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The Current

A Publication of Cotton Electric Cooperative Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

"The Current - Informing Our Members Since 1957"

VOLUME 69

February 13, 2026

NUMBER 6

With love: Thank You for sharing your valued feedback in annual survey

At Cotton Electric Cooperative, we are committed to serving you – our neighbors and our members – by delivering safe, reliable and affordable power while providing excellent member service and improving the quality of life in the communities we serve.

Every fall, we check in with our membership more formally, conducting a survey to see where we are excelling and where we can improve.

We appreciate the more than 400 randomly selected members who participated in the survey conducted in October 2025 and offered constructive feedback and suggestions to help us continue growing and better serving you.

Cotton Electric received an American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI®) score of 90 on a 100-point scale.* Our Cooperative Attitude and Performance Score (CAPS) rating is 93.

Cotton Electric's ACSI score of 90 is also much higher than all publicly measured municipal energy utilities and investor-owned energy utilities. In 2024, investor-owned energy utilities had a score of 74, with municipal energy utilities scoring a 75, per the industry ratings in the 2025 ACSI Utility Sector Report.

Beyond the questions used to calculate the ACSI score, further survey responses showed an overall improvement in areas that focus on what is important to our members, like overall satisfaction, electric service and rates, member service and co-op culture. We are encouraged by this feedback and will continue to focus on what matters most to our members.

From the survey, we learned members are taking advantage of all the benefits SmartHub can provide. SmartHub allows you to manage your account easily from your smartphone or computer to pay bills, track energy usage, report outages, and more. To create a SmartHub account, visit www.cottonelectric.com/smarthub or download the app from the Apple store or Google Play.

Cotton Electric also provides our members with a list of payment options to choose from, so you can manage your account in a way that works best for you. To learn more about our payment options, visit www.cottonelectric.com/viewpay-my-bill.

Some service interruptions were experienced throughout the year, and while your cooperative keeps a 99% average system reliability rate, we understand outages impact our members. Cotton Electric remains focused on maintaining and upgrading our system to deliver you safe, reliable power.

When outages happen, members have multiple options for reporting outages, including a dispatcher who is on call 24/7, the SmartHub app and texting

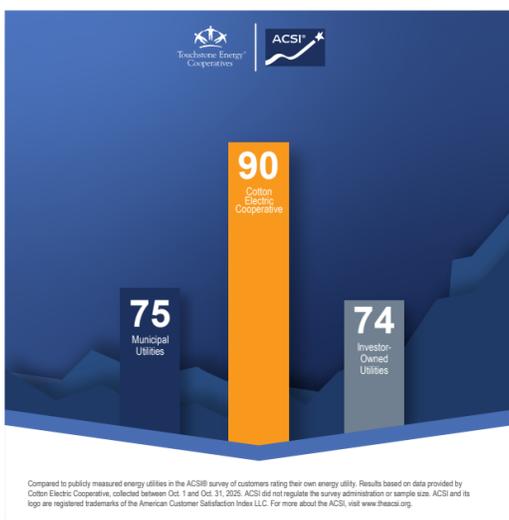


"OUT" to 580-875-3351. To sign up for Text-Power, make sure your mobile phone number and contact information is up to date on your electric account. Another helpful resource for members is our Outage Center webpage, found at www.cottonelectric.com/outagecenter.

Many members who attended the 2025 Annual Meeting expressed they liked the drive-thru setup. We appreciate your input and look forward to exploring new ways to engage with our members.

At Cotton Electric Cooperative, your satisfaction as a member-owner is our top priority. Your feedback is vital in helping us improve and ensure we continue to serve you to the best of our ability. Thank you for being a valued member and neighbor.

** Compared to publicly measured energy utilities in the ACSI® survey of customers rating their own energy utility. Results based on data provided by Cotton Electric Cooperative, collected between Oct. 1 and Oct. 31, 2025. ACSI did not regulate the survey administration or sample size. ACSI and its logo are registered trademarks of the American Customer Satisfaction Index LLC. For more about the ACSI, visit www.theacsi.org.*



About the survey:

The 2025 survey took place in October. Postcards and emails were sent to randomly selected members, inviting them to participate in the survey online or by telephone. Conducted by Inside Information of Smithville, Missouri, Cotton Electric has relied on their member research expertise to help with surveys since 2018.

The American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI®) is the only national cross-industry measure of customer satisfaction in the United States. Each year, the ACSI uses data from interviews with roughly 200,000 customers as inputs to an econometric model for analyzing customer satisfaction with approximately 400 companies in around 40 industries and 10 economic sectors. ACSI data have proven to be strongly related to several essential indicators of micro and macroeconomic performance.

The ACSI publishes an annual Energy Utilities Study, which is an independent customer satisfaction measure of the U.S. top investor-owned, municipal, and cooperative utilities.

The Cooperative Attitude and Performance Score or CAPS, is a cooperative performance model developed by Inside Information. It is an industry specific benchmarking tool used to gauge performance in service areas deemed most important by cooperative members: Trustworthiness, well-managed, cares about members.

Power Cost Adjustment Calculated

The power cost adjustment now being applied to bills mailed after Feb. 1, 2025, is \$0.00587 per kilowatt-hour (kWh).

On a member's average bill of 1,300 kWh, this will amount to a charge of \$7.63 on the February bill.

January 2026 Temperature Extremes

Day	High	Low	Avg.	Day	High	Low	Avg.
1	61	30	46	16	55	30	43
2	71	39	55	17	46	19	33
3	59	31	45	18	61	12	37
4	60	30	45	19	44	23	34
5	78	35	57	20	52	15	34
6	75	35	55	21	57	28	43
7	74	32	53	22	55	23	39
8	74	44	59	23	45	14	30
9	62	36	49	24	14	7	11
10	52	32	42	25	19	-2	9
11	56	25	41	26	26	1	14
12	65	24	45	27	37	0	19
13	67	27	47	28	41	10	26
14	58	33	45	29	44	22	33
15	64	24	44	30	46	21	34
Source: srh.noaa.gov/oum/				31	28	12	20
Average Daily High: 53				Average Daily Low: 23			

Did You Know?

Cotton Electric Cooperative offices will be closed Monday, Feb. 16 for Presidents Day.

Emergency calls will be answered at 580-875-3351 or 800-522-3520.

The next issue of *The Current* should arrive in mailboxes March 13, 2026.

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

Reliability requires investment

As your local power provider, Cotton Electric's mission has always been simple: to keep the lights on and support the communities we serve. But behind every switch, every warm home and every business that opens its doors is a complex system that requires constant care. Reliable electricity doesn't happen by accident. It requires ongoing investment in our local grid through system repairs, maintenance and upgrades.

Much of the energy system we rely on today was built decades ago. While it continues to serve us well, components are repaired or replaced as needed to maintain performance and safety. From poles and wires to transformers and substations, every part of the grid has a lifespan. Routine maintenance helps extend that lifespan, but eventually equipment must be updated. These proactive investments reduce the likelihood of outages, shorten restoration times when disruptions do occur and create a stronger backbone for our growing community.

The demands on the electric grid are also evolving. Homes and businesses today use more electricity than ever, and that trend will only continue. The grid must be able to support increased demand while maintain-

ing the reliability our members expect.

Cotton Electric works in conjunction with an engineering consultant to develop a Construction Work Plan. The four-year plan outlines strategic upgrades such as line reconductor projects, underground replacements and equipment installation to increase system capacity and improve power quality and reliability. These projects are completed by our in-house construction crews as well as contractors. These investments are essential to ensuring we can meet these needs both today and in the decades ahead.

While these improvements require thoughtful planning and financial investment, the return is significant. A stronger grid supports economic growth, improves service quality and enhances safety for our crews and community. Most importantly, it ensures that the essential power you rely on is available whenever you need it.

Another important aspect is our pole inspection and replacement program. We utilize a qualified inspection company that examines poles for deterioration or damage. As poles are inspected, those meeting the standards are marked with a silver tag. Poles not meeting our criteria are replaced with a new pole.

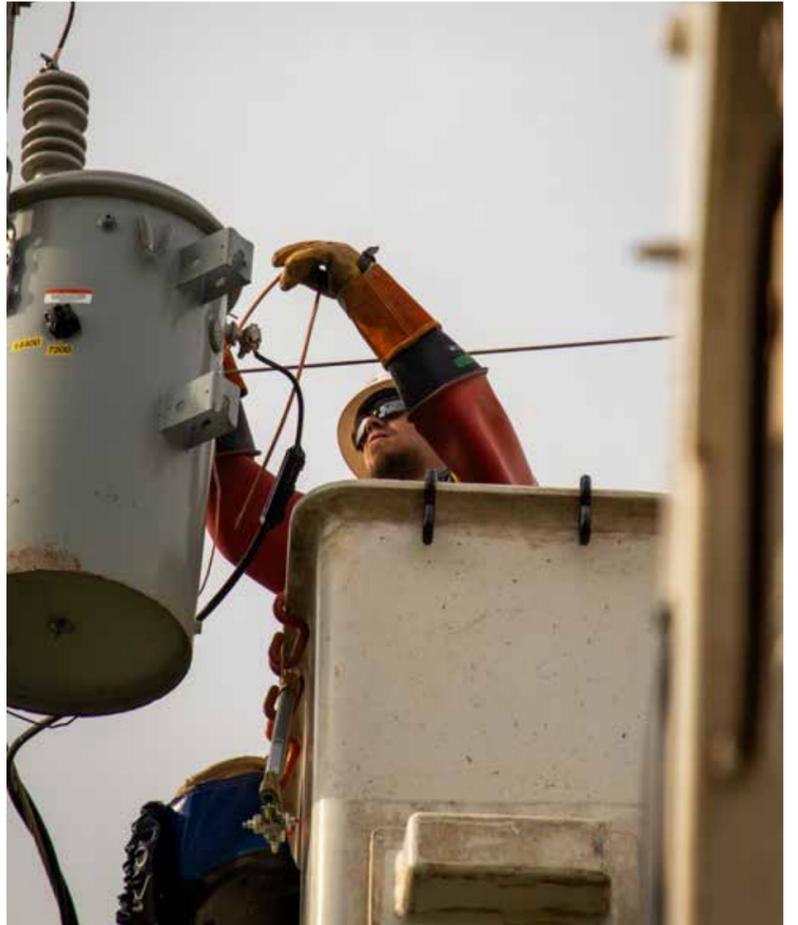
Our commitment to reliability runs deeper than infrastructure alone. It reflects our responsibility to the people and communities we serve. Every upgrade, every repair and every technology we deploy is an investment in your daily life — from the comfort of your home to the success of local businesses and schools.

We know that powering our community means preparing for



Jennifer Meason, CEO

the future, not just maintaining the present. By investing in our local grid today, we are building the foundation for a brighter, more resilient tomorrow.



Cotton Electric Lineman Skyley Smith replaces a transformer near Walters. Photo by Carli Eubank.

Happy Valentine's Day

FROM: Cotton Electric Cooperative

TO: Our members

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Midwinter is a great time to ensure you're making the most of your home heating system. Replace or clean filters to keep your furnace or heat pump running efficiently. Listen for strange noises and check for uneven heating — these signs indicate that the system may need servicing. Ensure vents and radiators aren't blocked by furniture or rugs as proper airflow helps your system work less and saves energy. A little maintenance along the way can prevent costly repairs and keep your home cozy through winter.

Source: www.energy.gov

December 2025 Operating Stats		
	2025	2024
Total Amount Billed/Accrued	\$7,266,499	\$7,014,550
Cost of Purchased Power	4,803,517	4,839,704
Taxes	126,330	121,042
Total Operating Expense per Mile	1,380	1,265
Average Farm and Residential Bill	179	167
Average Farm and Residential kWh	1,375	1,331
Total Meters Billed (Farm, Residential)	19,972	19,776
Miles Energized	5,288	5,281
Density per Mile	3.78	3.74
New Service Connects YTD	401	416
Services Retired	160	179

Upcoming Deadlines for The Current	
March	
Ad Sales	Feb. 27
Classified	Feb. 27
Publish	Mar. 13
April	
Ad Sales	Mar. 27
Classified	Mar. 27
Publish	Apr. 3

The Current

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Jennifer MeasonCEO
 Shane Bowers..... Vice President
 Zach YoungDirector
 Carli Eubank..... Communications Specialist

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Energy Efficiency

Understanding heating and cooling degree days

Weather can have a major impact on energy bills, and when the outdoor temperatures become extreme, your heating and cooling equipment works harder to keep you and your home comfortable.

Did you know your cooperative uses degree days to anticipate heating and cooling needs for you, our members?

Never heard of a degree day? Don't worry — you're not alone. Let's take a look at what heating and cooling degree days are and why they are important for electric utilities.

Degree days measure how cold or warm a location is by comparing the average of the high and low of the outdoor temperatures recorded in that location to the standard U.S. temperature, which is 65 degrees. The assumption

is that we don't need heating or cooling to be comfortable when this is the outdoor temperature.

So, the more extreme the outdoor temperatures, the higher the number of degree days. And the higher the number of degree days, the higher the amount of energy used for space heating and cooling.

Cooling degree days are a measurement of how hot the temperature was on a given day or during a period of days. With winter temperatures dropping, you'll likely require more heating for your home or business, which results in more heating degree days. Variations in electric bills often follow closely with degree days, which is why electric utilities use this data to anticipate future energy demand.

Degree days are tracked for a variety of reasons. Farmers can better plan the planting of crops and timing for pest control, and weather experts can better assess climate patterns.

Here are a few tips to help you save on energy bills this summer:

- Set your thermostat as high as comfortably possible. The smaller the difference between the indoor and outdoor temperatures, the lower your cooling costs will be. The Department of Energy recommends setting your thermostat to 68 degrees when you're home and a lower setting for when you're away.
- Turn off ceiling fans when you leave a room.
- Open window coverings, like curtains and blinds, during the day to al-



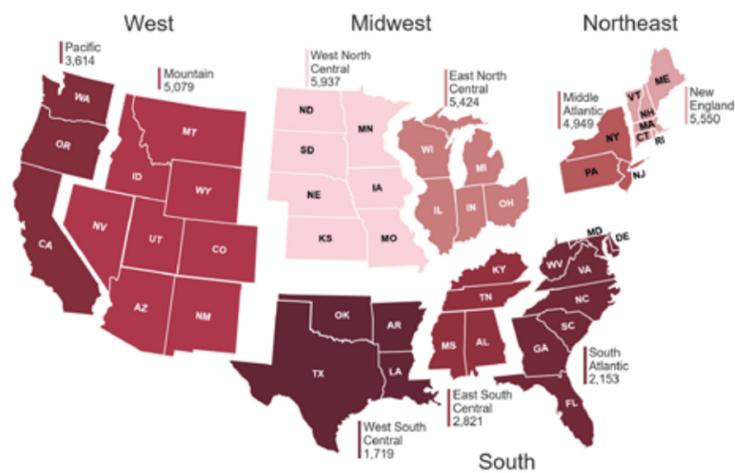
Heath Morgan,
Energy Efficiency
Coordinator

low in heat from the sunlight.

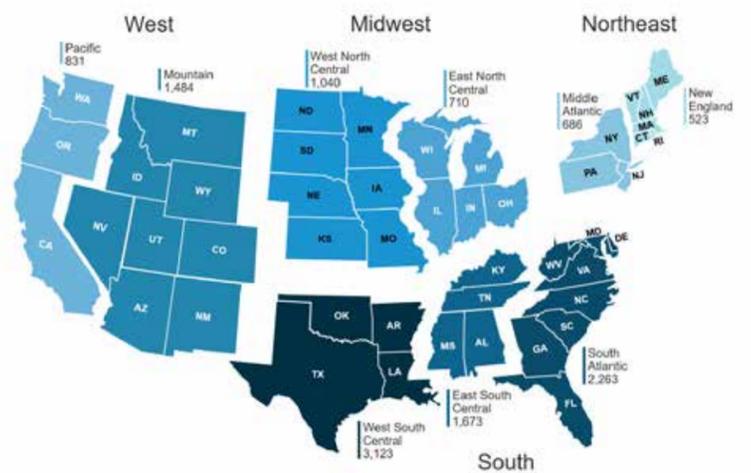
- Use caulk and weather stripping to seal air leaks around doors and windows.

If you have questions about your energy use or to learn more ways to save, visit www.cottonelectric.com/energy-efficiency or call 580-875-3351.

Heating degree days by census division in 2023



Cooling degree days by census division in 2023



Data source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, *Monthly Energy Review*, Table 1.11, August 2024
Note: Population-weighted degree days. Pacific Division includes Alaska and Hawaii.

Data source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, *Monthly Energy Review*, Table 1.12, August 2024
Note: Population-weighted degree days. Pacific Division includes Alaska and Hawaii.

Heating Degree Day and Cooling Degree Day Calendar

JANUARY

HDD YEAR CDD



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.



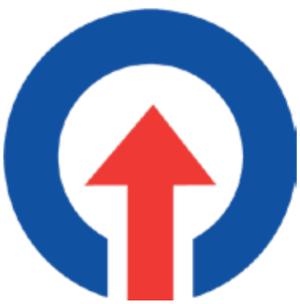
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Cotton Electric Charitable Foundation



A Cotton Electric Charitable Foundation (CECF) grant was awarded to The FISTA Foundation for STEM materials. Pictured left to right: FISTA STEM educator Sidney Lyons, CEO/President of FISTA Innovation Park Dr. Krista Ratliff, FISTA STEM Coordinator Raegan Martin-Teakell, Director of Innovation Christopher Riley, Cotton Electric Director of Marketing and Communications Zach Young, Cotton Electric Vice President of Administration Shane Bowers and Cotton Electric COO Bryce Hooper. Photo by Carli Eubank.



Bray-Doyle Public Schools was awarded a CECF grant for machinery and tools for their Career and Technical Education (CTE) program. Pictured left to right: (back row) Cotton Electric Director of Marketing and Communications Zach Young, Bray-Doyle Public Schools students in the CTE program, and Bray-Doyle Public Schools Board member Josh Long; (front row) Cotton Electric Vice President of Administration Shane Bowers, Bray-Doyle Public Schools students in the CTE program and CTE program teacher Arlan Cox. Photo by Carli Eubank.



Empire Public Schools was awarded a CECF grant for a buzzer system for the academic team. Pictured left to right: (back row) Cotton Electric COO Bryce Hooper, Empire Public Schools teacher Amanda Copeland, Cotton Electric CEO Jennifer Meason, Empire Public Schools teacher Dawn Wainscott and Cotton Electric Vice President of Administration Shane Bowers; (front row) Empire elementary students and academic team members. Photo by Carli Eubank.



Duncan Community Residence was awarded a CECF grant for ductwork replacement. Pictured left to right: Cotton Electric Director of Marketing and Communications Zach Young, Cotton Electric COO Bryce Hooper, Duncan Community Residence Grant Manager Andrea Moore, Duncan Community Residence Board President David Moore and Cotton Electric CEO Jennifer Meason. Photo by Carli Eubank.



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Don't be up in the air about safety: Metallic balloons

Having red and silver heart-shaped metallic balloons delivered to a loved one on Valentine's Day is a sweet gesture. Metallic balloons are also used to celebrate birthdays and graduations and given as "get well soon" gifts. These shiny and colorful balloons brighten any celebration, but they must be handled and disposed of properly to avoid safety hazards and damage to electrical systems.

Many safety experts recommend metallic over latex balloons because they are less of a choking hazard. However, using metallic balloons improperly can pose other safety hazards. Fortunately, with a few simple precautions, metallic balloons can be used without any problems.

Metallic balloons are filled with helium and are made of a type of nylon with a thin external metal coating. The metal coating has the ability to conduct electricity. If released, metallic balloons can come into contact with overhead power lines or electrical substations and can cause power outages and fires.

Cotton Electric and Safe Electricity offer the following tips to help you make sure metallic balloons are used and disposed of safely:

- Always tie your balloons down or use a weight.
- It is safest to keep your metallic balloons inside. In fact, some parks have banned metallic balloons on their property, so be aware of these warnings.
- If you see a metallic balloon in contact with a power line, never attempt to disconnect it yourself. Notify the electrical company immediately.
- Never tie a metallic ribbon on your balloon. Also, never tie a metallic balloon to a child's arm. These both can pose substantial electrical threats.

After your celebrations have come to an end, always deflate and poke holes in metallic balloons so that they cannot become airborne after disposal. As they are not biodegradable, your balloons should be recycled rather than released into the environment or sent to a landfill. Before placing the balloon in your recycling bin, puncture it so that it cannot become airborne if released.

Another option after your balloon has deflated is to reuse it. Consider framing the balloon for a unique decoration or using it for gift wrap.

For more information on electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org or www.cottonelectric.com/safety.

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FEMA partnerships help keep the lights on

When a storm rolls through, Cotton Electric is ready to respond. Our crews work around the clock to restore power, repair damage and make sure every member's lights come back on as quickly and safely as possible. But when that damage is severe, the cost of rebuilding can add up quickly—and that's where the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) steps in to help.

Most people think of FEMA responding to natural disasters that make national news, such as hurricanes or widespread wildfires. But electric co-ops also rely on FEMA after smaller, localized events—the kinds of storms that may not always make national headlines but can still cause significant damage.

A few inches of ice or a sudden flash flood can snap utility poles, damage substations and leave miles of power lines on the ground. In rural areas, where electric co-ops serve fewer members across larger territories, repairing that damage can be especially challenging and expensive. FEMA assistance helps ensure those costs don't fall entirely on co-op members and that power can be restored quickly without putting financial strain on small communities.

FEMA's Public Assistance program helps co-ops like ours rebuild critical infrastructure after disasters, large or small. This essential partnership ensures that we can focus on restoring power and supporting our community instead of worrying about how to fund large-scale repairs.

The FEMA Act of 2025 is making its way through Congress and aims to modernize the agency's programs, making it easier and faster for essential service providers like Cotton Electric to restore and rebuild. It's an important step toward keeping disaster recovery fair, efficient and focused on the people who depend on reliable electricity every day.

Whether it's a large-scale storm or a localized event that only affects a few towns, FEMA's support helps electric co-ops do what we do best—serve our members and keep the lights on, no matter what Mother Nature brings.

Learn more at www.cottonelectric.com/your-co-op-your-voice.



FIXING FEMA:
FEMA partnerships are essential in restoring power to co-op communities.



FIXING FEMA:
We support the FEMA Act of 2025, a bipartisan effort to reform and modernize FEMA.



FIXING FEMA:
FEMA provides assistance beyond headline-making weather events.

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The Core Four: Making security simple

A challenge for many people is overcoming this sense of confusion with cybersecurity. That's why the National Cybersecurity Alliance created the Core Four — a set of four simple yet powerful steps anyone can follow. By focusing on these four actions, you can put your energy where it matters most.

1. Strong, Unique Passwords (and a Password Manager)

Your passwords are the keys to your digital life. Unfortunately, cybercriminals are constantly trying to steal or guess them. If you reuse the same password across multiple accounts, one stolen password could unlock everything.

Here's how the Core Four approach simplifies this:

- Use long and unique passwords for each of your accounts. One easy method is to use a passphrase, a string of multiple words that's easy to remember but hard to guess. In some cases, you may be also asked to include a mix of letters, numbers, and special characters.

- Don't try to remember all your passwords — let a password manager do the work for you. These tools generate strong passwords, store them securely, and fill them in automatically when you log in to your accounts. Think of a password manager as your personal security vault. Once you set a strong master password, it handles the rest, reducing stress and saving you time.

2. Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA)

Even the strongest password isn't perfect. That's where multi-factor authentication (MFA) comes in. Also known as two-factor authentication or two-step verification, MFA adds an extra layer of security by requiring something in addition to your password — such as a code sent to your phone, a fingerprint, or a security key.

Why does this matter? If a cybercriminal steals your password, they still can't access your account without the second factor. Turn on MFA wherever possible, especially for your most important accounts.

Members who have the SmartHub app can go to the Settings menu and select Security to turn on 2FA for their SmartHub account.

3. Automatic Updates

Cybercriminals are always looking for weaknesses in software and apps. When companies discover these flaws, they release updates to fix them. If you delay installing updates, you leave the door open for attackers to exploit known vulnerabilities. The easiest solution is to enable automatic updating on your devices, apps, and accounts. This ensures security fixes are applied in the background, often without you lifting a finger.

4. Spot and Stop Social Engineering (Scam) Attacks

Cybercriminals don't always need technical tricks — they often rely on manipulating people. This tactic is called social engineering, and it includes phishing emails, fake text messages, and phone calls designed to trick you into clicking links, downloading malware, or sharing your credit card information or password.

Here are some red flags to watch for:

- Urgency: "Act now or lose access!"
- Too good to be true: "You've won a prize!"
- Requests for sensitive information: passwords, PINs, or bank details

When in doubt: stop, slow down, and verify.

Staying safe made simple

Whether it's your coworkers, kids, parents, or community, the Core Four offers a simple yet powerful way to help everyone stay safer online.

The Story

Maria always tried to stay safe online, but the endless advice left her feeling overwhelmed. She had heard she needed strong passwords, antivirus software, VPNs, firewalls, privacy settings, backups, and more. Unsure where to start, she began by adjusting some of the technical settings on her Wi-Fi router but quickly became confused and eventually gave up.

Later that day, Maria received an urgent text message that looked like it came from her bank. It warned that her account would be locked unless she confirmed her login immediately. Stressed and distracted, she clicked the link and entered her username and password. Within hours, cybercriminals were inside her bank account. Because she reused the same password for some of her other accounts — email, shopping sites, and even social media — they quickly gained access to much of her entire digital life.

Maria didn't fall victim because she didn't care — she fell victim because she didn't know where to start.

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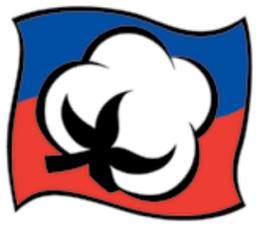
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Co-op Life

Launching STEM education and innovation in southwest Oklahoma

By Carli Eubank

Located within Cotton Electric's territory is an organization providing uniquely strategic and collaborative opportunities with local schools. Since it was formed in 2023 and the new STEM lab opened last November, the FISTA Foundation has already made great strides in creating a launchpad for STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education in southwest Oklahoma. The FISTA Foundation was a Cotton Electric Charitable Foundation grant recipient last quarter for STEM materials.

No two days are the same at FISTA – rooms are filled with instructors and students building robotics for an upcoming competition, learning a new skill with 3-D printing or taking it all in during a field trip to see the facilities. Creating exciting educational experiences for students has been a passion for FISTA STEM Coordinator Raegan Teakell her entire career – from teaching at the Lawton Public Schools Makerspace program

to a yearlong mentorship with NASA's Oklahoma Space Grant Consortium to sharing her expertise and experience with the FISTA STEM Center.

"I've always been adventurous in the classroom," Teakell said. "When you're able to convince students to work through a problem or failure and watch the aha moment spread across their face when they finally see it all work out – that is the best moment ever as an instructor."

Teakell works alongside FISTA STEM Educator and previous fellow Lawton Public Schools Makerspace instructor Sidney Lyons and many others who are passionate about bringing STEM experiences to students. She shared what makes the FISTA team so incredible is their constant support of one another and their willingness to help however they can – whether it's setting up for events or brainstorming new topics and experiences for the students.

At the FISTA STEM Center, students are introduced to an array of different labs, mentor-

ships, internships and hands-on learning opportunities at no cost for schools. Popular events are field trips or STEM Days, where classes can come to the FISTA facilities or the FISTA team will travel to surrounding schools and learn a variety of STEM topics and work through projects that the STEM team has created beforehand with the class's teacher.

Other events include STEM Saturdays where students can learn and discuss a different topic at each session. The FISTA STEM team goes to robotics competitions across the state with the goal of housing the competitions in southwest Oklahoma.

Another focus for the FISTA team is engaging with local teachers to bring new ideas and educational support during their professional development hours.

"Our team tries to make different events that appeal to every learner and create a learning experience that will best suit their needs," Teakell said. "It's an honor for us to plan events and provide opportunities for students

and teachers to be introduced to our STEM program."

From its beginning stages, the FISTA Foundation's mission has been to advance STEM education, support underserved communities and catalyze innovation-driven community growth. With the support of the FISTA Board, management, staff, volunteers and partnerships, the FISTA Foundation has grown tremendously and is looking forward to providing more educational experiences and opportunities for local schools.

"Seeing more kids attend our facilities and our classes expand each week has been incredible," Teakell said. "Helping students be comfortable with the uncomfortable, whether it's working with a new group or learning a new skill, is a huge win. Being able to build up our STEM programs and give back to the community has been amazing for our team."

For more information or to request an event with the FISTA STEM Center, visit www.thefista.com.



(pictured in photos left to right FISTA STEM Director of Innovation Christopher Riley, FISTA STEM Educator Sidney Lyons and FISTA STEM Coordinator Raegan Teakell work with local students at the FISTA STEM Center on a variety of projects. Photo courtesy of FISTA STEM Coordinator Raegan Teakell.



Local students on the FISTA robotics team are working on their bots. Photo courtesy of FISTA STEM Coordinator Raegan Teakell.

Community Spotlight

If you would like your community event listed in the March issue, please submit information by calling 580-875-3351 or sending an email to TheCurrent@CottonElectric.com by Feb. 27. Only events occurring after March 13 will be published in the next issue.

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

Marlow fish fry for Lent

Fish Fry Fridays at the Marlow Catholic Church will again be held this year on each Friday of Lent from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Feb. 20, 27 and March 6, 13, 20 and 27. Fish, fries, coleslaw and homemade dessert for \$15. All proceeds go to community support, such as Charis Pregnancy Center, Coats for Kids, Seminarian Support and Toys for Law Enforcement to give to children in times of stress. They have dine-in facilities as well as carryout available. Bring your appetite and join them on Fridays under the blue roof at 4th and Comanche St. in Marlow. Contact us during serving hours at 580-658-2365.

DLT presents Oklahoma!

Duncan Little Theatre is scheduled for their upcoming production of *Oklahoma!* Show dates are scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Feb. 27-28 and March 6-7, and 2 p.m. March 1 at the Simmons Center, 800 Chisholm Trail Parkway in Duncan. For questions or more information, visit ww.duncanlittheatre.com

CU hosts upcoming music events

Fill your world with music by attending one of the many upcoming music events hosted at the Cameron University Department of Art, Music and Theatre Arts.

- Cameron Choir Concert: March 8 at 3 p.m.
- Jazz Festival Concert: March 10 at 7:30 p.m.
- CU Concert and Community Band Concert: March 29 at 3 p.m.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.cameron.edu/art-music-and-theatre/events/music or call 580-581-2346.

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 St. 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 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 the church at 580-658-2765 to make other arrangements.

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Jace, Ally and Jett Sparks, niece and nephews of Cotton Electric Apprentice Lineman TJ Birdwell, are loving life while playing in the snow.

Enter your "best shot" in our Photo of the Month contest. The theme for March is Sunrise, Sunset! 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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Clarifying saturated fat recommendations



Kim Bandelier, MPH, RD, LD

Food For THOUGHT

Saturated fat has been on the naughty list for many years. In January 2026, the United States Department of Agriculture and the United States Department of Health and Human Services released the 2025-2030 Dietary Guidelines for

Americans. As is custom with a release of new dietary guidelines, a new representative icon was released - literally turning the old food guide pyramid upside down, putting protein and veggies at the top and whole grains at the bottom. While the new pyramid does a great job at conveying the topics of less processed food, more protein, more vegetables and more fruit, the specific foods pictured at the top raise questions about saturated fat.

Saturated fats mainly come from animal sources and are typically solid at room temperature. Some tropical oils like coconut oil (frequently used in processed foods) are also high in saturated fat. Saturated fats are used by the body for cell structure, organ protection and brain health. But too much saturated fat has been linked to the development of heart disease.

The 2025-2030 Dietary Guidelines still recommend limiting saturated fat

intake to 10% of calories consumed in order to promote heart health. For example, if you are supposed to consume 2,000 calories per day, you can consume up to 22 grams of saturated fat per day if you are not already diagnosed with heart disease. If you already have heart disease, speak with your health care team regarding more specific saturated fat restrictions.

With this in mind, foods previously labeled "high saturated fat foods" like red meat, cheese and skin-on poultry (featured at the top of the new pyramid) may be incorporated into your diet. You need to pay attention to portion size, choose lean cuts of meat, be judicious about the type of fat used during cooking and evaluate low-fat food options.

Some low-fat food options are better than others. When food manufacturers lower the amount of fat in foods, they replace the fat with something that mimics fat to maintain quality, taste and texture.

Research shows that replacing saturated fat with healthier fats (unsaturated fats) can be good for heart health. But replacing saturated fat with simple carbohydrates or salt may be worse for heart health than just leaving the saturated fat in the food.

If you do not currently have heart disease, you can consume saturated fat in moderate amounts if you desire a food pattern that includes those types of foods. It is still important to limit processed foods that are high in saturated fat, because they are typically high in other nutrients that may also contribute to heart disease (salt and added sugar in place of fat). It is also important to read the nutrition label of "low-fat" foods to make sure the manufacturer didn't trade saturated fat for a less desirable ingredient. And it remains important to incorporate unsaturated fat into your diet through fish, avocados, nuts, seeds and oils to enhance heart health.



A Show-Stopping Strawberry Snack

(Culinary.net) When you are craving something sweet, sometimes you just can't get it off your mind until you have just one bite. You need something small, delicious and something that will ease your cravings. This recipe for Chocolate Coated Strawberry Treats is not only fun to make, but will give you that perfect little snack you have been longing for.

The recipe begins with fresh strawberries and ends with a drizzle of mouthwatering peanut butter sauce. This is a great recipe for little ones looking to help out in the kitchen. These strawberries are fun to dip and even more enjoyable to devour.

This snack can also be perfect for date night, a romantic date or just a picnic in the park with friends. They are easy to transport from place to place and don't leave a huge mess behind to clean up afterwards.

It's also simple to just melt, whisk, dip and repeat. The red, ripe berries are bursting with color and the chocolate is glazed right across the top for the perfect bite.

The best part is you can be creative and dip these strawberries into a number of your favorite ingredients you already have in your pantry at home. This includes, sprinkles, small candies, white chocolate drizzle and different kinds of nuts. The possibilities are endless.

Next time you can't get chocolate off your mind, enjoy something delightful, rich and a show-stopping snack.

Find more snack recipes at Culinary.net.

Chocolate Coated Strawberry Treats

Servings: 5

- 1 1/4 baking chocolate chips
- 1/2 baking peanut butter chips
- 3 tablespoons coconut oil, divided
- 1 pound fresh strawberries
- shredded coconut
- crushed almonds

In saucepan, add baking chocolate chips and two tablespoons of coconut oil. Melt on low to medium heat and whisk until smooth.

In a small bowl, add baking peanut butter chips and 1 tablespoon of coconut oil. Microwave in 30 second in-

tervals until melted. Whisk together until smooth.

Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.

Dip all strawberries into melted chocolate. Then, dip 1/3 in coconut, 1/3 in almonds and 1/3 just chocolate and lay on tray.

Drizzle the melted peanut butter over the plain chocolate strawberries.

Put in the fridge for at least 30 minutes or until strawberry treats are chilled.

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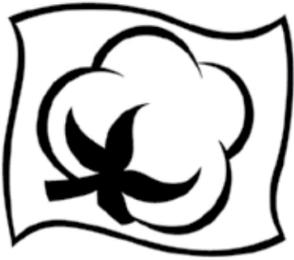
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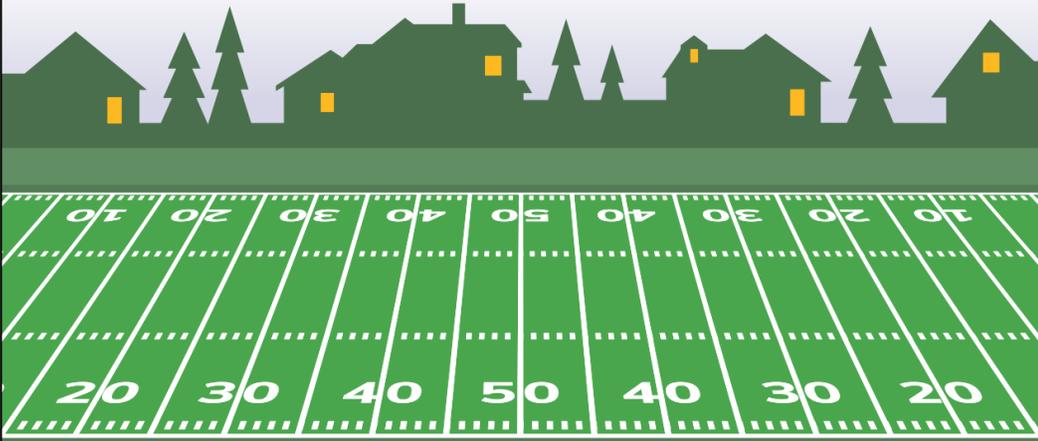
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Every Super Bowl MVP makes big plays—and you can too! Use the clues below to fill in the blanks and learn how you can help save energy at home by making smart, efficient plays. Double check your work in the answer key.



1. Spend time outdoors or unplugged to reduce your _____ time and save energy.
2. Turn off the _____ while brushing your teeth.
3. When it's cold, wear an extra layer of _____ instead of turning up the thermostat.
4. Keep doors and _____ closed when your home's heating/cooling system is turned on.
5. Unplug smaller electronics like _____ when you're not using them.
6. Turn off _____ when you leave a room.

Word Bank:
 windows
 clothing
 water
 lights
 screen
 chargers

Answer Key: 1. screen 2. water 3. clothing 4. windows 5. chargers 6. lights

OFFICIAL NOTICE
 2026 ANNUAL MEETING

WALTERS CO-OP ELEVATOR ASSN.
 WALTERS, OKLAHOMA

THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AS FOLLOWS:
 DATE: MARCH 26, 2026
 PLACE: COTTON ELECTRIC COMMUNITY ROOM
 TIME: MEAL SERVED AT 12:00 (NOON)
 BUSINESS MEETING TO FOLLOW

THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WILL BE TO ELECT TWO (2) DIRECTORS, RECEIVE THE ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT, AND CONDUCT SUCH OTHER BUSINESS AS MAY COME BEFORE THE MEMBERSHIP.

PUBLIC AUCTION

Saturday, February 14, 2026
 10:00 A.M.
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Gary Criswell Auction Service & Real Estate, Inc. has been commissioned by the Living Estate of Kathy L. Henson to offer at Public Auction her Personal Property located at 1706 Northridge Drive in Duncan, Oklahoma.
Household Furnishings: Ashley Furniture - Living Room Sofa Recliner, Double Recliner and Big Boy Chair Recliner (All Leather), Broyhill Poster Bedroom Suite, C.B. Atkin Co. Tea Cart and Wet Bar Cabinet with Curved Glass Doors.
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Preview of Public Auction: Will be held Friday afternoon, February 13, 2026 from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm.
Auctioneer's Note: This is a Large Auction with Nice Household Furnishings, Shop Equipment and Shop Tools, Glassware and Collectibles, Gary Safe (Buffalo New York), and a Large Variety of Lawn Ornaments (nice).
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Level: Advanced

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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