



2025 Holiday Guide
Page 5



Electric co-ops
provide local high
school students with
a once-in-a-lifetime
opportunity
Page 11



Cook up a
cranberry treat
Page 15

The Current

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

“The Current - Informing Our Members Since 1957”

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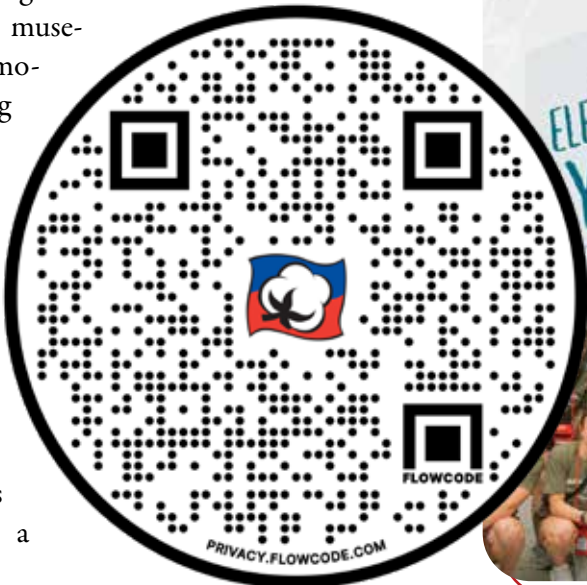
Oklahoma Youth Tour contest open for local high school juniors

Cotton Electric is excited to announce an incredible youth program full of learning and leadership opportunities for high school juniors in the co-op's service territory. Combining the Cooperative Principles of Concern for Community and Education, Training and Information, Oklahoma Youth Tour is just one way Cotton Electric invests in students in our local communities.

This year's Youth Tour contest opened at the end of October, and submissions are due at the beginning of 2026.

Youth Tour experience

If you or someone you know is a high school junior looking for an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., next summer, then look no further than Oklahoma Youth Tour. This weeklong experience is a fun mixture of learning about the cooperative business model; touring historic monuments, museums and memorials; gaining leadership experience; networking with students across the state and country; and making memories that will last a lifetime.



Contest information

To be entered into the running for Oklahoma Youth Tour delegate, contestants must be high school juniors in the Cotton Electric service territory. The student and their families do not have to be Cotton Electric members; however, sons or daughters of Cotton Electric employees and Board Members are not eligible to participate.

This year's contest is broken into two rounds. First, applicants will write a professional letter to a local, state or federal elected official about a topic that is important to them. Writers of the top 10 essays will move on to the second round for a live video interview with independent judges arranged by Cotton Electric. The top two presenters will be awarded the all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., and represent

Cotton Electric in June 2026 at Oklahoma Youth Tour.

Learn more about the Youth Tour experience from previous delegates on Page 11.

The deadline to submit an essay is 3 p.m. on Jan. 15, 2026. Contest deadlines, resources and contest submission can be found on our website at www.cottonelectric.com/youthtour. For questions or more information, please call 580-875-3351 or email zyoung@cottonelectric.com.

Cotton Electric is thrilled to invest in future community leaders through our youth programs, and we look forward to students experiencing these incredible opportunities. For questions or more information, visit www.cottonelectric.com/youth-programs, call 580-875-3351 or scan the QR code below.



THANK YOU, VETERANS



James Apriesnig
U.S. Marines



Kevin Barrineau
U.S. Army



Adam Derr
U.S. Army



Heath Morgan
U.S. Air Force



Dillon Wiygul
U.S. Marines

Power Cost Adjustment Calculated

The power cost adjustment now being applied to bills mailed after Nov. 1, 2025, is \$0.00957 per kilowatt-hours (kWh).

On a member's average bill of 1,300 kWh, this will amount to a charge of \$12.44 on the November bill.

October 2025 Temperature Extremes

Day	High	Low	Avg.	Day	High	Low	Avg.
1	91	59	75	16	87	53	70
2	92	60	76	17	90	63	77
3	91	60	76	18	82	62	72
4	89	62	76	19	73	46	60
5	90	62	76	20	91	42	67
6	91	59	75	21	78	43	61
7	82	62	72	22	82	38	60
8	83	59	71	23	85	50	68
9	89	63	76	24	74	62	68
10	89	58	74	25	72	59	66
11	91	53	72	26	73	56	65
12	92	58	75	27	74	57	66
13	77	65	71	28	67	52	60
14	88	60	74	29	62	36	49
15	87	55	71	30	67	30	49
				31	71	34	53

Source: srh.noaa.gov/oun/
Average Daily High: 82 Average Daily Low: 54

Did You Know?

Cotton Electric offices will be closed Nov. 27 and 28 for the Thanksgiving holiday. Emergency calls will be answered at 580-875-3351 or 800-522-3520.

The next issue of *The Current* should arrive in mailboxes Dec. 19, 2025.

Contact Us

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

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

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



COTTON
ELECTRIC CO-OP

Mission Statement

Our mission is to safely deliver reliable and affordable power, provide excellent member service, and improve the quality of life in the communities we serve.

From the CEO

The season of giving

As the holiday season approaches and the air turns crisp, we're reminded that this truly is the season of giving. It's a time for gratitude, generosity and looking out for one another — and at Cotton Electric Cooperative, that's something we take to heart year-round.

You've probably heard us talk about our Concern for Community. It's not just a nice phrase — it's one of the core principles that makes electric cooperatives like ours different from other utilities. We're not just here to keep the lights on (though of course, we're always working hard to do that). We're here to improve the quality of life for the people we serve: our members, our neighbors and our friends.

Over the years, we've faced challenges together, and every time, our co-op family has stepped up. We've come together to support those in need, to keep our community strong and to build something better for the

future. That spirit of generosity is never more evident than during the holiday season.

Take our Operation Round Up program, for example. Thanks to the generosity of members like you who round up their electric bills to the nearest dollar, we're able to provide real help to local families who are struggling to make ends meet. Every little bit adds up — and it makes a big difference. Since we began in 2004, over \$190,000 has been donated to local food banks and senior citizens centers.

Seeing the impact that Operation Round Up has made, the cooperative employees were inspired to create the Cotton CARES program in 2016. Employees and Board Members participate in fundraisers throughout the year to raise money for school supplies, food baskets and Angel Tree gifts during the holidays in addition to coat drives for those in need. The committee works tirelessly through the year to not only support our em-

ployees but the communities we serve.

We're also proud to support local students through the Youth Tour program, where we send some of our community's brightest young people to Washington, D.C., to see democracy in action and to dream big about their futures. That's giving in the most meaningful way — by investing in tomorrow's leaders.

And because we care deeply about safety, we also spend time visiting schools throughout the communities we serve, holding demonstrations and teaching folks of all ages how to stay safe around electricity. We believe knowledge is a gift too — and we love sharing it.

You'll also find our team out in the community beyond work — coaching youth sports, volunteering at local events, serving on nonprofit boards and partnering with our local Chambers of Commerce to keep our local economy strong. Because when you're part of a co-op, giving



Jennifer Meason, CEO

back isn't a requirement — it's just what you do.

While the Thanksgiving season is a festive time, we understand these can be tough times for many. If you need advice on saving energy to reduce your energy bills, you want to explore payment plan options or you simply have questions — please don't hesitate to reach out. We're here to help, not just during the holiday season but all year long.

At Cotton Electric, we believe Concern for Community is more than a value — it's the heart of who we are. And during this season of giving, we're especially grateful to be part of such a caring, generous community. From all of us at Cotton Electric, we are thankful for you and wish you and your loved ones a joyful and safe Thanksgiving.



HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Cotton Electric Cooperative Board of Trustees and employees hope your Thanksgiving and every day after will be filled with love, joy and happiness.





Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

With the holiday season approaching and more time spent in the kitchen, consider ways to save energy in the heart of your home. When possible, cook meals with smaller, energy-efficient appliances, such as toaster ovens, slow cookers and air fryers. When using the range, match the size of the pan to the heating element. Keep range-top burners and reflectors clean so they reflect heat more efficiently. After your holiday meals are complete, load the dishwasher fully before starting the wash cycle.

Source: www.energy.gov

September 2025 Operating Stats

	2025	2024
Total Amount Billed/Accrued	\$6,640,989	\$6,529,258
Cost of Purchased Power	4,650,085	4,503,149
Taxes	144,514	148,153
Total Operating Expense per Mile	1,256	1,184
Average Farm and Residential Bill	151	153
Average Farm and Residential kWh	1,216	1,342
Total Meters Billed (Farm, Residential)	19,937	19,755
Miles Energized	5,287	5,278
Density per Mile	3.77	3.74
New Service Connects YTD	297	340
Services Retired	102	160

TheCurrent

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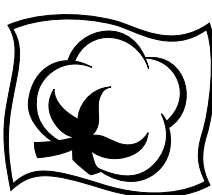
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Upcoming Deadlines for The Current

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Energy Efficiency

Tips to prep for the holiday and winter season

As November arrives, bringing cooler weather and the start of the holiday season, electrical energy efficiency becomes a priority for households. With Thanksgiving gatherings, festive lighting and increased heating demands, energy consumption can surge. This article offers actionable tips to optimize electrical energy use during this transitional month.

Winterizing your home for electrical savings

November is the perfect time to prepare your home for winter’s energy demands. Start by inspecting your heating system, as electric furnaces and heat pumps are common in many homes. Schedule a professional tune-up to ensure efficiency; a well-maintained

system can reduce electricity use by up to 15%. Replace air filters monthly to maintain airflow and avoid overworking the system. For homes with electric baseboard heaters, keep furniture and curtains clear to maximize heat distribution.

Sealing air leaks is another key step. Use weather stripping or caulk around windows, doors and electrical outlets to prevent drafts, which can save 5%-10% on heating-related electricity costs. Insulate water heater pipes to reduce standby heat loss, potentially cutting water heating costs by 7%-16%. Consider wrapping older water heaters or those installed in an unconditioned space with an insulating blanket for additional savings.

Smart thermostat use for efficiency

Programmable or smart thermostats are game changers for managing electrical heating. Set your thermostat to 68°F during the day and lower it to 60°F at night or when you’re away — each degree reduction saves approximately 1% on heating costs. Smart thermostats learn your schedule and adjust automatically, ensuring you’re not wasting electricity when the house is empty. Some models even allow remote control via smartphone apps, perfect for unexpected November travel.

Holiday lighting with energy efficiency

November often marks the start of holiday decorating, with string lights illuminating homes. Opt for LED lights, which use up to 80% less electricity than incandescent bulbs and last significantly longer. Solar-powered outdoor lights are an excellent choice for eco-conscious households, harnessing daylight to power evening displays. Use timers or smart plugs to control when lights are on, avoiding unnecessary usage overnight or during the day. For indoor decorations, consider dimmable LED options to create ambiance while minimizing consumption.

Kitchen efficiency for Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving means heavy kitchen use, which can spike electricity bills. Use energy-efficient appliances like convection ovens, which cook faster than traditional models by circulating hot air. When possible, cook multiple dishes at once to maximize oven use. Microwaves and slow cookers are also



Heath Morgan,
Energy Efficiency
Coordinator

efficient alternatives for smaller dishes, using less electricity than a full-size oven. Keep oven doors closed while cooking to maintain temperature, and use glass or ceramic dishes, which retain heat better, allowing you to lower the oven temperature slightly.

Behavioral changes for big impact

Small habits make a difference. Unplug electronics like chargers and appliances when not in use to eliminate “phantom” energy draw, which can account for 5%-10% of household electricity use. Switch to energy-efficient lighting throughout the home, especially in high-use areas like living rooms and kitchens. Encourage family members to turn off lights and electronics when leaving rooms, particularly during busy holiday gatherings.

By implementing these electrical energy efficiency strategies in November, you can enjoy the holidays and winter prep while keeping costs and environmental impact low. Start now to build habits that carry through the season.

For more information, visit www.cottonelectric.com/energy-efficiency.



Heating Degree Day and Cooling Degree Day Calendar

OCTOBER

HDD	YEAR	CDD
53	2025	178
28	2024	235
148	2023	129

Degree days measure how cold or warm a location is by comparing the average of the high and low (mean) of the outdoor temperatures recorded in that location to the standard U.S. temperature, which is 65 F. The assumption is that we don’t need heating or cooling to be comfortable when this is the outdoor temperature.



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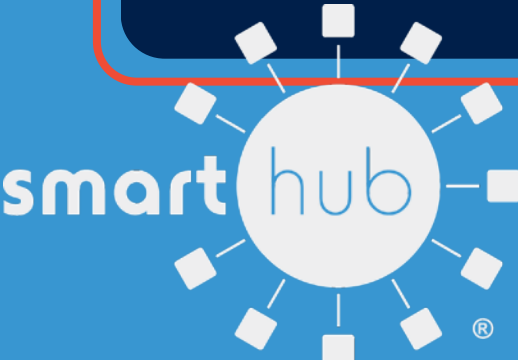
Monitor energy consumption

Update account information

Make and schedule payments and notifications

Monitor account balance and review payment history

Contact us





Cotton Electric Charitable Foundation



A Cotton Electric Charitable Foundation (CECF) grant was awarded to the Jefferson County Free Fair/Livestock Show for new ceiling fans and lights. Pictured left to right: Cotton Electric Communications Specialist Carli Eubank, Jefferson County Free Fair Board President Jake Graham, Glen Hobbs and CECF Vice President Carter Waid. Photo by Zach Young.



Tri-County Co-op was awarded a CECF grant for iPads, sensory items and scan pen. Pictured left to right: Walters Public School Special Ed Para Angie Day, Walters Public School Special Ed Teacher Haley Quezada, Cotton Electric CEO Jennifer Meason and Cotton Electric Vice President of Administration Shane Bowers. Photo by Carli Eubank.



Chisholm Trail Arts Council (CTAC) was awarded a CECF grant for classroom supplies. Pictured left to right: CTAC Board Member Teresa Young, CTAC Vice President Nate Schacht, CTAC Executive Director Darcy Reeves, CTAC Treasurer Bruce Ridley, CECF Vice President Carter Waid and Cotton Electric CEO Jennifer Meason. Photo by Carli Eubank.



The City of Walters recently raised funds and received their contingent CECF grant for a splash pad. Pictured left to right: Walters City Manager Matt LaFee, City of Walters Park and Recreations Supervisor Allen Day and Cotton Electric Director of Marketing and Communications Zach Young. Photo by Carli Eubank.



A CECF grant was awarded to Velma-Alma Elementary Schools for their Renaissance reading program. Pictured left to right: Cotton Electric Director of Marketing and Communications Zach Young, Cotton Electric CEO Jennifer Meason, Velma-Alma Federal Programs Director/Reading Intervention Nicki Brandt and Velma-Alma Elementary Principal Shannon Khoury. Photo by Carli Eubank.



Wichita Mountains Prevention Network (WMPN) was awarded a CECF grant to support their Youth Conference. Pictured left to right: Cotton Electric Director of Marketing and Communications Zach Young, WMPN Teen-Con committee member Stacey Losson, CECF Vice President Carter Waid, WMPN TeenCon committee members Brittany Fugett, Barbie McCracken, Gina Olheiser, Sharon Duncan, Deb Farrar, Tara Brown, Terri Sheffield, Dawn Landers, Lauren Nitschke and Mikayla Howell. Photo by Carli Eubank.

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Local schools bring back Co-opreneur Day awards four years in a row

On Oct. 22, more than 100 seventh and eighth grade students from Oklahoma electric cooperatives traveled to the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives (OAEC) conference center in Oklahoma City for the fourth annual Co-opreneur Day. This event focused on teamwork, creativity and innovation as students were divided into teams to form a cooperative to resolve community challenges with imaginative business plans.

Cotton Electric was represented by two seventh-grade teams from Walters Middle School and another two teams of seventh graders from Hope Academy of Stephens County. One of the Walters Middle School teams snagged third place in their category, and Hope Academy's team clinched first place in the seventh grade category.

The day was split into three sessions. First, students learned about the definition, business model and principles of electric cooperatives from OAEC Director of Member Services Stacy Howeth. Next, a group activity demonstrated how cooperatives work together to alleviate problems each team was experiencing. After the group exercise, each team elected their own president, vice president, secretary and treasurer.

The second session was led by Amy Lee from the Oklahoma Council on Economic Education, who shared the characteristics of a successful entrepreneur.

Implementing what they learned in the previous two sessions, students were tasked with creating a cooperative business plan that addressed an ongoing issue in their communities.

Students were given an hour to create a plan before presenting it to judges.

Co-opreneur Day is filled with fun activities, snacks and photos, but it is also one of the many ways Oklahoma electric cooperatives invest in the youth throughout our local communities. The future of electric cooperatives is certainly shining bright, and Cotton Electric is proud of the students who represented the cooperative during the competition.



Hope Academy of Stephens County won first place in the seventh grade category at the 2025 Co-opreneur Day. Photo courtesy of OAEC.



Walters Middle School placed third in the seventh grade category at the 2025 Co-opreneur Day. Photo courtesy of OAEC.

Make sure safety is on your holiday menu this year

The kitchen can be a busy place during the holiday season, prepping and preparing favorite recipes (or sampling those favorite recipes).

Whether you are a seasoned cook or novice baker, it's important to keep electrical safety in mind.

The following kitchen hazards may cause electric shock:

- Damaged or worn electrical cords
- Equipment and appliances with improper or faulty wiring
- Using damp cloths or water for cooking or cleaning near sources of electricity

The following tips may help prevent electric shock in your home:

- Always read and follow an appliance's operating instructions.
- Always dry your hands before handling cords or plugs.
- If an unplugged appliance cord gets wet or damp, do not plug it in until it is thoroughly dry.
- Do not handle electrical cords or appliances when standing in water.

- Pull on the plug, not the cord, to disconnect appliances from an outlet.
- To avoid damaging cords, don't run them across walkways or underneath rugs. Draping them over walkways is also a tripping hazard.
- Regularly inspect electrical cords and plugs for damaged insulation and exposed wiring; immediately discard any damaged item. Avoid using any cord or plug that is frayed, cracked, taped or otherwise questionable.
- Only handle the insulated part of a plug or cord when disposing it.
- Do not overload extension cords, multi-pack "power strips" or surge protectors with too many appliances or other items or plug them into each other. Use them only as a temporary solution, and not a permanent one.
- Ensure extension cords, power strips and surge protectors are in good condition and the appropriate gauge for the job (the lower the number, the bigger the gauge and the greater the amperage and wattage).
- Never remove the third (round or U-shaped) prong

TURKEY FRYER

safety tips

Keep holiday meals joyful – don't let a fire ruin the feast.

Deep-frying a turkey can be delicious, but it's also one of the riskiest ways to cook. Before you plug in or fire up a fryer, follow these safety tips:

10'

Use outdoor fryers at least 10 feet away from buildings, garages and overhangs.

Place the fryer on a flat, sturdy surface and don't move it once it's heating.

3'

Never leave a fryer unattended. Keep children and pets at least 3 feet away.

Wear oven mitts and use long utensils to avoid contact with hot surfaces and oil.

Test oil level by filling fryer with water and lowering the turkey to see how much oil is needed. Dry completely before adding oil.

Use a fully thawed and dry turkey — never fry a frozen one.

Use a thermometer to make sure oil is at the recommended temperature.

Avoid overloading outlets if using an electric fryer; unplug other appliances before use.

Consider using an electric fryer or going oil-free with an air fryer for safer indoor cooking options.

Learn more:

from a plug, which is a grounding/safety feature designed to reduce the risk of shock and electrocution.

• If you have doubts about your home's electrical system, have a licensed electrician evaluate wiring, outlets, and switches to verify they are in working order.

• Educate yourself and everyone in your household on how to properly turn off your home's power in case of an emergency.

For questions or more information about electrical safety, visit our website at www.cottonelectric.com or www.safeelectricity.org.

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Don't let energy slip through the ceiling: A quick guide to insulation

Upgrading your attic insulation is one of the easiest and most effective ways to lower your energy bills, make your home more comfortable and boost energy efficiency year-round. Older homes can save as much as 15% on energy costs by improving attic insulation.

Step 1: Seal air leaks

Before adding insulation, take care of air leaks. Common trouble spots include:

- Recessed lighting
 - Chimneys
 - Attic hatches or pull-down stairs
 - Pipes, ductwork and wiring
- Seal these gaps with caulk, expand-

ing foam or weather stripping. This helps keep warm air in during winter and hot air out during the summer.

Step 2: Understand R-values

R-value measures how well insulation resists heat flow based on its type, thickness and density — the higher the number, the better. How much you need depends on your climate:

- Mild climates: R-30 to R-38 (10-14 inches)
- Cold climates: R-49 or higher (16-18 inches)

Quick check: If you can see the ceiling joists, you probably need more insulation.

You don't need to remove existing

insulation unless it's wet, moldy or contaminated. Otherwise, it's safe to leave in place and add new insulation on top.

Step 3: Pick the right type

There are two main types of attic insulation:

- Batt or roll insulation:
 - Easier to install for DIYers.
 - Must be cut precisely to avoid gaps, especially around obstructions like pipes and vents.
- Blown-in or loose fill insulation:
 - Installed with a machine that "blows" insulation into place.
 - Fills gaps more evenly; great for hard-to-reach areas.
 - Blown-in cellulose is the top pick for attics due to its high R-value, good coverage and air-sealing benefits.

Step 4: Plan for storage

It's tempting to use the attic for storage, especially for those holiday decorations, but if you're looking to maximize efficiency, store them elsewhere.

If you store items in your attic, don't flatten the insulation. Build a raised platform high enough to keep insulation at the recommended depth.

Step 5: Check old wiring

If your home is older, inspect attic wiring before insulating. Cracked or brittle wire insulation can be a fire hazard — have a professional electrician replace it if needed.

Step 6: Insulate the attic hatch

Whether you have an attic hatch or a dropdown ladder, this opening can leak lots of air if it's not sealed properly.

For standard hatches:

- Add insulation to match your attic's R-value.
- Upgrade to a pre-insulated panel or ¾-inch plywood.
- Install weather stripping and a dam to prevent loose-fill from spilling.

For dropdown ladders:

- Add an insulated cover box in the attic.
- Seal the frame with foam or weather stripping.
- Be sure to leave room for the folded ladder.

A well-insulated attic means lower energy bills and a more comfortable home, whether it's blazing hot or freezing cold outside. Start by sealing leaks, checking your R-value needs and picking the right insulation for your space — your future self (and wallet) will thank you.

It's tempting to use the attic for storage, especially for those holiday decorations, but if you're looking to maximize efficiency, store them elsewhere. If you store items in your attic, don't flatten the insulation. Build a raised platform high enough to keep insulation at the recommended depth.

For more information, visit www.cottonelectric.com/energy-efficiency.

Efficiency Tip

Seal in comfort and savings with weatherstripping. Check for air leaks around your windows and doors and install weatherstripping where needed. Prevent drafts to reduce energy loss and lower your heating and cooling bills, improving energy efficiency year-round.



Safe Electricity.org®

UNCOMFORTABLE?

Does your home have any of these symptoms?

☐ Rooms that get too hot or too cold?

☐ High utility bills?

☐ Thermostat wars with your spouse?

☐ High humidity in summer?

☐ House just never seems comfortable?

☐ There doesn't seem to be enough airflow?

☐ Dust buildup within 2 days of dusting?

☐ Problems with your system since it's been installed?

☐ Anyone with allergies or asthma?

☐ AC starts and stops frequently or runs all the time, and house is still not cool?

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

If you answered **YES** 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 energy-wasting 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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Smart financial moves to make before year-end

As the year winds down, it's the perfect time to make some smart moves before the calendar flips to 2026. Think of it as a financial tune-up that could help with saving money and setting you up for success in the months ahead. Here are some things to consider:

- Don't forget about required withdrawals. If you're 73 or older, you'll need to take your required minimum distribution from traditional retirement accounts to avoid a 25% penalty on any amount you should have withdrawn but didn't. This rule also applies to some people who inherited retirement accounts, including certain Roth accounts.
- Use your flexible spending money. Got money sitting in a flexible spending account at work? Remember, these accounts follow a "use it or lose it" rule. Check with your HR department about your plan's specific deadlines for spending the money and submitting receipts. Whether it's dental work you've been putting off or new prescription glasses you need, now's the time to use those funds before they disappear.
- Boost your retirement savings. Consider ramping up your pretax retirement contributions before year-end. Not only will this help your future self, but it might also reduce your current tax bill. If your workplace plan allows it, you can even set up automatic increases for next year so you won't have to remember to do it later.
- Share the wealth through gifting. In 2025, the current tax rules let you give family or friends up to \$19,000 per person without affecting your lifetime gift tax exemption. Married couples can combine their allowances to give up to \$38,000 per person. Plus, you can pay someone's tuition or medical bills directly without these payments counting against your gift limits at all.
- Navigate new tax changes. The recently passed One Big Beautiful Bill Act has made several tax provisions permanent, including lower individual tax rates and higher standard deductions. However, it also introduces new changes that might affect your situation. It's worth sitting down with a financial advisor or tax professional to understand how these updates impact your specific circumstances.
- Review your estate planning documents. This is especially important if you've had major life changes like marriage, divorce or a new baby. Don't forget to perform check the beneficiary designations on all your bank accounts and brokerage accounts as well as life insurance policies — these often override what's written in your will.
- Build up your emergency fund. Taking care of these financial housekeeping tasks now can help you start the new year on solid ground. It's ideal to have enough cash saved to cover three to six months of living expenses in an easily accessible account. This safety net can prevent you from having to raid your retirement savings when unexpected expenses pop up.



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A brief history of Christmas trees

Towering evergreen trees adorned in lights and other trinkets are a focal point of the holiday season. Christmas trees are placed in prominent locations in homes, typically in front of a large picture window or in the corners of large entryways. These awe-inspiring trees beckon people to inspect all of the ornaments and often are the first thing people envision when thinking of holiday decor.

The tradition of the Christmas tree is believed to have begun in Germany in the sixteenth century. However, the National Christmas Tree Association says there may be earlier references to Christmas trees in other parts of the world as well. The first written record of a decorated Christmas tree comes from Riga, Latvia, in 1510. In the

sixteenth century in Alsace, France, trees were sold in the marketplace and brought home and set up undecorated. Laws limited the size to “eight shoe lengths” or slightly more than four feet.

Early German Christmas trees were adorned with apples, a holdover from earlier traditions when evergreen boughs hung with apples were used as props in miracle plays. These plays took place in churches on December 24, which was Adam & Eve’s Day in the early Christian calendar.

Evergreens have long been symbolic of life during the cold months of winter, calling to mind the promise of spring to come. Various cultures, including early Christians, featured trees during winter solstice celebrations. Some historians believe Martin Luther,



The tradition of the Christmas tree is believed to have begun in Germany in the sixteenth century. Photo courtesy of MetroCreative.

a Protestant reformer who might have been inspired by stars in the night, was responsible for adding lighted candles to the Christmas tree.

The Christmas tree was introduced to the United States by German settlers in the 1800s. Soon after those settlers’ arrival, trees began to be sold com-

mercially. President Franklin Pierce is credited with having the first Christmas tree at the White House. Today, Christmas trees are wildly popular, with the American Christmas Tree Association reporting that 94 percent of U.S. consumers plan to display one.


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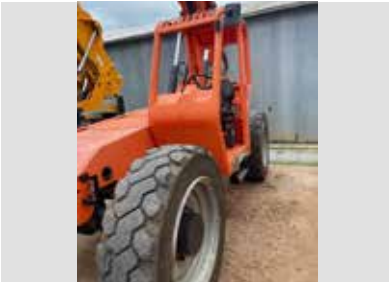

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Baked brie is a cheese-centric crowd pleaser

Cheese is beloved all over the world. While cheese features more prominently in some cultures than others, its popularity still knows no bounds. That popularity is something hosts can keep in mind as they plan to welcome loved ones into their homes during the holiday season. Couple the popularity of cheese with a little spice, as this recipe for “Baked Brie With Blackberry Compote and Spicy Candied Pecans” from Lines+Angles does, and hosts are sure to have a crowd pleaser on their hands.

Baked Brie With Blackberry Compote and Spicy Candied Pecans

Makes 4 to 6 servings

- For the compote:**

 - 3 cups blackberries
 - 1/2 cup sugar
 - 2 tablespoons water
 - 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- For the pecans:**

 - 1/2 cup sugar
 - 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
 - 1/4 teaspoon ground ginger
 - 1 pinch chilli powder
 - 1 small egg white
 - 1 tablespoon water
 - 2 cups pecans
- For the cheese:**

 - 2 Brie wheels
 - 2 tablespoons olive oil
 - 1 pomegranate, seeded
- Fresh thyme sprigs**

Multigrain crackers
- Instructions:**

 1. For the compote: Combine blackberries, sugar, water, and vanilla extract in a heavy-based saucepan.
 2. Cover and cook over a medium heat, stirring from time to time, until the blackberries are soft and jammy, about 12 to 15 minutes. Remove from heat and let cool to one side.
 3. For the spicy candied pecans: Pre-heat the oven to 250 F. Stir together sugar and spices in a large mixing bowl.
 4. Whisk egg white with water in a separate bowl until frothy. Toss pecans in egg white mixture before removing and tossing in the spiced sugar to coat.
 5. Spread out on a baking sheet



lined with parchment paper. Bake for 1 hour, turning over every 15 minutes, until dry and crisp.

6. Remove from the oven and let cool to one side. Increase oven to 350 F.
7. For the cheese: Remove the tops of the rinds from the Brie wheels. Place the Brie on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper.
8. Drizzle with olive oil before bak-

ing for 25 to 30 minutes until melted and bubbling.

9. Remove from the oven and let cool briefly before topping with the blackberry compote, spiced pecans, pomegranate seeds, and thyme sprigs.
10. Serve with the multigrain crackers and any remaining compote and pecans on the side.



Merry Christmas!

We wish you and yours a Merry Christmas. At this time of year, we want to thank all our valued clients and many friends, and wish everyone a very blessed Christmas and a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year. May peace and joy fill your Christmas season. From all of us at Brink Auction Service Family.

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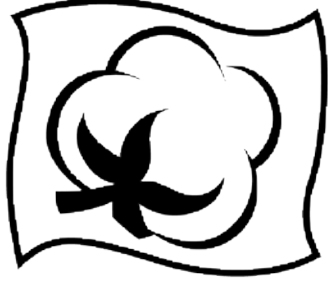
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Cake pops to light up kids’ eyes this holiday season

There’s no denying Christmas Eve is a little more special in homes where kids are excited about an overnight visit from Santa Claus. Indeed, kids’ joy and enthusiasm helps to make the holiday season such a special time of year.

Since kids add so much to the holidays, it makes sense to prepare something special for youngsters. Of course, treats such as these “Christmas Tree Cake Pops” from Lines+Angles also may appeal to festive adults.

Christmas Tree Cake Pops

Makes 24 cake pops

- 1 box vanilla cake mix
- 3/4 cup canola oil
- 1/2 cup unsalted butter, softened
- 1 cup confectioners’ sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon milk
- 3 1/2 cups green candy melts
- 24 cake pop sticks
- Icing dots
- Icing stars

Instructions:

1. Prepare cake according to package instructions, adding 3/4 cup canola oil to the cake mix before baking.
2. Once cake is cool to the touch, transfer to a large mixing bowl and break up into crumbs. Allow to cool completely.
3. In a medium bowl, add the butter, sugar, vanilla, and milk. Use an electric

- mixer and beat on medium speed for about 4 minutes until light and fluffy.
4. Add 3/4 of the frosting to the cake crumbs and mix until mixture can hold together well. Refrigerate for at least an hour.
 5. Using your hands, shape the cake pop mixture into 24 conical shapes.
 6. Melt the green candy melts. Dip one end of each of the cake pop sticks into the melted chocolate before inserting into the bottom of the cake pops. Dip each cake pop into the melted chocolate, making sure to cover completely, allowing excess to drip back into bowl.
 7. Use a toothpick to create the textured look of the tree and decorate with the icing dots and stars before standing upright to dry completely.

Adorable cookies add to the festive feel of the holidays

Food helps to set the festive atmosphere that has become synonymous with the holiday season. Celebrants asked to recall their fondest memories of the holiday season undoubtedly would point to nights spent surrounded by loved ones at the family dinner table, which serves as a testament to the unifying power of food during a special time of year.

Holiday hosts looking to food to set a festive tone can consider these “Peanut Butter Reindeer Cookies” from Lines+Angles. These cookies are flavorful and the finished product is adorable, which can help celebrants feel even more festive during seasonal celebrations.

Peanut Butter Reindeer Cookies

Makes 48 cookies

- 1/2 cup unsalted butter, softened
- 3/4 cup peanut butter
- 1/3 cup granulated sugar
- 1/3 cup packed light brown sugar
- 1 large egg
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 48 large red M&M candies
- 96 mini semisweet chocolate chips
- Pretzels, broken into 96 1-inch pieces

Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 F. Line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper.
2. In a large bowl, beat together butter, peanut butter, sugar, and brown sugar on medium speed until light and fluffy, about 2 minutes. Add egg

- and vanilla extract and mix until combined.
3. In a small bowl, whisk together flour, baking soda, and salt. Add the dry ingredients to the wet ingredients and stir until just combined. Roll the dough into 1-inch balls, and place at least 1 inch apart on cookie sheet. Bake only 10 to 12 cookies at a time. Refrigerate the bowl of dough in between batches. Bake for 7 to 9 minutes, until the cookies are just set.
 4. Immediately place one M&M in the center of each cookie for a nose (press down a bit if your cookies aren’t flat enough), 2 mini chocolate chips for the eyes, and 2 pretzel pieces at the top for antlers. Carefully transfer the cookies to a wire rack to cool completely.



Merry Christmas

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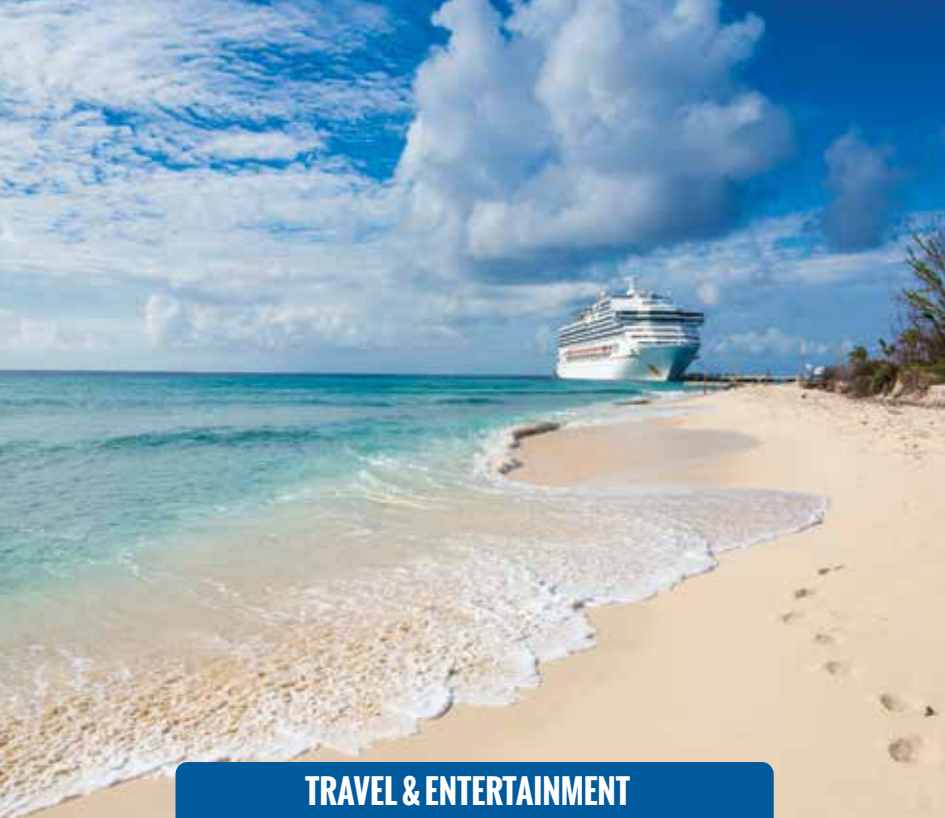
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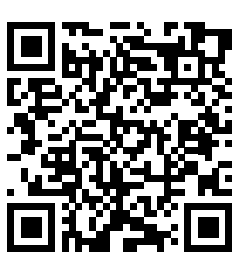


TRAVEL & ENTERTAINMENT



LOCAL DEALS

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Co-op Life



Electric co-ops provide local high school students with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity

Improving the quality of life in our schools and communities has always been part of Cotton Electric’s mission. For more than 60 years, your cooperative has demonstrated this by investing in our future leaders through youth programs, like Youth Tour.

When students are selected for this all-expense-paid trip, they experience a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see our nation’s capital through a unique perspective. Organized by the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives, the agenda for Youth Tour is packed with tours of monuments, memorials and museums; group networking and leadership opportunities; and engagement with elected officials, like Representative Frank Lucas, Senator Markwayne Mullin, Senator James Lankford and many others’ staff members.

A couple of the many stops on the agenda are the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier,



where students usually get to visit with one of the guards and watch the changing of the guard ceremony, and then the Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial, where they learn about the important role FDR played in rural electrification.

Youth Tour highlights that stood out to one of Cotton Electric’s 2025 Youth Tour winners Emmalee Fontenot were visiting with an off-duty guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, making new friends on the riverboat dinner, and stepping outside of her comfort zone.

In between all the sights and tours, students form friendships and connections that will last a lifetime: whether it’s getting

to know others in your cluster group and watching a show together at Toby’s Dine-In Theatre or meeting students from across the country at the dinner cruise and through pin trading.

Another one of Cotton Electric’s 2025 Youth Tour winners, Clair Roderigas, said some of her most memorable experiences of the trip included watching the “surreal” live performance of *The Little Mermaid* at Toby’s Dine-In Theatre, visiting the prehistoric fossil exhibit at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History and making lots of friends that she still keeps in touch with.

While the days in Washington, D.C., are packed with tours and presentations, students also have opportunities to develop leadership and networking skills while making memories.

For more information about Cotton Electric’s youth programs, call 580-875-3351 or visit www.cottonelectric.com/youth-programs.



More than 60 high school students representing Oklahoma electric cooperatives attended the 2025 Youth Tour. Photo courtesy of Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives.

Community
Spotlight

If you would like your community event listed in the December issue, please submit information by calling 580-875-3351 or emailing TheCurrent@CottonElectric.com by Dec. 5. Only events occurring after Dec. 19 will be published in the next issue.

Editor's Note: We recommend checking for cancellations with local sources before attending any event.

CTAC presents ARTRAGEOUS!

The Chisholm Trail Arts Council (CTAC) welcomes the public to attend their upcoming live show, ARTRAGEOUS!, where music, dance and live painting collide. Tickets range from \$10 to \$25, and students 18 years old and under can attend the show for free. Tickets can be purchased at www.chisholmtrailarts.com or by calling 580-252-4160. The event is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Nov. 22 at the Simmons Center Theater in Duncan. For questions or more information, call 580-252-4160.

Holiday in the Park

Celebrate the holidays with family-friendly events at Lawton's annual Holiday in the Park. The festivities begin at 6:30 p.m. Nov. 22 with a themed parade, Island of Misplaced Toys. Throughout November and December, Elmer Thomas Park will be completely decorated with colorful light displays for the holiday season. Check out the Frost Your Fanny 5K, movie nights, train rides, holiday concerts, food trucks, vendors and much more. For questions or more information about the event, call 580-350-1447.

Duncan Rotary continues annual Christmas auction

The Duncan Rotary Club will be hosting the 68th Annual Christmas

Auction Dec. 1-5. Proceeds from the Christmas auction will help to clothe elementary-aged children currently enrolled in Duncan Public Schools. Every year the Duncan Rotary Club helps with clothing around 340 students with the help of their viewers that bid and/or win auction items. Everyone is encouraged to tune in via the Duncan Rotary YouTube channel and help make this another successful year. The auction starts at 6:30 p.m. each night and will finish at 10:30 p.m. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Duncan Rotary President Mark Jardine at mark.jardine@duncanfumc.org or 918-607-7654.

Food pantry open once monthly

Walters Community Food Pantry is open from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. on the second 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 and proof of Cotton County residency. Monetary donations may be sent to Food Pantry, c/o Paul Metcalfe, 211 E. Colorado St., Walters, OK 73572. For questions or more information, call Roger Noland at 580-591-6826.

Blessings Boutique open monthly

Marlow First United Methodist Church opens its Blessings Boutique from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. every first and third Tuesday of the month. Clothing donation drop-off days are Tuesdays, or donors can call 580-658-2765 to make other arrangements.

PHOTO
OF THE
MONTH



Cotton Electric member Leigh Ann Womack snapped this photo of the leaves starting to change color at the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge.

Enter your "best shot" in our Photo of the Month contest. The theme for December is All is Calm, All is Bright! Entries can be emailed to TheCurrent@CottonElectric.com or mailed to The Current, 226 N. Broadway, Walters, OK 73572. Winners will receive a Cotton Electric prize.

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The calorie cost of various protein foods



Kim Bandelier, MPH, RD, LD

Food For THOUGHT

If you’re watching your weight or just aiming to eat healthier, you know protein is essential for feeling full and building

muscle. But here’s a secret that can make a big difference: Not all protein sources have the same caloric cost. You actually have to eat far more calories from some foods to get the same amount of protein compared to others. And that can undermine your weight management plan. Think of it this way: To get a specific amount of protein (say, 50 grams), you’re also getting all the other stuff — fat and carbohydrates — that comes along with it.

Foods like lean chicken, beef, pork, tuna and eggs are protein powerhouses. They contain a very high percentage of protein with minimal fat or carbs. This makes them protein-dense and very calorically efficient. For example, getting 50 grams of protein from lean chicken might only cost you about 250–300 total calories. The majority of those calo-

ries come directly from the protein itself.

When you look at plant proteins like beans, lentils or whole grains, the picture changes. These foods are very nutritious, packed with fiber and vitamins, but they also contain a lot of carbohydrates alongside their protein. To get that same 50 grams of protein from black beans, you’d have to eat a much larger serving size, which brings a big load of extra carbs. The total calories for 50 grams of protein from legumes could easily jump to 700–1,000 calories or more.

Similarly, foods like peanuts, almonds and nut butters offer good amounts of protein, but they are also very high in fat. Since fat packs nine calories per gram (more than double protein or carbs), the total calorie count quickly climbs when you rely on these for large amounts of protein. For example, to get 50 grams of

protein from peanut butter, you would also consume 1,200-1,500 calories.

So, what does this mean for you? If your primary goal is to eat maximum protein with minimum calories (for strict weight loss or muscle building), focus on lean meats, fish or protein powders/shakes. If you’re just aiming for overall health and want the added fiber and nutrients that whole, plant-based foods offer, beans, lentils and nuts are fantastic. Just be mindful of the larger serving sizes needed to meet a high-protein goal.

Variety in protein sources is key to general health, and watching the calorie cost is key to weight management. By understanding this concept, you can make smarter food swaps and choose the protein sources that best fit your calorie goals and lifestyle.

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Save room for Thanksgiving feasts with a light, savory bite

(Family Features) If you’re tired of the same, heavy Thanksgiving dishes that leave you feeling stuffed like a turkey, look no further than the appetizer table. It may be easy to overindulge on savory bites, but you can avoid ruining your appetite with sweet, light bites ahead of the main course.

These Sweetpotato Goat Cheese Bites are perfect for snacking while carving the bird, swapping out sugary treats for nutritious yet delicious hors d’oeuvres. If you thought sweetpotatoes are only used in casseroles for Thanksgiving, think again – this nutrition powerhouse can be a staple on holiday menus for years to come in this better-for-you app.

Don’t let their sweet nature fool you – behind their colorful interior, sweetpotatoes are chock full of nutrients from which you can benefit, even during the holiday season.

They’re a wholesome option for the entire family as they’re full of vitamin A and a good source of fiber and potassium. Plus, they contain complex carbohydrates that are released at a steady pace for a constant source of energy, meaning you won’t have to worry about sugar highs or lows while enjoying the festivities.

To find an entire menu’s worth of nutritious appetizers, sides and more, visit ncsweetpotatoes.com.



Sweetpotato Goat Cheese Bites

Recipe courtesy of Katie Crenshaw on behalf of the North Carolina Sweetpotato Commission
Prep time: 10 minutes | Cook time: 20 minutes | Servings: 24

- Ingredients:**
- 2 medium sweetpotatoes
 - 2 tablespoons coconut or olive oil spray
 - 1 teaspoon seasoned salt
 - 5 ounces goat cheese
 - 2 tablespoons honey, divided
 - 1/4 cup chopped candied or toasted pecans
 - 1/3 cup dried cranberries
 - 1 tablespoon fresh basil, sliced thinly, for garnish
- Instructions:**
- Preheat oven to 450 F.
 - Slice sweetpotatoes 1/4-inch thick.

- Line large baking sheet with parchment paper. Layer sweetpotatoes on top of parchment paper.
- Spray sweetpotatoes with coconut spray and sprinkle with seasoned salt. Flip sweetpotato slices and repeat.
- Bake 10 minutes. Flip slices and bake 10 minutes. Transfer sweetpotatoes to serving plate.
- Mix goat cheese and 1 tablespoon honey until whipped and creamy. Spread goat cheese over sweetpotato slices.
- Sprinkle with pecans and cranberries. Drizzle remaining honey over sweetpotatoes.
- Garnish with basil and serve.

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A comforting casserole

(Culinary.net) Almost nothing says comfort food quite like a freshly baked casserole. Next time your family asks for a warm, comforting meal, try this Rotisserie Chicken-Biscuit Casserole with just a handful of ingredients and less than 15 minutes of cook time.

Find more comfort food recipes at Culinary.net.

Rotisserie Chicken-Biscuit Casserole

Ingredients:

- 1 whole rotisserie chicken
- 8 refrigerated biscuits
- 1 can (10 3/4 ounces) cream of mushroom soup
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1/4 cup sour cream
- 2 cups frozen vegetables
- 1/2 teaspoon dried basil
- 1/8 teaspoon pepper

Instructions:

- Heat oven to 450 F.
- Remove meat from rotisserie chicken and shred; set aside. Discard bones.
- Cut biscuits into quarters; set aside.



In saucepan, stir soup, milk, sour cream, chicken, vegetables, basil and pepper. Cook until boiling. Spoon chicken mixture into baking dish. Arrange quartered biscuits over filling. Bake 10-12 minutes, or until biscuits are golden brown.

Cook up a cranberry treat

(Family Features) Apple and pumpkin are a couple of fruity favorites, but cranberry is another common ingredient that can be used to make a big statement. Mixed with walnuts, white chocolate chips and cake mix, these Cranberry Bars will leave family and friends begging for more. Because they’re so easy to make, you can easily fulfill the requests.

Visit Culinary.net for more dessert ideas.

Cranberry Bars

Recipe courtesy of “Cookin’ Savvy”

Ingredients:

- 1 box white or yellow cake mix
- 2 eggs
- 1 stick melted butter
- 1 1/2 cups dried cranberries
- 1 1/2 cups chopped walnuts
- 2 cups chopped white chocolate chips, divided

Instructions:

- Heat oven to 350 F.
- Mix cake mix, eggs, butter, cranberries, walnuts and 1 cup white chocolate chips. Spread into 7-by-11-inch baking dish and bake 35-40 minutes until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean.
- Let cool then melt remaining white chocolate chips and drizzle over bars.



PUBLIC AUCTION

Saturday, November 29, 2025

10:00 A.M.

512 South 1st Street
620 East Park Avenue
Waurika, Oklahoma

Gary Criswell Auction Service & Real Estate, Inc. has been commissioned by Mr. Gerald Collier to offer at Public Auction his Real Property situated at 512 South 1st Street (MLS 39686 - \$65,000) and 620 East Park Avenue (MLS 39687 - \$75,000) in Waurika, Oklahoma.

512 South 1st Street

Parcel 1 - Real Property: Consists of 6 Lots with a 2 Story Block Home with Exterior Steel Siding (Completely Remodeled). The Ground Floor Includes a Very Nice Living Area/Kitchen Combination (No Bath) - 2nd Floor (Upstairs) - Includes One Bedroom with an Utility Room and a 3/4 Bath. Interior of the Home is Very Nice. The Home has a New Breaker Box, New Laminated Flooring and Fresh Paint. The Tenant Currently has a 12 Month Lease, which shall be Honored with the Transfer of the Real Property.

Parcel 2 - Real Property: Includes 6 Lots with an Irregular Shape with Approximately One Half Owned by The State of Oklahoma for State Highway 70, Right of Way. Improvements Include A Nice Wooden Structure with a Covered Front Porch (Freshly Painted) currently being used as an Office. The Real Property is scheduled for Public Auction on November 29, 2025, At 10:00 AM. Note: Parcel One and Parcel Two will be Offered Separately and Then As A Whole.

Directions: In Waurika, Oklahoma: From State Highway 70, Go North on 1st Street to the Real Property and Public Auction Site.

620 East Park Avenue

Parcel 1 - Real Property: Consists of the East 6.0 Acre Parcel of a 12 Acre Parcel with a Sheet Metal Building/Barn - Like New (30' X 50'). The Barn has a 12' Center Entrance/Opening and a 10' Opening on the West and East Ends. The Real Property has an Access off of East Park Avenue (Great Building Site with Street Frontage). Public Utilities are also Available on said Real Property.

Parcel 2 - Real Property: Consists of the West 6.0 Acres of the 12 Acre Parcel with a Small Pond and a Large Pecan Tree. This 6.0 Acre Parcel has 5' Field Fence Perimeter Fencing and Access on the Northwest Corner off of a Residential Area with a Metal Gate (14'). Note: Parcel One and Parcel Two will be offered Separately and Then As A Whole.

Directions: In Waurika, OK: Go East on Florida Street to 8th Street and then follow 8th Street to Park Avenue. The Auction to be held on 1st Street.

Terms of Public Auction: 10% Earnest Money on Real Property on the Day of Sale. The Balance is due at Closing upon delivery of Title and Deed. **(No Buyers Premium)**

Preview of Auction: Will be held Friday afternoon, November 28, 2025 from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Announcements made day of Sale supersede all other Advertisements. To view and/or Purchase the Real Property prior to Auction date; Please Contact the Auction Company.

Auctioneer's Note: The Real Property will be offered "As-Is-Where-Is". The Seller Reserves the right to Accept or Reject the Final Bid. Stephens County Abstract Company will serve as the Closing Agent on the Real Property. **Note:** The Real Property will be offered from the 512 South 1st Street location.

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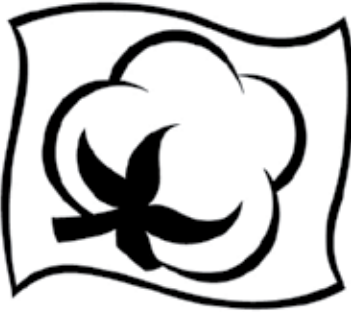
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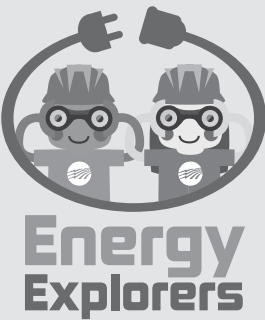
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FALL SAFETY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Fall is in full swing, and that means the leaves are changing, the weather is crisp and the holiday season is just around the corner! But the fall season also brings a higher risk of home fires and electrical safety hazards. Read the safety tips below and use the clues to complete the crossword puzzle.

Check your work in the answer key.



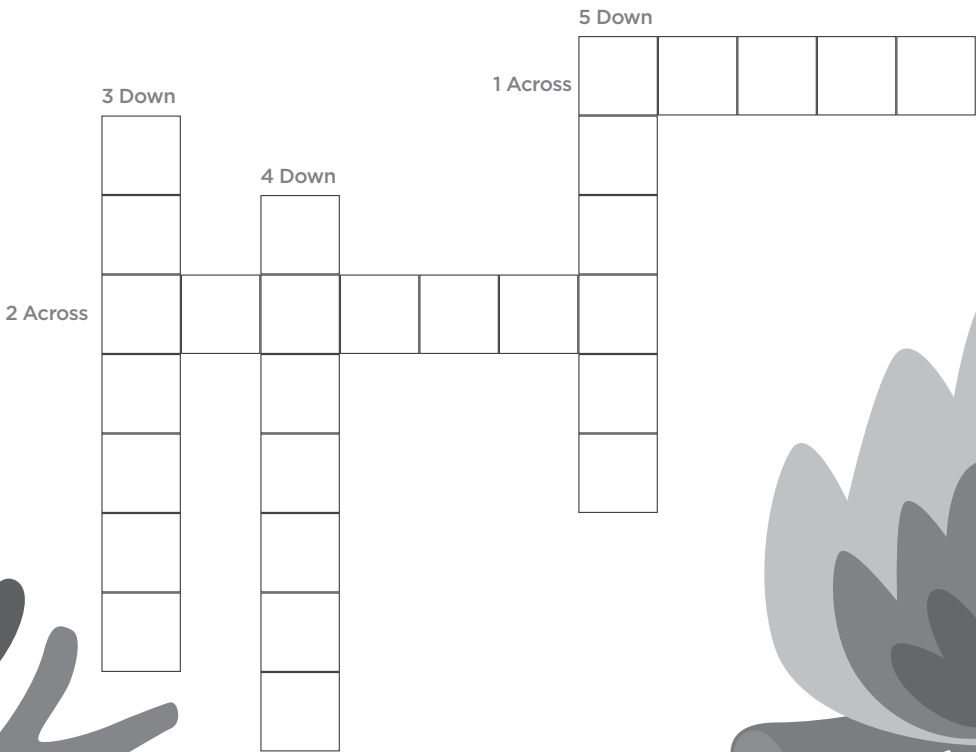
1 Across: An ____ should always be in the kitchen when something is cooking.

2 Across: Keep any items that can burn away from the stove, ____ and other cooking appliances.

3 Down: Candles and ____ should only be used by adults.

4 Down: Make sure all ____ are blown out before leaving a room.

5 Down: Smoke ____ should be tested every month to ensure they are working properly.



Answer Key: 1 Across: adult; 2 Across: toaster; 3 Down: candles; 4 Down: matches; 5 Down: alarms



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ACROSS

1. Expression of surprise

4. Keyboard key

7. One who works on lights

12. Notable children’s story

15. Fall back into a bad pattern

16. Eye parts

18. Atomic #18

19. Of she

20. Farm state

21. One point south of southeast

24. British media entity

27. Asian garment

30. Drench

31. Expressions of pleasure

33. Turf

34. UK trade union (abbr.)

35. Bleated

37. Fifth note of a major scale

39. Paddle

41. Monetary unit of Italy

42. American classical pianist

44. Shuts down for the day

47. Seize

48. Soluble ribonucleic acid

49. Greeting

50. Some cars still need it

52. Atomic #22

53. Let go

56. Marched in public

61. U.S. residents, Mexican and Canadians

63. Hostilities

64. Speak aloud

65. River in NE Scotland

DOWN

1. Razorbill genus

2. Longtime Baltimore tight end

3. Performs on stage

4. Supports a sentiment

5. Rugged mountain ranges

6. Broadway songwriter Sammy

7. Snakelike fish

8. Men’s fashion accessory

9. Hospital worker

10. Something to scratch

11. No (Scottish)

12. Volcanic ash

13. Of this

14. American jazz drummer Watts

17. Drop down

22. English dialect

23. Predatory seabirds

24. Imams’ deputies

25. Fertility god

26. Fence material

28. Parks and DeLauro are two

29. Distinctive smell (Brit.)

32. Protein-rich liquids

36. Touch lightly

38. Season for Catholics

40. Boat race

43. Police actions

44. Chinese river

45. Waterfall (Scottish)

46. Walk ostentatiously

51. Type of carpet

54. Mauna __, Hawaiian volcano

55. Sea eagles

56. An enclosure for confining livestock

57. Dry

58. An increase in price or value

59. The highest point of something

60. Government lawyers

62. Larry and Curly’s pal

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Parting Shot



The Velma Volunteer Fire Department received a \$1,000 donation from Cotton Electric from this year’s prize drawing at the 2025 Annual Meeting and Member Appreciation Day. Pictured left to right: Cotton Electric Director of Marketing and Communications Zach Young and Velma Volunteer Fire Department Chief Duke Darling. Photo by Carli Eubank.



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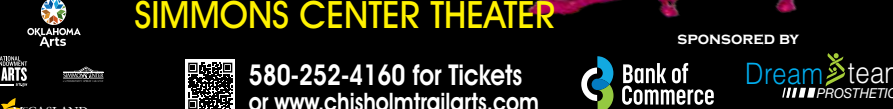
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