

What's Inside



Cotton Electric energy efficiency home evaluations benefit members
on page 8



Local medical staff inspires individuals across the world
on page 13



A spicy pork stew for cold winter days
on page 14

The Current

A Publication of Cotton Electric Cooperative Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

"The Current - Informing Our Members Since 1957"

VOLUME 66

December 12, 2022

NUMBER 4



FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS

MERRY CHRISTMAS

WISHING YOU JOY AND HAPPINESS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON AND IN THE COMING YEAR.

- THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND EMPLOYEES OF COTTON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Be prepared for winter weather this season

Heavy accumulations of ice and snow coupled with fluctuating winter temperatures can bring down utility poles, trees and limbs. This can disrupt power for days on end. With this comes a threat to property and to life itself.

In a winter storm emergency, restoring power and heat to members is the highest priority, and electric utility crews work around the clock to make it happen. Even so, it can take days to repair the devastating damage of a winter storm. If you are in the midst of storm recovery, avoid going outside if possible. Downed power lines could be submerged in snow and ice and difficult to identify. When outside, treat all downed and hanging lines as if they are energized electric lines: Stay away, warn others to stay away and immediately contact your utility company. Remember that downed power lines do not have to be arcing, sparking or moving to be live and deadly.

Cotton Electric and Safe Electricity stress the importance of being prepared for winter storms and the power outages they may cause. You need the right emergency items and knowledge to stay warm and safe in a winter storm. The following are tips to prepare your home:

- Before winter sets in, update your insulation and caulk, and install weather-strips.
- Call a professional tree trimmer to cut branches away from your home. Call us for limbs near power lines.
- Everyone, particularly families with special needs, must be prepared in case of a winter emergency and long-term power outages. Prepare an emergency kit with the following items:
 - Battery-powered radio and flashlights with fresh batteries
 - Extra blankets
 - Water for drinking and washing
 - Non-perishable food and a can opener
 - First aid kit and prescription medicines

When a storm hits, your preparation should include knowledge. The following tips from Cotton Electric and Safe Electricity can help you and your family stay safe and warm.

- Switch off lights and appliances to prevent damaging appliances and overloading circuits when power is restored. Leave one lamp or light switch on as a signal for when your power comes back on.
- To prevent water pipes from freezing, keep faucets turned on slightly so that water drips from the tap. Know how to shut off water valves in case a pipe bursts.
- Do not use charcoal grills or gas ovens to heat your home; this could lead to carbon monoxide poisoning. Stay inside and dress in warm, layered clothing.
- Close off unneeded rooms.
- When using an alternative heat source, follow operating instructions, use fire safeguards and be sure to

properly ventilate. Always keep a multipurpose, dry-chemical fire extinguisher nearby and know how to use it.

- Stuff towels and rags underneath doors to keep the heat in.
 - Cover windows at night.
 - Maintain a regular diet. Food provides the body with energy for creating its own energy.
 - Drink plenty of fluids to stay hydrated.
 - Move around to keep warm, but not enough to perspire. Perspiring causes the body to lose fluids which could potentially lead to dehydration.
 - Keep a close eye on the temperature in your home. Infants or persons over age 65 are more susceptible to the cold. You may want to stay with friends, relatives or in a shelter if you can't keep your home warm.
- Cotton Electric and Safe Electricity offer these safety tips in the hope everyone has a safe winter season.

Generator safety on page 9

STAYING SAFE DURING AN OUTAGE

We work hard to provide the most reliable service possible. Rest assured, if the power is out, we are on it!

The length of time it takes to restore your power depends on several factors, including the:

Extent of the storm's destruction	Severity of utility equipment damage	Number and extent of outages	Accessibility to damaged equipment

STAY SAFE UNTIL POWER IS RESTORED

- Stay far away and keep others away from downed power lines, which could be live and deadly.
- If you come across a downed line, immediately call 9-1-1 to report it.
- Never enter a flooded room; the water could be energized.
- If you are standing in water, do not turn on/off power or flip a switch.



Prepare for a storm by gathering these items:

	Bottles of water		Extra batteries
	Non-perishable food		Pet supplies
	Portable phone charger		Blankets
	Prescriptions		Warm clothing
	Battery-operated radio		First-aid kit
	Flashlights		Hand sanitizer

THANK YOU for your patience during outages. When the lights go off, we are working safely and efficiently to restore power. The safety of our employees, as well as those we serve, is our TOP priority.

SafeElectricity.org

Power Cost Adjustment Calculated

The power cost adjustment now being applied to bills mailed after December 1, 2022, is \$0.01987 per kWh.

On a member's average bill of 1,300 kilowatt hours (kWh), this will amount to a charge of \$25.83 on the December bill.

November 2022 Temperature Extremes

Day	High	Low	Avg.	Day	High	Low	Avg.
1	78	44	61	16	53	27	40
2	75	51	63	17	58	24	41
3	79	57	68	18	40	31	36
4	75	41	58	19	51	25	38
5	64	36	50	20	52	20	36
6	75	46	61	21	59	23	41
7	72	51	62	22	62	30	46
8	81	66	74	23	56	38	47
9	80	66	73	24	55	47	51
10	75	50	63	25	50	41	46
11	50	35	43	26	49	44	47
12	53	26	40	27	54	34	44
13	56	24	40	28	68	29	49
14	41	31	36	29	69	34	52
15	48	27	38	30	47	23	35

Source: srh.noaa.gov/oun/

Average Daily High: 61 Average Daily Low: 37

Did You Know?

Cotton Electric offices will be closed on Dec. 23 and 26 for Christmas and Jan. 2 for New Year's. Emergency calls will be answered at 580-875-3351 or 800-522-3520.

The next issue of The Current should arrive in mailboxes on Jan. 16, 2023.

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

Small change can change lives



Jennifer Meason, CEO

The holiday season is finally here. I believe it's the most wonderful season of all as we celebrate Christmas, continue our family traditions, and gather with friends and loved ones. It's also a time of giving and spreading joy.

Giving back reminds me of the many good things we have right here in our community and why it's so important to spread the good as far as we can, especially to the most vulnerable in our local area. I'm also reminded of how wonderful our community is and what a big impact we can have when we work together.

As a member of Cotton Electric, you help us spread the good throughout the year. Through our Operation Round Up program, your donations help local families, individuals and organizations in need by providing assistance to food pantries, senior citizens centers, and

schools. Funds are also donated to our local volunteer fire and police departments to purchase much needed equipment and protective gear.

When you "round up" your monthly bill from Cotton Electric and donate to this fund, you're making a big difference in someone's life. You are helping to meet an immediate, critical need, but, just as importantly, you are telling this person the community cares.

Over the years, our community-focused programs, food donations and other giving projects have supported local schools and young people, fed hungry families, enabled families in need and so much more.

Cotton electric also participates in the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, where we take our community's brightest young people to Washington, D.C., for a week-long immersion to

experience democracy in action. Ultimately, the larger community benefits from these programs because of you and your neighbors.

You've likely heard me say that the cooperative principle "concern for community" is part of Cotton Electric's mission. It defines who we are as an organization. When we first brought electricity to our communities, the quality of life improved. But other things also need to be addressed and through the years, this co-op has been at the forefront of bringing improvements to the quality of life in this community. It's why we created the Cotton Electric Charitable Foundation and the Operation Round Up program.

To date, with your help, we've given \$1.45 million back to local families and individuals through this program. Across the country, more than 350 elec-

tric co-ops have an Operation Round Up program, and together, we've raised millions for local communities. This shows that small donations from electric co-ops like ours, over time, can collectively make a big impact.

As a local cooperative, we have a stake in this community. We hope you will think of Cotton Electric as more than your energy provider, but also as a catalyst for good in our community.

I hope all of our members have a joyous holiday season. May your Christmas and New Year be merry and bright!

To learn more about Operation Round Up, visit cottonelectric.com/operation-roundup.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Blocked air vents force your heating system to work harder than necessary and increase pressure in the ductwork, which can cause cracks and leaks to form.

Make sure all air vents are unobstructed from furniture, drapes or other items to ensure sufficient circulation throughout your home. If necessary, purchase a vent extender, which can be placed over a vent to redirect air flow from underneath furniture.

Source: Energy.gov

October 2022 Operating Stats

	2022	2021
Total Amount Billed/Accrued	\$6,518,429	\$5,811,864
Cost of Purchased Power	4,486,620	5,762,214
Taxes	156,151	121,522
Total Operating Expense Per Mile	1,128	1,412
Average Farm and Residential Bill	140	131
Average Farm and Residential kWh	922	914
Total Meters Billed (farm, residential)	19,304	19,082
Miles Energized	5,388	5,217
Density Per Mile	3.58	3.66
New Service Connects YTD	491	399
Services Retired	119	138

Upcoming Deadlines for The Current

January	
Ad Sales Deadline	Dec. 30
Classified Deadline	Dec. 30
Publish Date	Jan. 16
February	
Ad Sales Deadline	Jan. 27
Classified Deadline	Jan. 27
Publish Date	Feb. 13

The Current

Published Monthly at Walters, Oklahoma
By Cotton Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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Shane Bowers..... Vice President
Paula Huckabaa.....Director
Carli Eubank.....Editor
Zach Young..... Marketing Specialist

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"Cotton Electric Current" (USPS #134-020)
is published monthly by: Cotton Electric Co-op,
226 North Broadway, Walters, OK 73572
Periodicals Postage paid at
Lawton, OK 73501-4649

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

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Energy Efficiency

Holiday décor tips for an energy-wise home

Whether you've already decked your halls or you're just getting started, there's still time to incorporate and implement energy savings into your holiday décor planning.

If you haven't strung your twinkle lights, be sure to use LED light strands. LEDs consume far less energy than incandescent lights and they can last 40 holiday seasons. They're also safer because they're made with epoxy lenses, not glass, making them more resistant to breaking—and they're cool to the touch, so no burnt fingers.

If you missed Santa's memo about energy-saving LEDs and your holiday

lights are already up, you can still save on lighting costs. All you need is a programmable light timer. Most models cost from \$10 to \$25 and can be purchased through online retailers like Amazon or at stores like ACE Hardware and Sutherlands. With a light timer, you can easily program when you want your holiday lights turned on and off. This will save you time, money and energy. If you're using a timer for exterior lighting, make sure it's weatherproof and intended for outdoor use.

If Clark Griswold's décor style is a bit much for your taste, consider a more natural approach. Many Christmas tree farms, and even retailers like

Lowe's and Home Depot, give away greenery clippings from recently trimmed trees. With a little twine, extra ornaments and ribbon, you can create garlands and wreaths to hang over your front door or windows.

To add extra twinkle at night, you can install solar-powered spotlights to illuminate your new greenery. Solar spotlights can vary in price, but you should be able to purchase a quality set of four for about \$30. They run on natural energy from the sun, so there's no additional cost to your energy bill.

Regardless of how you decorate your home for the holidays, there are plenty of ways to save energy throughout the



Heath Morgan,
Energy Efficiency
Coordinator

season. Visit Cotton Electric's website at www.cottonelectric.com/energy-efficiency for additional energy-saving tips this holiday season.



LED light strands can help increase energy savings and safety while giving your home a holiday glow.



Extra Christmas tree trimmings can create a nice wreath to showcase on your front door.



Using a programmable light timer for indoor light strands can save you time, money and energy.

Preparing for Storm Season?

DON'T FORGET TO READY YOUR CAR

According to the National Safety Council (NSC), every vehicle should have an emergency supply kit onboard. Kits should be checked twice a year and expired items should be replaced regularly. Emergency supply kits should include:



- Snowbrush
- Shovel
- Windshield washer fluid
- Cat litter for traction



- Warm clothing
- Blankets
- Drinking water
- Nonperishable foods



- Properly inflated spare tire
- Wheel wrench & tripod jack
- Jumper cables
- Fire extinguisher



- Reflective triangles
- Reflective vest
- Brightly colored cloth (to tie on side mirror)



- First-aid kit
- Flashlight and batteries
- Compass
- Car charger for cell phone

Safe Electricity.org®

Source: NSC



COTTON

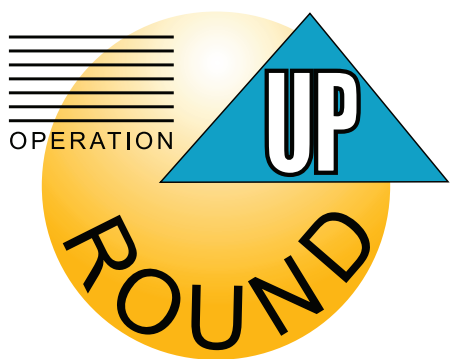
ELECTRIC CO-OP

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BUILT by our community.
SHAPED by our community.
LED by our community.

WE'RE PROUD TO POWER YOUR LIFE.





Cotton Electric Charitable Foundation

CECF announces fourth quarter grant recipients

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

Most Cotton Electric members participate in ORU, in which power bills are rounded up to the nearest dollar. The amount rounded up can be as little as 1 cent and is never more than 99 cents. On average, each participating member contributes about \$6 each year.

The funds are pooled and administered by the Cotton Electric Charitable Foundation (CECF), a board of directors who meets quarterly to consider grant applications from individuals and organizations in the area. The

board consists of Jennifer Meason, the co-op's CEO; Shan Files, president of the co-op's board of trustees; and three representatives from the Cotton Electric service area: Cindy Zelbst, Danny Marlett, Carter Waid.

The CECF board met in November to review several grant applications. Grants totaling \$29,755.00 will be distributed to 11 of the applicants. Third quarter grant recipients include:

- Beautiful Day Foundation
- Chattanooga Fire and Rescue
- Family Promise of Lawton
- Grandfield Volunteer Fire Department
- Horace Mann Elementary (Duncan)
- Indianhoma Fire Department
- Marlow Elementary School

- United Methodist Women (Duncan)
- Velma Fire Department
- Walters Volunteer Fire Department
- Waurika EMS District Association

First-quarter applications for next year are due Feb. 14, 2023. The board of directors for CECF will meet again in February to review applications for the quarter.

CECF grant guidelines and applications can be downloaded on our website at www.cottonelectric.com/grant-applications and can be submitted by email to paula@cottonelectric.com or by mail to our office at 226 N. Broadway, Walters, OK 73572.

Beautiful Day Foundation	\$1,600 for children's books
Chattanooga Fire and Rescue	\$3,865 for wildland firefighting PPE
Family Promise of Lawton	\$750 for obtaining documentation for homeless families
Grandfield Volunteer Fire Department	\$3,400 for wildland masks with filters
Horace Mann Elementary (Duncan)	\$500 for student lunch balances
Indianhoma Fire Department	\$5,000 for generator
Marlow Elementary School	\$3,000 for smartboard and tablets
United Methodist Women (Duncan)	\$1,500 for Blessing Box support
Velma Fire Department	\$5,000 for replacement of HVAC system
Walters Volunteer Fire Department	\$2,500 for bunker and wildland gear
Waurika EMS District Association	\$2,640.00 for radio units

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Local agencies provide weatherization services to low-income rural residents and businesses

Making your home as energy-efficient as possible can give you measurably lower electric bills. Adjusting the thermostat, turning off lights and unplugging appliances when not in use are simple things anyone can do to save money. But for some energy-efficiency improvements, like attic insulation or weather stripping, there is an up-front investment not every person can afford.

That's where the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) can help. WAP is funded through the U.S. Department of Energy to local nonprofits. The program conducts energy evaluations and weatherization solutions at no cost for qualifying recipients.

Who is eligible?

- Any household below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.
- Eligibility is determined on income, but priority will be given to senior citizens, differently abled, and families with children.
- Homeowners and rentals can apply but

renters must have the landlord's permission for the home to be weatherized, and 66% of the building will need to be enrolled in fuel/electric assistance.

- If your home has been weatherized by the WAP after September 1994 it cannot be weatherized again.

- Homeowners must apply for the house of their main residence.

If a residence is eligible, professionals will complete an energy assessment through data collection to input into an energy audit software program to generate customized results for energy saving measures for that home.

What type of weatherization services are available?

- Energy conservation measures, such as weather stripping, furnace repair/replacement, air sealing, wall/attic insulation, and more
- Indoor air-quality safety measures, such as carbon-dioxide leak detection, venting correction, and more health and safety measures.

If interested in applying for the WAP, contact local agencies at their office numbers or visit their websites listed to the right.

Another program available to households is an USDA Rural Development grant named Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvement.

The USDA grant reimburses up to 25% of total eligible project costs for rural small businesses in areas where population is 50,000 or less and for agricultural producers with at least 50% of gross income coming from agricultural operations.

If your application is accepted and funds are available, funds may be used for the installation of energy efficiency improvements, such as high efficiency HVAC systems, lighting, insulation, and more.

If interested in applying for the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvement grant, contact

your local USDA agency. The list of Oklahoma USDA Rural Development contacts can be found at www.rd.usda.gov/contactpage/oklahoma-contacts. More information can also be found on their website at www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services.

Residents can apply for both programs if needed. For more information about these programs, visit their websites or call their offices at the information listed to the right.

Locally, the Great Plains Improvement Foundations provides weatherization services for Comanche County, and Community Action Development Corporation does so for Caddo, Cotton, Grady, Jefferson, Stephens and Tillman counties. Carter County is served by LIFT Community Action Agency.

To learn more about making your home more energy-efficient, visit our website at www.cottonelectric.com/energy-efficiency.

OKLAHOMA WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

www.okcommerce.gov/weatherization
Kayla Cornett, 405-215-6240

CADDO, COTTON, GRADY, JEFFERSON, STEPHENS, TILLMAN COUNTIES

COMMUNITY ACTION DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
www.cadconnections.com/weatherization
Robert Meador, 580-335-5588

CARTER COUNTY

LIFT COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY INC.
www.liftca.org
Terry Wren, 580-326-3351

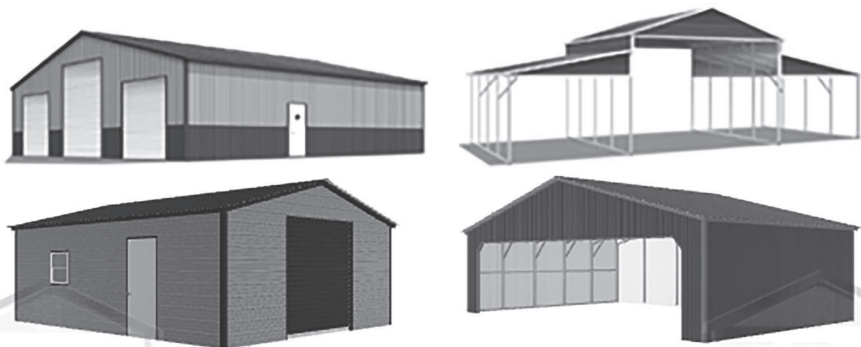
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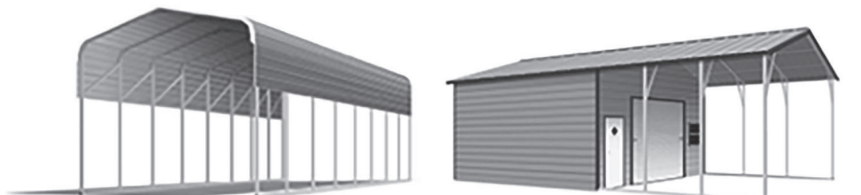
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Merry Christmas from all of us
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Cotton Electric seeks addresses for returned capital credit checks

CEC capital credit checks totalling \$1,478,580.19 were issued recently to people and businesses.

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

A share of the capital credits was allocated among active and inactive members and a check was mailed to the latest known valid address for the member. Checks addressed to members listed here were returned to the cooperative because of incorrect or insufficient addresses.

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

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

A

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Abbott, Zachary
Absher, Lewis O III
Abshire, Ron
Acrey, Ralston
Adams, Rose
Adams, Stacy
Adams, John
Aderholt, Brandi
Aguilar, Jose
Albertson, Devera
Alexander, L T
Alexander, Leon
Alford, Sharon
Allen, R
Allen, Thorsten
Almanza, Raymond
Alvarez, Cabrina
Alvarez, Francis
Alvey, James
Anderson, Dustin
Anderson, Holly
Anderson, Melanie
Anderson, Robert
Anderson, Arla
Anderson, Phil
Andrews, Berta
Antwine, Danny
Ara, James
Arbuckle, A J
Armstrong, Cristy
Armstrong, Misti
Arnett, Thomas
Arnold, Walter
Arter, Rodger
Ashcraft, Lois
Askins, Zack
Atwood, Dorothy
Autrey, Megan
Avants, Karley

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Bagley, Dana
Baird, Jennifer
Baird, Guy
Baker, Barbara
Baker, Michael
Bamburg, Roger
Barbe, Jerry
Barber, Melvin
Barger, Keely
Barker, Lauren
Barnard, Ronnie
Barron, Jorge
Bartlett, Walter
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Baxter, Leo
Beaird, Paula
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Beavers, Larry JR
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Beckham, Edith
Beckman, Kevin
Belless, Jerry
Bench, Colton
Bennett, Mitchell
Benson, Jennifer
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Berend, Aracely
Bermdsen, Leo
Berry, Charlie
Berry, Jack
Berry, Wendell
Biggs, Tom
Biggs, Kathy
Biggs, Charles
Bishop, Joshua
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Bivings, Sharon
Bivins, Russell
Blackwell, Billy
Blanton, Misty
Bleer, Benjamin
Blum, Gracie
Blundell, Ryan
Bohl, Medreath
Bohot, Debbie
Boley, Melissa
Bolin, Ronnie
Bond, Dillon
Bookout, Garrett
Boone, Tim
Boone, Dale
Borden, Dustin
Borra, Rachel
Bouisri, Shirley

Bourland, Ewell
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Briggs, Robert
Brinson, David
Brock, James
Brock, Dennis
Brothers, H
Brown, Traci
Brown, William
Brown, Bobby
Brown, Daniel
Brown, Lee
Brown, Raymond
Brown, Tesa
Brown, Toni
Brown, Barney
Brown, Tammye
Browning, Janet
Bruner, Jerry
Bruner, Brent
Buben, Jane
Bullard, Don
Burdette, R
Burgess, Christopher
Burk, Jiggs
Burkham, Kevin
Burkhardt, Edward
Burnam, Mark
Burns, Randy
Burrow, Lillian
Burton, Paul
Busse, Randy
Butler, Randy
Butler, Jonathon

C

Cady, Miriah
Cady, Shelly
Cain, Mark
Calfy, B J
Calvert, Beverly
Cameron, Michael
Campbell, Sue
Campbell, Jesseca
Campbell, Connie
Cannon, Ron
Cannon, Jan
Carl, Richard
Carlisle, Bobby
Carlson, Marilyn
Carlucci, Cheryl
Carlyn, Beverly
Carmany, Charles
Carpenter, Forrest
Carr, W
Carroll, Christy
Carter, Jerry
Cary, George
Castleberry, Kristi
Cathay, James
Cecil, J
Chamberlain, Dennis
Champ, Craig
Chandler, Walter
Chandler, JD
Charleson, Sherry
Chasteen, W A
Chavez, William
Cheek, Leon
Chibitty, Kyle
Chibitty, Rachelle
Childress, Lloyd
Christensen, Lorena
Christian, Betty
Clampitt, Chuck
Clark, Brent
Clark, Ronald
Clark, Rosemarie
Clark, Calvin
Clark, Betty
Clark, Noel
Clayborn, Mark
Clayton, Kathleen

Clements, Jennifer
Clowser, Jerry
Cobb, R Grag
Cochran, William
Cochrane, Larry
Coffee, Wayne
Cohee, Betsy
Cohn, Edward
Cole, Louise
Cole, C L
Collier, Marshall
Conley, Brittany
Coody, Homer
Cooke, James
Cooper, Marcia
Cooper, Michael
Copeland, Meguel
Cordes, Edmund
Cornelius, Tim
Courtright, Oma
Cox, Alton
Cox, Jimmy
Cox, Ryan
Craddock, Ronda
Craven, Michael
Cravens, Shera
Crawford, Sigrid
Creed, Mamie
Crow, Joyce
Crow, Steven
Crowder, Esther
Crump, Jack
Cruz, Alejandro
Cuddeback, Owen
Cullison, Jennifer
Culp, Greg
Cunningham, Jeffrey
Cunningham, John
Curtsinger, Homer
Cyrus, Onita

D

Dahl, Jeff
Daily, Lena
Dalrymple, Scott
Davenport, Jessica
Davis, Stella
Dawson, Clarene
Dean, Joyce
Deats, Bobby
Dees, Marvin
Deevers, Mark
Deguzman, Jonathan
Delano, Jerri
Dempsey, Richard
Dennis, Barbara
Devine, Todd
Deyoung, John
Dickerson, Deana
Dickerson, Charles
Diffie, Flora
Dillon, James
Dillon, Nancy
Dismukes, Doris
Dixon, Shirley
Dobbs, Joseph
Dodge, Robert
Dodson, Betty
Domstead, Bill
Donahue, Thomas
Dorsey, Matt
Doty, Duane
Doughty, Mary
Douma, Dean
Doyle, Paul
Driver, Bessie
Due, James
Duggins, Donna
Dumos, William
Duncan, Dick
Dunlap, Charles
Dunlap, A
Dunn, Burl
Dunn, Courtney
Dunn, J M
Durkin, Stephani
Dye, Raymond
Dye, Dustin
Dyer, Chad
Dyer, Charles
Dyer, John

E

Eason, Rodney
Eastland, Leroy
Edge, Jeanie
Edgley, Kevin
Edison, Ronnie
Edwards, David
Elam, David
Elder, Hank
Elkins, Gene
Elliott, Phyllis
Elrod, Jeremy
Ennis, Cloyed
Epp, Randy

Espinoza, Taylor
Estep, Brandon
Estes, Rufe

F

Farris, Sherry
Fearing, Rebecca
Fehring, B
Felipe, Duke
Fenton, Larry
Ferguson, Timothy
Ferreira, Ken
Fields, Clint
Fife, Judy
Fitzgerald, Wilma
Fletcher, David E
Fletcher, Zachary
Floyd, Shelley
Floyd, Dale
Fogle, James
Follis, Lisa
Ford, Paul
Fore, Vesta
Foreman, B M
Forgy, Ronald
Forney, James
Fourhorn, Junior
Fowler, Chris
France, Michael
Freeman, Natalie
Freeman, Renee
Frey, Arthur
Frizzell, Joseph
Frizzell, Charlene
Frye, Carmon
Fryer, Steven
Fulkerson, Melissa
Fuller, Wylie
Funkhouser, W
Funkhouser, Steven

G

Gallegos, Gabriel
Garabito, Gina
Garcia, Peter
Gardenhire, R
Garrett, Donald
Garrett, Harley
Garrett, Addie
Garrison, Wilmer
Garza, Ray
Gatewood, Connie
Gavin, Herbert
Gembacz, Randy
Gerken, Jerry
Gerit, Garnett
Ghere, Joe
Gibbon, Laramie
Givens, Rex
Gleason, Linda
Golden, Frank
Gonzalez, Edgar
Goodman, Cindy
Goodrich, Katrina
Gordon, Chris
Gorrell, Heather
Gowan, Jana
Grant, C W
Grant, Shaun
Grantham, Jimmy
Gray, Joe
Green, Ron
Green, Cecilia
Green, Hubert
Green, Rufus
Greenwood, Kempton
Griffin, Flake
Griffin, Goldena
Griffith, Kelly
Griggs, Eddie
Grim, Jeff
Grooms, Ed
Grother, Gwenda
Grubbs, David
Guerrero-Ruiz, Juan
Guevara, Lindsay
Guidry, Jon
Gurr, Leigh

H

Hagan, Allison
Hagle, Harvey
Hagood, Lindell
Hale, Tony
Hale, Vincent
Hales, Connie
Hall, Tara
Halligan, Matthew
Hamm, Dustin
Hammack, B
Hammond, Jerry
Hammond, Lanelle
Hampton, Cathy
Hampton, Sara

Handy, Matthew
Hannabass, Nicole
Hannington, George
Hanson, Pete
Hardage, Carlusue
Hardin, Thomas
Hardy, Michael
Hargraves, Kori
Harp, Bobbie
Harper, Mark
Harrington, Billy
Harris, Kenny
Harrison, Bessie
Harrop, Jacqueline
Hartzell, Rhonda
Hawkins, Becky
Hayes, Edith
Hayes, Joe
Haynes, Kenneth
Haynes, John
Hazen, Jerrie
Headley, Clyde
Heard, Robin
Heater, Jennie
Hector, Willard
Hedrick, Marianne
Hegwood, Sunny
Heilaman, Chris
Heman, Minnie
Hemphill, Goldie
Henandez, Oscar
Henderson, Donald
Henderson, Joe
Hendricks, Larry K II
Henry, Stephany
Henshaw, Howard
Henson, Kenneth
Henson, Mary
Hernandez, Carrie
Hertzler, Marilyn
Hestand, Billy Jr
Hewett, Howard
Hickman, M
Hightower, Don
Hightower, Betty
Hilburn, Bob
Hilliary, Kenneth
Hilmer, Rick
Hiner, Chris
Hines, Les
Hines, Jimmy
Hodges, Carl
Hodges, Sylvia
Hogan, Billy
Hogstad, Kelli
Holcomb, Dorothy
Holdbrook, Don
Holland, Tommy
Holland, Eldon
Holley, Kimberly
Hood, L
Hooser, Kendra
Horne, Preston
Hornsby, Patrick
Hossain, Tahzeeba
Housh, David
Howard, E
Howard, Kenneth
Howard, Jack
Howell, Arnold
Howell, Johnny
Howell, Cathy
Hudson, Stephanie
Huggins, Keith
Hull, Jo
Hulme, Greg
Humble, E
Hunkapiller, Susan
Hurley, Brenda
Hurst, Mindy
Hurst, G N
Husband, Jerry
Hutchinson, John
Hutto, A

I

Ibarra, Artemio
Ibit, Neville
Inman, James

J

Jackson, Ronnie
Jackson, Sammy
Jackson, O
Jackson, Nathan
Jackson, Jeral
Jackson, Corey
Jackson, Russell
James, John
James, Marlene
Jarvis, Henry
Jenkins, James
Jennings, Jimmie
Jennings, Lee
Jensen, Michele

Johnson, Jay
Johnson, James
Johnson, Kenneth
Johnson, Bart
Johnson, Dewey
Johnson, Linda
Johnson, Deborah
Jones, Harold
Jones, Kimmi
Jones, Meagan
Jones, Robin
Jones, Roma
Jones, Frank
Jones, Ann
Jones, Connie
Jones, Connie R.
Jones, Dick
Jones, Margaret
Jost, Karl
Julian, Michelle
Jump, Ezekiel

K

Kanehl, Sharlet
Kays, Jeff
Kearby-Witherell, Racheal
Keatley, Brandon
Keck, Marlen
Keechi, Matthew
Keeling, April
Kelley, Marjorie
Kemfort, Christopher
Kenyon, Heath
Kerns, F
Kerns, Ryan
Kilcrease, Bill
Kimble, Rodney
Kimes, Brina
Kimmel, Tony
Kimrey, Janis
King, Kent
King, Chuck
King, Della
King, Minnie
King, Gregory Jr.
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Kohout, Gary
Kolker, Paul
Kowena, Gary
Krachinsky, Leslie
Kriesel, Jennifer
Kriss, E
Kuller, Colleen
Kursezewski, Robert

L

Lamb, Curtis
Lambert, Ronny
Lancaster, Donald
Lance, Joe
Landers, Sarah
Langley, Kevin
Laquey, T
Larrabee, Marvin
Larsen, Russell
Laudick, Lester
Leatherwood, Christi
Lee, Larry
Lee, Chris
Leisenring, Tobias
Leitzbach, Frank
Lemley, Michael
Lemons, Ronald
Leslie, Charlie
Lewis, Floyd
Lewis, Larry
Lightfoot, Brown
Lindem, Chandra
Lindesmith, Leon
Lindsey, Bruce
Livingston, Wayne
Locke, Richard
Locke, Janice
Locke, L D
Lockwood, Lewis
Loftie, Harold
Lohr, Frederick Jr
Long, Charlotte
Long, Emmett
Longacre, Greg
Lorentz, Heather
Louis, Keith
Louthen, Robert
Love, Jeanetta

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

Loyd, Thera
Lucas, Stephanie
Lutz, Paul
Lyles, Deona
Lynch, Ricky D JR
Lynch, W
Lynn, Butch
Lytle, Sarah

Mitrovich, Saundra
Moen, Tim
Mooney, John
Moore, Michael
Moore, Donna
Moore, Gary
Moore, Daryl
Morgan, Maryann
Morgan, Terri
Morgan, Glenneta
Morris, Cory
Morris, Kathy (Colo)
Morris, Kathy (Okla)
Morrow, Mike
Morse, Diane
Morton, Julie
Moser, James
Moss, Randy
Moss, Clifford
Mouser, Donnie
Mouser, Patrick
Mulkins, Paul
Murphee, Haskell
Murphy, Blane
Murphy, Katherine
Myers, Urcel

N
Nabors, Jimmie
Nalley, Catherine
Neal, Robert
Neeld, W T
Neil, Tanya
Neill, Gean
Neito, Feliciana
Nelson, Tina
Nelson, Peggy
Nelson, Shawn
Neugebauer, Brian
Newcomb, Leroy Jr
Newman, Jennifer
Newman, Willie
Newman, O
Newman, Melody
Newsom, Jamie
Newsome, Max
Nichols, Tom
Nichols, Eugene
Norris, Glenn
Nottingham, David
Null, Brandon
Null, Nell
Nutt, Don

O
Ogle, Amanda
O'Gorman, Lilit
Oholorogg, Dana
O'Kelley, Katy
Oliver, Norman
O'Neal, Jo
O'Neal, Lacey
Ostwald, George
Overstreet, Deborah
Owen, Cindy

P
Padgett, Melvin
Page, Billy
Palmer, Teresa
Palu, Teresa
Parker, Dewey
Parker, Jessica
Parker, Chuck
Parker, Joshua
Parkhurst, Philip
Parks, Glyna
Parks, Holly
Parnell, Suzanne
Parris, Brandi
Patterson, Ronnie
Patterson, Deanna
Patterson, Timothy
Peacock, David
Pearsall, Travis
Peavler, Ronald
Peck, Ricky
Penland, Nellie
Pennycuff, John
Percival, Claude
Perez, Pedro
Perez, Paul
Persell, Nathan
Person, Joseph E JR

Peterson, Richelle
Peterson, Pamela
Peterson, Janet
Peterson, Kevin
Pettie, Shanna
Pettijohn, Natalia
Pharaoh, Shannon
Phillips, Josh
Picarella, Theresa
Pickens, Margie
Pierson, Clarence
Pillow, Bobby
Pippin, Brittany
Pirtle, Mike
Pitts, David
Plemons, Rebecca
Pleshman, Dorothy
Poage, Allen
Poahway, Nestler
Poff, Justin
Pollack, Rodney
Pontoni, Gianna
Portas, Philip
Porter, Sonny
Powell, Donna
Powers, Abigail
Powers, Jesse
Poynter, Michael
Pratt, Richard
Presgrove, Kaley
Priest, Ralph
Pritchard, Allyson
Proffitt, Sheila
Provencher, Wendy
Pulis, Kassi
Pulis, Deborah
Purvis, Daniel
Puryear, Gary
Putzer, Charles Jr.
Pyles, Cindy

Q
Quetone, Guy

R
Rader, Jason
Rainbolt, Ricky L II
Raney, Jonathan
Rawlings, Lisa
Reames, Jeremy
Reamey, Lisa
Reams, Diana
Reed, Steven
Reed, Tina
Reed, Doyle
Reeder, Amalie
Reeve, Race
Reinlein, Stephen
Renfro, James
Reser, Chris
Reynolds, Tayler
Rhoads, Clarence
Rhodes, Celina
Rhone, Shirley
Rice, Gregory B JR
Rice, Nora
Richardson, Ann
Richardson, William
Riddles, Charles
Riddles, Sandy
Riley, Mona
Riley, V R
Riley, Jerry
Rippetoe, Ricky
Ritter, H
Rivera, Alfred
Roach, Jan
Roat, Diane
Robbins, Jack
Roberts, Loyd
Roberts, Yvonne
Roberts, Larry
Robertson, Junior
Robinson, Gladys
Robinson, Jim
Robinson, W
Robinson, Beverly
Rochell, Brad
Rockwood, Joshua
Rodgers, Christina
Rodgers, Margaret
Rodgers, Mary
Rogers, Katherine
Rogers, Kathalyn

Romero, Joseph
Rosario, Jose
Ross, Jamie
Rowell, Billy
Rowland, Todd
Rubalcava, Jennifer
Ruberti, Christina
Russell, Shawn
Rutledge, Jennifer

S
Sain, Ruby
Saiz, Harriett
Salasar, Jose
Sanders, James
Sanders, Nona
Sanders, Kenneth
Sandland, Lois
Sanner, Bonnie
Sarafis, Nicolle
Saupitty, Theresa
Savage, Sandra
Schaffhauser, William
Schlein, Gina
Schneider, Brittany
Schoen, Otto
Schram, E
Schreiber, Scott
Schrick, Daniel
Schulz, Robert
Schumann, Rikki
Schwab, Sandra
Schwenn, Robert
Scott, Lincoln
Scott, Christy
Scott, Dawn
Secrest, Misti
Seidler, Cindy
Self, Joe
Sellers, Carl
Sellers, Donna
Sellman, Marissa
Sergent, Alfred
Sessums, Larry
Sessums, Elizabeth
Sevier, Leon I JR
Seymour, Colton
Shaddock, Glenn
Shea, Ashlyn
Shealy, Andrew
Shelton, Duane
Shirel, Rodney
Sigler, Gerta
Simmons, Jim
Simon, Jeffrey
Simon, Al
Simpson, A
Simpson, Becky
Singleton, Jimmy
Sisson, David
Skinner, Billy
Skinner, Richard
Slater, Chance
Small, Paul
Smallwood, Bennie
Smallwood, Eddie
Smiddy, Courtney
Smith, Autem
Smith, Fred
Smith, G
Smith, Janet
Smith, Kenya
Smith, Sara
Smith, Oscar
Smith, Michael
Smith, Lanier
Smith, Marty
Smith, Iva
Smith, Terry
Smith, Lionel
Smith, Truman
Smith, Billy
Smith, Johnny
Smith, Wayne
Smith, Jennifer
Snare, Jerry
Snelgrove, Michael
Snow, Ricky
Snyder, Nehemiah
Spake, Eric
Spangenberg, Peter
Spangler, Sarah
Sparks, William
Sparrows, Stacia

Spaulding, Mike
Spencer, Johnny
Spicer, Madeline
Spitz, Alfred
Spriggs, Petra
Stamper, Donald
Stapleton, Kathern
Staton, Adrienne
Stauffer, Jimmy
Stauffer, Frankie
Staver, Michael
Steed, Warren
Steinmeier, Pearl
Stewart, Charles
Stowers, Sheila
Strickland, Lyle
Strickland, Virgel
Stringfellow, Dakotah
Stringfellow, Shanea
Stuart, Robert
Stuart, Bethany
Stuckey, Boyd L JR
Stuever, George
Stulir, Joe
Sudberry, Virginia
Sullivan, Amber
Sullivan, Alicia
Surratt, J
Sutton, Jerry
Swann, Hazel
Swanson, Ewell
Sweeney, William
Sweet, Frank
Sylvester, Jeremy

T
Tack, Erika
Tanzi, Juli
Tarpley, Erin
Taylor, Charles
Taylor, Jerry
Taylor, H
Taylor, John
Teakell, Justin
Tedford, Florence
Teed, Frances
Teeters, F
Tenbrink, Lea
Tevebaugh, Amanda
Thacker, Robert
Thomas, Gary
Thomas, Teddy
Thomas, Robert
Thomas, R
Thompson, Alvin
Thompson, Terry
Thurman, Randy
Tibbets, Zane
Tiegs, Rochelle
Tillman, Amanda
Tinsley, Jeremy
Tipton, Robert
Tisdell, Tonja
Tissychy, Luzette
Tomlinson, R
Tomlinson, Kollin
Toney, Gloria
Towell, Jenny
Townsend, Barry
Travis, Don
Truong, Tung
Trusty, Kenneth
Tucker, Eleanor
Tugman, Julia
Turner, Patricia
Turner, Kay
Turner, Juan
Tyner, E Anthony
Tyree, Richard
Tyson, Bertha

U
Upshaw, Tom
Ussery, Lisa

V
Valencia, Tony
Valenz, Alexander
VanBlaricum, Josandra
Vanbuskirk, Royce
Vanhouten, Michelle
Varner, Doug
Vaughns, Christopher II
Vaught, Robert

Villanueva, Tammy
Vowels, Lisa

W
Waechter, Matthew
Wagnon, James
Wahnee, Bessie
Wahnee, Wayne
Waldroup, Allan
Walker, Bryan
Walters, Amanda
Wampler, Carrolyn
Wampler, Flora
Ward, Jimmy
Ward, Carrie
Ward, Robert
Ware, Paul
Wark, Bruce Jr.
Warren, Johnny
Warren, Leory
Watkins, Shirley
Watson, Jill
Watts, Joseph
Way, Dennis
Weaver, Shirley
Webb, Cynthia
Webster, Wesley
Welch, Brenda
Wells, Larry
Wells, David
Wesner, Scott
West, Shanna
Whaley, Jeff
Whedbee, Albert
Wheeler, Michael
Whisler, Caroline
White, Matthew
White Pigeon, Alan
Whitehead, Judy
Whitehead, Jennifer
Whitmore, C
Whitney, Larry
Wickware, Steve
Widenhouse, Randall
Wiedeman, Edith
Wiggins, Jerome
Willcox, Mark
Williams, Alvin
Williams, Christi
Williams, Don
Williams, Calvin
Williams, Marilyn
Williams, Tandy
Williamson, Bessie
Willis, Jerry
Wilson, Ginger
Wilson, James
Wilson, Kathy
Wilson, Lee
Wilson, Tonya
Wilson, Bennie
Wilson, Harvey
Winter, Edwin
Witham, David
Witt, Jeffrey
Wynninger, D
Wolverton, Janice
Womack, Jessica
Wood, Dennis
Wood, Stanley
Wood, Billie
Woods, Marty
Woodson, Nancy
Wortham, Jeff
Wright, Zachary
Wright, Jace
Wright, Michelle
Wright, Alysha

Y
Yandell, Scott
Yandell, Jeri
Yeabrough, Aquarion
Yeahquo, Carl
Yocum, Larry
York, Duane
Young, Walter
Youngblood, Jack
Younger, James

Z
Zachary, Juanita
Zamarripa, Jose

Businesses

To claim a capital credit check for a business, we require a Federal ID number.

AP R Wild Horse TR	FBI Cattle Co	Lippert Brothers Const	Sunray DX Oil CO
Barr Energy LLC	Glenmar Company	Mangum Oil and Gas	T&W Oil and Gas LLC
Blue Sky Outdoor Advertising	Grace Chapel Pentecostal Church	McFall and McFall	Taubert and Steed
Bridges Realty	Graceway Baptist Church	Meek's Auto Sales	Tide West Oil Co
Carol Glenn Dba Nichols Drive Inn	Harris Corporation	Noram Gas Transmission CO	Total Pipeline Inc
Centerpoint Energy Gas Transmission	Hennesee Building Inc	Observation Point Guest House LLC	Trans OK LLC
Centerpoint Gas Transmission	High Sierra Crude Oil	OSU-UML	Troy's Sandblasting LLC
Chaparral Energy LLC	High Sierra Transportation	Partners for Rural Development	Truluck Enterprises
Choice Wireless Amerilink	High Sierra Water Serv Midcontinent	Placer Oil CO	Two Star Petroleum CO
Cline's Store	Homco Int Inc	RC-LK Cattle CO	Union Pac Resources CO
Coastal Plains Energy	J & J Oil CO	Red River Air Inc	Valley Butane and Propane
Com Tel-Choice Wireless	J and S Oil Company	Samson Resources CO	VBLC INC
Comtel PCS Mainstreet LP	Joe's Auto Salvage	Sentry International	VFW Post 1192
Crown Central Petro Corp	Ken's Construction	Sojourner's Gate	W & B Oil
E O G Resources Inc	Koetter Farm Acct	South 81 Plaza Inc	Wood Land & Cattle CO
Enable Oklahoma Interstate Trans LLC	Krystal Lund Photography	Spur Industrial	WT Robinson & Sons Trucking
F Grant Realtors	Landis Welding	Sun Oil Co	
Fairview Baptist Mission	LDS Church	Sunoco Logistics Partners LP	

Cotton Electric energy efficiency home evaluations benefit members

Cotton Electric employees work to serve our members and provide excellent member service. One of the many ways the co-op is there for our membership is through energy efficiency home evaluations.

Energy evaluations are conducted by Cotton Electric Energy Efficiency Coordinator Heath Morgan at no charge for our members. Whether it's a question concerning energy costs, installing new equipment or appliances, or adding on to your home, Morgan will provide members the most energy efficient improvement options for your home.

Whenever you schedule an energy efficiency home evaluation, Morgan studies the structure's energy history to help members decide how they can improve their home's energy efficiency.

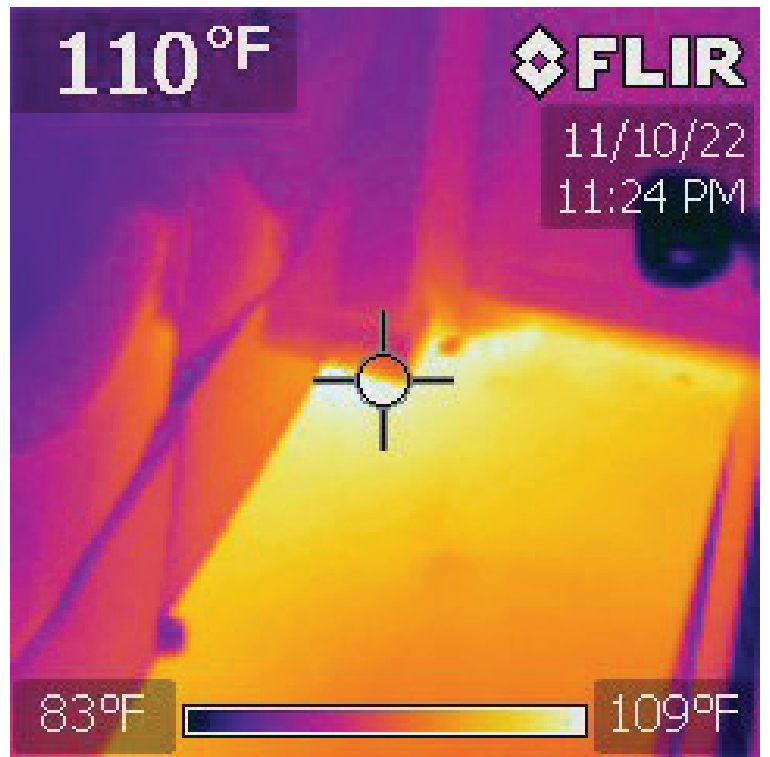
During an evaluation, Morgan meticulously measures and inspects different areas of your home where heat and air could be leaking, such as the attic, windows, floors, insulation, and more.

After conducting an evaluation, Morgan discusses his calculations and improvement options members can implement to increase their home's energy efficiency. Members will also receive a

report of the results from the energy evaluation.

A Cotton Electric member recently reached out to the co-op after receiving energy bills higher than usual. After Morgan analyzed the billing history, he checked the structure's current efficiency on-site. He checked the windows and doors for any leaks, the heating and air conditioning unit for any issues, the attic for proper insulation, and more. The previous areas didn't raise any concerns for Morgan, but he soon noticed the water heater was running more than it should.

Morgan investigated the water heater equipment more in depth and discovered the water heater was leaking under the foundation of the house. When he looked more into the rooms on the other side of the water heater closet, there was a significant increase in the room's temperature. When Morgan analyzed the flooring with a thermal imaging device, the area of the leak was detected and found to be heating a corner of the floor at more than 100 F (pictured above).



A thermal imaging device detects a high increase in temperature on the floor indicating the location of the leak. Photo courtesy of Heath Morgan.

The calculation of what the water heater was costing the member closely matched the increase in the bill, leading Morgan to conclude this was the issue behind the jump in energy usage.

After Morgan finished the energy evaluation, he thoroughly explained the results to the member and recommended improvements for the leak.

When members schedule energy evaluations with Cotton Electric Cooperative, they will receive excellent member service from an expert on ways to improve their home's energy efficiency.

For questions or to schedule an energy efficiency home evaluation, please call 580-875-3351. To learn more visit www.cottonelectric.com/energy-efficiency.



Cotton Electric Energy Efficiency Coordinator Heath Morgan checks attic insulation and efficiency. Photo by Carli Eubank.

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Fuel your knowledge before powering up a generator

Before you grab your portable generator to use it for backup power, there are important lifesaving safety steps you should know. It is best to familiarize yourself with how to use a generator properly before needing one.

Before powering up a portable generator, be sure to do the following:

1. Check carbon monoxide (CO) detectors. Protect yourself and those you love by making sure there are battery-operated CO testers in

your home that are working properly and have fresh batteries installed.

2. Read the instructions carefully. Many people are tempted to skip this step, but incorrectly using a generator can cause CO poisoning, which is often deadly. These are instructions you should take the time to read.

3. Know how to use a portable generator properly. Operate generators at least 20 feet from doors and windows and never use one in any type

of enclosed structure, such as a garage, shed or tent. If your RV has a generator, make sure to operate it safely to avoid CO poisoning.

4. Keep it dry. If it is raining or snowing, position it under a portable canopy (but not under a carport).

5. Keep utility workers and others safe. Never plug a portable generator into a wall outlet. Never use a permanent generator without throwing the transfer switch. Doing either of these things can cause

dangerous backfeed into the power grid.

6. Make sure the transfer switch is endorsed by a reputable testing laboratory, such as UL, and that the installation meets all applicable electrical codes.

7. Plug items directly into a portable generator and use heavy-duty extension cords that are in good working condition and are the correct gauge. The lower the gauge number and the thicker the cord, the more electricity it

can safely carry; refer to the owner's manual for specifics. Do not plug one extension cord into another.

8. Let the generator cool down before refueling. Also, store fuel safely.

9. Keep the equipment well maintained and have it inspected regularly.

To learn more about safe generator use and electrical safety in general, visit SafeElectricity.org or www.cottonelectric.com/safety.

Source: SafeElectricity

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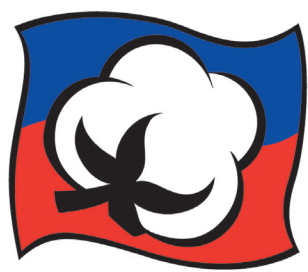



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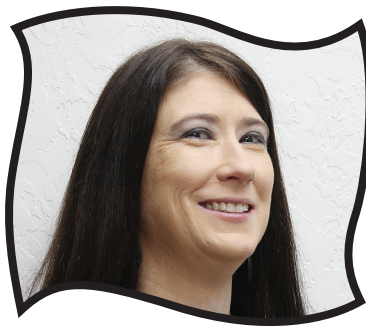


Co-op Life

It's a year-end tradition at Cotton Electric to honor board members and employees for their years of service.



Clint Ingram
20 years



Ashley Shortt
20 years



Vickie Smith
20 years



Braylin Dowlen
5 years



Tony High
5 years



Keeton Sallee
5 years

Employees recognized for their commitment to safe service



Safety is ingrained in everything we do at Cotton Electric Cooperative. It's even in the co-op's mission statement:

to "safely deliver reliable and affordable power."

As Cotton's Safety and Loss Control Director, Hooper coordinates all safety policies, procedures and training. His focus on safety is echoed by CEO Jennifer Meason and supported by the cooperative's board of trustees.

"Some may say it's keeping the lights on, but I say safety is job number one for everybody at the co-op," said Jarrod Hooper.

Providing electric service requires equipment ranging from computer keyboards to large digging augers. About 90 Cotton Electric employees

carry out tasks as varied as pushing reams of old documents into a paper shredder to riding a bucket 60 feet in the air to repair a high-voltage line.

Every piece of equipment and every task presents a potential accident, yet Cotton Electric employees have a pretty good record of safe work that extends over quite a bit of time.

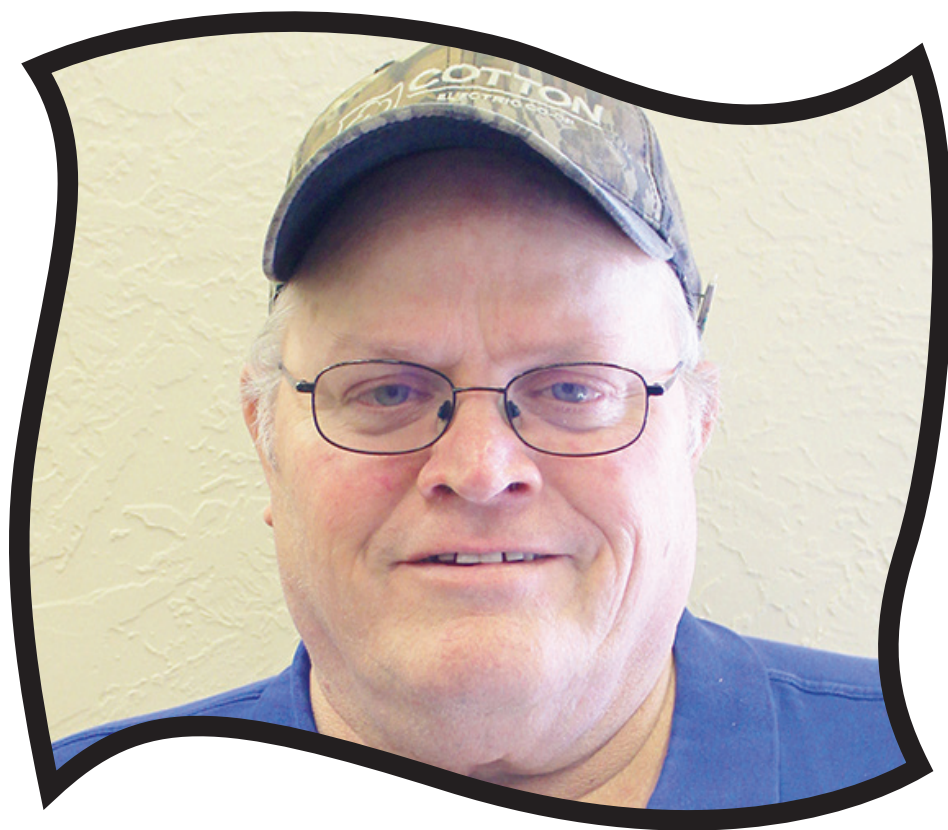
That is an important accomplishment, so important that once a year the co-op recognizes the employees whose safe work records have passed five-year increments.

In 2022, 15 Cotton employees achieved those five-year marks for a

combined total of 210 years of accident-free service.

Employees recognized include Shane Bowers, Ron Clifton, Jennie Evans, Billy Kennard, Monty McDaniel, and Dillon Thompson, who have each worked 5 years with a safe work record.

Adam Metcalfe and Chace Penn have worked safely for 10 years, while Josh Belcher, Jennifer Kriz and Eric Woods have 15 safe years. David Break has 25, and Angel Bowles, Tonya Daniel and Greg Kohout have a 30-year safe working record.



Employee of the Year
Ron Clifton
Cotton Electric Dispatcher



Leadership in Health/Safety
Heath Morgan
Cotton Electric Energy Efficiency Coordinator



Leadership in Safety
Joe Moore
Cotton Electric Vegetation Management Foreman

Community Spotlight

If you would like your community event listed in the January issue, please submit information by calling 580-875-3351 or send an email to TheCurrent@CottonElectric.com by Dec. 30. Only events occurring after Jan. 16 will be published in the next issue.

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

Portraits with Santa at local shops

Viridian Coffee is offering Portraits with Santa at their multiple shop locations. For \$30, participants will receive 3-6 photos on DVD and one 8x10 print delivered back to Viridian Coffee a few days after photo day. No appointment is needed, but pre-registration can be complete at www.viridiancoffee.com/SantaPhotos. Photos will be taken at the following Viridian Coffee locations:

- Duncan: from 5-7 p.m. on Dec. 13
- Lawton: from 5-7 p.m. on Dec. 15

For more information, visit their Facebook event page.

Holiday fun for the whole family

Enjoy an evening celebrating the Christmas season with the family at Kochendorfer Christmas. Cookies, crafts, Santa pictures, food, and a magic show featuring Keith Coast will be available. Pictures with Santa will be from 3 – 5 p.m. and the magic show will begin at 6 p.m. The event is on Dec. 17 at Kochendorfer Brewing Company on 1155 McCurdy Road, Duncan. For more information, visit their Facebook event page.

Enjoy tea with royalty

Children ages 4-8 years old can meet Belle and Elsa for a Royal Tea Party at the Duncan Public Library. Must call to register for a session at 11 a.m. or 1 p.m. Registration opens on Dec. 13 and the event is on Dec. 20 at Duncan Public Library, 3785 N. Hwy. 81, Duncan. For questions or to register for the event, call 580-255-0636.

New local art coming to CTAC

Join the Chisholm Trail Arts Council (CTAC) for the opening night reception of the Stephens County themed art exhibit. Pieces will show the essence of scenes and imagery within Stephens County. The opening reception is on Jan. 13 and the exhibit will be up until Feb. 24 at the CTAC Art Gallery, 810 W. Walnut Ave.,

Duncan. For more information, call 580-252-4160 or visit www.chisholm-trailarts.com.

Local Christmas Tree Farm

Visit D & L Christmas Tree and Wreaths for fresh Christmas trees in time for the holiday season. The Christmas tree farm offers fresh-cut trees, wreaths, and center pieces. Operating hours are from 1 to 5:30 p.m. seven days a week at 16140 NE Watts Road in Fletcher. For more information, call 580-549-6994 or visit their website at www.dandlchristmastreefarm.com.

Christmas experience in Lawton

Experience the 2022 Trail of Cheer throughout the month of December in Lawton. Attendees can meet Santa Claus, visit Northland, see the Holiday Magic Show, try escape games, admire light displays and much more. Entry fee is \$15 per person ages 12 and up, \$12 for ages four to 11, and kids three and under can enter for free. Discounts and promos are available on their Facebook page. All proceeds will go towards growing this event for the community. The 2022 Trail of Cheer is open from 6 – 9 p.m. Dec. 15 – 18 at 11101 SE Lee Blvd., Lawton. For more information, email bob@trailofcheer.com or visit their website at www.trailofcheer.com.

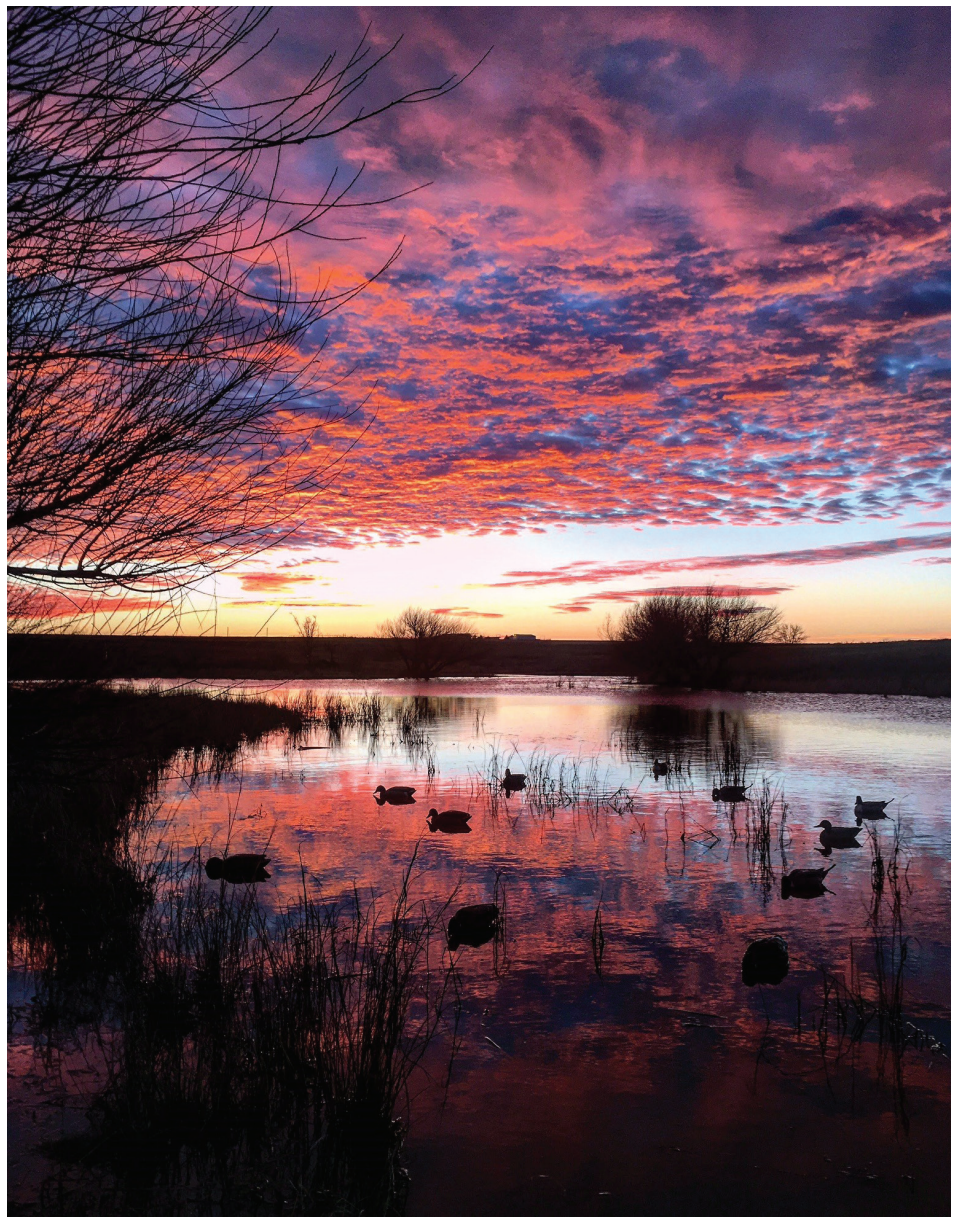
Food pantry open once monthly

Walters Community Food Pantry is open from 8 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 information or questions, 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 for questions or to make other arrangements.

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Ely King captured this colorful photo while duck hunting north of Walters.

Enter your "best shot" in our Photo of the Month contest. The theme for January is Generations. 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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<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">January</p> <p>Ad Sales Deadline Dec. 30 Classified Deadline Dec. 30 Publish Date Jan. 16</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">February</p> <p>Ad Sales Deadline Jan. 27 Classified Deadline Jan. 27 Publish Date Feb. 13</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">March</p> <p>Ad Sales Deadline Feb. 24 Classified Deadline Feb. 24 Publish Date Mar. 13</p>
<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">April</p> <p>Ad Sales Deadline Mar. 24 Classified Deadline Mar. 24 Publish Date Apr. 10</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">May</p> <p>Ad Sales Deadline Apr. 21 Classified Deadline Apr. 21 Publish Date May 8</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">June</p> <p>Ad Sales Deadline May 26 Classified Deadline May 26 Publish Date June 12</p>
<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">July</p> <p>Ad Sales Deadline June 30 Classified Deadline June 30 Publish Date July 17</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">August</p> <p>Ad Sales Deadline July 28 Classified Deadline July 28 Publish Date Aug. 14</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">September</p> <p>Ad Sales Deadline Aug. 25 Classified Deadline Aug. 25 Publish Date Sept. 11</p>
<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">October</p> <p>Ad Sales Deadline Sept. 29 Classified Deadline Sept. 29 Publish Date Oct. 16</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">November</p> <p>Ad Sales Deadline Oct. 27 Classified Deadline Oct. 27 Publish Date Nov. 13</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">December</p> <p>Ad Sales Deadline Nov. 24 Classified Deadline Nov. 24 Publish Date Dec. 11</p>

Display ad rates:

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To place a classified ad, email classifieds@cottonelectric.com or call 580-875-3351.

Subscriptions: \$10 annually

Local medical staff inspires individuals across the world

By Carli Eubank

A medical facility within Cotton Electric's service territory is changing lives locally, nationally and internationally. For almost six years, Dream Team Prosthetics in Duncan treats individuals with limb loss on all amputation levels.

Patients come from as close as Marlow and as far as Ecuador for the support and uniquely-designed treatment plans from Dream Team Prosthetics during their prosthetic journey.

"What we do that's special at Dream Team Prosthetics is tailor a program for each individual patient," said Chad Simpson, co-founder and clinical director with Dream Team Prosthetics. "There is a similar pattern to our treatment process, but everyone reaches milestones in their own time."

Depending on how far the patient must travel, they will visit with Dream Team Prosthetics staff for either a week or two weeks. On the very first day patients are fitted for the foreshort-

ened, or initial, prostheses and build their stamina in the custom sockets at the facility. After the first day, socket modifications needed for the comfort of the patient are noted before staff members mold the final prosthetics.

Patients go through a lot in a short amount of time during Dream Team Prosthetics' concentrated treatment plan, but after the first few daily visits at the facility, patients return home and start their own plan with functional milestones that our staff monitors, Simpson said.

"We provide patients the tools they need to take back home and progressively use on a daily basis over longer periods of time to reintegrate them back into society," said Randy Richardson, Dream Team Prosthetics co-founder and assistant prosthetist. "As our patients progress, we are able to move forward with what they need to get them closer to transitioning to full length prosthetic legs with the microprocessor knee."

The microprocessor-controlled knee has a computer inside the prosthetic that reads the patient's knee force while walking, bending and more. The computer analyzes 100 times per second and then provides hydraulic resistance necessary for individuals to be supported, Richardson said. Staff members program the patient's base settings into a computer and fine tune those settings after the patient's fitted with their final prosthetic, he added.

In some cases, when thinking about how to fit and shape a socket for a patient to use efficiently every day, there are a lot of ideas that have to be thrown around to come up with a real creative solution, Richardson said.

Dream Team Prosthetics staff also created and hosts Bilateral Life Camp. This week-long experience happens once a year and focuses on the specific needs of individuals with bilateral, amputation of more than one limb, above-the-knee limb loss. The camp helps enable patients to get back up in their lives, the workforce, with their families or whatever activity they want to resume, Simpson added.

Peer support is a vital component to our Bilateral Life Camp, said Richardson. Patient presenters help inspire new patients and give them goals to achieve, he added. Individuals are also able to find community during the camp and on social media platforms.

"For us, it's all about the individual and giving them function and better quality of life," said Richardson.



Patients walk down a ramp at the facility. Photo courtesy of Dream Team Prosthetics.

Dream Team Prosthetics staff support their patients through every challenge and milestone reached in their journey, providing a community for patients to seek help.

"Most people come to us because they've spent the last couple of years of their life struggling with prosthetic care and given up on being successful with it," Simpson said. "What really charges our batteries is helping patients through all the steps and seeing them walking down stairs or pushing their children on the swings because they have gained that much trust."

For more information about Dream Team Prosthetics, visit www.dreamteamprosthetics.com.



Dream Team Prosthetics patients take a group walk during Bilateral Life Camp in Duncan. Photo courtesy of Dream Team Prosthetics.

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A warm stew to chase the chill away

Jalepeno Pork Stew with Pickled Onions

As the mercury dips and snow and ice making conditions outside less inviting, a warm and welcoming meal inside can be just what the doctor ordered.

This recipe for "Jalapeno Pork Stew With Pickled Onions" from "Real Simple Dinner Tonight: Done!" (Time Home Entertainment) by the editors of Real Simple is tailor-made for a cold day. This hearty dish will warm anyone up, both from the heat of the stew itself and the spicy kick of the jalapenos.



Ingredients;

- 4 tablespoons olive oil
- 5 pounds boneless pork shoulder or butt, trimmed and cut into 2-inch pieces
- 2 tablespoons ground cumin
- Kosher salt and black pepper
- 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1 cup fresh orange juice
- 1 14.5-ounce can diced tomatoes, drained
- 12 cloves garlic
- 1 to 2 jalapeno peppers, seeded and sliced
- 1 large red onion, thinly sliced
- 1/4 cup red wine vinegar
- 1 1-pound package frozen cut okra
- 1 1/2 cups grits

Instructions:

Heat oven to 325 F.
 Heat 2 tablespoons of the oil in a large ovenproof pot or Dutch oven over medium-high heat.
 Season the pork with the cumin, 1 1/2 teaspoons salt and 1/2 teaspoon black pepper. In batches, cook the pork until browned, turn-

ing occasionally, 6 to 8 minutes; transfer to a plate.
 Add the flour and the remaining 2 tablespoons of oil to the pot and cook, stirring for 1 minute.
 Add the orange juice, tomatoes, garlic, jalapenos, and 4 cups water and bring to a boil.
 Return the pork to the pot, cover, transfer to oven,

and cook until the pork is tender, 2 1/2 to 3 hours.
 Meanwhile, in a small bowl, toss the onion with the vinegar, 1/2 cup water, and 1/2 teaspoon salt. Let sit, tossing occasionally, for at least 30 minutes (and up to 4 hours).
 Skim off and discard any fat from the stew.
 Add the okra.

Cover the pot, return it to the oven, and cook until the okra is tender, about 15 minutes. If the stew is too thin, place the pot on the stove and simmer, uncovered, until thickened, 5 to 10 minutes more.
 Meanwhile, cook the grits according to the package directions. Serve with the stew and marinated onions.

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Fruits add different flavors

Fruit for dessert can be elegant, nutritious and delicious. During the season of sugary treats, consider changing up your dessert routine by using seasonal fresh fruits and dried fruits as the last course. You will experience different flavors and fuel your body with nutrients it can benefit from.

Baking, grilling, sautéing and broiling accentuate the natural sweetness of fruit, while decreasing the need for added sugar. Cooking does alter some vitamin and mineral levels, but other nutrients, like polyphenols, are unaffected or enhanced. Switching apple pie for baked apples with cinnamon adds a significant amount of fiber with less added sugar, calories and fat.

Baked apples are not the only fruit-forward dessert option. Pears can be poached or roasted and stuffed with nuts and dried



Kim Bandelier, MPH, RD, LD

Food For THOUGHT

fruit. Stone fruit can be grilled or baked and drizzled with sauce. Figs can be slathered with goat cheese. Dates can be wrapped with bacon. You can also keep it simple with seasonal fresh fruits mixed together and served with low fat yogurt or chocolate. Go for dark chocolate with a high co-

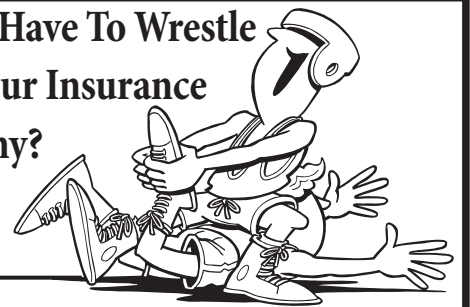
coa content to get a double dose of nutrients that promote health.

Some fruits are better to cook with than others. It is best to consult several recipes before going to the grocery store to choose a type of fruit. For example, Red Delicious apples are good for sauces, but Granny Smith, Jonagold, or Honeycrisp are better for baking due to their flavor and texture. Bosc and Anju pears are best for cooking because they maintain their shape.

The Dietary Guidelines for Americans recommended adult women age 51 or older get 1.5 cups of fruit and adult men age 50 or older get 2 cups of fruit per day. Are you meeting those recommendations? Fruit pies and fruit cakes don't count, but dessert with fruit as the main ingredient and limited added fat and sugar can certainly count toward your daily goal.



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Add layers of protection to financial strategy

To achieve your financial security, and that of your family, you will need to create a comprehensive strategy. But for this strategy to succeed, you'll need to guard it from various challenges – and that means you'll need to build in different layers of protection.

What are these challenges – and what types of protection can be used



to defend against them? Consider the following:

- Challenge #1: Protecting your ability to reach your goals – To achieve your long-term goals, such as a comfortable retirement, you'll need to build adequate financial resources. And that means you'll need to create an investment portfolio that's suitable for your objectives, risk tolerance and time horizon. And you'll need to keep your long-term goals in mind when adjusting your portfolio during times of volatility.
- Challenge #2: Protecting your family's future if you're not around – Hopefully, you will live a long life and always be around to support your family. But the future

is not ours to see – and if something were to happen to you, how would your family cope? Their chances could be much better if you have adequate life insurance. Proper coverage could help pay off your mortgage, pay for your children's higher education and allow your family to continue its lifestyle.

- Challenge #3: Protecting your income should you become temporarily disabled – If you were to become ill or temporarily disabled and could not work for a while, the disruption in your income could jeopardize your family's living situation, or, at the least, lead to an inability to pay bills in a timely fashion. To protect

against this threat, you may want to consider adding disability insurance. Your employer may offer a short-term disability policy as an employee benefit, but it may be insufficient, either in duration or in amount of coverage, so you might want to look at a private policy.

- Challenge #4: Protecting your long-term investments from short-term needs – Life is full of unexpected expenses – a major car repair, a new furnace, a large bill from the dentist, and so on. If you did not have the money available to deal with these costs, you might be forced to dip into your long-term investments, such as your IRA or 401(k). Taking money from these accounts earlier

than you intended could incur taxes and penalties, and, even more importantly, could reduce the amount of money you have available for retirement. To help protect these investments from short-term needs for cash, try to build an emergency fund containing three to six months' worth of living expenses, with the money kept in cash or a liquid account.

- Challenge #5: Protecting your financial independence – You would probably do all you could to avoid ever becoming a burden to your grown children – which is why it's so important to maintain your financial independence throughout your life. One potential

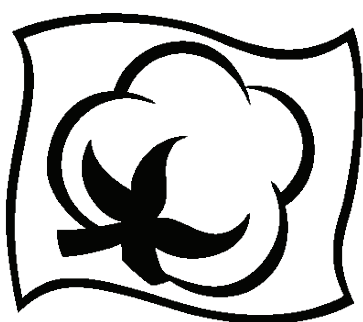
threat to this independence is the need for some type of long-term care, such as an extended nursing home stay, which can be extremely expensive. A financial professional can suggest protection strategies to help you prepared for these types of costs.

It can be challenging to keep your financial strategy intact – so do whatever it takes to protect it.

Edward Jones, Member SIPC

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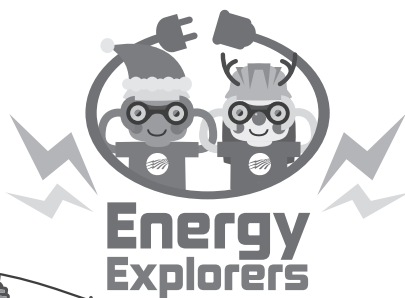


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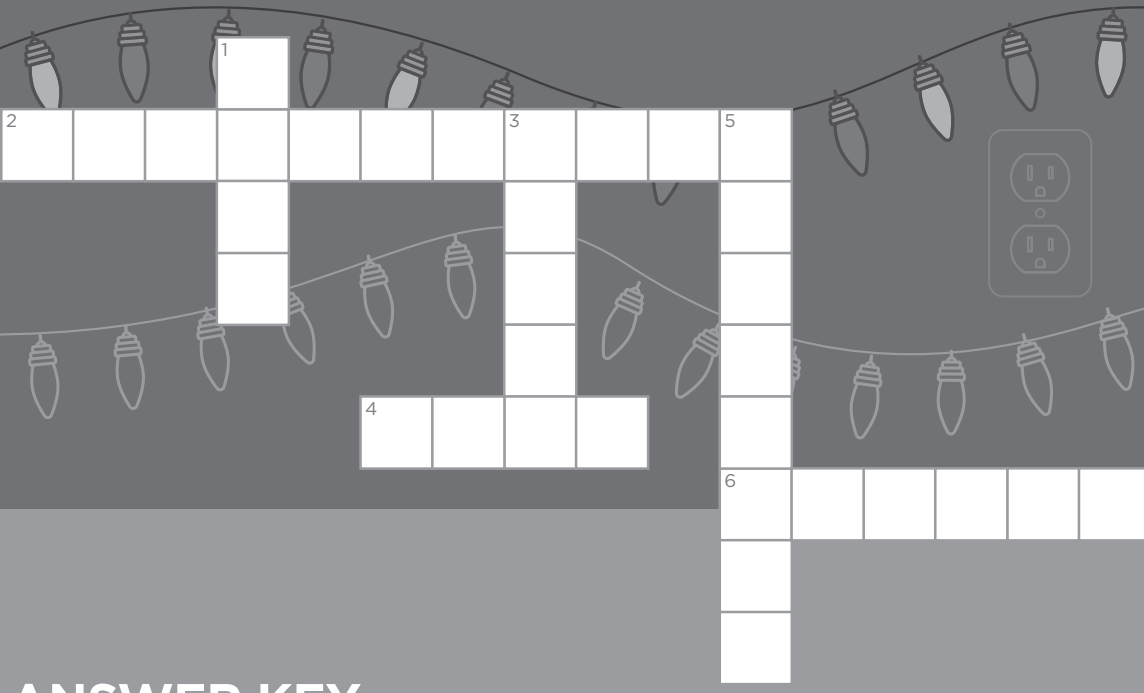
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HOLIDAY EFFICIENCY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

The holiday season is a fun, festive time of year! It's also a time when we use more electricity. Complete the crossword puzzle below to learn how you and your family can be more energy efficient this holiday season.



1. **DOWN:** Decorate your _____ with energy-saving LED lights.
2. **ACROSS:** Smart or programmable _____ can help control heating costs if you're traveling during the holiday season.
3. **DOWN:** Save energy by using a _____ to turn off holiday lights at night.
4. **ACROSS:** If you have a fireplace, ask an adult to close the damper when a _____ is not burning.
5. **DOWN:** Open blinds and curtains during the day to let natural _____ in to warm your home.
6. **ACROSS:** Lower the thermostat when your family has _____ visiting during the holidays.



ANSWER KEY

1. DOWN: TREE
2. ACROSS: THERMOSTATS
3. DOWN: TIMER
4. ACROSS: FIRE
5. DOWN: SUNLIGHT
6. ACROSS: GUESTS

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			9		4			3
3					8			
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Level: Beginner

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!

'Twas the Night Before Christmas at Cotton Electric Cooperative

Adaptation by Carli Eubank

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the land
Not a snowstorm was stirring, the sky seemed bland;
The branches were cleared by the crew with care,
In hopes that quality light would remain there;

The members were nestled all snug in their beds;
While visions of co-op hats danced in their heads;
And mamma in her blanket, and I in my cap,
Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap,

When all through the house there fell such a darkness,
I sprang from my bed to see with more sharpness.
Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.

The moon shining bright on the now damaged line,
The lights were out at house 2209,
When what to my wondering eyes did appear,
But Cotton Electric trucks with headlights so clear,

With a party of linemen so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment they'll do the trick.
How swiftly they strapped on their gear when they came,
And they whistled, and shouted, and called them by name:

"Now, Bobby! now, Ronnie! the Dillons and Larry!
Now, Kyle! now, Keeton! Now, Evan and Terry!
Now, TJ! now Shayne!, now Marc and Scott!
Now Braylin!, now Zach! - they're quick on the spot.

To the top of the pole! to the break in the line!
Now climb away! climb away! climb away fine!"
As snowflakes that before the winter storm fly,
When they meet with an obstacle, climb to the sky;

So up to the pole-top the linemen they flew
With the truck full of tools, and safety gear too—

And then, with some tinkering, I heard on the line
The trimming and chipping of one little pine.

As I drew in my head, and was turning around,
On a high pole the linemen worked with a bound.
Dressed in their safety gear, from their head to their boots,
Helping members is a calling deep in their roots;

A bundle of tools was hung on their belt,
And they investigated the issue that had been dealt.
Their eyes—how they twinkled! their dimples, how merry!
Their cheeks were like roses, their noses like a cherry!

Their eyebrows were drawn with pure determination,
Working so hard to bring back illumination;
A string of the line they held tight in their hands,
They were so close to bringing light across the lands;

They had a broad smile and a very proud feeling
To know that members could soon go back to dreaming.
Crews were ready and trained, good attitudes they maintained,
Safety meetings and trainings, in their minds were ingrained;

With a wink of their eyes and a twist of their heads
Soon the members knew they had nothing to dread;
Crews spoke not a word, but went straight to their work,
And fixed the outage; then turned with a jerk,

They checked their work along the line,
And giving a nod, they saw Christmas trees shine;
They climbed down the pole, to the crew gave a holler,
And away they drove off, their trucks getting smaller.

But I heard them exclaim, as they drove into the night—
"Happy Christmas to all, and to all... you have light!"

Merry Christmas from all Cotton Electric employees!



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