



HVAC Tune-Up  
rebate program  
begins April 1  
*Page 5*



Powering your  
community,  
together  
*Page 12*



Lucky mint  
brownie  
perfection  
*Page 15*

# The Cotton Current

A Publication of Cotton Electric Cooperative Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



*“The Current - Informing Our Members Since 1957”*

VOLUME 67

March 14, 2025

NUMBER 7

## Local high school students earn trip to Washington, D.C.

By Carli Eubank

Cotton Electric is pleased to announce Emmalee Fontenot of Cache High School and Claire Roderigas of Geronimo High School as the winners of the 2025 Youth Tour contest. After advancing through an essay competition and a video interview, Fontenot and Roderigas will represent the co-op in Washington, D.C., this summer.

The two juniors showed great efforts with speaking ability, knowledge of subject, poise and personality throughout the competition.

During Youth Tour, students will meet Oklahoma’s congressional delegation, learn about the cooperative business model and connect with other Youth Tour winners from across the country while touring historic sites, monuments and memorials in our nation’s capital.

Below, you can learn more about our 2025 Youth Tour winners. Congratulations to Emmalee Fontenot and Claire Roderigas.



**Q: What subjects or areas of study are you most interested in?**

A: I am interested in studying psychology, addiction theory, and social sciences. In the future, I plan to become a substance abuse counselor.

**Q: Are you involved in any school extracurricular activities?**

A: I’m actively involved in soccer, Beta Club, student council, and marching band.

**Q: Why did you choose to apply for Youth Tour?**

A: I decided to apply for Youth Tour because my teacher encouraged me to do so. I truly appreciate her encouragement, as I would not have learned about Youth Tour without her. I believe that participating in Youth Tour will positively impact my career.

**Q: How will Youth Tour impact your future goals or career path?**

A: It is an honor to be selected, and in the long run, it will help me stand out when applying to universities and jobs.

**Q: Have you been to Washington, D.C., before?**

A: I have never been to Washington, D.C. I am looking forward to meeting new people and learning more about our country’s history.

**Q: What are you looking forward to the most on Youth Tour?**

A: I want to gain new experiences that an average visitor to Washington, D.C., might not have.

**Q: What’s one thing or experience you want to bring back from Youth Tour to share with your friends or family?**

A: Additionally, I hope to bring back memories for my family that showcase not only the new information I’ve learned but also the fun adventures we had.

**Q: What skills do you hope to develop and strengthen on Youth Tour?**

A: I also want to improve my communication skills and overcome my shyness during the tour. I plan to push myself out of my comfort zone as much as possible.

**Q: What subjects or areas of study are you most interested in?**

A: I am fascinated by anything pertaining to both art and history. Those two subjects alone have captivated me since the very beginning, as the influence was unavoidable considering that I come from a historically military family with a few artistically gifted persons sprinkled into the mix.

**Q: Are you involved in any school extracurricular activities?**

A: I am involved with the Geronimo High School Academic Team. Before I joined, my brother had essentially led the team. However, after my brother graduated, there was a profound void that needed to be filled. A teacher, whom I cherish very much for her position as a family friend, had attempted to recruit me for years. Eventually, I joined the academic team.

**Q: Why did you choose to apply for Youth Tour?**

A: My decision to apply was born purely out of both the encouragement from my enthusiastic English teacher and the requirement to submit a writing piece for a grade. The guidelines presented by Cotton Electric served to be the perfect subject for a writing assignment. Initially, I had not planned to submit it, but my English teacher asserted that I may very well succeed in advancing further into the competition. I never expected that a written assignment would culminate in me being given the profound opportunity to visit our nation’s capital.

**Q: How will Youth Tour impact your future goals or career path?**

A: I believe that the experience will temporarily satiate my ever-growing hunger for knowledge while also providing me with a fundamental amount of educational nourishment that will ultimately inspire what road I end up traversing in life. I am thoroughly aware of the fact that Youth Tour is only the beginning of my scholastic journey, and I am committed to exploring what awaits me.

**Q: Have you been to Washington, D.C., before?**

A: No, but I am anticipating the extraordinary trip presented to me.

**Q: What are you looking forward to the most on Youth Tour?**

A: I am looking forward to experiencing the sights, the sounds, and the people that make up the living history that is Washington, D.C. I also greatly look forward to potentially meeting government representatives, as well as befriending others that attend Youth Tour.

**Q: What’s one thing or experience you want to bring back from Youth Tour to share with your friends or family?**

A: I would love to return home with souvenirs and photographs that will serve as memorabilia for me to admire and reminisce on as a source of inspiration for future enlightening endeavors. The historic knowledge that I can only anticipate will come from my touring of Washington, D.C., is another aspect of the tour that I wish to bring back because, although I am the one that is going to be experiencing it, I wish to share my firsthand account with those closest to me.

**Q: What skills do you hope to develop and strengthen on Youth Tour?**

A: I would like to improve my social skills. I tend to be a rather socially awkward person; however, I anticipate developing a proficiency in said area during my time in Washington, D.C.

### Power Cost Adjustment Calculated

The power cost adjustment now being applied to bills mailed after March 1, 2025, is \$0.00901 per kilowatt hours (kWh).

On a member’s average bill of 1,300 kWh, this will amount to a charge of \$11.71 on the March bill.

### February 2025 Temperature Extremes

Day	High	Low	Avg.	Day	High	Low	Avg.
1	75	24	50	16	42	23	33
2	74	30	52	17	54	22	38
3	84	34	59	18	43	9	26
4	51	35	43	19	19	5	12
5	52	35	44	20	28	6	17
6	53	37	45	21	32	15	24
7	51	38	45	22	58	11	35
8	59	33	46	23	67	21	44
9	45	31	38	24	79	23	51
10	39	35	37	25	82	33	58
11	39	34	37	26	73	39	56
12	34	20	27	27	72	35	54
13	36	13	25	28	79	27	53
14	51	21	36				
15	51	29	40				

Source: srh.noaa.gov/oun/

Average Daily High: 54

Average Daily Low: 26

### Did You Know?

2025 Energy Camp applications are due March 20. More information and applications can be found at [www.cottonelectric.com/EnergyCamp](http://www.cottonelectric.com/EnergyCamp).

The next issue of *The Current* should arrive in mailboxes April 11, 2025.

### Contact Us

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

We can be reached at 580-875-3351 or by email at [TheCurrent@cottonelectric.com](mailto:TheCurrent@cottonelectric.com).

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



### 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

## Be ready for storm season

*Preparedness is the best defense*

Spring is on our doorstep, and like many of you, I'm looking forward to more opportunities to be outdoors and enjoy warmer weather. Springtime brings the opportunity for many of my favorite activities, like walking in the evenings and watching the countryside come back to life after the dreary winter months. It's also an opportunity to take care of the chores. My husband got a head start cleaning out the storm shelter prior to our recent storm, which I greatly appreciated.

As we take advantage of the beautiful Oklahoma spring days, we also know how quickly weather can change to create the perfect conditions for severe storms. Throughout the year, Cotton Electric crews perform maintenance and complete system improvement projects in preparation for the storms we routinely experience in our area. Materials are ordered, warehouses are stocked, and crews are ready to respond quickly and safely.

- As your electric cooperative is gearing up, there are also a few things you can do to prepare your family during storms and outages. The Federal Emergency Management Agency recommends the items below as a starting point for storm and disaster preparedness, but you can visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) for additional resources.
- Stock your pantry with a three-day supply of nonperishable food, including canned goods, energy bars, peanut butter, powdered milk, instant coffee, water and other essentials (i.e., diapers and toiletries).
  - Confirm that you have adequate sanitation and hygiene supplies including towelettes, soap and hand sanitizer.
  - Ensure your first-aid kit is stocked with pain relievers, bandages and other medical essentials, and make sure your prescriptions are current.
  - Set aside basic household items you will need, including flashlights, batteries, a manual

- can opener and a portable, battery-powered radio or TV.
- Organize emergency supplies so they are easily accessible in one location.
  - Sign up for NOAA emergency alerts and warnings, and follow us on Facebook for power restoration updates.
- Safety and outage reporting**
- Severe storms can occasionally bring down power lines. If you see a downed line, always assume it's energized and never approach it. If flooding occurs, never walk through areas where power lines could be submerged.
  - If you plan to use a portable generator, make sure it's rated to handle the amount of power you will need, and always review the manufacturer's instructions to operate it safely.
  - In the event of a prolonged power outage, turn off major appliances, TVs, computers and other sensitive electronics. This will help prevent damage and overloading circuits during power



**Jennifer Meason, CEO**


er restoration. That said, do leave one light on so you will know when power is restored.

- If you experience an outage, please call 580-875-3351 or text "OUT" to the same number. Please do not report outages or safety issues on Facebook as our page is not monitored 24/7 by our dispatch center. Calling or texting our main number is the fastest way to let us know your power is out or to report downed power lines.


Planning for severe storms or other emergencies can help reduce stress and lessen the impact of the storm's effects. I hope we don't experience severe storms over the spring and summer months, but we can never predict Mother Nature's plans. I encourage you to make a plan today—because storm preparedness is always our best defense.

## REPORTING OUTAGES JUST GOT EASIER

Receive outage text updates at 580-875-3351







## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

March is an ideal time to service your home cooling system, ensuring it runs efficiently when the heat of summer arrives. Routine maintenance, like cleaning or replacing filters, checking refrigerant levels and inspecting parts, can improve your system's energy efficiency and lower your energy bills. By addressing potential issues early, you can avoid costly emergency repairs and extend the life span of your unit. Scheduling service in the spring helps you beat the peak-season rush, giving you faster access to qualified technicians. A well-maintained cooling system can save energy and keep your home comfortable all summer long.

Source: [www.energy.gov](http://www.energy.gov)

January 2025 Operating Stats		
	2025	2024
Total Amount Billed/Accrued	\$8,195,758	\$7,809,017
Cost of Purchased Power	5,741,809	5,808,418
Taxes	140,118	127,479
Total Operating Expense per Mile	1,427	1,496
Average Farm and Residential Bill	216	211
Average Farm and Residential kWh	1,860	1,984
Total Meters Billed (Farm, Residential)	19,813	19,579
Miles Energized	5,282	5,266
Density per Mile	3.75	3.72
New Service Connects YTD	19	28
Services Retired	7	2

Upcoming Deadlines for The Current		
April		
Ad Sales	Mar.	28
Classified	Mar.	28
Publish	Apr.	11
May		
Ad Sales	May	2
Classified	May	2
Publish	May	16

## The Current

Published monthly at Walters, Oklahoma, by Cotton Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Jennifer Meason .....CEO  
Shane Bowers..... Vice President  
Zach Young .....Director  
Carli Eubank ..... Communications Specialist

**Cotton Electric Cooperative, Inc.**  
**Board of Trustees**  
Brian DeMarcus, Meers, President  
Steven R. Robinson, Cache, Vice President  
Tony High, Walters, Sec./Treas.  
Clifford Dunham, Chattanooga, Asst. Sec./Treas.  
Shan Files, Velma  
Ken Layn, Marlow  
Todd Clark, Duncan  
Nichole Scott, Central High  
Dell Farris, Comanche

“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**

This institution is  
an equal opportunity provider & employer.

# Energy Efficiency

## Inexpensive ways to go green this St. Patrick's Day: Energy-saving edition

As St. Patrick's Day approaches, it's the perfect time to think about going green in more ways than one. This year, celebrate the holiday by adopting eco-friendly practices that not only honor the spirit of the day but also help reduce your energy consumption and save money. Here are some inexpensive ways to make your St. Patrick's Day celebration more sustainable and energy efficient.

### Lighting and decorations

**LED lights:** Replace your traditional incandescent bulbs with ENERGY STAR-certified LED bulbs. These energy-efficient alternatives use up to 90% less energy and come in various colors, perfect for creating a festive St. Patrick's Day atmosphere. Not only will this switch reduce your energy consumption, but it will also keep more green in your wallet over time.

**Natural light:** Take advantage of daylight saving time and the longer days by opening your curtains and letting natural light illuminate your space. This simple act can significantly

reduce your reliance on artificial lighting during the daytime.

### Cooking and cleaning

**Energy-efficient cooking:** Instead of using your oven or stovetop, consider preparing your St. Patrick's Day feast in a slow cooker. This method uses 50%-70% less energy than conventional cooking methods. You can easily whip up traditional dishes like corned beef and cabbage while saving energy.

**Cold water washing:** Wash your laundry in cold water instead of hot. This small change can lead to significant energy savings, especially when combined with eco-friendly laundry detergents.

### Home climate control

**Thermostat adjustment:** Lower your thermostat by 7 to 10 degrees for eight hours a day, which may result in up to 10% savings on your annual heating and cooling costs.

**Natural ventilation:** If the weather permits, open windows to create a cross breeze instead of relying on air conditioning. This natural ventilation

method can help maintain a comfortable temperature without consuming electricity.

### Electronics and appliances

**Unplug and power down:** Combat "phantom" or "vampire" energy consumption by unplugging electronics and appliances when not in use. For convenience, use smart power strips that automatically cut power to devices in standby mode.

**Energy-efficient settings:** Adjust your computer, TV, and other devices to their energy-saving modes. These settings can significantly reduce power consumption without affecting their performance.

### Water conservation

**Low-flow fixtures:** Install low-flow faucet aerators and showerheads to reduce water consumption. This inexpensive upgrade can lead to substantial water and energy savings over time.

**Smart water habits:** Turn off the tap while brushing your teeth or shaving. Implementing these small actions can save gallons of water daily and reduce



Heath Morgan,  
Energy Efficiency  
Coordinator

the energy required for water heating and pumping.

This St. Patrick's Day, embrace the true spirit of "going green" by implementing these energy-saving tips. Not only will you be celebrating in an eco-friendly manner, but you'll also be setting the foundation for long-term energy conservation habits. Remember, every small action counts toward a more sustainable future. By making these inexpensive changes, you'll be doing your part to protect the environment while potentially saving money on your energy bills.

### Energy-Saving Tips Around the House

- Replace incandescent bulbs with LED bulbs.
- Wash laundry in cold water.
- Lower thermostats by 7-10 degrees.
- Unplug electronics and appliances when not in use.
- Turn off tap water while brushing your teeth or shaving.

## GO GREEN

for  
**St. Patrick's Day**






### Heating Degree Day and Cooling Degree Day Calendar

# FEBRUARY

HDD	YEAR	CDD
674	2025	0
412	2024	1
527	2023	0

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



## LOCALLY OWNED BY OUR MEMBERS





## COTTON

ELECTRIC CO-OP

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



# Cotton Electric Charitable Foundation

## CECF announces first 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 that meets quarterly to consider grant applications from individuals and organizations in the area. The Board consists of Jennifer

Meason, the co-op’s CEO; Brian DeMarcus, president of the co-op’s Board of Trustees; and three representatives from the Cotton Electric service area: Cindy Zelbst, Carter Waid and Polly Krasser.

The Board met in February to review grant applications. Grants totaling \$16,003.93 will be distributed to four of the applicants. First quarter grant recipients include: Chattanooga Fire and Rescue, Cotton County Fairboard, Stephens County Humane Society, and the Town of Temple.

Second quarter applications are due May 13, 2025. The Board of Directors for CECF will meet again May 27 to review applications for the quarter.

CECF grant guidelines and applications can be downloaded and completed at [www.cottonelectric.com/grant-applications](http://www.cottonelectric.com/grant-applications).

**Chattanooga Fire and Rescue**  
\$7,500 for pumper engine equipment

**Cotton County Fairboard**  
\$6,207 for electrical work


**Stephens County Humane Society**  
\$1,000 for spay/neuter services

**Town of Temple**  
\$1,296.93 for LED lights for the nutrition center


com/grant-applications. Applications can also be submitted by email to [zyoung@cottonelectric.com](mailto:zyoung@cottonelectric.com) or by mail to 226 N. Broadway, Walters, OK 73572.

**SPARKS CONSTRUCTION**

**DOZERS • TRACKHOES  
DEMOLITION SERVICES**



**60' LONG-REACH DREDGING TRACKHOE**  
CLEAN OUT OR ENLARGE STOCK PONDS



**Ricky Sparks**  
**580-450-3673**



*Brink*  
**Auction Service**

**Taking Consignments for our 38th Annual Spring Farm & Ranch Equipment sale!**  
*To be held at Brink Auction yard. 1 mile south of Frederick, OK on Hwy 183.*  
**NO BUYBACK FEE, NO BUYERS PREMIUM**

**Saturday, March 29**  
Online auction services available at [www.equipmentfacts.com](http://www.equipmentfacts.com)  
P.O. Box 928\* Frederick, OK 73542

**To consign, please call**  
Terry - 580-335-4126 Mobile  
John Dee - 580-471-7937 Mobile  
[brinkauction@gmail.com](mailto:brinkauction@gmail.com)  
**We appreciate your business!**

**Visit our website [www.brinkauction.com](http://www.brinkauction.com)**



**580-439-5639**

**Same great food and friendly service!**  
Catfish, Steak, BBQ, Burgers & more!  
Banquet room with seating for up to 45.

**Dine In or Carry Out**  
Old Hwy 81 & Refinery Rd  
Ryan & Amanda Mora  
179027 N 2820 Rd  
Comanche, OK 73529



**580-255-3030**  
**& TRUCK WASH**

**PASSENGER, LIGHT TRUCK, COMMERCIAL & AG**  
**24 HOUR ROAD SERVICE**  
**TOLL FREE 1-888-255-3031**  
[MONTGOMERYTIREANDALIGNMENT.COM](http://MONTGOMERYTIREANDALIGNMENT.COM)



**Land Pros**

**Let Our Team Work for You!**  
**580-252-3880**  
**580-467-4068**



**Land Pros Home Pros Auction Pros**



**Scan QR to Meet Our Team**  
**Scan QR To Go To Our Website**

**Land Pros Real Estate & Auction Co.**  
1705 South Highway 81 • Duncan, OK 73533  
[www.farmsranchesland.com](http://www.farmsranchesland.com)

**YOUR FIGHT IS OUR FIGHT!**

We embrace new and innovative treatments that emerge each year in the fight against cancer! Our doctors and nurses are cancer specialists. Our staff is highly trained to support you as a patient. You will not fight alone.

**We encourage you to get routine cancer screenings.**  
**Early detection improves outcomes and saves lives.**

*Hope & Healing*  
**RIGHT HERE AT HOME**



**ALTUS**  
1200 E. Broadway St.  
Altus, OK. 73521  
580.379.6000



**LAWTON**  
104 NW 31st St.  
Lawton, OK. 73505  
580.536.2121



**DUNCAN**  
2465 N. Whisenant Dr.  
Suite 100  
Duncan, OK. 73533  
580.251.6600



**CHICKASHA**  
2222 W. Iowa Ave.  
Chickasha, OK. 73018  
405.222.9222

Altus • Lawton • Duncan • Chickasha

**CANCER CENTERS**  
*of Southwest Oklahoma*

**A SERVICE OF COMANCHE COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL**

For more information, visit our website  
[CCSWOK.COM](http://CCSWOK.COM)



**Need to make a payment by phone?**  
**Call our automated system at**  
**1-855-940-3923**  
Have your Cotton Electric account number and credit card or banking account numbers ready before making the call.

# HVAC Tune-Up rebate program begins April 1

Spring is approaching, and now is the perfect time to start prepping for summer. From April 1 through June 20, Cotton Electric is offering to help members offset the cost of getting air conditioning units ready for high summer temperatures.

Through the HVAC Tune-Up rebate program, the co-op will provide a rebate of 50% of the cost of your spring tune-up service, excluding repairs and not exceeding \$50. For heat pump systems, the co-op will provide a rebate for 50% of the cost of annual maintenance contracts, excluding repairs and not exceeding \$75. The goal of this incentive program is to ensure the largest power-consuming appliance in members' homes is ready to operate at peak performance when needed most.

Heating and air conditioning systems are typically the largest purchases for homeowners, led only by home and vehicle purchases. Like with a vehicle, lack of maintenance can have an impact on the efficiency and life of HVAC systems. Most car owners would not even consider skipping scheduled maintenances of their vehicle, and the same type of thinking should be applied to air conditioning service.

There are two schools of thought when it comes to maintaining these systems: Reactive and preventive. Reactive or "run-to-fail" practices are marked by forgoing regular maintenance and running equipment until parts fail. Preventive practices involve periodic maintenance as required by manufacturers.

There are numerous studies showing the effects that poor maintenance procedures have on HVAC systems. A majority of studies shows a 5% loss of efficiency over the course of one year. This loss in efficiency can be attributed to a reduction of air flow through indoor and outdoor coils. As dirt attaches to coils, airflow is limited. Units not properly serviced, even for just a few years, can have up to 40% loss of efficiency throughout its life.

Lack of maintenance can affect more than just the efficiency of the unit. Restricted airflow can raise operating amperage of motors and compressors, resulting in a shortened operating life span. You wouldn't drive your car with a flat tire, would you? Continuing to drive with a flat tire would result in further damage. The same is true for your air conditioning system. Running components at higher amps than they are designed for will decrease the life of that component.

It may be difficult to tell if your unit has a weak start capacitor or is low on refrigerant; this is why we recommend involving a professional contractor. Scheduled tune-ups allow professionals an opportunity to perform recommended cleanings and test specific components and refrigerant levels that keep your system operating efficiently.

Applications will be available on our website, through your contractor or at one of Cotton Electric's office locations in Duncan or Walters.

- Beginning April 1, Cotton Electric is offering a rebate of up to \$50 per home (50% of the cost of your spring tune-up, excluding repairs, up to \$50) or up to \$75 per home (50% of the cost of your annual maintenance contract, excluding repairs, up to \$75) for members who get a tune-up for their HVAC system. In order to qualify, the following guidelines must be met:*
- *Must be a Cotton Electric Cooperative member. Residence must be within Cotton Electric's service territory.*
  - *Rebate is not available for new construction.*
  - *A completed rebate application is required. Application forms can be downloaded at [www.cottonelectric.com](http://www.cottonelectric.com) and are available at the Walters and Duncan offices or by calling 580-875-3351.*
  - *Application must be signed and dated by both the member and a licensed and bonded HVAC contractor.*
  - *Member must submit a dated, itemized invoice as proof of service completion from a qualified contractor. A copy of the annual contract must be submitted showing at least two scheduled maintenance checks, if applicable. Failure to provide required information will result in denial of rebate.*
  - *Rebates are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis until program funds have been depleted.*
  - *Rebate not valid on gas-fired furnaces.*
  - *Rebate limited to one tune-up per home annually.*
  - *HVAC tune-ups must be completed by June 20, 2025. Rebate applications must be received by June 30, 2025.*

# Tune-Up Checklist

Tune-ups must be performed by a qualified service professional and must include the following criteria:

- Check and correct unit's refrigerant pressure and tubing
- Check thermostat settings, wiring and other electric parts and connections
- Inspect air filters
- Test AC and/or heat pump starting capabilities
- Test safety controls
- Clean and adjust blower components

- Measure temperature difference
- Measure volts/amps on AC and/or heat pump
- Lubricate all applicable parts
- Check temperature calibration and adjust, if needed
- Check evaporator coil and clean, if necessary
- Clean condenser coil
- Clean AC condensate drains
- Check thermostat operation



Toll Free: 1-800-259-2384  
Fax: 580-228-3290

**Eck Drug & Gift**



**HealthMart**  
PHARMACY

For all your prescription needs!

Dana "Biff" & Valerie Eck  
Doctors of Pharmacy

Bus: 580-228-2383

101 S. Main  
Waurika, OK 73573



**SHOWMAN'S CHOICE**  
FOR ALL YOUR HORSE TACK  
& SHOW SUPPLY NEEDS.

HOURS MON-FRI 8:00-5:30  
SAT 10:00-2:00

1205 SW SHERIDAN RD  
LAWTON, OK 73505  
580-355-7469

**FIND US ON FACEBOOK!**

**HOLT ELECTRIC**  
OVER 30 YEARS EXPERIENCE

Residential  
Commercial  
Industrial



Estimates  
Remodeling  
New Construction

**24 hour Service**

**580-365-4147**

P.O. Box 131 \* Sterling OK 73567 \* Lic#OK10531

**Audiology & Hearing AID of Duncan**

*"Serving Duncan Since 1995"*

**HEARING EVALUATIONS  
HEARING AIDS  
HEARING AID SUPPLIES  
ALL BRANDS REPAIRED**

*"We Accept Insurance"  
"Pack of Batteries, \$3"  
"Resound Dealer"*

Cynthia Reidenbach - Hearing Aid Tech  
Matt Campbell - M.S., CCC-A  
AUDIOLOGIST

**580-252-9005**

**2126 N HWY 81, STE 26B • CHISHOLM MALL, SOUTH ENTRANCE**

Hearing Evaluation  
Assistive Listening  
Hearing Conservation  
HEARING AIDS



**DENNIS PROCESSING**  
Custom Processing

5078 N. HWY 81  
Marlow OK 73055

**Call to book an appointment**

Scott Dennis - (580) 467-3753  
Tyler Dennis - (580) 641-0137

**Bill Robinson**

**ROBINSON FENCING**  
Pipe Fencing • Wire Fencing • Corrals • Gates

Cell: (580) 450-3077




## Carefully consider Social Security decisions

Your Social Security benefits can be an important part of your retirement income — but when should you start collecting them? It's a big decision, so you'll want to consider your options carefully. Essentially, you'll need to decide whether you're going to take your benefits as early as possible — age 62 — or if you should wait until your "full retirement age" or even longer. If you begin accepting benefits at 62, they'll be about 30% lower than if you waited until your full retirement age, which is 67 if you were born in 1960 or later. And if you wait until 70, your benefits will be about 24% higher than at your full retirement age.

In deciding when to claim benefits, you'll want to weigh these factors:

- **Income needs** — If you need the money to help meet your daily cost of living, then you may not feel you have much of a choice about when to take Social Security. However, if you have sufficient income from other sources, such as your 401(k) or other retirement accounts, you may be able to delay taking benefits until they're much larger.
- **Employment** — If you're still working and you haven't reached your full retirement age yet, it might be a good idea to wait before claiming Social Security because your benefits will be reduced by \$1 for every \$2 earned above \$23,400. In the year in which you reach your full retirement age, your benefits will be reduced by \$1 for every \$3 earned above \$62,160. (But once you reach your full retirement age, Social Security will adjust your payments to credit you for the months during which your benefits were lowered because of your income.)
- **Life expectancy** — None of us can say for certain how long we'll live—but you may have some hints. For example, if you have a family history of longevity, and you're in good health, you might decide it makes sense to delay taking Social Security until your full retirement age, or even later, as you could potentially have more years of receiving larger checks.
- **Spouse** — If you're married, decisions about when to claim benefits could affect you or your spouse. The spouse with lower Social Security payments may be eligible to receive spousal benefits even if they or the higher-benefit spouse delays taking benefits past their respective full retirement ages. One other point to keep in mind: If the higher-benefit spouse claims early, the lower-benefit spouse's survivor benefit to the other spouse is reduced, but if the higher-benefit spouse delays their benefit beyond their full retirement age, the survivor benefit is increased. By making the appropriate choices, you can help maximize your Social Security benefits — and possibly endow your retirement.

Edward Jones, Member SIPC



**Kelsey Avants**  
1110 N. 10th Street | Duncan, OK 73533 | 580-255-4408  
[kelsey.avants@edwardjones.com](mailto:kelsey.avants@edwardjones.com) | [www.edwardjones.com](http://www.edwardjones.com)

**Edward Jones**  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

# Electric cooperatives bring unique value to their communities

Electric cooperatives stand out from other types of businesses because we are built and led by the communities we serve. As independent, not-for-profit electric utilities, we are owned and governed by our local members—not by outside shareholders or investors. That is a powerful differentiator.

Here are a few ways electric co-ops like Cotton Electric bring unique value to the communities they serve:

**We put people before profits**

Co-ops are not-for-profit and provide at-cost electric service. Any excess revenue is returned to our consumer-members in the form of capital credits, typically as a bill credit or check.

**Community comes first**

We live and work here too, and we care deeply about our local communities. That’s why we engage in development and revitalization projects,

sponsor local students for scholarships and youth programs, and give back to local organizations through the Cotton Electric Charitable Foundation.

**Affordable, reliable power is our priority**

Cotton Electric purchases electricity from Western Farmers Electric Cooperative (WFEC), our wholesale energy partner. WFEC is a generation and transmission cooperative formed by a group of electric co-ops in our state/region. This cooperative business structure allows us to pool local resources and provide electricity at a lower cost than if we purchased it from outside sources.

As a new year begins, we’re focused on our members’ energy needs—not only for today but for the long haul. We’re advocating for smarter energy policies that prioritize reliability and affordability for all. We recognize we

must be inclusive of all energy sources, which is why we work closely with WFEC to ensure use of a diverse mix of sources, including coal, natural gas, wind and solar, to generate the electricity we provide to our members.

Reliable, affordable electricity is more important than ever before, and our focus will continue to be the best interest of the communities we serve.

To learn more about your cooperative, visit [www.cottonelectric.com](http://www.cottonelectric.com).

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

## Who We Are



At-cost electric service



Locally governed



Return excess revenue



Community builders

## Oklahoma Human Services home energy assistance program opens April 15

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is a federally funded program through Oklahoma Human Services that provides payment assistance to low-income Oklahoma households each year to help them meet the cost of home energy.

One program under the LIHEAP umbrella is the Energy Crisis Assistance Program (ECAP). This program provides assistance through payment of an eligible household’s primary source of heating or cooling that is in crisis. Applications for this program open April 15.

A “household” is defined as an individual’s one utility meter or energy source.

ECAP Crisis Criteria, verification required:

- Households that have an active cutoff notice for the utility on the day of application
- Written notice from their utility provider for new service establishment or service restoration with a minimum requirement security deposit, carryover debt or other fees
- Written notice from their utility provider refusing to deliver additional fuel without a minimum required payment, and the fuel tank is below 10%
- A prepaid account with less than \$25 balance in the account
- Verification from the utility provider that the household entered into a payment plan to prevent service cutoff

Information needed to apply for ECAP:

- Most recent utility bill for the household that meets the crisis criteria
- ID (such as a driver’s license)
- Social Security number
- Verification of income
- Household size
- Responsibility for payment of home energy
  - Households are not eligible for energy assistance if the utility bill is paid directly to the provider by someone who does not reside in the house.

Households with a member who belong to a federally recognized American Indian tribe may apply for energy assistance through Oklahoma Human Services or tribal nation, but cannot receive assistance from both during the same federal fiscal year.

Eligible households will be authorized for a one-time payment for the minimum amount required to resolve the crisis. Only one annual payment per household is allowed for ECAP. The total crisis payment is capped at \$750 maximum per federal fiscal year, including energy crisis and life-threatening medical assistance.

For people applying to this program in April, you will need to include everyone who resides under the same roof at the same service address. Applicants should also have the most recent heating bill information for their home and utility supplier, along with their ID, Social Security number and verification of income.

ECAP applications open April 15. For more information and to apply, visit [www.okdhslive.org](http://www.okdhslive.org).

*Source: Oklahoma Human Services*

**FRONTIER**  
*Equipment*

2301 S. Hwy 81  
Marlow, OK 73055  
580-475-8879

Skid Steer Grapples, Augers,  
Mowers, Forks, Etc.

Welding Equipment

**Wilcox**  
**SERVICE**

We Service All Major Brands of  
Electric & Portable Welders  
Warranty – Service – Parts

109 Bois D’Arc, Duncan 580-255-0207  
[www.WelderRepair.net](http://www.WelderRepair.net) welderrepairs@att.net

**D~N~A Ranch**

Custom Bermuda  
Grass Sprigging



David Edgmon  
580-574-0068

## UNCOMFORTABLE?

Does your home have any of these symptoms?

- ☐ Rooms that get too hot or too cold?
- ☐ High utility bills?
- ☐ Thermostat wars with your spouse?
- ☐ High humidity in summer?
- ☐ House just never seems comfortable?
- ☐ There doesn’t seem to be enough airflow?

- ☐ Dust buildup within 2 days of dusting?
- ☐ Problems with your system since it’s been installed?
- ☐ Anyone with allergies or asthma?
- ☐ AC starts and stops frequently or runs all the time, and house is still not cool?

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

If you answered **YES** to any of these questions, we can help!

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



**PIPPIN**  
BROTHERS  
PLUMBING • HEATING • AIR CONDITIONING

Call Today:  
**580-248-7924**  
[www.PippinBrothers.com](http://www.PippinBrothers.com)

*“Comfort Without Compromise”*

Simple changes make a big difference  
and add up to savings.

Learn more at  
[www.cottonelectric.com/energy-efficiency](http://www.cottonelectric.com/energy-efficiency)  
or [www.touchstoneenergy.com](http://www.touchstoneenergy.com).

**COOP**

For all of Your  
Farming and Ranching Needs

Fertilizer  
Chemicals  
Feed & Seed  
Farm Supplies

Your Co-op can blend and apply either  
Dry or Liquid Fertilizer

Call and Schedule your Needs-

**Walters Co-op**  
**580-875-3345**  
*We Appreciate Your Business*

**BERMUDAGRASS  
SPRIGGING**

Midland of 99 sprigs and roots for sale!  
**CALL HC MCGEE 580-512-3569**



*Starlite Welding Supplies*

**Torch & Regulator Repair  
Welder-Torch Kit Specials**

**1 Yr. Cylinder Lease \$45.95**  
SPECIALS on Welders/Generators



526 Industrial Ave.—By Duncan Cemetery  
Mon.-Fri., 8 am -5 pm; Sat., 8 am -12 noon  
*Home-owned by Kenneth/Jeff Golay*  
Since 1991 **580-252-8320**

# Local juniors attending Leadership Summit

By Carli Eubank

High school juniors Major Fleetwood and Gavin Waller will represent Cotton Electric Cooperative at the 2025 Leadership Summit on March 17 at the Oklahoma State Fairgrounds. Each student at Leadership Summit will take home a \$500 college scholarship. Fleetwood and Waller were selected from those who participated in the 2025 Youth Tour essay contest.

Fleetwood resides in Cotton Electric territory and attends Marlow High School. There, he is involved in Marlow FFA, football, basketball and baseball. Fleetwood plans to attend college and continue his baseball career.

Waller, also a Marlow High School student, is a member of their high school band. He plans on attending college and pursuing an engineering degree.

Both Fleetwood and Waller are looking forward to meeting new people and enhancing their leadership skills at the 2025 Leadership Summit.

During Leadership Summit, Fleetwood, Waller and other attendees from Oklahoma electric cooperatives will participate in activities designed to encourage students to become leaders of their schools and communities. They will also hear from inspiring speakers focusing on how to make a positive impact in their schools and communities.

To learn more about Leadership Summit and other youth programs, visit [www.cottonelectric.com/youth-programs](http://www.cottonelectric.com/youth-programs).



Major Fleetwood



Gavin Waller



On March 4, we recognize the professionals who work on operational planning, analysis, and design to ensure we have the essential services we depend on.

Thank you for your leadership and service!

**WORLD Engineering DAY**



Above ground pools, Hot tubs, Equipment, Chemicals, Cleaning supplies and Toys too!

**5669 N. HWY 81  
DUNCAN, OK 73533**

**Chemical Sale!  
April 7th-12th**

Come by or call us with your order

**(580) 252-7114**

CHISHOLM TRAIL ARTS COUNCIL PRESENTS

**Paperback Writer**

**THE BEATLES Experience**

**April 19  
7:30 pm**

**simmons center theater**

SPONSORED BY **ARVEST BANK**

580-252-4160 for Tickets or [www.chisholmtrailarts.com](http://www.chisholmtrailarts.com)



**Bowie's Second Monday** has evolved into one of the largest flea markets on five acres!

**SECOND MONDAY TRADE DAYS** takes place the weekend prior to the second Monday of every month.

**NEXT TRADE DATES**  
**April 11-13**

Business Hwy 287 & Hwy 81 (Wise Street),  
Bowie, TX 76230  
**940-872-4861**

**Information Hours**  
Monday - Friday • 8am - 5pm  
[secondmonday@cityofbowietx.com](mailto:secondmonday@cityofbowietx.com)

**Event Hours**  
Saturday & Sunday • 8am - 5pm

**www.cityofbowietx.com**



**580-704-5555**

CONSTRUCTION & GENERAL CONTRACTING

NEW HOMES, STEEL BUILDINGS, ROOFS & REMODELING OF ALL KINDS



WE CAN BUILD FROM PLANS OR PERSONALLY DESIGN FOR YOU

**Linda & Sarah's Carpets**

**Serving YOU for more than 63 years!**

Great Prices on quality wall-to-wall carpet, laminate, vinyl flooring and so much more!

If we don't have it in the store, we will order it for you!

**Come by or call!**

**N. Hwy 81 & Camelback Rd  
DUNCAN OK**

**580-255-0275  
580-252-1331**



# Think before you climb: Don't take safety shortcuts

A ladder is often necessary, whether it is for a home improvement project, clearing the gutters or hanging decorative lights. However, before rushing into a project, take a few minutes to inspect your ladder and ensure it is the right one for the job.

Each year in the United States, more than 100 people die and thousands more are injured from ladder-related falls, according to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).

There are five major causes for ladder-related fall incidents, according to NIOSH:

1. **Incorrect extension ladder setup angle:** In approximately 40% of cases, the cause of ladder-related injuries is a ladder sliding out at the base due to an incorrect setup angle.
2. **Inappropriate ladder selection:** Selecting a ladder with the proper rating for intended use (duty rating) is also important to avoid structural failure. Select the correct ladder for the job.
3. **Insufficient ladder inspection:** Reduce the likelihood of ladder structural failure by practicing regular inspection and maintenance (see separate section on inspections).
4. **Improper ladder use:** Overreaching, carrying objects, applying excessive force, slips and missteps are also frequent causes of ladder-related fall injuries.
5. **Lack of access to ladder safety tools and information:** Small companies that account for up to 80% of all construction companies, as well as domestic ladder users, such as homeowners, typically do not receive the required safety training on the proper use of extension ladders and step ladders.

## Don't skip the inspection

Before using a ladder, check to see if it is broken, in disrepair or not functioning as it should. If this is the case, ensure no one uses it until it is properly repaired. Look for:

- Cracks
- Serious dents
- Deformed or missing steps/rungs
- Missing or uneven feet

- Loose steps/rungs
- Defective locks and spreader braces

## Look up first

Always look up and look out for overhead power lines before climbing, transporting or positioning a ladder. When moving a ladder, carry it horizontally instead of vertically since getting too close or contacting overhead power lines could cause electrocution.

Always be aware of overhead power lines and:

- Keep yourself and all equipment 10 feet away from overhead power lines.
  - o Electricity can arc or jump if a ladder gets too close to a power line or pole.
  - o A ladder could make direct contact with the line.
- Use a ladder during ideal weather conditions.
  - o Rain can make the ground slippery.
  - o Wind could blow a ladder into a power line.
- Do not trim trees/branches that are near power lines.
  - o It is dangerous to trim near overhead power lines.
  - o By law, only certified line clearance tree trimmers can do so.
- Do not use water or blower extensions to clean gutters near overhead lines.
  - o All power lines can cause electrocution, including those feeding your home.
  - o Always follow the 10-foot distance rule when working or playing outside.

An aluminum ladder is a great conductor of electricity; however, a wooden ladder can be one too, depending on the condition of the ladder and whether it is wet or has metal parts.

Anything that elevates you can take you too close to a power line if you are not aware of your surroundings. For more information on electrical safety, visit [www.cottonelectric.com/safety](http://www.cottonelectric.com/safety) or [www.safeelectricity.org](http://www.safeelectricity.org).



# Think Before You Climb

Before you rush into a job that requires you to use a ladder, take precautions before you climb.

## Electrical Safety



1. **Look up** and around for power line locations before using a ladder.
2. Keep a minimum **10-foot distance** from a power line or other electrical equipment at all times.
3. The minimum distance rule includes you (any part of your body) or **any object you are holding**, such as a ladder or tool.
4. Always **be aware of power line locations** when you are elevated.
5. Sources of elevation include, but are not limited to, a **ladder, rooftop, boom lift or scaffolding**.

## General Ladder Safety




1. Use a ladder on a **stable, level surface**.
2. Maintain **three-point contact** on the ladder when climbing.
3. Three points of contact mean **two hands and a foot** or **two feet and a hand**.
4. Keep your body **near the middle of the step** and face the ladder when climbing.
5. **Do not use the top step/rung** of a ladder unless designed for that purpose.
6. For a stepladder, make sure the base is **fully open** and the spreaders are **locked**.

Learn more about electrical safety:



Sources:  
OSHA,  
American Ladder Institute



## LAWTON FARMERS MARKET




**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](http://LawtonFarmersMarket.com)





## RE/MAX

1941 W ELK, DUNCAN, OK 73533  
**580-252-7800**

OUR TEAM CAN MEET YOUR REAL ESTATE NEEDS

**Bryan Fisher**  
580-251-1195  
**Shorty Brown**  
580-467-1468

**Brenda Knabe**  
580-251-0278  
**Melody Herrington**  
580-656-3023

**Karl Jacobs**  
580-467-4915



Each RE/MAX office is independently owned and operated

## CORNISH PROPERTIES

Insured & Bonded  
*Serving Lawton Since 1980*



Commercial • Industrial  
Interior & Exterior  
• **Drywall Finish**  
• **Spray Painting**  
• **Construction Management**

6209 W Gore Blvd, Lawton  
**580-536-0575**

## Eastland Grocery & Grill

**Grill - (580)255-2761**  
Mon. - Fri., 6 am - 2 pm

**Grocery - (580)252-2361**  
Mon. - Fri., 5 am - 9 pm  
Sat. - Sun., 6 am - 9 pm

## GREAT PLAINS Technology Center

Ready for a new opportunity? We're hiring!  
**We have several open positions.**  
**APPLY TODAY!**

For full job descriptions, deadlines and applications see  
**[www.greatplains.edu/jobs](http://www.greatplains.edu/jobs)**  
Great Plains is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Email: [macsbodyshop2161@yahoo.com](mailto:macsbodyshop2161@yahoo.com)

## Mac's Body Shop & Wrecker Service



300 N 7th Street  
Walters, OK 73572  
Phone: 580.875.2161  
Fax: 580.875.2149  
After Hours Tow 580.351.7888



## NEW STORAGE FACILITY NOW OPEN!

# MARLOW SELF STORAGE

### PRICE PER MONTH

5x10 Units	\$55
10x10 Units	\$75
10x15 Units	\$100
10x20 Units	\$125
10x30 Units	\$150

### WHY CHOOSE US?

- All units are protected by a 24/7 monitored security system, security fencing, and security lighting
- Built in fire protection system
- Tenant Rental Insurance available
- Our units are the safest and newest in Stephens County!

### CONTACT US

1108 S. BROADWAY  
MARLOW, OK 73055

580 - 641 - 3517

[MarlowSelfStorage.com](http://MarlowSelfStorage.com)

# Energy Camp essay contest closes March 20

The countdown for the opportunity to grow in cooperation, teamwork, leadership development and safety education at the 2025 Energy Camp is winding down for all incoming and current eighth graders attending schools within Cotton Electric’s service territory. Contest winners will be selected to attend an all-expense-paid trip to Canyon Camp in Red Rock Canyon, southeast of Hinton, May 27-30.

The top four students will join students from other Oklahoma electric cooperatives for a chance to be a lineworker for a day, hear from motivational speakers, learn the science behind electricity, and participate in various team-building group activities, all while enjoying the great outdoors at Red Rock Canyon.

Contestants must submit an essay between 50 and 100 words explaining why the entrant would like to represent Cotton Electric at the 2025 Energy Camp. Writers of the top 10 essays move to the second round for a live video interview between students and independent judges where the top four students will be selected to attend this year’s Energy Camp.

For contest deadlines, guidelines and submission, visit [www.cottonelectric.com/energycamp](http://www.cottonelectric.com/energycamp).



Energy Camp students enjoy a game of football at Canyon Camp during their free time in the afternoon. Photo courtesy of Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives.

# ENERGY CAMP

MAY 27-30, 2025

SCAN HERE TO LEARN MORE

**FREE Summer Camp for 8th Graders!!!**

- have a blast and make new friends during this high-voltage adventure
- become an energy expert & experience the life of a lineworker
- discover your passions through leadership development sessions
- swimming, hiking, water games and more summer fun
- impact your future through career success workshops

# McBRIDE CLINIC

ORTHOPEDICS | SPORTS MEDICINE  
JOINT REPLACEMENT

**SCHEDULE NOW**  
800.552.9270

**Bradley J. Margo, MD**  
**Christopher Tkach, MD**  
**Jeremy Woodson, MD**  
**Diann Johnson, APRN**

5050 SW/ Lee Blvd, Ste 2 | Lawton  
[www.mcboh.com](http://www.mcboh.com) 100% Physician Owned

Thinking about Buying or Selling Property?

Turn to experts you can trust!

# KRISSIE GORDON

REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONAL  
580-467-3396

**TURNER LAND COMPANY LLC**  
Mike Faulkner - Managing Broker  
580-465-3571

[www.turnerlandcompany.com](http://www.turnerlandcompany.com)

# HEART of the PRAIRIE Spring Edition

Shorthorn, Angus, Club Calf + Commercial Sale

**ENTER FOR THE SHOW**  
Enter in March 2025  
<https://showman.app/shows#/heart-of-the-prairie-multi-breed-cattle-show-and-sale>

**SALE 12:00 Noon**  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 2025**

**MULTI BREED SHOW 3:00 PM**

**LOCATION**  
Stephens County Fairgrounds  
Duncan, OK

**CCi LIVE Bid Live Online**  
"Gavel's Down, The Best!"  
(516) 366-0734 CCI Live [schedule@ccilive.com](http://schedule@ccilive.com)

Look for consignments from these early consignor:

**CROW CREEK FARM**  
Steven Crow and Jerrell & Stephanie Crow  
12901 NE Cache Rd., Lawton, OK 73507  
Jerrell Crow 580-585-2522

Hill Haven Fire Storm

TJH Bo's Maxim

CF Chosen 815 X ET

CCF Nicholas

Waukara Denver 3028

Waukara Gold Band 5061

**GLOVER CATTLE COMPANY**  
Dustin Glover  
1328 NE Glover Rd, Elgin, OK 73058  
580-280-0188

**RICHARDSON FARMS**  
Shorthorns  
Sammy and Wilma Richardson  
3703 Hwy 29, Marlow, OK 73055  
580-658-2709  
[richardsonfarmsshorthorns@gmail.com](mailto:richardsonfarmsshorthorns@gmail.com)

**HERD DISPERSAL**

**The Ferguson Family**  
Don & Vicki, Kim, Mike & Italia  
415 S 7th Street, Chickasha, OK 73018  
405-314-2247 • [ferguskim@gmail.com](mailto:ferguskim@gmail.com)

**Couch Farms**  
Rick and Donna Couch, 918-557-8343  
62301 E 69th Rd., Quapaw, OK 74363

**TSW Cattle - Terry Whisenhunt**  
273412 Broncho Rd., Marlow, OK 73055  
580-585-3355 • [tswcattle@yahoo.com](mailto:tswcattle@yahoo.com)

**2L Shorthorns - Frank & Lynda Lucas**  
Roll, Oklahoma  
580-983-2771 • [llble@outlook.com](mailto:llble@outlook.com)

**Bye Well Shorthorns - Claire Bye**  
3350 County Street 2820, Ninnekah, OK 73067  
260-729-2324 • [byewellshorthorns@gmail.com](mailto:byewellshorthorns@gmail.com)

**PROGENY & SERVICE OF THESE ELITE SIRES WILL SELL**

Catalog Available Online at Shorthorn Country & CCI after March 15, 2025

**For More Information Contact:**  
Steven W. Crow 405-820-9725 • Jerrell Crow 580-585-2522  
or message us on Facebook @ Crow Creek Farms  
Dustin Glover 580-280-0188

**\$1,000 added money for the Multi-Breed Open Show**

# ACE REWARDS

SHOP • EARN • SAVE

**UNLOCK \$10 WITH YOUR PHONE**

**Duncan ACE**  
A 66 Hardware Company

3209 N Highway 81  
Duncan, OK 73533  
(580) 255-3500

Limit one bonus coupon per Ace Rewards member. Bonus coupon will be available after a member downloads the Ace mobile app for the first time and links to Ace Rewards member account. Coupon exclusions apply.



# MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS BENEFITS

## \$113 MILLION SAVED ON PRESCRIPTIONS

### IT’S SIMPLE

- 1

Present your Co-op Connections Card at check out. If you have insurance, present your insurance card as well.
- 2

Ask the pharmacist to calculate the discounted price. If you have insurance, ask the pharmacist to compare the discount card price to your insurance price.
- 3

You pay the lowest price between the two.



- MEMBERS CAN SAVE AN AVERAGE OF 47% ON PRESCRIPTIONS.
- SAVE MONEY DURING THE MEDICARE “DONUT HOLE.”

### TO LOCATE PROVIDERS IN YOUR AREA:

Go to [www.connections.coop/healthy-savings](http://www.connections.coop/healthy-savings) and click “Locate Providers.”

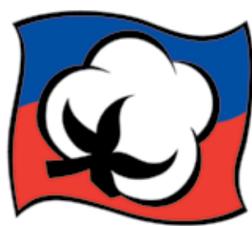
Set up your account.

Enter your zip code to search for providers near you.

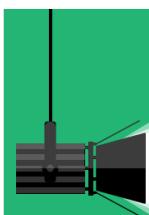
Or you can call Member Services at 800-800-7616 if you have questions or to find a provider.

### ANOTHER GREAT MEMBER BENEFIT BROUGHT TO YOU BY COTTON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Pharmacy discounts are not insurance, and are not intended as a substitute for insurance. Pharmacy discounts range from 10% to 85% on most medications. **The discount is only available at participating pharmacies.** Prescription claims through this program will not be eligible for reimbursement through Medicaid, Medicare or any other government program.



Co-op Life



Community  
Spotlight

If you would like your community event listed in the April issue, please submit information by calling 580-875-3351 or send an email to [TheCurrent@cottonelectric.com](mailto:TheCurrent@cottonelectric.com) by March 28. Only events occurring after April 11 will be published in the next issue.

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

Music festival returns to Medicine Park

Celebrate the coming of spring amid cobblestone-lined streets at the ParkStomp Music Festival. This annual event features great music for the whole family including bluegrass, country, rockabilly, punk and rock. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets to gather around the main stage, or browse the booths of arts and crafts. The event is March 14-16 at Town Center Main Stage in Medicine Park. For more information, visit [www.medicinepark.com](http://www.medicinepark.com) or call 580-529-2825.

Auto swap meet in Duncan

Duncan's annual Automotive Swap Meet takes place March 20-22 at the

Stephens County Fairgrounds, 2002 S. 13th in Duncan. This is an indoor and outdoor swap meet for avid muscle car and antique-car enthusiasts. Located in the heart of southwest Oklahoma, the swap meet includes auto-related vendors, and on-site camping facilities and concessions are available. Enjoy browsing through everything from boats and motorcycles to trucks and tractors, as well as auto-related memorabilia. For more information, visit [www.duncanokswapmeet.com](http://www.duncanokswapmeet.com).

80s themed "fun" draising event

Enjoy an evening of live 80s rock at the Totally Rad 80s Bash by Von Hawks Rising. Compete in a dance-off, an arcade tournament, a best dressed 80s style contest and much more. This fundraiser event will help families of children impacted by severe illness or trauma. Tickets will be available at the door or online at [www.Rock4kids.org](http://www.Rock4kids.org). Sponsorships are also available. The event is scheduled from 7:30 to 11 p.m. March 29 at the Duncan Golf and Tennis Club. For more information, visit their Facebook event page or call 580-656-0222.

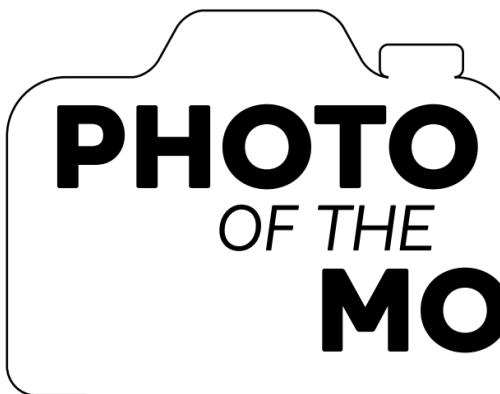


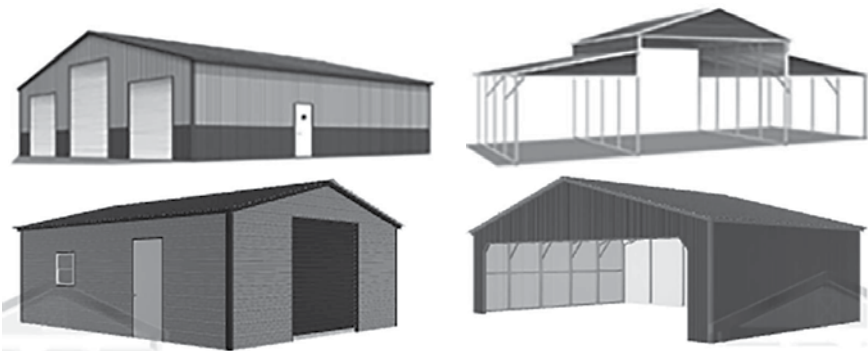
PHOTO  
OF THE  
MONTH



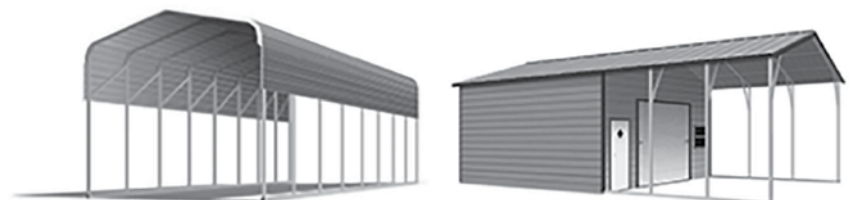
Cotton Electric member Kelly Dillon snapped this photo of Twisted Sister earlier this year at the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge.

Enter your "best shot" in our Photo of the Month contest. The theme for April is The Great Outdoors! 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.

Carports, Garages, Barns,  
Metal Buildings



Best Quality, Lowest Prices Anywhere!!!



Stop by our display yard at **Land Pros** in Duncan, across from the Stephens County Fairgrounds on South Hwy 81. Let us design and price your custom building.



1705 S. Hwy. 81  
DUNCAN, OK 73533  
**580-467-1501**  
[BestBarnsandCarports.com](http://BestBarnsandCarports.com)

**NO ONE BEATS OUR QUALITY OR PRICE**

[BestBarnsandCarports.office@gmail.com](mailto:BestBarnsandCarports.office@gmail.com)

STORM PREPAREDNESS  
CHECKLIST:

☒ FLASHLIGHT

☒ BATTERIES

☒ GENERAC WHOLE-HOME  
GENERATOR



Exclusive to  
co-op members

Contact Heath Morgan  
for details at 580-875-3351

CRUISIN'  
THE CHISHOLM TRAIL



2025

FRIDAY, APRIL 4  
MOTORS & MUSIC  
6-9 PM

SATURDAY, APRIL 5  
CAR & MOTORCYCLE SHOW  
8 AM - 3 PM

CARS • TRUCKS • MOTORCYCLES • FOOD • VENDORS  
[mainstreetduncan.com](http://mainstreetduncan.com) • 580.252.8696

# Powering your community, together

Behind every flick of a light switch, there is an entire team of Cotton Electric employees working hard to make sure electricity is delivered reliably and safely to homes and businesses. While many employees work behind the scenes, they all play a role in helping power communities and people’s lives.

Your administrative department keeps your cooperative running efficiently by guiding its efforts to meet the expectations of our members. Your director of safety, loss control and vegetation provides trainings to keep employees and members safe. Your human resources department recruits potential new hires and oversees the benefits and well-being of employees.

Your accounting department reviews spreadsheets and statements to ensure your cooperative is well managed financially. Your IT department maintains and checks the security of technology equipment.

Your billing and member services department answers questions on outages, billing and more. Your energy efficiency coordinator provides tips and expertise on how you can help lower energy bills. Your marketing department provides information and updates on cooperative business.

Your dispatch department relays vital information to crews and helps keep them safe when working in hazardous conditions. Your engineering department works on operational planning, analysis, and design.

Your warehouse and garage departments monitor inventory of cooperative equipment and materials. Your meter and transformer department installs and maintains meters across the service territory.

Your vegetation management department trims trees and greenery from interfering with power lines to help maintain reliable power. Your line operations department is dispatched to areas across the service territory to fix and maintain electrical equipment in order to ensure public safety and restore power.

The Cotton Electric Services Inc. (CESI) team constantly tests personal protective equipment to help keep thousands of lineworkers safe on the job.

Everyone on these pages plays an important part on the team that keeps our communities safe and powered by bringing unique skills that contribute to the success of your cooperative. Together we are making a powerful difference.



**STACY ABBE**  
*Fleet Operations  
Director*



**JAMES APRIESNIG**  
*General Accounting  
Supervisor*



**KEVIN BARRINEAU**  
*Dispatcher*



**JOSH BELCHER**  
*Meter Data Analyst*



**TJ BIRDWELL**  
*Apprentice Lineman*



**DAVID BREAK**  
*Staking Technician*



**MARC BOHALL**  
*Journeyman Lineman*



**SHANE BOWERS**  
*Vice President  
of Administration*



**KAHLER BROWN**  
*Member Service  
Representative*



**KALEIGH CASE**  
*Member Service  
Representative*



**STEPHANIE CHRISTMAN**  
*Member Service  
Representative*



**MACKENZIE COSTON**  
*Dispatcher*



**CHAD COWAN**  
*East Operations  
Superintendent*



**SCOTT CREW**  
*Supervisor of  
Engineering Services*



**LARRY CROWELL**  
*Journeyman Lineman*



**CONNER DANIEL**  
*Journeyman Lineman*



**TONYA DANIEL**  
*Director of Member  
Services*



**SCOTT DENNIS**  
*Journeyman Lineman*



**BRAYLIN DOWLEN**  
*Journeyman Lineman*



**MICHAEL EDGMON**  
*Apprentice Lineman*



**AUBREY EDMONSON**  
*Apprentice Lineman*



**CARLI EUBANK**  
*Communications Specialist*



**JENNIE EVANS**  
*Member Service  
Representative*



**CALEB FERGUSON**  
*Lab Technician*



**CODY FISHGRAB**  
*Vegetation Management  
Worker*



**TALIA GAMMILL**  
*Staking and Line  
Inspection Technician*



**SAM GONZALEZ**  
*Meter Technician  
Shop Foreman*



**BRYAN GOODE**  
*Apprentice  
Field Meter Technician*



**KYLE GRAHAM**  
*Member Service  
Representative*



**PRESTIN GREEN**  
*Journeyman Lineman*



**EVAN HAYES**  
*Journeyman Lineman*



**REX HIEBERT**  
*Journeyman  
Field Meter Technician*



**JUSTIN HILL**  
*Apprentice Lineman*



**BRYCE HOOPER**  
*Chief Operating  
Officer*



**JARROD HOOPER**  
*Director of Safety, Loss  
Control and Vegetation*



**CASE HURST**  
*Journeyman Lineman*



**CLINT INGRAM**  
*West Operations  
Superintendent*



**TJ JAMES**  
*Journeyman Lineman*



**KIM JOHNSON**  
*Human Resources  
Assistant*



**BILLY KENNARD**  
*Journeyman Lineman*



**ELY KING**  
*Lineman*



**HEATH KING**  
*Vegetation Management  
Worker*



**JUSTIN KING**  
*Warehouse  
Manager*



**JENNIFER KRIZ**  
*Member Service  
Representative*



**GREG KOHOUT**  
*Auto Mechanic I*



**JAKE LAWLER**  
*Lead Lab Technician*



**KYLE LINTHICUM**  
*Journeyman Lineman*



**AXEL MALLOW**  
*Lab Technician*



**RONNIE MANSEL**  
*Journeyman Lineman*



**JENNIFER MEASON**  
*Chief Executive  
Officer*



**ADAM METCALFE**  
*Purchasing Agent*



**GREG McCOMBER**  
*IT Supervisor*



**MONTY McDANIEL**  
*IT Technician*



**JOE MOORE JR.**  
*Vegetation Management  
Foreman*



**HEATH MORGAN**  
*Energy Efficiency  
Coordinator*



**DILLON NEWBY**  
*Meter Technician*



**RYAN NOLAND**  
*Lab Technician*



**HADYN NORMAN**  
*IT Help Desk*



**QUAID OGLETREE**  
*Journeyman Lineman*



**MIKE OTTINGER**  
*Vice President  
of Operations*



**LUKE PATMAN**  
*Vegetation Management  
Worker*



**CHACE PENN**  
*System Engineer*



**CODY PENNINGTON**  
*Meter & Transformer  
Shop Supervisor*



**DANIELLE QUICKLE**  
*Executive Assistant*



**TAYLOR RAINS**  
*Apprentice Lineman*



**ANTHONY REED**  
*Journeyman  
Field Meter Technician*



**KEETON SALLEE**  
*Journeyman Lineman*



**SHELLY SEHRT**  
*CESI Representative*



**ASHLEY SHORTT**  
*Work Order Clerk*



**BOBBY SHORTT**  
*Journeyman Lineman*



**SKYLER SMITH**  
*Apprentice Lineman*



**VICKIE SMITH**  
*Member Service Supervisor - Duncan*



**ZACK SMITH**  
*Crew Chief*



**BRADY STAPP**  
*Lab Technician*



**AMBER STEPHENS**  
*Accounts Payable Clerk*



**JEREMY STEWART**  
*Warehouse Materials Handler*



**JOE STUCKEY**  
*Accountant I*



**DILLON THOMPSON**  
*Journeyman Lineman*



**SHAYNE WHITE**  
*Journeyman Lineman*



**LARRY WILLIAMS**  
*Staking Technician*



**DILLON WIYGUL**  
*Journeyman Lineman*



**ERIC WOODS**  
*CESI Supervisor*



**ZACH YOUNG**  
*Director of Marketing & Communications*



**COTTON**  
**ELECTRIC CO-OP**



Put Your Health First

Monday - Friday  
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM



**DRH HEALTH**

Velma Family Care | 404 W Main St | Velma, OK  
580-444-2630



*Michelle Vannoy, APRN-CNP*

**Cable**  
MEAT & FOOD SERVICE  
Wholesale Food Distributor  
Wholesale delivery within 75 mile radius of Marlow.  
Retail Store Hours:  
Monday - Friday  
7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



**CABLE**  
MEAT & FOOD SERVICE  
—MARLOW, OK—  
580-658-6646

SINCE 1967

Food Service Office Hours:  
Monday - Friday, 5:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Place orders 24/7 on our mobile app  
or online at [cablefoodservice.com](https://cablefoodservice.com)



**DeHart**  
*Air Conditioning Heating* since 1920  
ENGINEERING SERVICE & CONTRACTING

5755 N. Highway 81, Duncan, OK  
580-252-2205  
[www.dehartair.com](http://www.dehartair.com)



30% Federal Tax Credit for Geothermal Systems

30% Federal Tax Credit  
EXTENDED Through 2032!

Call us today for more information! 580-252-2205



**CLIMATEMASTER**  
ClimateMaster Heating & Cooling

Cotton Electric Co-Op Rebates Available On: \*16 Seer, 17 Seer, 18 Seer(+) Air Source Heat Pumps. \*New Water Heaters And Mini-Splits. \*New Geo-Thermal Systems & Replacement Systems.

**Dehart Air Conditioning offers maintenance plans to keep systems healthy!**

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



580-255-3891

3555 US Hwy 81, Duncan, OK


<div>From \$99/Month</div> <div></div> <div>Spartan RZ</div> <div>Starting @ \$4,099 or \$99/mo</div>	<div>From \$121/Month</div> <div></div> <div>Spartan RZ PRO</div> <div>Starting @ \$5,029 or \$121/mo</div>	<div>From \$182/Month</div> <div></div> <div>Spartan RZ HD BLACKOUT</div> <div>Starting @ \$7,699 or \$182/mo</div>	<div>From \$166/Month</div> <div></div> <div>Spartan RT PRO</div> <div>Starting @ \$6,999 or \$166/mo</div>
<div>From \$269/Month</div> <div></div> <div>Spartan SRT XD</div> <div>Starting @ \$11,269 or \$269/mo</div>	<div>From \$355/Month</div> <div></div> <div>Spartan KGZ XD BLACKOUT</div> <div>Starting @ \$15,299 or \$355/mo</div>	<div>Attachments Available</div> <div></div> <div>Bobcat AT450</div> <div>Starting @ \$25,999 or \$483/mo</div>	<div>Attachments Available</div> <div></div> <div>Bobcat L28</div> <div>Starting @ \$42,999 or \$691/mo</div>
<div></div> <div>\$1000 OFF</div> <div>RZ, RZ-HD, RZ-HD Blackout, RZ-Pro, &amp; RZ-C</div>	<div></div> <div>\$1500 OFF</div> <div>RT-HD, RT-Pro, &amp; SRT-XDe</div>	<div></div> <div>\$2500 OFF</div> <div>KG-Pro, KG-XD, KGZ-XD, &amp; SRT-XD</div>	

<div></div> <div>Bobcat ZT2000</div> <div>Starting @ \$4,600 or \$93/mo</div>	<div></div> <div>Bobcat ZT5000</div> <div>Starting @ \$8,900 or \$180/mo</div>	<div>Includes Roof &amp; Windshield</div> <div></div> <div>Bobcat UV34</div> <div>Starting @ \$17,450 or \$297/mo</div>	<div>Includes Roof &amp; Windshield</div> <div></div> <div>Bobcat UV34XL</div> <div>Starting @ \$18,450 or \$314/mo</div>
<div>Hydrostat - Includes Loader</div> <div></div> <div>Bobcat CT1025</div> <div>25HP</div> <div>Starting @ \$15,999 or \$246/mo</div>	<div>Hydrostat - Includes Loader</div> <div></div> <div>Bobcat CT2025</div> <div>25HP</div> <div>Starting @ \$19,999 or \$318/mo</div>	<div>Hydrostat - Includes Loader</div> <div></div> <div>Bobcat CT2040</div> <div>40HP</div> <div>Starting @ \$25,999 or \$402/mo</div>	<div>Hydrostat - Includes Loader</div> <div></div> <div>Bobcat CT4050</div> <div>50HP</div> <div>Starting @ \$29,999 or \$469/mo</div>
<div>Hydrostat - Includes Loader</div> <div></div> <div>Bobcat CT5558</div> <div>58HP</div> <div>Starting @ \$49,999 or \$740/mo</div>	<div>Includes Loader</div> <div></div> <div>Bobcat UT6573</div> <div>73HP</div> <div>Starting @ \$51,999 or \$750/mo</div>	<div>Attachments Available</div> <div></div> <div>Bobcat MT100</div> <div>Starting @ \$35,999 or \$578/mo</div>	<div>Attachments Available</div> <div></div> <div>Bobcat UW56</div> <div>Starting @ \$75,999 or \$1,210/mo</div>

0% FRONT-END FINANCING FOR 84 MONTHS

WHEN YOU BUY A NEW COMPACT TRACTOR





FREE

HANDHELD STRING TRIMMER AND BLOWER WITH PURCHASE OF ANY NEW ZERO TURN MOWER

EXPIRES 3/31/2025 - LIMIT ONE PER CUSTOMER PER MONTH

HYDRAULIC CYLINDERS



REPACKED HERE



580-255-3867

3555 US Hwy 81, Duncan, OK

- Forklift Sales • Parts
- Service • Rentals

<div>Lease From \$419/Month</div> <div></div> <div>LiuGong 2025G-C</div> <div>5,000 lb</div> <div>Lease to Own Starting @ \$419/mo</div> <div>5 Year Powertrain Warranty</div>	<div>Lease From \$434/Month</div> <div></div> <div>LiuGong 2025G-3</div> <div>5,000 lb</div> <div>Lease to Own Starting @ \$434/mo</div> <div>5 Year Powertrain Warranty</div>	<div>Lease From \$488/Month</div> <div></div> <div>LiuGong 2030H</div> <div>6,000 lb</div> <div>Lease to Own Starting @ \$488/mo</div> <div>5 Year Powertrain Warranty</div>	<div>Lease From \$2968/Month</div> <div></div> <div>LiuGong 2160H</div> <div>36,000 lb</div> <div>Lease to Own Starting @ \$2968/mo</div> <div>5 Year Powertrain Warranty</div>
--	---	--	--

# Food Connects Us: March is National Nutrition Month 2025



Kim Bandelier, MPH, RD, LD

## Food For THOUGHT

This year’s National Nutrition Month campaign is Food Connects Us. National Nutrition Month was established in 1973 by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. It was established to highlight

the importance of making informed food choices and developing healthy eating and physical activity habits.

Food Connects Us celebrates the essential role of food in every aspect of our life, across all stages of life. There are weekly themes that guide you through the month. The first theme is Connect with Food, focusing on learning how to acquire and prepare food, where our food comes from, and what are community resources that can help those who may struggle to feed themselves and their family. A quick search online reveals that the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry has a Farm to School Program. Take a look at the website: <https://okfarmtoschool.com/>. Are you or do you know someone experiencing food insecurity? Learn more about Oklahoma-specific resources to help at [www.hungerfreeok.org/](http://www.hungerfreeok.org/).

The second theme is Connect with a Nutrition Expert. It is vital to get nu-

trition information and advice from a reputable source. Registered dietitians (RD) and registered dietitian nutritionists (RDN) are uniquely trained to provide individualized nutrition care based on science, culture, socioeconomic status, medical history and current medical status. You can use the Find a Nutrition Expert function at [www.eatright.org/find-a-nutrition-expert](http://www.eatright.org/find-a-nutrition-expert) to connect with a RD or RDN that best fits your needs. Not only can RD or RDNs provide you with personalized nutrition guidance, they can also help you filter nutrition noise that bombards us on social media and traditional media and from well-meaning friends and family.

The third theme is Explore the Connection Between Food and Culture. Culture can be many things - different countries, different religions or different ways in which we were raised. Exploring our food differences creates a sense of community; open our eyes and palates

to new foods, flavors and seasonings; and can enhance the enjoyment of nourishing our bodies.

The fourth theme is Build the Connection Across All Stages of Life. Our nutrition needs change across our life spans. The website [www.myplate.gov](http://www.myplate.gov) is a great starting point to understand the general nutrition needs across your life span and use technology to receive individualized recommendations. Seeking out an RD or RDN can help you further refine your individualized needs as you age and can provide expert support for necessary behavioral changes.

Use National Nutrition Month to celebrate the role food plays in our life, help others be adequately fed and further connect to our communities through food. Ideas can be found at [www.eatright.org/national-nutrition-month](http://www.eatright.org/national-nutrition-month).

# Lucky mint brownie perfection

(Culinary.net) How lucky you must be to come across this recipe just in time for St. Patrick’s Day. This one is a twisted combination of mint and sweet chocolate that’s sure to have almost anyone’s taste buds screaming “yum.” This dessert might just be the pot of gold at the end of your rainbow this year.

These Mint Brownies have three delicious layers. First, a supreme brownie on bottom. Then a fluffy, green mint layer that’s full of flavor and color. Last, but definitely not least, a chocolate layer on top made with chocolate chips, butter and a little whipping cream.

All of these layers create a smooth, sweet, minty, bite-sized dessert perfect for any occasion but especially St. Patrick’s Day. The green mint color really pops off the plate, giving it some extra flare and an appetizing glow.

To start, create the soft, chocolate filled brownie.

Combine brownie mix, vegetable oil, one egg, water and the chocolate syrup pouch. Bake and cool completely.

Then it’s time for some colorful, festive fun. Make the filling with powdered sugar, butter, whipping cream, softened cream cheese, a splash of peppermint extract and a few drops of green food coloring. Beat and pour over the cooled brownie pan.

The last layer is simple. In a saucepan, melt whipping cream, chocolate chips and butter until smooth. When it’s cooled to lukewarm, pour it over the filling for the final layer.

Refrigerate the Mint Brownies for two hours before serving. Cut them into bite-size pieces for small chunks that will melt in your mouth.

Find more seasonal dessert recipes at Culinary.net.



## Mint brownies

Servings: 9-12

- Nonstick cooking spray  
1 box supreme brownie mix with chocolate syrup pouch  
3 tablespoons water  
1/3 cup vegetable oil  
1 egg
- Filling:**  
3 1/2 cups powdered sugar  
1/4 cup butter, softened  
1/4 cup whipping cream  
5 ounces cream cheese, softened  
1/2 teaspoon peppermint extract  
5 drops green food color
- Topping:**  
1/2 cup whipping cream  
1 bag (12 ounces) chocolate chips  
1/2 cup butter

- Directions:**  
Heat oven to 350 F.  
Spray 8-by-8-inch pan with nonstick cooking spray.  
In large bowl, mix brownie mix, water, oil and egg until combined. Pour into prepared baking pan. Bake 35 minutes. Cool completely, about 1 hour.  
To make filling: In large bowl, beat powdered sugar, butter, whipping cream, cream cheese, peppermint extract and food coloring. Spread over cooled brownies. Refrigerate 1 hour, or until set.  
To make topping: In saucepan, melt whipping cream, chocolate chips and butter until smooth. Cool until lukewarm, about 10 minutes. Pour over filling; spread to cover. Refrigerate 2 hours, or until set.  
Before serving, let brownies set 10 minutes at room temperature.  
**Tips:** Cut brownies with wet knife for cleaner cuts. Store covered in refrigerator.

# A one-pot soup to simplify family dinner

(Family Features) If you feel like you’re constantly busy with gatherings and get-togethers, you may be looking for easy, filling meals you can enjoy with your nearest and dearest. Warm, hearty Meatball Tortellini Soup can do just that as a delicious one-pot solution. Visit Culinary.net to find more family recipes.



## Meatball tortellini soup

Recipe courtesy of “Cookin’ Savvy”

Servings: 6-8

- 4 cups beef broth  
1 can (14 ounces) diced tomatoes  
16 ounces frozen meatballs  
19 ounces tortellini  
6 ounces frozen spinach  
1 tablespoon onion powder  
1 tablespoon garlic powder  
1 tablespoon Italian seasoning  
3/4 cup Parmesan cheese, plus additional for serving, divided  
salt, to taste  
pepper, to taste

- 1/4 cup heavy cream  
bread, for serving
- Directions:**  
In Dutch oven, pour in beef broth and diced tomatoes. Fill empty diced tomatoes can with water and add to pot. Stir in meatballs, tortellini and spinach. Cook over medium heat then add onion powder, garlic powder, Italian seasoning and 3/4 cup Parmesan cheese. Add salt and pepper, to taste.  
Cook 25 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add heavy cream and cook 5 minutes.  
Serve with bread and additional Parmesan cheese.

## PUBLIC AUCTION

**Saturday, April 5, 2025  
10:00 A.M.  
2002 South 13th Street  
Stephens County Fair-ground Territory Hall  
Conference Center Bldg  
Duncan, Oklahoma**

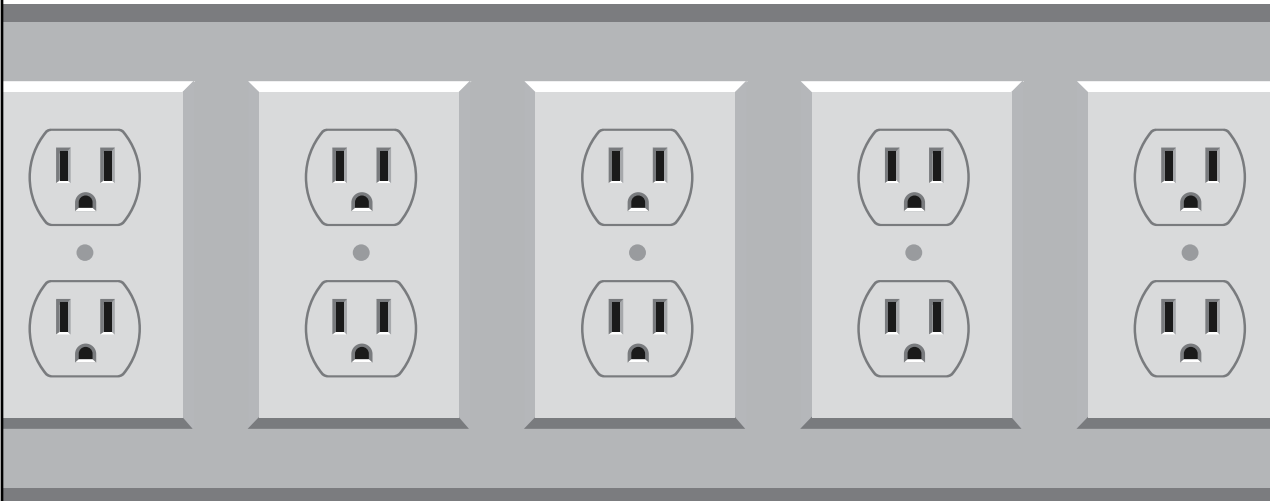
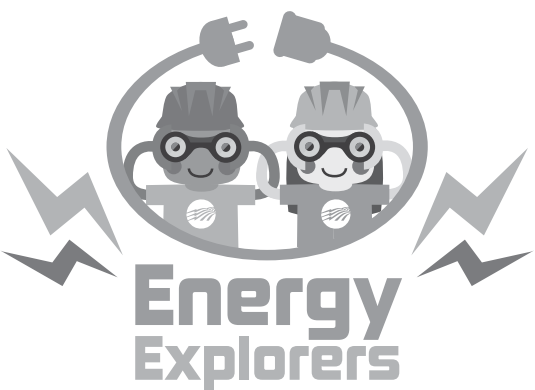
**Gary Criswell Auction Service & Real Estate, Inc.** has been commissioned to offer at Public Auction the Personal Property of MJ Lewis & Associates, Inc. situated at 2002 South 13th Street, Stephens County Fairground - Territory Hall Conference Center Building. **Note:** The Public Auction includes a 2021 GMC 1500 SIERRA Pickup, 2007 Ford F-150 XLT TRITON Pickup, 2001 New Holland Tractor TC45D, WOOD/CHUCK-Commercial Chipper, Sundolphin 5 Pedal Boat, a Variety of Farm Implements and a Large Variety of Office Furniture (Desks and Chairs).  
**Vehicles:** 2021 GMC 1500 SIERRA Crew Cab 4x4 Pickup (VIN: MG197473) with a 5.3-V8 Engine, Automatic, All Power, 4 Door - Good Condition (One Owner) and a 2007 FORD F-150 XLT TRITON Supercrew 4x4 Pickup (VIN: 7KD38150) with a 4.6 V8 Engine, Automatic, All Power, 4 Door - Good to Fair Condition (One Owner).  
**Boat:** Sundolphin 5 - Petal Boat with a New Awning. Ideal for Recreation and Boating on a Farm Pond.  
**Tractor/Equipment:** 2001 New Holland Tractor TC 45D - 4 Wheel Drive (SN:G 504311) with a New Holland 17 LA Front End Loader with a 6' Bucket (Good Condition), Land Pride - Brush Hog RCR 1872 - 6', King Cutter - Tandem Disc with 3 Point Hookup - 6' (Like New) and a Flat Bed Trailer with Dual Axles - 16'.  
**Wood Chipper:** WOOD/CHUCK - Heavy Duty Wood Chipper - Model Series 5, Mounted on a 2 Wheel Trailer. Engine Serial Number: AS 120380.  
**Construction Materials:** Tin Horn - Metal - 15"x20" - 10' Long, Tin Horn - Metal 36"x 20', Tin Horn - 16"x 20" - 30' (2), Variety of Re-Bar 1/2" x 20' (13 Pieces), Ground Packer - Model Number R 37416 with Gasoline Engine, Ground Packer - Model Number DP 4000 with Gasoline Engine and Several Rolls of Orange Construction Screening.  
**Office Furniture:** A Large Variety of Office Desks, Office Chairs, Executive Desk with Chair, Decor Lamps and a Large Variety of Office Supplies.  
**Miscellaneous:** Variety of Lumber - Various Sizes, 2 Pallets of Rock (For Rock Wall and Sign), 2 Bottle Jacks, CM 1 Ton Chain Hoist, Shop Tools and a Variety of Lawn Tools and Garden Tools.  
**Terms of Sale:** Personal Property-Cash, Personal or Company Check and Credit Card accepted. Valid I.D. required. Buyers must provide Auction Company a copy of Sales Tax Permit if Tax Exempt.  
**Preview of Public Auction:** Will be held Friday Afternoon, April 4, 2025 from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Announcements made day of Auction supersede all other Advertisements. Please Attend this Auction.  
**Auctioneer's Note:** This is a Large Auction with Vehicles, Tractor, Farm Equipment, Construction Equipment/Materials and a Large Variety of Office Furniture. **Disclosure:** I have been Appointed as Receiver of the MJ Lewis & Associates, Inc. Personal Property and Real Property. MJ Lewis was a Highly Respected Businessman and Land Developer in the Stephens County Area. **Note:** I have a number Real Property Listings in Prime Locations. Please Call me, or the Realtor of your choice to View the Real Property, or go to my Website to View Listings. (Auctioneer/Broker) email: [garymcriswell@gmail.com](mailto:garymcriswell@gmail.com) (Cell Phone)  
**Gary Criswell Auction Service & Real Estate, Inc.**  
580-255-8162 · 806 West Main · Duncan, OK · 580-467-2248



ELECTRONICS  
EFFICIENCY  
FILL-IN-THE-BLANK

You can help save energy at home by using electronic devices more efficiently. Read the energy-saving tips below and fill in the blanks with the correct word that completes the efficiency tip.

*Psst!* Check your work in the answer key below.



1. Use a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ with an on/off switch when powering multiple electronics to easily manage energy use.

A. power strip   B. extension cord   C. remote control
2. For devices that require \_\_\_\_\_, use rechargeable ones, which are more cost-effective and environmentally friendly.

A. power cords   B. lights   C. batteries
3. Unplug electronic devices that consume energy even when they're not in use, like \_\_\_\_\_.

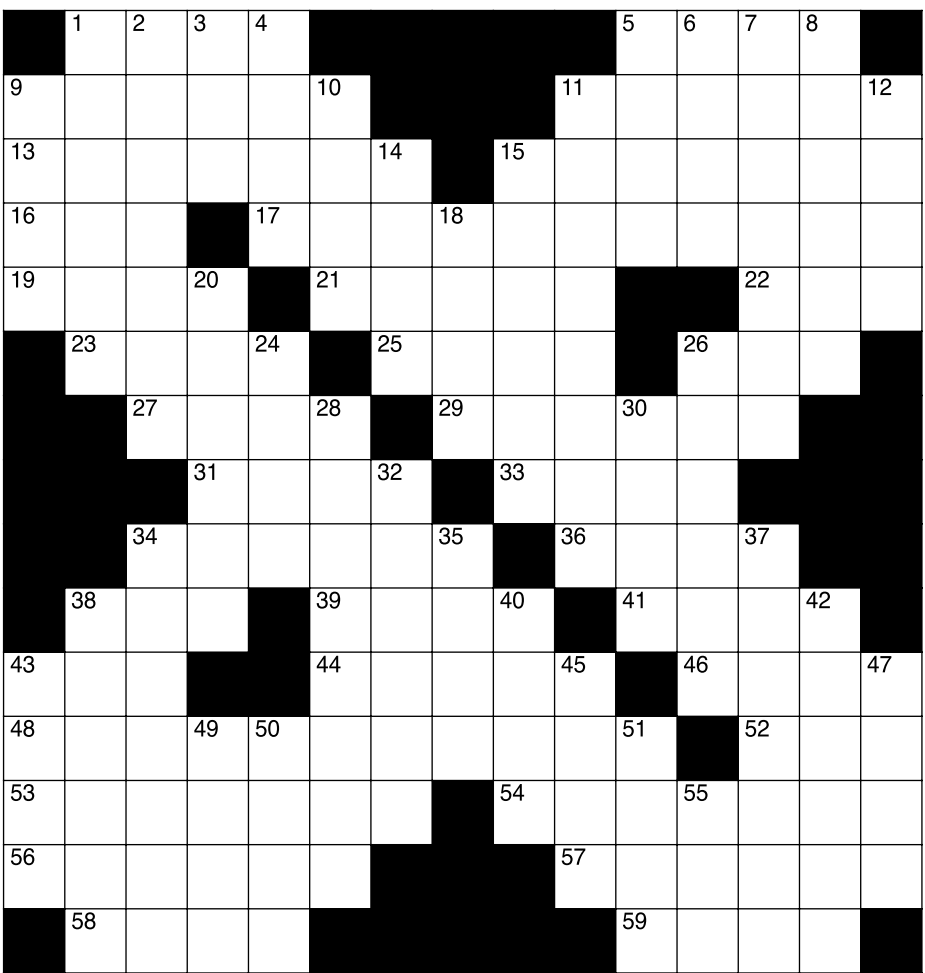
A. lamps   B. ceiling fans   C. phone chargers
4. Use the sleep or power management mode on your \_\_\_\_\_ to save on energy costs.

A. computer   B. refrigerator   C. oven

1. A 2. C 3. C 4. A  
Answer Key

ACROSS

1. Take heed
5. One's superior
9. Prepped meat
11. Tighten anew
13. Type of textile fiber
15. Animalistic
16. When you hope to get somewhere
17. Offender
19. Former NYC mayor Ed
21. Type of cryptocurrency
22. Mauna \_\_\_, Hawaiian volcano
23. Herring-like fish
25. Popular PBS program
26. Congressman (abbr.)
27. Flightless Australian birds



29. Defrosted
31. Prior Yankee sensation Kevin
33. Nasal mucus
34. Some are southern
36. A place to construct
38. Popular beer brand
39. Shouts of farewell
41. Network of nerves
43. Make a mistake
44. Showed old movie
46. Body parts
48. A divisor
52. Congressional investigatory body
53. Papers
54. Most unnatural
56. Judge the worth of something
57. Makes sounds while sleeping
58. Which
59. Hungarian Violinist
9. Tai subgroup
10. What you eat
11. Teaches again
12. Small constellation
14. Type of berry
15. Cows fattened for meat
18. A way to hoof it
20. Exaggerated a role
24. About two
26. Long upholstered seat
28. What employees earn
30. Fiber from a coconut husk
32. Digits
34. Polish by rubbing
35. Liquid body substances
37. Furniture with open shelves
38. Edible part of a chicken
40. Satisfy
42. Tool used to remove
43. Icelandic poems
45. Swiss village
47. Drunks
49. Evergreen plant genus
50. Light precipitation
51. Ribosomal ribonucleic acid
55. An informal debt instrument

DOWN

1. Pages
2. Head pain
3. A loud utterance
4. Large brown seaweed
5. Honolulu's chef Carmine
6. Greek mountain
7. Made final
8. Bar

PUBLIC AUCTION

Saturday, March 15, 2025  
10:00 A.M.

679 South Industrial Ave.  
Industrial Park  
Duncan, Oklahoma

**Gary Criswell Auction Service & Real Estate, Inc.** has been commissioned by the Living Estate of Mr. and Mrs. Crowdis (Bill and Becky) to offer at Public Auction their Real Property and Personal Property situated at 679 South Industrial Avenue in Duncan, Oklahoma. Note: The Public Auction also Includes a Variety of Shop Equipment, Vehicles, Tractors and Shop Tools. The Real Property with Improvements is situated on .876 Acres on a Corner Lot and is Currently Listed for \$135,000 (MLS 39042).

**Real Property:** Consists of a Number of Enclosed Sheet Metal Buildings (3), a Number of Sheet Metal Sheds (2) and a Breeze Way. There are Several Voltage Ratings of Electric including 110 Volt, 220 Volt and Three Phase Power on Site in the Shops. The Shop Buildings have Concrete Floors and the South Shop Building has a 14.5'x10' Overhead Door. The North Shop Building has an Overhead Door as well. Ideal for Commercial Business. All Situated on .876 Acres on a Corner Lot (Zoned Commercial C-4).

**Tractors/Equipment:** Economy Tractor - K-321S with Front End Loader, Tandem Disc, Single Row Plow and Box Blade, Variety of Implements for Small Garden Tractor, FARMALL Tractor - 560 Diesel with Front End Loader (5'Bucket), SATOH Tractor - S 650 G (VIN MT 33245) with Front End Loader, a Terramite - Tractor 3-15 with Front End Loader (48"Bucket) and Back Hoe with Outriggers, Trailer Dual Axle 16'x76", Grasshopper Riding Lawn Mower and a Manure Spreader 36"x72" (Good Condition).

**Monument Shop Equipment:** Monument/Granite Top Table with a Tilt Feature 6'x10' on a Large 4 Wheel Cart, Compound - Miter Stone Saw with Vertical Travel, Take-About-Saw - Track Stone Saw 11" (6 HP), Pneumatic Table - Large, Stone Polisher with Hoist, Elessley Machinery - Granite Coring Machine and a OLSON Metal Band Saw with a 56" Saw Blade. A Large Band Saw for Cutting Stone Tiles with a 15' Diamond Blade. **Note:** The Buyer is Responsible for Load Out of the Monument Shop Equipment.

**Shop Equipment:** CENTURY-PLASMA CUTTER -50 Amp (Model 118016), LINCOLN Welder - Electric MIG 200 (Model K- 1766-1), CHICAGO Drill Press 1/2", Marathon Rock Polisher (Like New), Viking - Stone Grinder on Stand 10"x5" (Model 40250), SHOP FOX - Polisher (Model W-1681) , DELTA Inverse Pin Router (Model 43-156), Quincy Screw Compressor with Attachments - 60 Horse Power (3 Phase), Marathon Rock Polisher (Like New) and a Large Variety of Nice Shop Tools and Hand Tools.

**Vehicles:** 1994 Dodge Truck Automatic with Flatbed and Crane, 1980 TOYOTA - STINGER Pickup Truck with Hydraulic Dump Bed, 1987 TOYOTA TERCEL Station Wagon and a 1986 HONDA - Helix Scooter (Model CN 250G). **Note:** Some of the Vehicles will Need Repairs.

**Directions:** From South Highway 81, Go West on West Cyprus Avenue to South Industrial Drive to 679 South Industrial Avenue.

**Terms of Sale:** 10% Earnest Money on Real Property on the Day of Sale. Balance due at Closing upon delivery of Title and Deed. Personal Property-Cash, Personal or Company Check and Credit Card accepted. Valid I.D. required. Buyers must provide Auction Company a copy of Sales Tax Permit if Tax Exempt.

**Preview of Public Auction:** Will be held Friday afternoon, March 14, 2025 from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Announcements made day of Auction supersede all other Advertisements. Please Plan to Attend this Public Auction.

**Auctioneer's Note:** This is a Large Sale with a Variety of Monument Fabrication and Granite Top Machinery, Vehicles, Tractors, Large Variety of Stones, a Large Variety of Tools too Numerous to Mention. The Real Property will be offered at Public Auction at 10:00 A.M. Sharp and Vehicles and Tractors will be offered at High Noon.

(Auctioneer/Broker) email: garymcriswell@gmail.com (Cell Phone)

**Gary Criswell Auction Service & Real Estate, Inc.**  
580-255-8162 • 806 West Main • Duncan, OK • 580-467-2248



Comanche  
580-439-8809

Waurika  
580-228-2085



Custom Bermuda  
Grass Sprigging

580-550-0036 or 580-704-4126



**Ochsner**  
Dozer-Trackhoe  
Service

**Pond, Terraces, Tree Clearing,  
Building Pads, NRCS Work, etc.**

**For estimate on your job call Jeff**  
**580-704-2226**



**COTTON**  
ELECTRIC CO-OP

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Your quality electric utility

# Parting Shot



Cotton Electric Energy Efficiency Coordinator Heath Morgan and Cotton Electric Director of Marketing and Communications Zach Young give an electric safety presentation at Mark Twain Elementary. Photo by Carli Eubank.

## Quality used equipment for sale


2013 GENIE Z-45/25J IC - PRICE \$26,800 (USD)	
Description:	BOOM 40-50' ARTICULATING
Make/Model:	GENIE Z-45/25J IC
Year:	2013
Serial #:	Z452513A-48018
Meter:	2903
Equipment #:	10142744
Location:	D62 - LAWTON, OK



2017 SKYTRAK 8042 - PRICE \$56,700 (USD)	
Description:	FORKLIFT VARIABLE REACH 8000#
Make/Model:	SKYTRAK 8042
Year:	2017
Serial #:	0160081097
Meter:	4822.7
Equipment #:	10600886
Location:	D62 - LAWTON, OK



UNITED RENTALS (Store D62)  
2420 S.W. LEE BLVD  
LAWTON, OK 73505  
Mon-Fri: 7:00AM-5:00PM Sat: CLOSED Sun: CLOSED



Sales Contact:  
David Byrd  
580-280-0010  
dbyrd@ur.com

Valid through 03/29/2025  
[UnitedRentals.com](https://www.unitedrentals.com) | 800.UR.RENTS  
© 2021 United Rentals, Inc.  
For terms and conditions, visit [unitedrentals.com/en/customer-care/terms](https://www.unitedrentals.com/en/customer-care/terms)ur1 disclaimer

# DON PRATER DOZERS

Building Farm Ponds & Private Lakes  
In the Cotton Electric Service Area  
“Wealth is not measured in dollars.”



## -Farm Pond and Lake Construction-

- Fence Rows • Building Pads •
- Land Clearing • Dredging • Pond Repair •

Serving the Southwest Area  
Bulldozers, Trackhoe Scrapers & Loaders



Call Bruce At-580-641-1952



# Hilliary

INTERNET • PHONE • TV



(580) 529-5000  
HILLIARY.COM

Always  
Innovating

because every community matters