Bandits and Arkansas.

V-Dubs in the Park is set for March 25. Open to all Volkswagens, whether airor 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.

Every Saturday in March, Historical Sites of the Wichitas Tours are being offered at 1:30 p.m. in the Wichita Moun-

tain Wildlife Refuge. Reservations are required and are taken on a first come, first served basis by telephoning the Visitor Center during business hours. The number is 580-429-2197.

For more information, visit the events calendar at the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge website.

#### 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 will compete for a three-horse slant, bumper-pull trailer and the opportunity to 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.

More Community Spotlight on Page 6

#### **Upcoming Deadlines for The Current**

Apri	i <b>l</b>	May	y	June			
Ad Sales	Mar. 30	Ad Sales	April 27	Ad Sales	May 25		
Classified	Apr. 4	Classified	May 2	Classified	May 30		
Publish Date Apr. 16		Classified Publish Date	May 14	Publish Date	June 11		

The information we get from Cotton Electric Cooperative about efficiency, safety and technology gives us the power to make informed decisions.

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

#### YOUR SOURCE OF POWER. AND INFORMATION.





# Finalists announced in essay competition

High school juniors from schools across southern Oklahoma submitted essays to compete in Cotton Electric Cooperative's 2018 Rural Electric Youth Tour contest.

The entries were pared down to the 25 best essays on the topic "Energy Efficiency: How it Affects Me and Cotton Electric," and their authors were invited to CEC headquarters in Walters for the interview portion of the competition.

Following the question-and-anfinalists. They and their parents and Electric for a banquet on March 29. During the event, the finalists will be required to recite their essay in determined.



swer sessions, the co-op named 10 a week in June, they will join 1,500 students and follow state-planned teachers will be the guests of Cotton itineraries, including time with Oklahoma's congressional delegation.

an oral, speech-type format. As they tunity to learn about government, Dustin Paramore; speak before judges and banquet the cooperative form of business guests, the final four winners will be and the business of rural electrification. The students will become The Cotton Electric Youth Tour more familiar with the historical lery and Brantly Tillery; and Sierra Winners will receive an all-expense and political environment of the na- Haney, daughter of Retta Hollander paid trip to Washington, D.C. For tion's capital through visits to mon- and Scotty Hollander.

uments, government offices and cooperative organizations.

Listed by school, the 10 finalists and their parents are:

Central High High School: Nathaniel Wright, son of Tami and Steve Wright;

Eisenhower High School: Gabhriel Barber, daughter of Felesha Barber and Corey Barber;

Grove Academy: Grant Anthony, son of Roni Alexander;

Marlow High School: Cole Newport, son of Nita Newport; Gavin Banks, son of Mindy and Tundy Banks; Madison Baker, daughter of Monica and Kenny Baker;

Velma-Alma High School: Mac-The students will have an oppor- ey Paramore, daughter of Krista and

> Walters High School: Calli Ray, daughter of Michael and Christy Ray; Sayre Tillery, son of Cydni Til-



Cotton Electric Co-op members get extra relief by presenting their Coop Connections Card when getting prescriptions filled at participating pharmacies.

In February 2018, members used their cards at pharmacies in the CEC service area when filling 37 prescriptions not covered by insurance. A total of \$1,076.15 was discounted for an average savings of \$29.09 per use.

The total savings since the program's inception in April 2008 has been \$643,443.83.

The card is free to all members and can be obtained by calling 580-875-3351.

To find a participating pharmacy call Member Services at 800-800-7616 or visit www.locateproviders. com. Type 22203 into the Group field and click 'log in' to start your search.





We do our best to avoid power outages, but unfortunately, **Mother Nature** occasionally has different plans. Stay ahead of the storm by stocking your pantry with a variety of non-perishable items.

Set these items aside for extended outages only, and your storm prep will be a breeze!

GIONAL HOSPITAL 1311 Jackie Read - Duncan MILLER EYE CARE

580,255,2501

**Over 30 Years of Surgical Experience** Glaucoma - Cataracts - Diabetic Eye Disease





- CANNED FRUIT
- CANNED TUNA
- CANNED VEGETABLES OATMEAL
- DRIED FRUITS
- DRIED MEATS/JERKY
- GRAHAM CRACKERS
- PASTA • RICE • SPAM

 BEANS • CEREAL

luice Tomato CHUNK TUNA

Don't forget to stock up on disposable goods, like paper plates, napkins, plastic cutlery and cups.



Wed Like to Meet You! (Reg. \$309.00) **New Patient** 

Winter Special Offer!

Includes complete dental exam, x-rays, and cleaning.

Offer Expires 03/30/2018

# Schedule Now! 580-536-9647



# **GO UNDERGROUND**

www.dehartair.com www.climatemaster.com 5315 N. Highway 81 **Duncan, OK 73533** 

srice@dehartair.com 580-252-2205

**Up to \$1050** Per Ton Rebate-**Cotton Electric Cooperative** 

#### **DEHART AIR CONDITIONING has opened an office in Duncan, OK!!**

DeHart A/C can take care of all of your heating, cooling, and air quality needs. We have over 30 years' experience in Geothermal and would love to help you save money by either switching to a ClimateMaster® Geothermal heat pump system or updating your Geothermal existing system. With a ClimateMaster® Geothermal heat pump system you can qualify for utility rebates and save 40% - 60% on your energy bills. ClimateMaster® uses geothermal energy to tap the constant temperature of the earth, keeping your home comfortable all year long. If you are ready to uncover extra cash each month, call today.

Geothermal Heating & Cooling

Up to \$1050 Per Ton Rebate for new systems–Cotton Electric Co-op\* \$375 Per Ton on Geothermal to Geothermal replacement systems-Cotton Electric Co-op\*

**Rebates Available in many OMPA Member cities\*** 

\*Restrictions apply

## **Community Spotlight**

#### Pecan Creek VFD plans fundraiser

Pecan Creek Volunteer Fire Department's third annual golf scramble is set for 1 p.m. April 20 at Lawton Municipal Golf Course.

The scramble consists of two-person teams with an entry fee of \$100 per team. Registry is limited to 40 teams on a first-come, first-serve basis. Golfers enjoy 18 holes preceded by a barbecue lunch beginning at noon and will have the opportunity for cash prizes.

All proceeds from this event will benefit the Pecan Creek VFD. For more information on how to register your team or to become a Hole Sponsor, call Joe English at 580-351-4316.

#### Airfield celebrates100th anniversary

Henry Post Army Airfield is planning its 100th anniversary celebration for 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on April 7 at Fort Sill.

The Henry Post Army Airfield is the oldest airfield in the Army. Guests will have the opportunity to see historical aircraft as well as Field Artillery and Air Defense Artillery displays.

The event is free to the public. Activities include a Kid Zone that features bounce houses and face painting. To learn more, visit sill.armymwr.com.

#### 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 ty boy who represents the trend toward up of veterans from all branches of the entertainment news she despises. Aaron armed forces and three veterans' organi- Altman, a talented but plain corresponzations.

gun salute, plays taps and folds a flag for network prepares for big changes, and presentation to the family. The guard both the news and Jane must decide betravels anywhere in Stephens, Cotton, tween style and substance. The film won Comanche and Jefferson counties, and the 1987 New York Film Critics Circle has made special trips into Grady and for Best Screenplay and was nominated

Carter counties.

There is no charge for the service, nal Screenplay in 1987. though donations are accepted.

guard or securing its services, call L.D. Williams at 580-439-8244.

#### Find collectibles at April sale

KLAW 101, Z94, and 1073 POP-CRUSH are sponsoring Lawton's Largest Garage Antique and Collectible Sale from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily, April 13-14, at the Great Plains Coliseum.

This is an excellent opportunity to sell items you no longer have room for or have fun browsing through the unique, one-of-a-kind treasures on display.

Booths are available now on a firstcome, first-served basis. Booths start at \$40, and each additional booth is only \$35. For information, you can stop by Townsquare Media offices at 626 SW D Ave in Lawton.

#### 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 April 20 offering is "Broadcast News," a 1987 American romantic comedy-drama film written, produced and directed by James L. Brooks. Basket-case network news producer Jane Craig falls for new reporter Tom Grunnick, a pretdent, carries an unrequited torch for The uniformed guard furnishes a 21- Jane. Sparks fly between the three as the

for the Academy Award for Best Origi- tivities for the family will include fitness

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

#### 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 handmade 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.

#### Duncan Spring Stroll is April 7

Save the date for Downtown Duncan's second annual Spring Stroll from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 7 along Main Street.

Main Street shops open their doors for all guests to see new spring offerings, enjoy in-store specials and live demonstrations. Some locations will offer a gift with purchase. Punch cards are available tasting event and the Grand Prize draw- life. ing at the end of the day.

More information can be found on the Spring Stroll Facebook page or by visiting the Main Street Duncan website.

#### Celebrate Earth Day in Lawton

Lawton is celebrating Earth Day with Open Streets from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on April 21 in downtown Lawton on C Avenue.

turns city streets into a temporary public park with activities for the whole family and designed to get people moving. Ac-

classes, obstacle courses, imaginary playground, skate park, hula hoops, art, face painting, bounce houses, photo booth and more.

#### Apache Rattlesnake Fest is April 19-22

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.

#### LCT offers Simon's '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 topsyturvy. 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 for \$5 to participate in the chocolate it alongside the events of the playwright's

> For information, visit LCT-OK.org or call 580-355-1600.

#### 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-Open Streets is a new concept that week supply of basic staples to anyone with identification.

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





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# LOUIE THE LIGHTNING BUG **CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

Use the clues and the word bank to complete the puzzle.



#### ACROSS

- 1. What is Louie on safety and electricity?
- 4. Louie teaches us about this.
- 6. A plug should never be pulled out by this.
- 7. Never fly this around power lines.
- 10. Our lightning bug's first name.
- 12. When power lines are like this don't hang around.
- 14. What is Louie?
- 16. Nuclear plants produce electricity by splitting these.
- 17. What actually makes the electricity?

#### DOWN

- 2. Never climb trees around these.
- 3. What turns on a light?
- 5. Electricity makes this burn.
- 8. These should never be put in an outlet.
- 9. The only thing that should go in outlets.
- 11. Overloading this with too many plugs can be very dangerous.
- 13. What turns the turbine in hydroelectricity?
- 15. Electricity is made by burning this.



												_			
ACROSS	1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
1. Unpleasant substance															
5. Oil group	14					15						16			
10. One-time Yankees															
rookie sensation	17					18						19			
14. Ireland															
15. Less easily found	20				21		22				23				
16. Southeast Nigeria															
people				24		25				26					
17. Bridgeline Digital															
stock designation	27	28	29		30				31				32	33	34
18. Play loudly															
19. Elegantly fashionable	35			36				37				38			
20. Open sore															
22. Frozen water	39						40				41				
23. Sacred Islamic site															
24. "Kokomo" rockers	42					43				44					
27. Follows sigma															
30. Cease to exist	45				46				47				48		
31. Cool															
32. Doctors' group				49				50				51			
35. Less attractive															
37. Swiss river	52	53	54				55				56		57	58	59
38. Greek sophist			_												
39. Grandmothers	60					61				62		63			
40. Afflict	64					65					-	66			+
41. Russian pancake of	04					05						00			
buckwheat flour and	67					68						69			+
yeast	<b>.</b>														
42 Actress Rachel				1				1	_					1	

## **AMERICA'S** FAVOR MOWER **GRAND PRIZE GIVEAWAY** JULY 4 • 8PM

Weekly drawings on Fridays and Saturdays from 7PM–11PM every half hour. Starting April 1 – July 4, earn an e-drawing entry for every 25 points on your Comanche Card to be entered into a drawing for your chance to spin the wheel and win up to \$50 Comanche Credit or \$200 Cash.

You can also earn an e-drawing entry for every 25 points on your Comanche Card for your chance to win the Grand Prize drawings up to \$100 in cash and a John Deere Mower on July 4 at 8PM.

Guest may win two (2) prizes per night. All participants are eligible to win the Grand Prize. Actual model may vary from image shown. rand prize of \$100 cash and mower only available at Comanche Star Casino.

COMANCHE

STAR





13. Less easily found
16. Southeast Nigeria
people
17. Bridgeline Digital

© Moore Syndication, Inc

- Wood
- 43. Not bright
- 44. Western Asia peninsula
- 45. Baseball speedster Gordon
- 46. Golf score
- 47. Transmits genetic information from DNA to the cytoplasm
- 48. Diego, Francisco, Anselmo
- 49. Songs to one's lover
- 52. Cattle's mammary gland
- 55. Having ten
- 56. Fencing sword
- 60. Scarlett's home
- 61. Hold valuables 63. Italian Seaport

64. Cain and \_\_\_\_ 65. Bad places to live 66. Large, wading bird 67. Witches 68. Cover with drops 69. Props up the head

#### **DOWN**

- 1. Philippine province 2. Shallow channel 3. Type of acid 4. Cygnus' brightest star 5. One who buys and sells securities (abbr.) 6. Ill will 7. Plant of the goosefoot family 8. Intellectual 9. Mineral 10. Shiny silicate minerals 11. Ottoman civilian title 41. Hillsides
- 12. What you wear when 43. Patriotic women eating BBQ (2 words) 13. Soul and calypso song 46. For each 21. Advises 23. "The Spanish Tragedy" playwright 25. Surrounds the earth 26. Paddle 27. Adjusted 28. Succulent plant 29. Forearm bones 32. Belonging to Egyptian ascetic Apollo's colleague 33. Type of mental illness ton 34. One from Asia 36.007's creator 37. Direct toward 38. Pie \_ \_\_ mode

40. Large terrier

- (abbr.) 44. Connects words 47. Flower cluster 49. Closes a deal 50. Arabian desert 51. Vaccine against poliomyelitis 52. American state 53. Religion practiced in China 54. Type of sediment 57. Hall of Famer Ruth 58. "Layla" singer Clap-59. Gamble
- 61. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
- 62. Midway between south and southwest

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# Overhead or

#### Pros

- Lower cost to build
- Quicker construction
- Easier to spot damage and problems
- Less expensive to repair and upgrade
- Can be built in any terrain

#### Cons

- Susceptible to wind, ice and snow
- More vulnerable to damage from trees and vegetation, which requires right-of-way maintenance
- Vulnerable to blinks when animals and branches contact lines
- Susceptible to damage from vehicle collisions

# underground?



- Not vulnerable to damage from tree branches
- No right-of-way
  maintenance required
- Less susceptible to damage from vehicle collisions
- Not impacted by wind, ice and snow
- Less vulnerable to blinks when animals and branches contact lines

#### Cons

- More expensive to build
- Susceptible to flooding
- Difficult to locate problems
- Expensive to repair
- Fed by overhead lines at some point, keeping location vulnerable to outages and interruptions
- Limitations on voltages that can be buried
- Vulnerable to dig-ins and burrowing animals



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# Each form of power delivery has positive, negative aspects

#### Deciding factors can include terrain, cost, time to repair

#### By Karen Kaley

Ice, wind, lightning, varmints, tree branches ... overhead power lines have many natural causes for interruption in the flow of electricity. Vehicles running into poles and farm equipment entangled with lines can turn out the lights, too.

So, why not eliminate those issues and simply bury all the lines?

Because it's not that simple.

The notion that underground lines would put an end to outages is a myth. Overhead lines are involved in power delivery at some point between the generation plant and the light switch. All along the way, the ed by overhead exposure.

overhead transmission lines before skyrocket. reaching a substation. It leaves the ground for only the last few hundred feet before entering a home.

The overhead versus underground power delivery discussion is as complicated as the terrain in southwest Oklahoma. In fact, that's one of the not all of one or the other.

Overhead works better when a down a country road. Underground is better in the heavily-treed areas of a wildlife refuge or spots where the service is considerably denser than the co-op average of 3.5 meters per mile.

but have a profound impact: Money and time.

poles, wire, transformers, fuses, mise an underground line. bucket trucks, line workers, meters, etc. – is shared among the members tor. Finding the problem with an quicker to fix overhead lines.





Current News

Underground cable

Why does underground cost so much? There are a lot of reasons. The cable itself is much more complex than overhead conductor wire. Underground conductor is encased in layers of sheaths, insulation, more sheaths and a jacket, all adding to the cost. Cotton Electric adds another layer of protection, putting the cable into a pipe before it goes into a trench.

of the cooperative and is the fixed underground line is quite difficult Customer Charge portion of a pow-because, well, it's underground. er bill.

flow of electricity can be interrupt- of operations for Cotton Electric, keeps a close eye on those expenses. In Cotton Electric's case, electric- He said a project to bury all co-op ity sometimes travels 200 miles via lines would cause member bills to an overhead problem more quickly

We have 5,179 miles of line," he sub overhead and may travel under- said. "Of that, about 470 miles are underground.

double the price of overhead wire. The expense for Cotton Electric's membership to purchase just the wire along the other 4,700 miles reasons Cotton Electric's system is would run into the hundreds of millions of dollars."

Then there's digging all the trenchpower line has to cross a creek or es, replacing all the transformers a highway and travel several miles and the heavy equipment needed to carry out those tasks.

Really heavy.

- In your yard.
- Digging a trench.

Underground lines may serve a home for decades without any is a balance between underground There are a couple more factors trouble. But, just like any mechanias unseen as the underground lines cal thing, eventually there will be a problem. Ground shifts, someone digging, and, yes, even lightning and decide what will be easiest to The cost of delivering power - and gnawing varmints can compro- live with."

"While overhead lines are more Mike Ottinger, vice president exposed and have more problems, they are usually simple to fix," Ottinger said.

"Even in the dark, we can find than when looking for an underground issue in broad daylight.

"Overhead issues are resolved within a couple of hours, 4 if we "The price of underground wire is have to replace a pole," Ottinger said.

> "If the problem is underground, it's going to take twice as long."

> And, we're going to bring in the heavy equipment.

Really heavy.

In your yard.

Digging a trench.

Ottinger said the nature of problems between overhead and underground are very different and the time to resolve them is dramatically different.

"They both work together. There and overhead.

"The co-op and the members have to weigh the pros and cons of each

More often than not, it's the Here's where time becomes a fac- less-expensive, easier to install and





For estimate on your job call Jeff

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585-0350

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

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

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

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



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# Electric cooperatives contribute more than \$2.3m to area schools



Cotton Electric Cooperative. It is our privilege to provide educational presentations, sponsorships and assistance when needed.

The members of Cotton Electric make a substantial impact on local schools in several ways. For example, electric cooperatives in Oklahoma are levied a 2 percent gross receipts tax on the revenue at both the wholesale tionment of the gross receipts tax. The amount paid to and retail level in lieu of an ad valorem tax. Although we typically view taxes in a negative light, this tax in lines that Cotton Electric Cooperative and Western particular makes a significant positive impact.

cooperative remits the 2 percent gross receipts tax to the state, and 95 percent of those funds go directly back to local school districts. During 2017, \$2,322,706.20 ing Cotton Electric. was apportioned back to the 31 school districts in our service area.

On a percentage basis, electric cooperatives contrib- 2017 gross receipts tax.

Supporting area schools has always been a priority for ute more tax dollars to local school districts than other utilities. In Oklahoma, investor-owned utilities pay ad valorem taxes instead of gross receipts tax, and only 58 percent of these tax monies go to school districts within which investor-owned utilities own property. Municipal utilities contribute no tax money to public schools.

The Oklahoma Tax Commission oversees the apporeach school is based upon the number of miles of power Farmers Electric Cooperative have in each school dis-When Cotton Electric members pay electric bills, the trict. WFEC, Oklahoma's largest locally owned power supply system, is a generation and transmission cooperative owned by 21 distribution cooperatives, includ-

The table shows the miles of line serving each district and an estimation of amounts contributed through the

Bowie's



	Cotton &	Cotton		
District	WFEC Taxes	miles of line		
Apache	30,627.81	1.26		
Big Pasture	51,670.77	234.78		
Bishop	279.56	1.27		
Bray	81,237.87	136.72		
Cache	116,665.68	299.85		
Central	85,048.05	238.92		
Chattanooga	178,494.54	330.43		
Comanche	194,994.32	311.74		
Davidson	20,827.03	33.45		
Duncan	78,625.75	194.31		
Elgin	116,191.85	314.86		
Empire	77,100.48	239.79		
Fletcher	47,758.89	27.25		
Flower Mound	316.99	1.44		
Fox	3,812.62	17.32		
Frederick	53,670.93	9.07		
Geronimo	46,660.92	164.40		
Grandfield	43,660.92	195.63		
Grandview	45,287.60	113.70		
Indiahoma	61,442.64	156.45		
Lawton	38,511.27	122.54		
Marlow	51,833.66	235.47		
Ringling	78,082.67	24.71		
Rush Springs	119,434.33	151.86		
Ryan	37,403.13	120.04		
Sterling	58,971.60	167.34		
Temple	53,288.29	230.79		
Terral	15,403.41	69.67		
Velma	267,309.02	511.59		
Walters	174,883.22	298.82		
Waurika	93,863.60	243.26		
Totals	2,322,706.20	5,198.73		

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# it's S Ing Ime HVAC tune-up rebate program begins April 1

When was the last time you had up? If it has been a few years, this is a good time to have an HVAC contractor inspect, service and clean it.

Typically, tune-ups on cooling systems that have been neglected for a Department. few years can provide as much as 15 percent energy savings. Just as a tuneup for your car can improve gas mileage, a yearly tune-up of your cooling tor. system can improve efficiency and increase the life of the system.

tric is offering a rebate of up to \$50 per home (50 percent of the cost of rebate. your tune-up, excluding repairs, up to \$50) for members who get a tuneup for their HVAC system. In order to qualify, the following guidelines must be met:

• Must be a Cotton Electric Cooperative member. Residence must per home annually. be within Cotton Electric's service territory.

construction.

• A completed Rebate Application Tune - Up Checklist: your home's HVAC system tuned is required. Application forms can be downloaded at CottonElectric.com a qualified service professional and and are available at the Walters and Duncan offices, or by calling 580-875-3351. Ask for the Marketing

> • Application must be signed and dated by both the member and a licensed and bonded HVAC contrac-

• Member must submit a dated, comfort. Plus, an annual tune-up can itemized invoice as proof of service capabilities completion from a qualified con-Beginning April 1, Cotton Elec- tractor. Failure to provide required information will result in denial of

> • Rebates are awarded on a firstcome, first-served basis until program funds have been depleted.

• Rebate not valid on gas-fired furnaces.

• Rebate limited to one tune-up and adjust, if needed

• HVAC tune-ups must be completed by June 20, 2018. Rebate ap-• Rebate is not available for new plications must be received by June 30, 2018.

Tune-ups must be performed by must include the following criteria:

• Check and correct unit's refrigerant pressure and tubing

• Check thermostat settings, wiring, and other electric parts and connections

• Inspect air filters

• Test AC and furnace starting system.

• Test safety controls

• Clean and adjust blower components

• Measure temperature difference

• Measure volts/amps on AC and furnace

• Lubricate all applicable parts

• Check temperature calibration

• Check AC evaporator coil and clean, if necessary

- Clean AC condenser coil
- Clean AC condensate drains
- Check thermostat operation



### **Rebates available for** certain heat pumps

Cotton Electric has established standards for the 2018 Rebate Program for the purchase and installation of energy-efficient ground source heat pumps.

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

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

Minimum standards vary for closed and open loop installations and apply to the full load operation of a GSHP, not the partial load. The amount of rebate is determined by the size of each unit, its Energy Efficiency Rating (EER) and Coefficient of Performance (COP).

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

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

To qualify for a rebate when replacing an existing GSHP system with another GSHP system, the new installation must increase the EER by at least 3.0. The minimum specification for COP is 3.3 for closed loop systems and 3.6 for open loop. Rebates are \$375 per ton.

In order to qualify for the program, members will need to provide a copy of their itemized invoice and, from the HVAC contractor or supplier, AHRI certification and Manual J calculation. Verification by Cotton Electric personnel is also required to receive the rebate. The maximum rebate in 2018 will be \$5,000 per residence.

For more information about the rebate program, please contact Cotton Electric at 580-875-3351 or 800-522-3520.





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# CALL BEFORE

YOU DIG

#### To help stay safe and prevent accidents, call 8-1-1 before you dig to get underground utilities marked.

Once all utilities are marked, respect the boundaries, and dig carefully. Keep at least 24 inches away from the utility line markings. Stop work immediately if contact is made with an underground line. Your first priority should be evacuating the area for safety. Call 911 to notify emergency personnel and the affected utility. Do not resume work until the area has been confirmed safe by your electric utility.

For more information on digging safety visit SafeElectricity.org

# Safe Electricity.org Plan ahead, call before you dig

Spring is in the air and yard projects are on our minds, but before you put a shovel in the ground, make sure you are taking all the steps to be safe. Digging without locating underground utilities, even for the smallest projects, could leave neighborhoods in the dark, cause thousands of dollars in damages, or



#### **Classified Ad Policy**

Cotton Electric Cooperative offers many special services to its members. Among them are the classified ads in The Current. Members are entitled to two free classified ads per membership account per month, regardless of the number of meters on the account.

Members are asked to *limit ads to 30 words.* Ads over 30 words may be purchased for \$5.

Non-members may also purchase ads for \$5.

## **Official Notice 2018 Annual Meeting** Walters Co-op Elevator Assn. Walters, Oklahoma

Meeting will be held as follows:

- Date: March 20, 2018
- Place: Cotton Electric Community Center
- Time: Meal Served at 12:00 Noon Business Meeting at 12:30 p.m.

The Purpose Of The Meeting Will Be To Elect One (1) Director, Receive The **Annual Audit Report and Conduct Such Other Business As May Come Before The** Membership.

We Invite You To Attend Your Annual Meeting!



Walters Co-op (580) 875-3344



cause severe electrical shock, even death.

There were more than 24,000 home digging incidents involving underground utilities in 2016, according to the Common Ground Alliance. To help stay safe, make use of the free underground utility locating service by calling 811.

Make sure to plan ahead and call in advance. The 811 "Call Before You Dig" number will route you to the locating service serving your area. Tell the operator where and when you plan to dig and what type ed excavation of work you will be doing. From public utilities with flags or spray paint.

There are different colors of paint where they are before you dig. and flags that mark the underground utilities and each color is universal locate privately installed facilities. If to what utility type is buried.

• Red – Electric

• Orange – Communications, Telephone/CATV

- Blue Potable Water
- Green Sewer/Drainage

• Yellow – Gas/Petroleum Pipe Line

• Purple – Reclaimed Water

• White – Premark site of intend-

Even if you previously had utilities there, it takes a few business days located by calling 811, you should for a professional to come mark the call before every digging project. Underground utilities can shift, and it is important to be certain of com and SafeElectricity.org.

Keep in mind, 811 locators do not you have any private utilities, you will need to hire a private utility locator. Some examples of private utilities include: underground sprinkler system, invisible fences, data communication systems, private water systems, or gas piping to a garage.

Once all of the underground utilities have been located, you can start your digging project. Be sure to wear all of the proper protective gear before putting the shovel into the earth.

For more information about 811 and digging safety, visit Call811.

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# National Nutrition Month Go further with food

This year's National Nutrition Month theme "Go Further With Food" has a double meaning: Make healthy food choices to go further with your health, and make food go further by reducing food waste.

It is estimated that Americans waste 33 pounds of food per month, equating to \$2,275 of food wasted per year. Most of this could be avoided by simple techniques that keep you safe and healthy while maximizing your food dollar.

One of the culprits of food waste is a misunderstanding of the dates on food packaging. "Best by," "sell by," and "use by" are not expiration dates; they are dates that indicate when the food will be at its best quality, flavor, and nutrient content. Food can be eaten safely after these dates as long as it has been stored ture danger zone is below 140 deproperly.

For example, the "sell by" date on eggs means the store needs to sell the product by that date, but the eggs can be eaten three to five weeks after the "sell by" date.

Since the date on food packages equates to quality and not safety, how do you know if a food is safe to eat? Visual inspection for signs of aging and spoilage and inspection of packaging to ensure proper preservation and storage during grocery shopping is essential.

When you are preparing the food, can be eaten within 3 to 4 days. using proper food preparation and storage techniques are key to keeping food safe and avoiding unnecessary food waste.

eggs and egg products, see the "Egg food that goes bad before you use it.



#### Food THOUGHT For

Storage Chart" link on the Food-Safety.gov website.

For cooked foods, the temperagrees Fahrenheit for hot foods and above 41 F for cold food. After two hours in the temperature danger zone, a food is not safe to save or eat.

Your refrigerator temperature should be at or below 40 F and freezer should be at or below 0 F. Avoid putting extremely hot foods directly into the refrigerator by packaging in small containers.

When reheating foods, they should reach an internal temperature of 165 F for 15 seconds. Leftovers stored and reheated properly

Other tips for decreasing food waste include menu planning, food preservation, and learning to eat leftovers. Menu planning helps reduce at home can be found at FoodSafety. store, the amount of leftovers that gov/keep/charts/storagetimes. For you end up with, and the amount of

Be realistic about the time you actually have to prepare food at home: How much time do you have to cook, how many times are you going to eat out, should you buy fresh ingredients because you can cook the food within a few days or should you buy frozen ingredients because you shop less often?

Current

News

You can also try meal preparation services that send you only the ingredients you need for a specific recipe. This greatly reduces food waste as long as you actually cook the food.

Once you have made a recipe, properly storing leftovers is another essential step to reducing food waste. If you are going to eat your leftovers in three or four days, you can store them in the refrigerator. If you know it will be longer, store in individual servings in the freezer.

Don't forget to label and date the package, or else you end up throwing it away at a later date because you have forgotten what it was.

Leftovers are an acquired taste, but they can help you trim your waistline and extend your food budget. Leftovers, if stored properly, can be a healthier and more economical alternative to running through a drive-thru. Some foods are better as a leftover than others.

Incorporate what you are willing to eat as a leftover into your food purchasing, preparation, and storage plans. If you will not eat leftovers, make smaller portions of food to avoid unnecessary waste.

Reducing food waste can help Storage times for foods prepared the amount of food you buy at the reduce your waistline and decrease the amount of money you spend on food. What technique will you choose to "Go Further With Food"?

> Sensational Cinnamon

With its rich hue and warm aroma, cinnamon can bring spicy sweetness to all kinds of baked goods. However,

all cinnamon is not the

same. There are two main varieties of cinnamon,

Indonesian and Vietnamese. Vietnamese, which is used in the Spice Islands

cinnamon. High in volatile

a deep, reddish-brown









#### **Spiced Maple Carrots**

Prep time: 5 minutes Total time: 15 minutes Servings: 4

- 1 pound (4 cups) baby carrots
- 1/2 cup water
- 1 teaspoon Spice Islands Ground Saigon Cinnamon
- 3/4 teaspoon Spice Islands Ground Ginger
- 2 tablespoons Maple Grove Farms 100% Pure Maple Syrup tablespoon butter
- sea salt, to taste

In large skillet, combine carrots, water, cinnamon and ginger. Mix well. Cover and cook on high 6 minutes until almost tender.

Add maple syrup and butter. Mix well and continue to cook, uncovered, 2-3 minutes, until carrots are well-glazed. Season, to taste, with sea salt.



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I have been forced to re-build the web site. The information is current and much of the history has been removed. The website has a new appearance and is presently a work in progress. All listings are current. Go to highsauction.com and any feedback will be appreciated. Thank you.



#### FAMILY FEATURES

mazing food is the centerpiece of most holiday gatherings. This Easter, impress guests with your culinary talent by making simple dishes simply amazing. With a little special attention, even the most basic foods can evolve into dishes worth sharing with loved ones.

Most chefs agree that spices and seasonings are essential elements of your kitchen arsenal. This Easter, give your spread a boost with spices and herbs of the highest quality, such as those from Spice Islands, which crafts and packages spices and herbs from around the world to deliver the most authentic and intense flavor possible.

Update your traditional ham with a spicy, honeyed glaze; give a side serving of carrots a tasty twist and end the affair on a sweet note with a rustic, utterly delicious dessert. Find more flavorful ideas to elevate your Easter menu at spiceislands. com.

#### Spiced Honey and Black **Pepper-Glazed Ham**

Prep time: 10 minutes Total time: 30 minutes Servings: 12

- 8-10 pounds cooked shank-end ham water (optional)
  - 1 tablespoon Spice Islands Cracked Black Pepper
  - tablespoon Spice Islands Ground Mustard
  - 1 tablespoon Spice Islands Garlic Powder
  - 1/2 cup honey
- 1 1/2 teaspoons Spice Islands
- Ground Saigon Cinnamon 1/2 teaspoon Spice Islands Ground Cloves

Heat oven to 325 F.

With sharp knife, score ham at 1-inch intervals; place in baking dish. If ham appears dry, moisten surface with water. In small bowl, combine black pepper, mustard and garlic powder. Rub pepper mixture over surface of ham. Roast according to package directions.

Combine honey, cinnamon and cloves. Drizzle over ham during last 30 minutes of roasting. Remove ham from oven and let rest 20 minutes before slicing.

HOURS

# An Easy, Excellent Easter

#### Anise, Pear and Almond Crostata

Prep time: 45 minutes Total time: 2 hours, 30 minutes Servings: 6 **Crostata Crust:** 

- 1 1/4 cups all-purpose flour 1 stick butter, cut into 1/2-inch cubes and frozen
- teaspoon Spice Islands Fine Mediterranean 1/2Sea Salt
- 1/4 cup ice water

- Anise Almond Filling: 1 cup blanched, slivered almonds
  - 3/4 teaspoon Spice Islands Anise Seeds

To make crust: In food processor, combine flour, frozen butter and salt. Pulse until dough is size of large peas. Add 3 tablespoons ice water and pulse several times. Pinch dough to see if it is holding together; if not, add water a couple of teaspoons at a time, pulsing once or twice after each addition, until dough holds together. Form dough into disk, wrap in plastic wrap and chill 30 minutes.

Heat oven to 400 F.

To make filling: In food processor, blend almonds, anise seeds, sugar, egg, vanilla and salt until paste forms. Add room temperature butter and blend again. Set aside.

Toss sliced pears with 2 tablespoons sugar and



- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1 large egg
- teaspoon Spice Islands Vanilla Extract
- 1/4 teaspoon Spice Islands Fine Mediterranean Sea Salt
- 2 tablespoons butter, at room temperature
- Fiorelle or small pears, sliced into thin 3 wedges
- 2 tablespoons sugar, plus extra for sprinkling tablespoon lemon juice
- large egg, beaten 1
- tablespoons Polaner Apricot Preserves, 2 heated
  - cream or ice cream (optional)

lemon juice. Set aside.

On sheet of floured parchment paper, roll out dough into 13-inch circle; transfer on parchment to rimless cookie sheet.

Spread almond paste onto circle, leaving 2-inch border. Scatter pears on top, covering almond paste. Fold dough up and over pears, overlapping dough as needed. Brush with egg wash and sprinkle crust generously with extra sugar.

Bake until pears are tender, 40-45 minutes. If crust starts to get too brown, lightly cover with foil. Remove tart from oven and brush pears with heated apricot preserves. Serve with cream or ice cream, if desired.



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