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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 66

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NUMBER 11

## Local students get a chance to explore nation’s capitol

By Carli Eubank

After completing an essay competition, a live question-and-answer interview and a video speech, Cotton Electric member and Marlow High School junior Owen Long earned himself a spot on the 2023 Youth Tour. Long joined more than 70 other students from Oklahoma electric cooperatives for a special opportunity in Washington D.C. Cotton Electric Director of Marketing and Communications Zach Young also attended as a chaperone.

Once the group landed in Washington D.C., they began their adventure following a packed itinerary arranged by Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives. Even though Long had visited Washington D.C. before, he was excited to go back and see more sights. Walking mile after mile, the group visited some of our country’s greatest monuments and memorials, including the Capitol.

“My favorite part was getting to go on a tour led by Senator Markwayne Mullin through the Capitol,” Long said. “It was really nice because not everyone gets an opportunity like that, and we got to see everything, sit on the House floor, and ask Senator Mullin questions. It was a really good experience.”

Days on Youth Tour are fast-paced, trying to get to the next exciting site on the schedule; however, there are some moments that allow yourself to slow down and reflect on what’s around you.

“Going back to Arlington National Cemetery was a big take-your-breath-away moment because even though I had seen it before, you never get used to visiting a place of respect like that,” Long said. “It has an atmosphere that is so hard to explain.”

Getting to tour museums and visit monuments aren’t the only benefits of Youth Tour; students get to form life-long friendships. Meeting more than 70 students can feel overwhelming at first, but exploring a new city and making memories along the way makes connecting with one another part of the fun.



Zach Young and Owen Long meet other students and chaperones in the 2023 Youth Tour group before leaving for Washington D.C.



2023 Youth Tour students in front of George Washington’s mansion. Photo courtesy of OAEC.

“We were busy from the moment we arrived in Washington D.C., but at the same time, we got to meet so many new people and see places we never thought we’d be able to see,” Long said. “It is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and I want to thank Cotton Electric for helping me go.”

Also representing Oklahoma was one of Cotton Electric’s members and a 2020 Youth Tour finalist, Olivia Cantwell. The now college student at Southwestern Assemblies of God University traded in her virtual experience for an in-person trip with the Blue Shirts program. The National Rural Electric Cooperatives of America (NRECA) program is for past Youth Tour participants who want to apply to help with Youth Tour logistics.

“After the 2020 Youth Tour, I followed multiple cooperative social media accounts, including NRECA,” Cantwell said. “When I saw applications for Blue Shirts opened, I thought this could be an opportunity to go to Washington D.C. since my first experience was virtual. So, I submitted an application and ended up being accepted.”

Cantwell was one out of 11 individuals selected to be part of the Blue Shirts. In the evenings, they interacted with students, sold Youth Tour merchandise, set up a game room area, and more.

Some of Cantwell’s favorite memories were getting to experience “The Lion King” Broadway show at the Kennedy Center, learning cool facts about historical monuments, and getting to connect with her fellow Blue Shirts.



Owen Long was the finalist in the 2023 Cotton Electric Youth Tour Essay Contest. Photo courtesy of OAEC.

“When you’re away from home, you get to experience a new way of life,” Cantwell said. “On Youth Tour, you are surrounded by others from smaller rural communities, and we all get to experience a new place while discussing different views and perspectives. It was really neat getting to learn their stories.”

Cantwell also enjoyed learning more about the impact cooperatives make within local communities and across the world with the Energy Trails projects.

“Before Youth Tour, I knew what a co-op was, but I didn’t realize how important they are until I learned about what all they do and how they give a voice for rural communities,” Cantwell said. “I wouldn’t have had this opportunity without Cotton Electric, and it’s important for me to thank the co-op for taking a chance on me.”

For more information about Cotton Electric’s youth programs, visit [www.cottonelectric.com/youth-programs](http://www.cottonelectric.com/youth-programs) or follow us on social media.



Olivia Cantwell was one of NRECA’s Blue Shirts for the 2023 Youth Tour. Photo courtesy of Olivia Cantwell.

### Power Cost Adjustment Calculated

The power cost adjustment now being applied to bills mailed after July 1, 2023, is \$0.00615per kWh.

On a member’s average bill of 1,300 kilowatt hours (kWh), this will amount to a charge of \$7.99 on the July bill.

### June 2023 Temperature Extremes

Day	High	Low	Avg.	Day	High	Low	Avg.
1	88	66	77	16	89	67	78
2	90	65	78	17	90	65	78
3	83	64	74	18	90	63	77
4	86	63	75	19	95	63	79
5	89	65	77	20	97	78	88
6	89	64	77	21	90	76	83
7	89	63	76	22	90	73	82
8	89	62	76	23	88	71	80
9	96	64	80	24	102	68	85
10	93	67	80	25	100	71	86
11	95	66	81	26	96	76	86
12	76	62	69	27	98	75	87
13	80	64	72	28	110	72	91
14	90	65	78	29	106	69	88
15	94	63	79	30	99	74	87

Source: [srh.noaa.gov/oun/](http://srh.noaa.gov/oun/)

Average Daily High: 93 Average Daily Low: 68

### Did You Know?

Have you downloaded the SmartHub app? With SmartHub, co-op members can check energy use, pay power bills and more! Download SmartHub in Google Play or the Apple Store.

The next issue of The Current should arrive in mailboxes on Aug. 14, 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](mailto:TheCurrent@cottonelectric.com).

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



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#### 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

## Cooperative works to bring back light to members

The past few months have been a hectic time at Cotton Electric Cooperative. Spring and summer storms kept our employees extremely busy, with the June 15-18 storms being the worse we've seen in a while. As of the day I'm writing this column, Cotton Electric crews and contractors replaced 162 poles across our system. At the height of the storms, 5,650 members were without power.

We know outages are never convenient, and we strive daily to minimize service interruptions. We work year-round through right-of-way clearing to ensure power lines in our service territory stand a lower risk of being damaged by trees, branches or other types of vegetation. Our right-of-way clearing has been very beneficial in limiting damage to power lines. The system damage would have been much more extensive without

our right-of-way and pole inspection programs.

Despite our best efforts, major storm damage can still occur to power lines, utility poles and substations. When storms roll through our area, our first priority is to safely restore power to as many members as possible in the shortest amount of time. We start by mobilizing our line crews and other critical staff. Every phone line available is utilized to take your outage report calls.

Outage texting was an excellent communication tool that was used during the storm events. Between June 15 and 19, we received 7,762 outage text reports from members and Cotton Electric responded with 45,513 text updates. For more information on how to receive outage updates through text, visit [www.cottonelectric.com/](http://www.cottonelectric.com/) previous-issues to read the cover story of the February 2023 issue.

Members also utilized the SmartHub app to report outages. We encourage members to always report an outage so crews can accurately predict the source.

Once crews are on site and have surveyed the damage, we estimate the time it will take to restore power so you can plan accordingly. Be sure to check [www.cottonelectric.com/power-outages](http://www.cottonelectric.com/power-outages) to view our outage map and follow us on Facebook to view the latest updates.

The big problems are handled first, like damage to transmission lines and substations that serve thousands of people. These problems must be corrected before we can focus on other areas where more localized damage may have occurred.

Cotton Electric's line crews inspect substations to determine if the problem starts there, or if there could be an issue down the line. Next, crews check the



Jennifer Meason, CEO

service lines that deliver power into neighborhoods and communities. Line crews repair the damaged lines, restoring power to hundreds of people. If you continue to experience an outage, there may be damage to a tap line outside of your home or business.

We do our best to avoid power outages but sometimes Mother Nature has other plans. When she does, we appreciate the support and words of encouragement from you, our members, as we work to restore power.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact me at 580-875-3351 or 800-522-3520.

# Energy Efficiency

## Reasons to get smart about home lighting

One are the days when a simple flip of the switch was the only choice for illuminating our homes. While we still have this tried-and-true option, we've entered a new era of innovative technologies, which includes smart lighting.

Smart lighting connects to Wi-Fi and offers an array of cutting-edge functionality and convenience. Let's look at the main benefits of smart lighting options.

**Smart lighting is energy efficient**

Most smart bulbs utilize LED technology, which is much more efficient than traditional incandescent lighting. Additionally, smart lighting gives you more control over how and when you light your home, ultimately resulting in less energy used for lighting.

**Smart lighting provides convenience and control**

Most smart bulbs can be controlled from an app on your smartphone or

can be paired with your voice assistant, like Amazon Alexa. You can conveniently control lighting settings from anywhere in your home or when you're away. Whether you want to set a schedule for lighting or adjust brightness levels, these smart options offer effortless control from the comfort of anywhere.

**Smart options empower you to personalize home lighting**

Bright, warm, purple, green—whatever mood you want to create, smart lighting can help. For a more traditional look, try dimmable white bulbs. If you want to create the perfect ambiance for movie night, look for bulbs that can be adjusted for a variety of vibrant colors. The possibilities are endless.

While smart lighting offers convenience and control, keep in mind your wall light switch will need to stay "on" for you to control the smart bulb from your phone or via voice command. To use a smart bulb, the wall switch it's

connected to must be "on" so the bulb receives power, which enables it to connect to a Wi-Fi network.

If you need additional options to operate the lights, consider a smart light switch. Today's smart switches tend to play nicely with smart bulbs. If you want to control your smart bulbs with a physical switch (in addition to using your phone and voice commands), look for smart switches that include a built-in feature that allows both. Many smart light switches include motion detectors as well.

If you're looking to take the plunge and integrate multiple smart bulbs to your home lighting system, your best bet may be a kit, like the Philips Hue Starter Kit. Most kits include several bulbs and any additional tools you'll need to get started.

If you're new to smart home tech and looking to start small, try a smart bulb in a high-traffic area of your home. It's also worth noting that smart plugs are a great starter option and allow convenience control of lamps or other lighting fixtures that are plugged in to a wall outlet. Smart plugs are inexpensive and simply plug in to your existing outlet. Electrical items that are connected to the smart plug can be controlled from a smart phone app, just like smart bulbs.

Whether you're looking for more convenience, colorful options or better ways to manage energy use, smart lighting can provide multiple benefits. Determine which smart lighting features are most important for your needs, then start shopping!



Heath Morgan, Energy Efficiency Coordinator



Smart lighting allows you to control and schedule lighting settings whether you are at home or away. Photo courtesy of Philips.



Most smart bulbs use LED technology, which is more efficient than incandescent lighting, lowering your energy usage. Photo courtesy of RikiRisnandar.

*Congratulations, Bill Doolin!*  
*We appreciate your 40 years of service with Cotton Electric Cooperative.*



Pictured left to right: (back row) Jennifer Meason, Tony High, Ken Layn, Dell Farris, Brian DeMarcus, Todd Clark, Steve Robinson; (front row) Shan Files, Nichole Scott, Bill Doolin, and Clifford Dunham



## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Summer is a prime opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors. To reduce home energy use, avoid using your oven and use a grill instead. Not only will cooking outdoors eliminate the electricity used to power the stove, but it will also avoid raising the temperature inside your home, reducing the need for air conditioning or cooling.

You can also avoid using the oven with tasty no-bake recipes. Get creative in the kitchen (or the backyard) and find new ways to save energy!

Source: [Energy.gov](http://Energy.gov)

### May 2023 Operating Stats

	2023	2022
Total Amount Billed/Accrued	\$6,038,445	\$7,131,290
Cost of Purchased Power	4,034,898	5,331,522
Taxes	106,792	116,114
Total Operating Expense Per Mile	1,173	1,327
Average Farm and Residential Bill	130	156
Average Farm and Residential kWh	981	1,138
Total Meters Billed (farm, residential)	19,456	19,240
Miles Energized	5,260	5,229
Density Per Mile	3.70	3.68
New Service Connects YTD	195	193
Services Retired	86	52

### Upcoming Deadlines for The Current

August		
Ad Sales	July 28	
Classified	July 28	
Publish	Aug. 14	
September		
Ad Sales	Aug. 25	
Classified	Aug. 25	
Publish	Sept. 11	

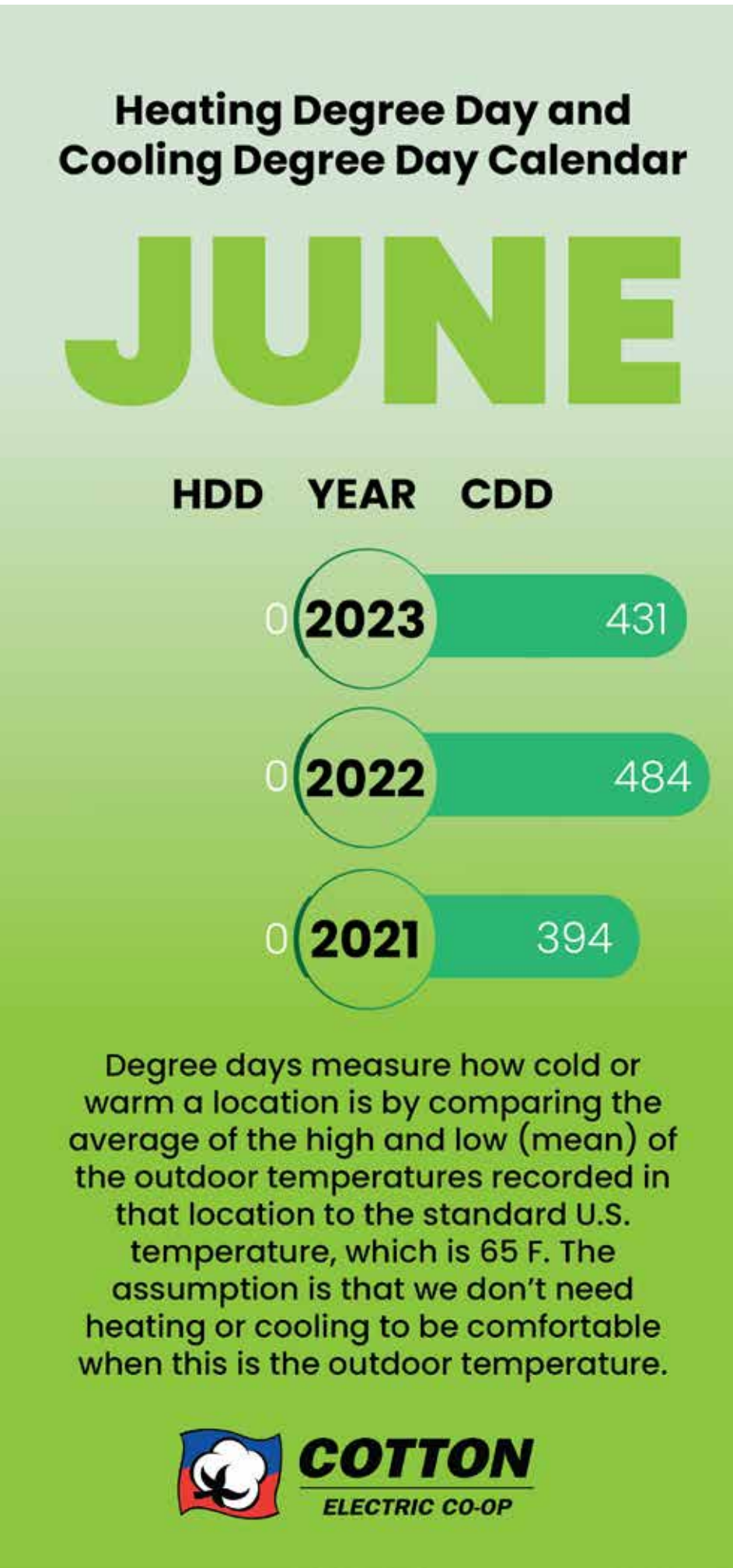
## The Current

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Shane Bowers .....Vice President  
Zach Young .....Director  
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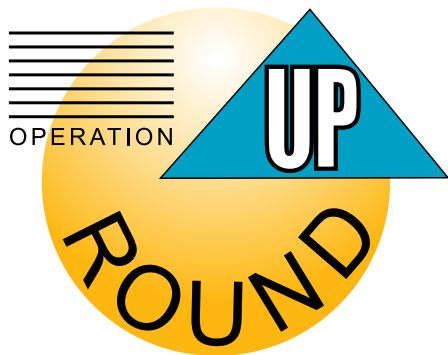


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# Cotton Electric Charitable Foundation

## Service to country and community

*By Carli Eubank*

Cotton Electric Charitable Foundation (CECF) grants, made possible by our members’ participation in Operation Round Up, invests in local organizations by helping support them further their mission into local communities. Past grant recipients AMVETS Post 11 and Stephens County Honor Guard are made possible by the time and effort volunteered by the same men and women who served our country. Now, their mission is to provide resources and connections to local veterans.

Founded in 1983, AMVETS was created to help veterans when they returned home by providing resources and information about eligible benefits, such as health care. AMVETS Post 11, one out of three AMVETS in Oklahoma, is located in Duncan, and they recently received a CECF grant for office supplies and repairs.

Gayla Laufenberg volunteers as the Post’s service officer, helping veterans understand what benefits and opportunities are available to them. Laufenberg is a Gulf War veteran, who served active-duty in the Army, New Mexico

National Guard, Oklahoma National Guard, and work at Defense, Finance, Accounting service (DFAS) at Lawton-Fort Sill until 2005. She joined AMVETS after going through an overwhelming process of working on a health care claim herself.

“A lot of veterans don’t know they’re qualified for health care,” Laufenberg said. “This organization is like a liaison between Veterans Affairs (VA) and local veterans, passing on the knowledge and guidance for eligibility.”

There are currently 125 members of AMVETS Post 11, and they are actively recruiting new members to join. In addition to helping veterans with their benefits, members supply hygiene items to veteran homes in Lawton-Fort Sill, properly retire and dispose of Colors, provide temporary handicap equipment like walkers and crutches, participate in Memorial Day services and parades, and create a space where veterans can connect.

“Our mission is not just so veterans can get benefits; we’re also here to help them transition to the civilian world,” Laufenberg said. “When you serve, it’s hard to get it out of your personal-

ity. Service never ends just because we’re out now, and we want to be there for our veterans and see the day-to-day impact in our community.”

AMVETS Post 11 accepts all veterans who were honorably discharged. Meetings begin at 6 p.m. on the first Friday of every month, located at 2115 ½ W. Beech in Duncan.

Another organization recognizing local veterans is the Stephens County Honor Guard (SCHG). They recently received a CECF grant to go toward uniforms for new members.

For 18 years, the Stephens County Honor Guard have recognized fallen veterans across the state by performing full military honor funeral services. The service includes a squad of seven firing a three-round volley, flag folding, flag presentation, and Taps played by Bugler. The military honors service was promised to veterans when they signed their contact to serve for our country, and SCHG members volunteer to uphold that promise to veterans in the community.

SCHG Commander Jerry McAdory served in the Army for 23 years as an engineer before being



Officers and members of the Stephens County Honor Guard attend a quarterly memorial service at the Lawton-Fort Sill Veterans Facility. Photo courtesy of Dan Mitchell.

honorably discharged. A few years ago, McAdory was approached at a local estate sale by a gentleman who asked what branch of service he was in. The gentleman was an SCHG, and he invited McAdory to an upcoming meeting.

“Service members can spot each other anywhere, even as strangers in a crowded, unknown area,” McAdory said. “There is an unseen trust among service members. It’s hard to describe, but there’s an understanding of what the other person’s feeling without saying anything because we

know what that person has gone through.”

Over the last couple of years, SCHG members have performed more than 130 services and each service still holds a lot of emotion. McAdory has done more than 500 services, and he shared how he still jumps when the guns go off and he still gets emotional and “a chill sent down his spine” seeing the families mourning.

“We are a band of brothers and sisters that honorably served the country and now have a desire to serve veterans in the community,” McAdory said. “I want to thank other veterans for the path they paved

for me. It’s because of what they did that gave me an opportunity to do what I do.”

There are currently 21 active SCHG members, and they are ready to welcome new members. Along with full military honor funeral services, members also perform memorial services, posting of Colors, and parade functions.

SCHG meetings begin at 7 p.m. on the last Thursday of each month at the American Legion building in Comanche.

For more information about these non-profit organizations, please see their contact information listed below.



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**ADDRESS:**  
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Duncan, OK 73533

**PHONE:**  
580-786-4865

**EMAIL:**  
amvets11duncanok@gmail.com

**FACEBOOK:**  
AMVETS Post 11

**Stephens County Honor Guard**

**ADDRESS:**  
P.O. Box 1811  
Duncan, OK 73534

**PHONE:**  
580-860-3115

**EMAIL:**  
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## Don’t just pack your bags; Prepare your home for vacation too

Your bags are packed and you’re ready to leave your humdrum routine for a much-needed vacation. As you pack for your destination, remember your home needs a little prep, too.

Along with the usual tasks such as having your mail stopped, there are other steps you can take to help deter burglars and even save you a little green. With the money you save, you might have a little extra for umbrella-garnished drinks or destination t-shirts.

Before you leave, here are some ways to save money on your energy bill:

- Adjust your hot water heater. For a natural gas water heater, turn it to low or vacation mode. For an electric version, turn it down or off at the circuit breaker panel.

- Set or program your thermostat to a temperature that mimics the out-

side temperature (about 80 to 85 degrees). This still protects your wood floors, furniture and any pets while keeping everything comfortable and saving on energy costs.

- Do not completely turn off your air conditioning during vacation, however, so that the air in your house continues to circulate.

- Unplug small appliances and electronic devices including gaming systems so that they don’t draw power. Also do not leave chargers plugged into an outlet.

- Make sure your sump pump is working.

Take these electrical and plumbing precautions:

- Turn off water valves to the dishwasher, washing machine and all sinks. Or, consider shutting off the main water valve, which cuts off water to the house but

still allows water supply to an outdoor sprinkler system.

Here are some ways to keep your home look lived-in and ward off burglars:

- If you have a smart home, it’s easy to regulate lights in your home remotely. Turn various lights on and off intermittently or have them timed to do so.

- If you do not have smart lighting, put various lights on timers.

- Use motion detectors on outside lights.

- Before you leave, make sure windows and doors are locked.

And finally, remember to clean out your fridge before leaving so that you don’t come home to moldy leftovers.

For more information, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org) or [CottonElectric.com/](http://CottonElectric.com/)

safety.

*Source: SafeElectricity*



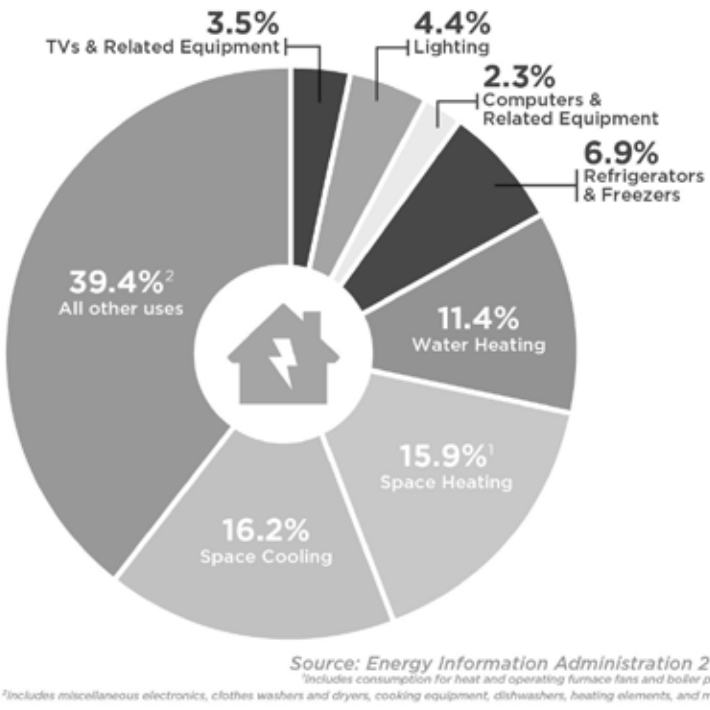
5 EASY WAYS TO PREPARE YOUR HOME FOR Vacation

1.	Set or program your thermostat to 85 degrees while you are away.
2.	Unplug small appliances and electronic devices including gaming systems so that they don’t draw power.
3.	Adjust your hot water heater. For a natural gas water heater, turn it to low. For an electric version turn it off at the circuit breaker.
4.	Shut all your curtains and blinds.
5.	Make sure your sump pump is working.



**How Americans Use Electricity**

The latest data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration shows the combined use of clothes washers and dryers, dishwashers, small appliances and other electrical equipment (noted as “all other uses” below) accounts for the largest percentage of electricity consumption in American homes.



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## Artificial Intelligence: What to know

### What is It and Why Should I Care?

Artificial Intelligence (AI) describes systems programmed to think and respond like humans. In fact, we asked the AI solution ChatGPT that very question and got this response.

### What is AI?

AI refers to the simulation of human intelligence in machines that are programmed to think and learn like humans. It involves the development of algorithms and computer programs that can perform tasks that typically require human intelligence, such as recognizing speech, understanding natural language, making decisions, and playing games. There are several types of AI, including rule-based AI, expert systems, and machine learning.

What makes AI so powerful is it can simulate the intelligence and reasoning capability of the human mind, but it can analyze exponentially far more information than any human and do it exponentially faster.

The concept of AI is not new. Originally cov-

ered in science fiction novels, AI is something that has been in development for decades. The reason you are hearing so much about it now is that, for the first time, anyone has the opportunity to interact with and see the true functionality of AI.

ChatGPT, an online-powered AI chat bot, is one of the first publicly available solutions that is able to respond like a real human, passing something called the Turing Test. This test determines a machine's ability to exhibit intelligent behavior by having a real human interact with the machine through a text-based chat channel. If the human could not tell whether they were interacting with a machine or person, the machine is said to have passed the test. AI solutions today are the first publicly available that do just that.

However, online conversations are just the beginning of what AI can do. There are now AI solutions that can create a video of a person teaching a class in any language, analyze health

records and quickly determine who most likely has cancer, create news articles or essays on the topic of your choice, generate images for children's books, or create code for new computer programs. While AI is not necessarily something to be feared, there are some dangers of which to be aware.

### Dangers of AI

#### 1. Recreating You

AI solutions can take a recording of a person's voice – your voice – and then use it to create real-time audio that sounds just like you, saying whatever it wants to impersonate you. So, a cyber attacker could record a phone voice message that sounds like you, tricking your coworkers, your bank, or a family member into thinking you called and asked them to take an action. AI can also do this with pictures or video. Sometimes called Deep Fakes, an AI solution can take an existing picture or video of you and use it to recreate entirely new pictures or videos (including your voice) appearing to show you



*Today, anyone has the capability to interact with Artificial Intelligence (AI), and it's important to be informed and research this new, powerful tool. Photo courtesy of Canva.*

doing things that you never did.

#### 2. Wrong Answers

As for the data or answers AI provides, the solutions can be wrong. AI often uses public information from the Internet, and its answers can be influenced by the biases of its developers. While typical search engines are designed to provide you the "best" or most correct answer to your queries, solutions like AI may be designed to give you the most human-like answer. Which is better depends on what you are attempting to achieve.

#### 3. Not All Equal

With AI becoming the latest hot technology, there are literally

hundreds of start-up companies now offering different AI services. Many of these want your information or credit card for a trial. Be careful - not all AI services are trustworthy. Do your research before signing up and using an AI service.

#### 4. Your Privacy

Whenever using or interacting with an AI system, such as when chatting online with ChatGPT, be aware that any information you enter into the system can not only be processed by it but also retained and used to give answers to others. This means if you enter any personal information about yourself or any confidential

information from work, that information will be stored and potentially shared with or sold to others. Do not share or enter any information that you consider sensitive, personal, or is confidential at work.

### The Future of AI

Artificial Intelligence is still very much in its infancy, similar to where the Internet was twenty to thirty years ago. While we can expect rapid evolution and adoption of AI, it's very difficult to predict what its impact will be. Just be aware that these capabilities are out there, and when using AI, be very careful what information you enter and share.

*Source: Sams.org*

## 2022 capital credit allocations announced

Capital credits for accounts active in 2022 have recently been allocated.

Please note, however, that credit to an individual account is not a refund, and the amount may not be applied to a member's power bill.

Cotton Electric is a not-for-profit cooperative owned by its members who pay electric bills. Revenues in excess of the actual costs of providing electric service for the year are called margins.

Members' portions of these margins are called patronage capital, and are credited to the individual member's equity account in proportion to what each member contributed to the gross margin through his or her electric bills.

These margins are held in reserve for a period of time, with the capital being used primarily to construct new electric facilities, upgrade existing facilities, maintain the members' ownership and equity in the cooperative, reduce interest costs by lowering the amount of the borrowed capital, and maintain a reserve to protect against storms and emergencies.

Cotton Electric does not generate power but buys most of it from Western Farmers Electric Coopera-


tive. WFEC is a generation and transmission cooperative, organized in 1941 when western Oklahoma rural electric distribution cooperatives found it necessary to secure an adequate power supply at rates farmers and rural industrial developers could afford.

Cotton Electric and other electric cooperatives in Oklahoma and New Mexico own WFEC. Just as Cotton Electric allocates its margins to members, WFEC allocates its margins to the electric cooperatives that own WFEC.

When Cotton Electric receives margin allocations from WFEC, it allocates those margins to the co-op members. The WFEC allocations are kept separate from the Cotton Electric margin allocations.

Refunds, called retirements, are made when financial conditions of either cooperative permit. Retirements are usually announced separately. They are mailed to the last known address of the account.

Members are encouraged to keep Cotton Electric informed of any changes of address so they will receive a check if a retirement is made. Lists of names on returned checks are published in The Current.



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**ACCOUNT NUMBER** 123456789  
**Member Name** JIMMY L. WILSON  
**Statement Due** 02/15/2022  
**Phone #** 580-875-3351

**Service Address:** NW-00-0N-00W

Meter #	Description	Bill Type	Reading Dates From To	Days	Readings Previous Present	Meter Multiplier	kWh Billed
AA00001	HOUSE	Regular	01/07/22 02/06/22	30	28119 31013	1	1680

**CURRENT AMOUNT DUE**

**\$186.00**

**DELINQUENT DATE** 03/01/2023

**Office Hours: 8 AM – 5 PM Monday – Friday**  
**580-875-3351 or 1-800-522-3520**  
**Pay by Phone: 855-730-8711**  
**Pay Online: www.CottonElectric.com**

**Your 2022 Capital Credit Allocation is:**  
Cotton SXX.XX  
WFEC SXX.XX  
*These allocations cannot be applied to your energy bill.*

*Capital credits for accounts active in 2022 have recently been allocated and are listed on June power bills. Please note, however, that credit to an individual account is NOT A REFUND, and the amount WILL NOT be applied to a member's power bill.*

## HOW TO CALCULATE YOUR CAPITAL CREDITS

- Determine the total amount you were billed for electricity during the 2022 calendar year.**
- Multiply that amount by each capital credit factor in the category that applies to you.**
- If you don't know the total amount billed, contact Cotton Electric at 580-875-3351.**

### CAPITAL CREDIT FACTORS

	Cotton	WFEC
General Service	0.022698074	0.021068513
Small Commercial	0.023077591	0.021420783
Large Commercial	0.020683126	0.019198224
LPC/STC	0.008484290	0.007875178
Irrigation	0.029355253	0.027247753



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- Problems with your system since it's been installed?
- Anyone with allergies or asthma?
- AC starts and stops frequently or runs all the time, and house is still not cool?

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## Retired? Consider benefits of part-time work

After spending decades in the workforce, you might look forward to the day you retire. But if you decide, for one reason or another, that you'd like to redefine "retirement" to include part-time work or consulting, you could enjoy exercising your skills and meeting new people. But you can also receive some key financial benefits.



Specifically, bringing in some paychecks in your retirement can help you in these areas:

- You could contribute more to your IRA. During your working years, you may have contributed regularly to an IRA, but once you retired, you might have thought those days were over. But there's no age limit – if you have any earned income, you can contribute to an IRA and boost the financial resources you have available for retirement.
- You could potentially lower your withdrawal rate. Once you're retired, you will likely need to rely on your investment portfolio

to provide you with some – or maybe most – of your income. Consequently, you'll need to establish an appropriate withdrawal rate – a percentage of your portfolio that you can take out each year without running the risk of potentially outliving your money. Income from part-time work or consulting may lower your dependency on investment income, thereby reducing your annual withdrawal rate and extending the overall longevity of your investment portfolio.

• You could add to your grandchildren's 529 plans. When you invest in a 529 education savings plan, the

earnings and withdrawals are federally tax-free, provided the money is used for qualified education expenses. As a grandparent, you can contribute to a 529 plan with your grandchildren as beneficiaries. And a 529 plan can be used for more than college – it can fund some programs at trade schools and K-12 expenses in some states. So, by putting some of your earned income to work in a 529 plan, you can help improve your grandchildren's prospects.

• You could reduce your debts. By the time you reach retirement, you may or may not have retired your mortgage, but you might

have other debts on your books. If you can apply some of your earned income to these debts, you can improve your cash flow and possibly avoid dipping into your retirement accounts for short-term needs.

Of course, you'll also have to consider some issues if you end up working in retirement, particularly if you bring in a sizable amount of money. For example, if you're earning income and collecting Social Security before you reach your "full" retirement age – which is likely between 66 and 67 – your monthly benefits will be reduced. (However, these "lost" benefits will be restored

once you do reach your full retirement age.) Also, the added income could push you into a higher tax bracket or even cause you to pay the Medicare premium surcharge or the 3.8% surtax on net investment income if your income reaches certain levels. So, before embarking on any employment that may yield a large additional income, consult with your tax advisor.

Overall, though, the financial benefits of part-time employment income during your retirement years may be worth it – so give some thought to "unretiring."

Edward Jones, Member SIPC

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# Beat the Peak: ways to use energy wisely during extreme summer

*By Carli Eubank*

We read a lot about peak energy demand, but how does it impact electricity use? As the name implies, peak energy demand occurs when energy consumption is at its highest. This typically occurs in the summer and winter due to heating and cooling indoor spaces when outdoor temperatures are extreme.

With summer getting warmed up, members can expect high temperatures to settle across the state this summer. Temperatures may soar, but Cotton Electric is ready to prepare our members and share some energy-savings tips to help prevent seeing an increase in energy usage.

Beat the Peak is a voluntary initiative members can participate in to help lower demand and shift usage from peak hours. These hours are from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Beat the Peak alerts are issued by the co-op's power provider, and we passed along the information through our social media channels and SmartHub.

By adjusting hours of energy use to when demand is lower, also known as off-peak hours, members can save money on energy bills and help keep rates lower for the community. Each section below breaks down how members can voluntarily participate in Beat the Peak this summer.

### Thermostats

Lowering the temperature on thermostats is most likely the immediate action taken

to cool down indoor spaces. Turning thermostats up by a couple of degrees is a simple starting point to help lower bills this summer, especially during peak hours. This tip can be more effective when increasing the temperature by a couple more degrees when no one is home. Smart thermostats provide ease and accessibility to set cooling schedules and adjust temperatures, even when away from home. The smaller the difference between indoor and outdoor temperatures, the less HVAC systems have to work to cool your home. Scheduling regular maintenance for your HVAC and other cooling equipment can help maximize energy affordability.

### In the kitchen

There are several different ways to cook up savings while in the kitchen. One of the biggest ways to save is to avoid using the oven, if possible. Some alternate cooking appliances to consider are countertop toasters, convention ovens, microwaves, air fryers or outdoor grills. If members prefer to use the oven, it is recommended to use them during off-peak hours in the early morning or late evening.

Before running the dishwasher, make sure it is a full load that will run during off-peak hours. Air-drying dishes instead of using the heated dry cycle is another helpful tip to help save energy usage while in the kitchen.

A little effort goes a long way.

## HELP OFFSET PEAK ENERGY DEMAND

Help conserve energy by adjusting your energy use to lower-demand times of the day. Making small changes can help even out energy use and avoid service interruptions caused by high demand.

**BEFORE 8:00 a.m.**

- Use the oven
- Shower
- Do laundry

**8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

- Close window coverings (Unplug appliances not in use)

**AFTER 5:00 p.m.**

- Grill supper outdoors (Use countertop appliances or a microwave (instead of the oven))
- Turn off circuit breakers for electric hot water heaters (Water will remain hot for hours; turn the breaker back on later)

**AFTER 8:00 p.m.**

- Wash dishes
- Set the dishwasher or other appliances to start after 10:00 p.m.
- Shower

**OVERNIGHT**

- Charge your electric vehicle

You can help by making these energy use adjustments to your day:

**IN GENERAL**

- Turn up your thermostat
- Use fans in occupied rooms to cool off
- Turn off and disconnect electronics not in use
- Turn off lights
- Turn off stand-alone dehumidifiers
- Turn off all non-essential pumps and motors

Making small changes can help you save on your energy bills, decrease the chances of future rate increases and ease the strain on the power grid.

Learn more at:

**Safe Electricity.org**

### Other energy-saving tips:

Did you know that the direction ceiling fans turn changes with the seasons? During the summer, set ceiling fans to turn counterclockwise. Ceiling fans create a wind chill effect that cools people, not rooms, so remember to turn them off when you leave the room.

Bathroom fans can also help your home run more efficiently. When showering, turn on the bathroom fan to remove any heat or humidity. This ventilation is also beneficial in laundry rooms. It is important that these fans are vented to outside of the home instead of the attic where heat can get trapped, resulting in higher energy costs.

Prevent hot air from leaking into your home by sealing cracks and openings around your home. Adding caulk

or weatherstripping around doors and windows can help keep warm outdoor temperatures from seeping inside.

Performed by the co-op's energy efficiency coordinator, Cotton Electric Cooperative provides free energy efficiency home evaluations to our members who are interested in how they can improve their home's energy efficiency. More details about our evaluations can be found on our website at [www.cottonelectric.com/energy-efficiency-home-evaluations](http://www.cottonelectric.com/energy-efficiency-home-evaluations).

Making small changes to help conserve energy can lead to big savings, and Cotton Electric is here to serve you. For questions or more information, please contact us at 580-875-3351 or visit our website at [www.cottonelectric.com/energy-efficiency](http://www.cottonelectric.com/energy-efficiency).

Sources: Cooperative.com, Safe-Electricity.com and Energy.gov

# LOCAL SUMMER FUN CHECKLIST

- Visit Medicine Park Aquarium and Natural Sciences Center
- Attend an outdoor concert
- Go to a local farmer's market
- Fish at Waurika Lake
- Create a mural scavenger hunt
- Attend a comedy show
- Skip rocks across the water
- Visit Chisholm Trail Heritage Center
- Snap a photo in front of a local mural
- Attend a local rodeo
- Hike the Jed Johnson Tower Trail at the Wichita Mountains
- Host an outdoor movie night

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# Co-op Life

## Cooperative spirit powers through hectic storms

By Carli Eubank

Right, blue skies quickly turn an eerie mix of gray and black with heavy clouds rolling in. Leaves on trees begin to rustle before strong winds rip them from their stems, sometimes taking an entire branch with them to the ground that is now soaked. A mix of hail and rain beat into the ground making areas soft with mud. The early summer storms are beginning to erupt, leaving behind differing extremes of damage in their paths. Families are taking shelter, watching the weather channel, and preparing for what the storms may bring to their homes. For many Cotton Electric employees, they are also preparing for what the storms may bring and creating a plan to bring power back to members as quickly and safely as possible.

Inside the dispatch office, co-op employees are assigning crews, assessing damage, answering outage calls, and discussing how to safely and efficiently restore power. All of these moving elements and conversations can be overwhelming, but Cotton Electric Dispatcher Ron Clifton is steady and prepared.

“The entire cooperative was working together as a team,” Clifton said. “We had eyes in the field and communication flowing nicely. When major events like this occur, teams come together to get the job done and that’s what we did. From my perspective, my job is to not let our crews hurt themselves and to protect them while they’re out in dangerous conditions.”

Safety remains top priority at Cotton Electric, and dispatchers play a key role by directing crews and keeping them safe. For Clifton, his focus goes deeper than dispatching crews and relaying information; his bond with each employee motivates him to focus on making sure they return home.

“We have a group of some of the best people you’ll find,” Clifton said. “They work so hard while looking out for each other and our membership.”

Across the street at Cotton Electric’s warehouse, storm preparations began before the horrible weather swept through the service territory. Adam Metcalfe, the co-op’s purchasing agent, drove to the warehouse when he saw the weather turning bad because he wanted to have materials ready for crews when they arrived.

“We didn’t know the severity of what the storms were going to be, but I knew we needed to be ready,” Metcalfe said.

Crews were coming and going from the warehouse for materials all throughout Thursday night and into early Friday morning. Cotton Electric Operations Superintendent for the west side of the service territory, Clint Ingram, and others would relay damages seen from the field to Metcalfe, so he and his crew could get the appropriate materials ready for crews and get them back to the field as fast as possible.

After a couple of hours of rest, Metcalfe returned to work Friday morning and took inventory of what materials were left. Cotton Electric prepares and stores materials for many outage situations, but between the dozens of broken poles and hundreds of insulators used at that point, Metcalfe quickly realized the storm damage was large enough that more materials were needed.

Metcalfe immediately started contacting vendors and responding to those who had already been in contact with him. He explained the situation and some of them jumped at the chance to help, driving many hours to deliver much-needed materials for crews to continue restoring power throughout the weekend.

Another bright spot in the storms came when the warehouse received an order of materials earlier than expected. When Metcalfe emailed another one of our vendors early Friday morning, the gentleman assumed we were in a tight position and immediately entered the order to be processed.

“You get to meet lots of people through conferences and form some good relationships,” Metcalfe said. “These people really came through for us.”

Even though those days and nights were a blur, Metcalfe took moments to admire how well everyone worked together.

“Everybody wanted to keep working until the lights were back on, and they stayed positive while doing it,” Metcalfe said. “Everyone was willing to help do anything, even if it wasn’t their job. They were tired and soaked coming in at three or four in the morning to get more materials, but nobody minded. It was impressive to watch everybody work together on it.”

When Cotton Electric Lineman Case Hurst and other crews arrived in Loco Thursday evening, they realized it would take multiple days to restore power after seeing the aftermath of the storm in the southeastern part of the service territory.



*Cotton Electric Dispatcher Ron Clifton (left) and Vice President of Operations Mike Ottinger (right) assign crews to outages during the Thursday evening storms. Photo by Carli Eubank.*

“Once we got to Loco, we saw the extensive damage that the tornado left behind,” Hurst said. “It tore up numerous pieces of electrical equipment and miles of line.”

Crews began the long process of setting poles and restoring power to the area when they eventually noticed the sky turned dark and lightning ran across the west area. Crews felt a mix of emotions watching how the second storm expanded, as they prepared for more outages and long days and nights to come.

“Watching the weather and outage situation change between waves of storms is one of the moments that stick out to me from those days,” Hurst said. “We worked long hours, but with the support from coworkers and thoughts of returning home to family motivated me to keep working.”

During the storms, Scott Crew, Cotton Electric engineering services supervisor, worked closely with the Dispatch and Operations departments, switching and helping cover shifts when needed. He was in the dispatch office when the storm blew through Saturday evening.

“Around 10 o’clock that night, we thought we had light at the end of the tunnel since crews were cleaning up the outages,” Crew said. “When the second storm rolled in, everyone became still; we were so close to getting everything back on. We went from 37 outages to 4,400 in a matter of minutes.”

After the severe weather was cleared, engineers followed up with crews to stake and inspect poles that had to be replaced due to storm damage. For poles that still needed to be replaced, they created staking sheets to keep the co-op’s maps accurate that would later be sent to the warehouse where appropriate materials were prepared for crews to restore those areas.

“It’s hard to describe the damage that storms can do, and my prayers go out to the families who lost some things,” Crew said. “Our members are what motivate me to keep going during those situations.”

A unique aspect of the co-op’s engineering department is most of the staking technicians were previously linemen, including Crew. During major storms, those employees will join others from the Meter and Transformers department to provide additional assistance in the field by tending to simple outages, such as troubleshooting and fixing transformers.

“When we get in tough situations, everyone pulls in the same direction, and it’s come up multiple times of how proud we are of our people for how they responded to the storms.”

Though the aftermath of the June storms seemed daunting at times, bright spots were sprinkled throughout the chaos.

“When working through storms, there are always lessons to be learned and victories to be acknowledged throughout the restoration process,” said Mike Ottinger, vice president of operations. “Overall, I am super proud of everyone and how we handled the situation over those long days trying to bring power back to our members.”

Many Cotton Electric employees sacrificed long hours, Father’s Day, birthday dinners, and time away from their loved ones to restore power across the service territory.

“For years, I heard about ‘the cooperative difference,’ and I always wondered what that meant,” Metcalfe said. “Once you work at a co-op, you find out exactly what it means. Everyone is like family here, working towards the same mission of being there for our members and keeping the lights on.”



*Cotton Electric Staking Technician David Break (left) and Supervisor of Engineering Services Scott Crew (right) assess the storm damage in Loco. Photo by Carli Eubank.*

Approximately 162 poles were broken during the June storms. Photo by Carli Eubank.

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# Community Spotlight

If you would like your community event listed in the August issue, please submit information by calling 580-875-3351 or send an email to [TheCurrent@CottonElectric.com](mailto:TheCurrent@CottonElectric.com) by July 28. Only events occurring after August 14 will be published in the next issue.

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

### A cowboy celebration

Join the Chisholm Trail Heritage Center at their annual National Day of the Cowboy celebration. Free events include live music, special guests, art projects, demonstrations and more. The celebration begins at 10 a.m. on July 22 at the Chisholm Trail Heritage Center, 2150 Chisholm Trail Pkwy. in Duncan. For more information, call 580-252-6692.

### Local movie event series premiers

The City of Duncan and The Palace Theatre are bringing movies outside of the theatre for Movies in the Park. Viewers can bring their lawnchairs or blankets and enjoy a movie on the big screen while eating free popcorn. This summer event series will take place on the second Thursday of July and August, if weather allows. Movies start at dusk at Fuqua Park in Duncan. For more information, call 580-251-7783 or visit [www.duncanok.gov](http://www.duncanok.gov).

### Rodeo rides through Lawton

The Lawton Rangers PRCA Rodeo will take place August 9-12 at the LO Ranch Arena, 2004 SE 60th St. in Lawton. Wednesday, August 9 is "carload night." Pack the whole family in the car and everyone gets in for \$5 per carload. Wear pink on Thursday, August 10, to support breast cancer awareness. Military Appreciation night is Friday, August 11. Events begin at 7:30 p.m. each night. To purchase tickets in advance, visit [www.lawtonrangers.com](http://www.lawtonrangers.com).

### Annual Rush Springs festival

Join the celebration at the annual Rush Springs Watermelon Festival and Rodeo. Taste the local crop of watermelon, ride carnival rides, enjoy live entertainment and more. The rodeo will take place on the evenings of August 10 and 11. Then, the festival is Saturday, August 12. The festival will take place at Jeff Davis Park on Main Street, and the rodeo will be at Rusty Acres Arena. For questions, call 580-476-3277.

### VVA Golf Tournament swings into another year

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 751 are set for their 19th Annual

Golf Tournament at Fort Sill Golf Course. It is a 4-person scramble costing \$400 per team. This includes green fee, a cart, golf balls, lunch and water.

Winners will be determined by the Callaway System, and prizes will be given teams finishing in first, second and third place. Hole competitions will take place throughout the course: Closest to the line beyond 150 yards on hole 1, longest putt and hole-in-one on hole 4, closest to the pin on hole 10, hole-in-one on hole 10. The winner of the hole-in-one on hole 4 will receive \$10,000 cash courtesy of Bingo Country. The winner of the hole-in-one of hole 10 will win a new car courtesy of Billingsley Ford.

Check-in is at 10 a.m. with lunch following at 11 a.m. The shotgun begins at noon. The tournament is set for Sept. 11 at Fort Sill Golf Course. They highly recommend that non-DOD ID cardholders obtain a visitor pass at the Sheridan Road office 24 hours in advance. For questions, call Stonie Whetstone at 580-713-1373 or the VVA office at 580-699-5096.

### Grief group meeting in Devol

First Baptist Church of Devol will be hosting GriefShare for those struggling with the loss of a loved one or friend. It is not necessary to attend every session, nor is it necessary for the sessions to be attended in any order. Workbooks and snacks will be provided. This 13-week program will be held weekly beginning at 6:30 p.m. on March 20 at First Baptist Church of Devol, 900 N. Wichita St., Devol, OK 73531. For more information, or if you have any questions, call 940-631-9187.

### Food pantry open once monthly

Walters Community Food Pantry is open from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month. The pantry is in the old City Hall, 131 1/2 W. California Street. Pantry organizers try to provide a two-week supply of basic staples to anyone with identification and proof of Cotton County residency. Monetary donations may be sent to Food Pantry, c/o Paul Metcalfe, 211 E. Colorado St., Walters, OK 73572. For 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



Cotton Electric member Kelly Johnson snapped a photo of her grandson Archer Pelley looking at some hay for his cattle west of Marlow.

Enter your "best shot" in our Photo of the Month contest. The theme for August is My Hometown! Entries can be emailed to [TheCurrent@CottonElectric.com](mailto:TheCurrent@CottonElectric.com) or mailed to The Current, 226 N. Broadway, Walters, OK 73572. Winners will receive a Cotton Electric prize.

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# The evolution of obesity drugs



Kim Bandelier, MPH, RD, LD

## Food For THOUGHT

A class of drug called semaglutide, originally only approved to treat type 2 diabetes, is one of the most talked about weight loss therapies in the U.S. The FDA approved a specific semaglutide, Wegovy, in 2021 for weight loss and its rapid popularity has resulted in shortages. The weight loss is dramatic and fast.

Lost in the narrative is the proper prescribing, proper administration (combined with diet modification and physical activity), and the need to continue the treatment for life to keep the weight off. With similar drugs in the approval pipeline and the worsening obesity epidemic in the U.S., it is important to be informed, weigh benefits and risks, and speak with your doctor if you meet the criteria and are interested in treatment.

Wegovy is approved for use for chronic weight management in patients with a BMI of 27 or higher and

a weight-related health problem (ie - prediabetes, diabetes, heart disease, etc), or have a BMI of 30 or above. It is to be used in addition to dietary modifications and exercise as this is how it was tested in the STEP trial (Semaglutide Treatment Effect in People with Obesity).

Participants in the trial were separated into two groups: a control group which received a placebo plus lifestyle changes and a treatment group which was administered semaglutide plus lifestyle changes. The lifestyle changes included monthly health counseling, exercise for 150 minutes per week, and a daily 500-calorie restriction (necessary calorie level was calculated, then 500 calories were deducted to make that the daily calorie target).

The weight loss reported by the STEP trial team in an article published by Wilding and colleagues in The New England Journal of Medicine in 2021 is impactful: after 68 weeks of treatment, participants receiving weekly semaglutide injections plus lifestyle intervention lost a mean of 14.9% (around 34 pounds) of weight compared to the placebo/lifestyle intervention group at 2.4% (around 6 pounds) mean weight loss. The treatment group experienced associated reduction in BMI and cardiometabolic risk factors like cholesterol levels and HgbA1c. The main side-effect of the drug was GI issues.

Weight regain after stopping semaglutide injections is also a hot topic. An article published by Wilding and colleagues in the journal Diabetes, Obesity, and Metabolism in 2022 exam-



Weight loss drugs are on the rise, but sustaining an active, healthy lifestyle can help prevent regaining the weight lost. Photo courtesy of Metro Creative.

ined what happened 52 weeks after all treatments were stopped in a subset of the original STEP trial. The group that had received the injections regained 11.6% of weight lost and the placebo group regained 1.9%. Cardiometabolic improvements worsened but were still better than baseline with the exception of prediabetes. Study participants whose prediabetes reverted to normal blood sugar levels during treatment reverted back to prediabetes. Whether or not participants continued the lifestyle changes after treatment ended was not reported.

Anecdotally, reports of looking older (due to disproportionate fat loss in the face) and weight regain past baseline are surfacing for this class of drug. More research should be done on how weight loss with semaglutide affects not just fat loss but muscle loss. Weight loss is a combination of fat and muscle and muscle loss is associated with negative health outcomes.

Additional studies should also focus on the lifestyle change component and how if continued, would that positively impact weight and cardiometabolic risk factors if you stop taking the drug. As well, safety of taking semaglutide

for life should be investigated as right now, there is no definitive method in scientific literature to maintain the benefits of the drug if it is stopped. And that leads to the discussion of cost. It has been reported that out of pocket cost for this treatment can be as high as \$15,000 per year, raising questions of health equity, insurance coverage, and cost-benefit rationale.

More than 40% of the U.S. adult population was obese (BMI at or above 30) in 2017. Health professionals suggest the pandemic worsened this statistic. Research continues to expand our understanding of the factors that affect weight, and many are calling for a shift in perspective on obesity causes (not just environment and lack of will power but also genetic/metabolic factors that move obesity to the realm of a chronic disease). This perspective shift necessitates the continued pursuit of effective obesity treatment strategies like drugs but not negate the importance of lifestyle changes.

If you meet the criteria, have a discussion with your doctor about treatment options, cost, and side-effects but don't forget the need for lifestyle changes to make the treatment most impactful.

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## Blackberry Streusel Tart

**Ingredients:**  
1 1/2 pints blackberries (about 3 c.)  
1/2 c. granulated sugar  
1 tbsp. cornstarch or tapioca flour  
1/2 tsp. freshly squeezed lemon juice  
1 prebaked 9 1/2 tart crust (see below)

**Streusel**  
3/4 c. all-purpose flour  
1/3 c. firmly packed brown sugar  
Pinch of kosher salt

**Ingredients:**  
3 oz. (6 tbsps.) cold unsalted butter, cut into 1/2-inch pieces

**Tart crust**  
1 large egg  
2 to 3 tbsp. heavy whipping cream  
2 1/2 c. all-purpose flour  
2 tnsps. granulated sugar  
1/4 tsp. kosher salt  
7 oz. (14 tbsp.) cold unsalted butter, cut into 1/2-inch pieces  
Flour for dusting

**Make the crust:**  
In a small bowl, whisk together the egg and 2 tablespoons of the cream. Combine flour, sugar and salt in bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment. Mix on low speed until combined. Scatter the butter pieces over the top and mix on low speed until the butter is the size of small peas.  
Add the egg-and-cream mixture and mix on low speed for about 10 seconds. Stop the mixer and gently squeeze a small amount of the dough in your hand. If the dough comes together and does not have any dry pieces it has enough moisture. If the dough is dry, add another tablespoon of cream. Mix and test again until the dough almost comes together in a ball.

**Make the streusel:**  
Line the tart pan with parchment paper and place the dough on top. Pre-heat the oven to 350 F. Bake until the edges of the crust are golden brown, about 35 minutes. Remove and cool.  
In a bowl, gently combine the blackberries, sugar, cornstarch, and lemon juice. Spread the mixture evenly in the tart crust.

### Dish up dessert to complete summer meals

A summer barbecue or picnic just wouldn't be the same without the perfect dessert. While a slice of pie with ice cream on top is a fan favorite, a fruit tart can be a welcome change, especially when it's bursting with juicy, delicious berries. This recipe for "Blackberry Streusel Tart" from "Classic Stars Desserts" (Chronicle Books) by Emily Luchetti is full of blackberries that are soft and juicy. Select varieties of blackberries, such as olallieberries and marionberries, which are not too tart nor seedy. This treat can be served with a big dollop of whipped cream or a black raspberry ice cream for even more berry taste.

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Current News

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## FRESH SUMMER FLAVORS FIT FOR THE PATIO

(Family Features) Gatherings in the summer sun are all about easy, convenient recipes combined with the joy warm weather brings. Spend those special occasions with those you love most and make this summer one to remember with flatbreads, sliders and sweet treats for all to share.

Keeping cooking simple means more time on the patio or in the backyard engaging with guests, and these Chipotle Chicken Flatbreads, Chicken Shawarma Sliders and Lemon Cheesecake with Fruit let home chefs skip complicated kitchen duties without skimping on flavor.

Visit [Culinary.net](http://Culinary.net) to find more simple summer recipes to share with loved ones.

### Chipotle Chicken Flatbreads

*Recipe adapted from [butteryourbiscuit.com](http://butteryourbiscuit.com)*

**Ingredients:**  
2 flatbreads  
2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese  
1 clove garlic, diced  
4 chicken tenders, cooked and cubed  
1 pint cherry tomatoes, quartered  
salt, to taste  
pepper, to taste  
1/2 cup ranch dressing  
1 1/2 teaspoons chipotle seasoning  
2 tablespoons cilantro leaves, chopped

**Directions:**  
Preheat oven to 375 F.  
Place parchment paper on baking sheet and add flatbreads. Sprinkle cheese on flatbreads. Top with garlic, chicken and tomatoes. Season with salt and pepper, to taste. Bake 16 minutes until cheese is melted.  
In small bowl, mix ranch and chipotle seasoning.  
Drizzle ranch dressing on flatbreads and sprinkle with cilantro leaves.

### Chicken Shawarma Sliders

*Recipe courtesy of eMeals Registered Dietitian Rachel West*

**Ingredients:**  
2 pounds boneless, skinless chicken breasts  
3 tablespoons olive oil  
4 cloves garlic, minced  
1/2 tablespoon smoked paprika  
1/2 tablespoon ground cumin  
1/2 tablespoon ground coriander  
1 teaspoon salt  
1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper  
1 package (12) slider buns  
1 container (17 oz.) Fresh Cravings Honey Jalapeno Hummus  
1 package (8 oz.) shredded lettuce  
1/2 small red onion, sliced

**Directions:**  
In a plastic bag, use meat mallet or heel of hand to pound chicken to even thickness. Cut into 2-inch pieces and place in large bowl. Add oil, garlic, paprika, cumin, coriander, salt and cayenne; toss.  
Cover chicken and chill 8 hours, or up to 2 days.  
Preheat grill or grill pan to medium-high heat. Grill chicken 4-5 minutes per side, or until done.  
Serve chicken on buns with hummus, lettuce and onion.

### Lemon Cheesecake with Fruit

*Servings: 6-8*

**Ingredients:**  
1 1/4 cups graham cracker crumbs  
1/4 cup sugar  
1/4 cup butter, melted  
2 packages (8 oz. each) cream cheese, softened  
1 can (14 oz.) sweetened condensed milk  
3 eggs  
1/4 cup fresh lemon juice  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
1 orange, peeled and separated  
8 raspberries  
3 mint leaves, for garnish

**Directions:**  
Preheat oven to 350 F.  
In medium bowl, combine graham cracker crumbs, sugar and melted butter. Press firmly into 9-inch spring-form pan.  
In large bowl, beat cream cheese until fluffy. Gradually beat in sweetened condensed milk until smooth. Add eggs, fresh lemon juice and vanilla extract; mix until combined.  
Pour into pan. Bake 50-55 minutes, or until center springs back when lightly pressed.  
Chill in refrigerator until completely cooled. Arrange orange slices around border of cake and place raspberries in middle. Top with mint leaves.

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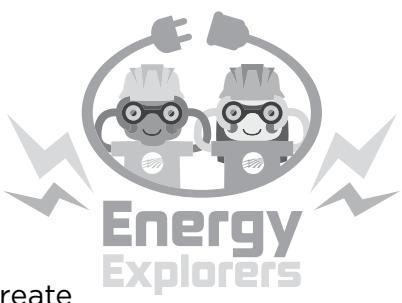




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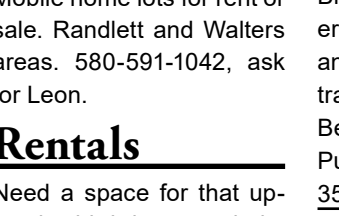
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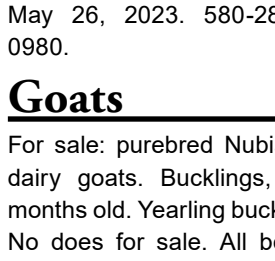
Guineas for sale. Hatched May 26, 2023. 580-281-0980.

### Goats

For sale: purebred Nubian dairy goats. Bucklings, 3 months old. Yearling bucks. No does for sale. All bottle-raised. Not registered, but purebred. Closed herd. Leave message at 580-695-9936.

Goats for sale: 4-6 months old. 580-470-5237.

For sale: 1 buck, 5 does, wethers and 3 kids. 580-467-1207 or 580-656-3357.



### Services

Phipps Backhoe & Storm Shelters LLC: All septic system. Below- and above-ground concrete storm shelters. 580-467-1018 or 467-3514.

Need welding? Rod iron fences and gates, pipe fences and gates, aluminum, outside A/C unit security cages or any type of welding done in shop and portable. Call 580-704-2963.

Brush hog work: Central, Empire and Comanche areas. \$45 per hour with a 2-hour minimum. 580-475-1744 or 580-467-2145.

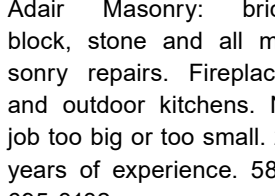


### REDDIRT FENCING

FARM & RANCH FENCING


Wire Fencing  
Pipe Fencing  
Corrals  
Gates

Marlow, OK  
Boyd Nunn  
OWNER  
580-641-0377



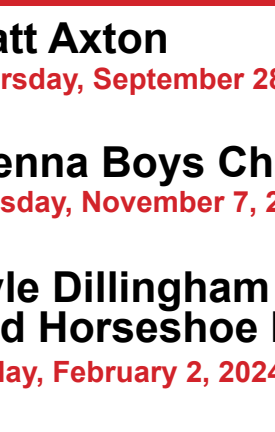
### Matt Axton

Thursday, September 28, 2023



### Vienna Boys Choir

Tuesday, November 7, 2023



### Kyle Dillingham and Horseshoe Road

Friday, February 2, 2024

Fire and Rain  
Folk Anthems of the '70s  
Friday, April 5, 2024

### SERVICES

Cash for your junk vehicles. Call Bo's Salvage at 580-255-3545.

Brush hogging by the hour or by the acre. We will travel. Call 580-656-1504.

The Glorious Gecko, 130 N. Broadway, Walters, has new and nearly-new, medium-to-3X women's name-brand clothing. Hours M-F 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

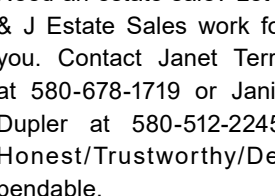
Cash for coins: Buy or sell. Call 580-475-5132 in Duncan. We buy and sell gold coins and silver bullion.

Need an estate sale? Let J & J Estate Sales work for you. Contact Janet Terry at 580-678-1719 or Janie Dupler at 580-512-2245. Honest/Trustworthy/Dependable.

Want to buy silver and gold coins or jewelry, and coin collections. Paying cash. Call Ed at 580-475-4570.

M&B Handyman Services LLC. You dream it, we build it. Call us today for a free estimate. Call 580-721-1864.

Cuzzott Construction LLC. Specializing in DECORATIVE CONCRETE, sidewalks, driveways, stamping, staining, dirt work and metal buildings. Free Estimates. No job too big or too small. Call Michael at 580-251-0297.



### M&M Trailer Service, LLC

580-658-6510  
280276 W. HWY 7, Marlow, OK  
mmtrailerservice@yahoo.com



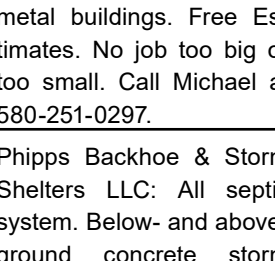
### HITCHES

Gooseneck • Receiver • 5th Wheel

See us for all your trailer part, hook-up & flooring needs!

Authorized dealer for Shelby Trailer Flooring

For inquiries: mmtrailerservice@yahoo.com



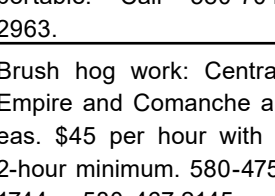
### LAWTON FARMERS MARKET

Saturdays 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.  
77 SW 4th St.

A year-round market located in the heart of downtown Lawton, Oklahoma.

For vendor inquiries please call: Cindy Nocton (580) 678-9472

LawtonFarmersMarket.com



### COTTON

ELECTRIC CO-OP

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



### Your Quality Electric Utility

### Classified Ad Policy

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

Members are asked to *limit ads to 30 words*. Ads over 30 words may be purchased for \$5. Non-members may also purchase ads for \$5.



### J AND E METAL SALES

1706 N. 2nd Street, Marlow, OK



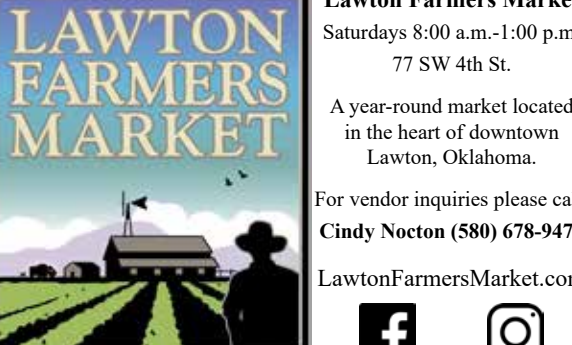
### Metal Building Components for Commercial, Residential, Farm, & Ranch

580-658-1156



### M&M Trailer Service, LLC

580-658-6510  
280276 W. HWY 7, Marlow, OK  
mmtrailerservice@yahoo.com



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### COTTON

ELECTRIC CO-OP

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

### Your Quality Electric Utility



Parting Shot



Cotton Electric member Diane Keenan grows Autumn Beauty Sunflowers near Geronimo. Congratulations on being the runner-up for the July Photo of the Month contest!



# ELGIN RODEO

FRIDAY & SATURDAY NIGHT  
AUGUST 18 & 19 2023

Gates open at 6:00PM  
Rodeo Starts 8:00PM Nightly

**SPECTATORS**

**Tickets:**

Advance

- Adult \$8
- Child 5-14 \$4

At the Gate

- Adult \$10
- Child 5-14 \$5
- Under 5 Free

Cash Only

**CONTESTANTS**

**Event Entry**  
(405) 659-1627

2023 ENTRY FEES	
EVENT	ENTRY FEE
BULL RIDING	\$ 75.00
RANCH BRONC RIDING	\$ 75.00
TIE DOWN ROPING	\$ 75.00
BREAKAWAY ROPING	\$ 60.00
DOUBLE MUGGING	\$ 70.00
TEAM ROPING	\$ 90.00
OPEN BARREL RACING	\$ 60.00
JR BARREL RACING	\$ 40.00
MUTTON BUSTING	\$ 15.00

- Books will open for Call-ins the Tuesday and Wednesday before the rodeo from 6 - 10 PM
- Call-ins are for rough stock events only
- Timed events enter at the rodeo BEFORE 7 PM, nightly

**ELGIN RODEO**

**Location**

2 miles south of HWY 17 on Keeney Rd  
at the intersection of Keeney & Miller RD

Added Money & Buckles for Every Event

Saddle for all-around

Concessions by  
**Elgin Fire Department**

Advance Tickets & T-Shirts can be purchased at  
**Hardzog Gifts**





# LAND AUCTION

Land Pros Real Estate & Auction Co.

**Thursday, September 7, 2023 - 6:00 p.m.**

*Auction will be held at Stephens County Fair Grounds*

**147 Acres +/-**

On the Duncan Bypass between Elk and Plato

Offered in 6 separate tracts -  
Ranging from 10-acre to 92-acre tracts.

This is an opportunity to buy 10 acres to 147 acres or anything in between - You can buy one tract or any combination of tracts.

Land can be used as Home Sites, Small Acreages, Commercial, Residential, Development Potential, Large Acreage, Established Hay Meadow, and Tillable Land.



**Todd Robertson, Owner / Broker / Auctioneer**  
**1705 S. Hwy. 81 - Duncan, OK**  
[www.FarmsRanchesLand.com](http://www.FarmsRanchesLand.com)  
580-467-4068



 Land Pros Real Estate and Auction Co

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If your home is currently listed, this is not an attempt to secure a listing. Each office is independently owned and operated.

