

The Current

A Publication of Cotton Electric Cooperative Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



“The Current - Informing Our Members Since 1957”

VOLUME 65

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NUMBER 12

Meetings set for Cotton Electric Districts 4, 7 and 9

By Carli Eubank

District Meetings for three of the nine voting districts of Cotton Electric Cooperative have been set for the purpose of electing trustees and for reports involving other business matters.

The business and affairs of Cotton Electric Cooperative are managed by a board of nine trustees representing geographical districts with similar densities of service. The board establishes the overall policies of the cooperative. Each trustee is a Cotton Electric member who represents one district, the area in which he or she lives.

The cooperative's bylaws stipulate that District Meetings are to be held in three of the nine voting districts annually. This year, members residing in Districts 4, 7 and 9 will receive mailed notices that will include information about the time, date and location of the meetings they should attend. Only members in these three voting districts will receive notices.

This year, the meeting schedule is as follows:

- Aug. 23 – District 4: Crystal Creek Room in the Prairie

Building at the Comanche County Fairgrounds, 920 S. Sheridan Rd., Lawton

- Aug. 25 – District 7: Wesley Chapel Fellowship Center, 12604 SW Woodlawn Rd., Lawton

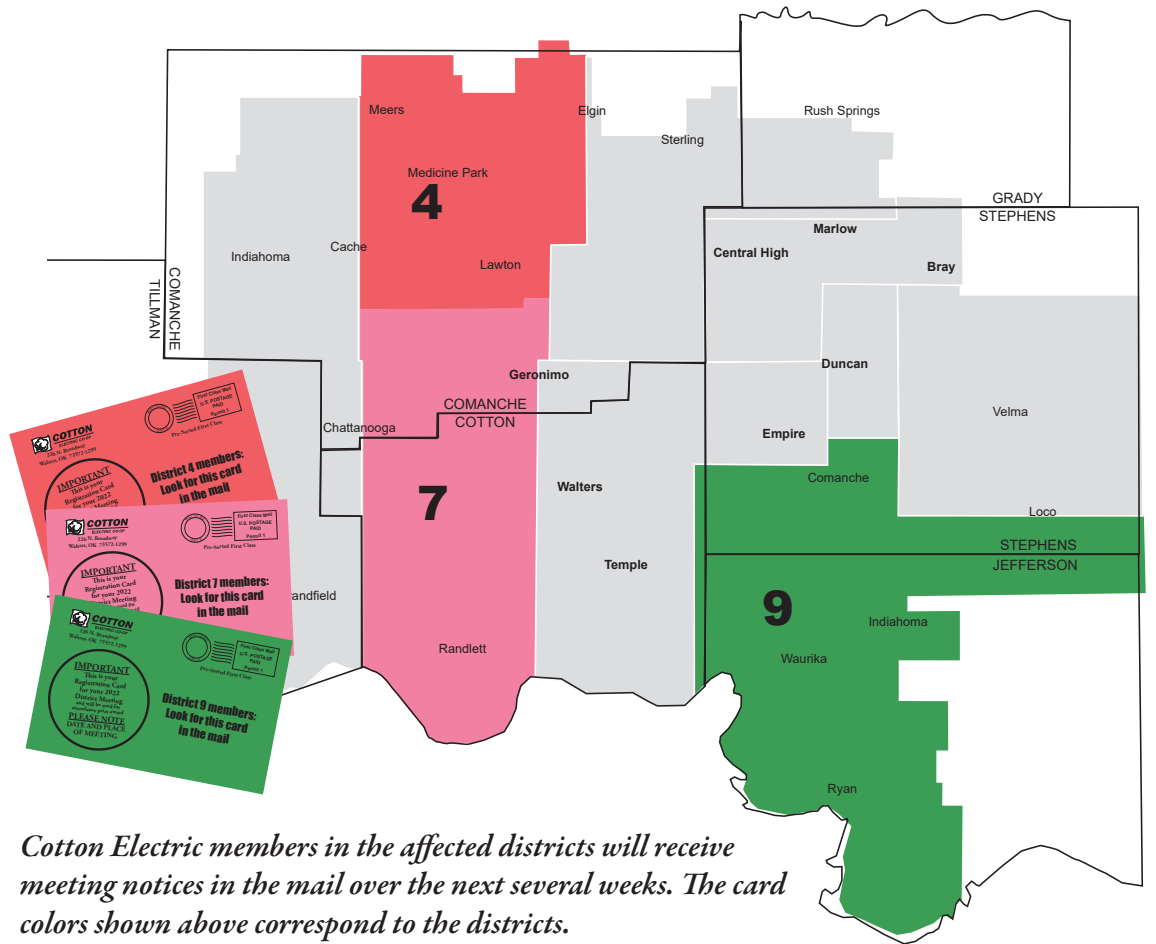
- Aug. 30 – District 9: First Baptist Church Family Life Center, 323 E. C Ave., Waurika

Registration at each meeting begins at 6 p.m. Members are asked to bring with them the mailed official registration card. The registration card allows for quicker registration and makes the holder eligible for an attendance prize.

Registration ends at 7 p.m. when the business meeting will be called to order. Each member is entitled to one vote in trustee elections.

Churches, clubs, schools, organizations and others will receive credentials used to designate a person as the voting delegate. Forms must be presented at registration, with all forms completed and notarized. These will enable the representatives of each organization to vote and participate in the business of cooperative.

Trustees who are elected at the District Meetings will



Cotton Electric members in the affected districts will receive meeting notices in the mail over the next several weeks. The card colors shown above correspond to the districts.

take office immediately following the Annual Meeting. Trustees will serve a three-year term. If there is no election, incumbents are held over for the term. Incumbents are: Brian DeMarcus, District 4; Steve Robinson, District 7; and Ronnie Bohot, District 9.

The cooperative's bylaws further stipulate that an Annual Meeting of the entire membership is to be held shortly after the District Meetings. The 2022 Cotton Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting and Member Appreciation night will be Tuesday, Sept. 20 at the Great Plains

Trustees



BRIAN DEMARCUS
represents District #4



STEVE ROBINSON
represents District #7



RONNIE BOHOT
represents District #9

Coliseum, 920 SW Sheridan Road, Lawton. Registration for the in-person Annual Meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. with the business meet-

ing following at 7 p.m. Be sure to watch for your official Annual Meeting registration card in the mail to bring with you to the event.

CECF plans annual fundraiser

Golf enthusiasts have a great opportunity to spend a day on an 18-hole championship course while helping raise funds for organizations and individuals throughout southwest Oklahoma.

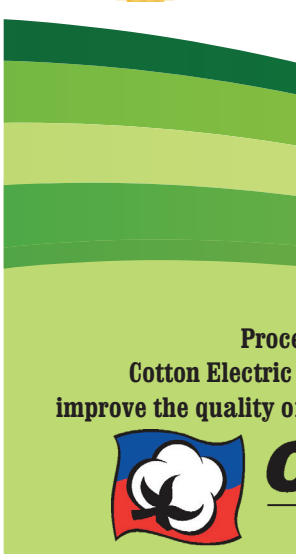
The 13th annual Cotton Electric Charitable Foundation (CECF) Not-So-Summer Classic Golf Tournament will be Oct. 21 at The Territory Golf and Country Club in Duncan. Check-in for the four-person scramble begins at 7:30 a.m. with a shotgun start at 8:30 a.m.

The golf tournament is held to raise awareness of CECF and to gen-

erate funds that go towards Operation Round Up (ORU).

ORU is primarily funded by Cotton Electric Cooperative members who “round up” their monthly bill to the nearest dollar. The funds are administered by the CECF board, who meet quarterly to consider grant applications.

Since its inception in 2004, CECF has awarded more than \$1 million to volunteer fire departments, youth, senior citizen and public safety organizations, schools, communities and individuals throughout the Cotton Electric Cooperative service area.



Sign up now for the

2022 Not-So-Summer Classic Golf Tournament

Friday, Oct. 21

Proceeds help the Cotton Electric Charitable Foundation improve the quality of life in southwest Oklahoma.



COTTON
ELECTRIC CO-OP

at **THE TERRITORY**

Deadline for golf tournament entries and fee payment is Oct. 12. The registration fee of \$600 per team include range balls, a golf cart, and a meal following the

round. Individual, team and door prizes will be awarded as well.

Two levels of hole sponsorship are available. Hole sponsors who also enter a team receive

a \$100 discount on entry fees.

To enter a team or to sponsor, visit www.cottonelectric.com/CECFGolf. For more information about the

scramble or becoming a sponsor, contact Paula Huckabaa at 580-875-3351 or email at paula@cottonelectric.com.

We look forward to another great year.

Power Cost Adjustment Calculated

The power cost adjustment now being applied to bills mailed after August 1, 2022, is \$0.01943 per kWh.

On a member's average bill of 1,300 kilowatt hours (kWh), this will amount to a charge of \$25.26 on the August bill.

July 2021 Temperature Extremes

Day	High	Low	Avg.	Day	High	Low	Avg.
1	101	73	87	16	104	70	87
2	102	71	87	17	110	72	91
3	101	73	87	18	108	79	94
4	102	70	86	19	114	73	94
5	103	77	90	20	111	81	96
6	106	76	91	21	92	80	86
7	108	76	92	22	98	77	88
8	110	74	92	23	104	76	90
9	104	73	89	24	105	76	91
10	103	72	88	25	107	74	91
11	104	68	86	26	105	72	89
12	102	69	86	27	108	76	92
13	102	75	89	28	106	76	91
14	108	72	90	29	96	77	87
15	103	65	84	30	98	76	87
				31	105	79	92

Source: srh.noaa.gov/ou/
Average Daily High: 104 Average Daily Low: 74

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 Sept. 6, 2022.

Contact Us

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

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

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

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More news at www.cottonelectric.com

From the CEO

Participation matters

As I write you this month, the Cotton Electric Board of Trustees and employees are preparing for our upcoming district meetings in August featured on the front page of this issue and for the 2022 Annual Meeting to be held in September.



Jennifer Meason, CEO

The purpose of a district meeting is to elect a trustee that represents your area for a three-year term. The three districts that will meet this year are District 4, currently represented by Brian DeMarcus; District 7, represented by Steve Robinson; and District 9, represented by Ronnie Bohot.

Your feedback and participation are integral to Cotton

ings allows for more one-on-one discussions and the opportunity for members to share their thoughts and ideas with cooperative trustees and staff.

After the district meetings are held, all members have the opportunity to attend our Annual Meeting. Cooperatives are guided by seven cooperative principles - open membership;

Electric Cooperative. In addition to the election process, the smaller group format at district meet-

ings allows for more one-on-one discussions and the opportunity for members to share their thoughts and ideas with cooperative trustees and staff. After the district meetings are held, all members have the opportunity to attend our Annual Meeting. Cooperatives are guided by seven cooperative principles - open membership;

democratic member control; members' economic participation; independence; education, training, and information; cooperation with other cooperatives; and—above all—concern for our community. The Annual Meeting puts the principles in action and reminds us of the ways Cotton Electric is different from other utilities. This year's meeting will be held on Sept. 20 at the Great Plains Coliseum, 920 SW Sheridan Road, Lawton. Employees are working hard to make this a great event and we hope you'll be able to attend. Registration will open at 5:30 p.m. and will remain open until 7 p.m. when

the business meeting is called to order.

Cooperative employees will be available at the District and Annual Meetings to answer your questions and provide information about the services Cotton Electric offers. However, you don't have to wait for the District and Annual Meetings to share your thoughts or ask questions. We can be reached Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., over the phone at 580-875-3351 or in person at our Duncan and Walters offices. You can also reach us by email at info@cottonelectric.com.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Local organizations open new chapters for kids



More than 800 books were funded for local communities. Photo by Carli Eubank

By Carli Eubank

Cotton Electric members participating in Operation Round up helped fund the purchase of more than 800 children's books for programs by United Way of Stephens County and the Duncan Area Literacy Council. Kids throughout Stephens County will continue to have learning opportunities thanks to recent Cotton Electric Charitable Foundation (CECF) grants.

In 2020, United Way of Stephens County started the Readers and Leaders program. For 30 minutes once a week, students at local schools

in pre-k through first grade listen to stories read by volunteers during their lunch.

With the uncertainty that came with the COVID-19 pandemic, Helen Stewart, executive director of United Way of Stephens County, wanted to make sure students had the chance to continue learning until they returned to the classroom. Entering their third year of this program, United Way of Stephens County, in partnership with One True Light's Summer Feeding program, puts together bags filled with snacks, crafts and books of the students' choosing for distri-

but ion in Duncan during the summer.

Stewart grew up spending her summers in the library, so she is familiar with the escape and impact reading can provide children.

"If you get kids interested in reading and wanting to learn more, it helps them later on in school and with their creative thinking," said Stewart. "You can go anywhere in a book."

Another organization impacting youth through books is the Duncan Area Literacy Council (DALC). Mary Brancich, DALC executive director, has been passionately involved in the organization

since 1985 when she volunteered as an adult education tutor before coming into her current role.

The goal of the DALC is to promote and provide literacy skills free to adults in surrounding counties, but they see the need to provide literature for younger ages as well. Funds from the CECF grant provided children's books that were scheduled to be distributed at the Fiesta in Fuqua in Duncan.

"Kids gets so excited when they get to keep the books," Brancich said. "It is important for kids to read when they're younger, so they won't need

our services when they're older."

If members are interested in volunteering with either of these organizations, please visit their websites at www.unitedwayofsc.org and www.duncanreads.com.

Third quarter CECF grant applications are due Aug. 9, 2022. Grant application overview and guidelines are available at www.cottonelectric.com/grant-application and can be submitted by email to paula@cottonelectric.com or by mail to 226 N. Broadway, Walters, OK 73572.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

An easy way to save energy is to seal air leaks and holes where plumbing pipes run through walls in your home. You can also check wall-mounted cabinets for plumbing holes or air gaps in the back. Fill any holes or gaps with spray foam. Wear protective gloves and use a damp rag for cleanup.

Source: Energy.gov

The Current

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By Cotton Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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Paula Huckabaa.....Director
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COTTON ELECTRIC CO-OP

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

	2022	2021
Total Amount Billed/Accrued	\$8,000,644	\$6,259,186
Cost of Purchased Power	5,818,267	4,234,370
Taxes	137,935	102,393
Total Operating Expense Per Mile	1,423	1,129
Average Farm and Residential Bill	200	167
Average Farm and Residential kWh	1,517	1,389
Total Meters Billed (farm, residential)	19,252	19,029
Miles Energized	5,232	5,212
Density Per Mile	3.68	3.65
New Service Connects YTD	242	212
Services Retired	62	91

Community Spotlight

If you would like your community event listed in the September issue, please submit information by Aug. 19 by calling 580-875-3351 or send an email to TheCurrent@CottonElectric.com. Only events occurring after Sept. 6 will be published in the next issue.

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

Pro Rodeo comes to local arena

Attend one of the top rodeos in the U.S. at the Lawton Rangers PRCA Rodeo. More than 400 cowboys and cowgirls compete in tie-down roping, barrel racing and more. The event begins at 7:30 p.m. from Aug. 10 to Aug. 13 at the LO Ranch Arena. For more information, call 580-695-3040 or visit www.lawtonrangers.com.

Rush Springs annual festivities

Celebrate at the annual Rush Springs Watermelon Festival and Rodeo. Taste the local crop of watermelon, ride carnival rides, compete in contests, enjoy live entertainment and more. The annual Rush Springs Rodeo will take place on Thursday and Friday, Aug. 11 and 12, with a parade following at 5 p.m. on Friday evening. This popular festival is on Saturday, Aug. 13. The festival will take place at Jeff Davis Park on Main Street, and the rodeo events will be at Rusty Acres Arena. For more information, call 580-476-3277.

Rodeo returns to Elgin

Come to a southwestern Oklahoma tradition to enjoy rodeo events, live entertainment and vendors at the Elgin Rodeo. The festivities are from Aug. 19 through Aug. 20 at Kenney and Miller Roads in Elgin. For questions, call 580-695-8343.

2nd Annual Rodeo for youth

Students are invited to the Reed's Red Dirt Ranch 2nd Annual Rodeo to compete in barrel racing, pole bending, goat tying and more. There will be divisions for all youth age groups. Buckles and money will be awarded throughout the events. The rodeo begins at 9 a.m. on Aug. 20 at Reed's Red Dirt Ranch in Geronimo. For more information or questions, contact Sherry Reed at 580-583-9528.

DLT show & auditions set

Performances of Duncan Little Theatre's (DLT) dessert theater play, "How to Host a Murder Mystery Party," will be Sept. 16, 17, 23 and 24 at the Marlow Opera House. Audience members will be served desserts during intermission.

Auditions for "Clue: on Stage" will be 2-4 p.m. Aug. 28 and 6-8 p.m. Aug. 29. Performances Nov. 4-5 at the Simmons Center, Duncan.

For more information visit www.duncanlittletheatre.com.

Walk to Remember in Duncan

Join the Duncan Regional Hospital Health Foundation for an inspirational walk to remember a loved one. Free remembrance ribbons will be provided to participants. There is a \$20 registration fee, t-shirt included. The event begins at 7:30 p.m. on August 18 at Duncan Regional Hospital Learning Center, 2202 Duncan Regional Loop Road, Duncan. Wreath of remembrance will immediately follow the walk. To register, call 580-251-8844 or visit www.drhhhealthfoundation.org.

Parkinson's groups meeting soon

Oklahoma Parkinson's Alliance has support groups and programs for those facing the disease.

Support groups:

- Duncan Support Group meets at 3 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 1 at the Duncan Christian Center, 720 E Plato Rd., Duncan. Contact Rob Rooker at 580-699-2204 for information.

- Lawton Support Group meets at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 6 at The Christian Center, 2405 SW Lee Blvd., Lawton. Contact Teri Andrade at 580-280-0114 for information.

- Central Lawton Support Group meets at 2 p.m. on Thurs., Sept. 8 at Western Hills Church of Christ, 1108 NW 53rd St., Lawton. Contact Rob Rooker at 580-699-2204 for information.

Programs:

- The LOUD Crowd® speech therapy program for Parkinson's patients meets every Tuesday Duncan Regional Hospital (DRH) and Wednesdays at Southwestern Medical Center (SWMC) in Lawton. These programs are free and require no RSVP.

- "SPEAK OUT!" individual speech therapy program available by appointment. Call DRH at 580-251-8460 or SWMC at 580-351-2469 to schedule.

- Spin Class for Parkinson's is held at 1 p.m., Mondays and Wednesdays at Lawton YMCA

- Rock Steady Boxing is conducted at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Fridays at the Lawton YMCA.

- Rock Steady Boxing coming soon to the Simmons Center in Duncan.

For more information visit www.oklahomapa.org

Support Gabriel's House in song

Celebrate through praise and song for an evening to help support Gabriel's House. The event is from 6:30 to 10 p.m. on Sept. 8 at New Hope Baptist Church, 380 S. 42nd St., Duncan. For more information or questions, call 580-467-0299.

Walk to End Alzheimer's

The Alzheimer's Association, Oklahoma Chapter, has set the annual Walk to End Alzheimer's - Lawton, for 9:30 a.m. on Sat., Sept. 24 at Elmer Thomas Park. Individuals, teams and corporations can register at www.lawtonwalk.org. This year's goal is \$70,000 and proceeds go to help with research, education and programs for caregivers and those living with all forms of dementia. For more information or questions, email Shelbi Waters at sbwaters@alz.org.

Classic musicals at LCT

Theatre goers will delight in upcoming productions at Lawton Community Theatre, 1316 NW Bell Ave., Lawton. Performance dates for legendary musical "Cabaret" are Sept. 30-Oct. 9. Performance dates for the comedy "Suite Surrender" are Nov. 11-20. Audition dates for "Suite Surrender" are Sept. 19-20. For more information, visit www.lawtoncommunitytheatre.com.

VVA swings into new year

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 751 are set for their 18th Annual Golf Tournament. It is a 4-person scramble costing \$100 per person. Competitors have the chance to win \$10,000, a new car and more. Check-in is at 10 a.m. with lunch following at 11 a.m. The shotgun start begins at noon. The tournament is set for Sept. 12 at Fort Sill Golf Course, 1270 Quinette Road, Fort Sill. For more information, contact Horace Whetstone at 580-713-1373 or 580-699-5096.

More Community Spotlight on Page 7

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Cotton Electric member Leigh Ann Womack has quite the collection of sunset photos after snapping them for her aunt.

Enter your "best shot" in our Photo of the Month contest. Theme for September is My Neighborhood. Entries can be emailed to TheCurrent@CottonElectric.com or mailed to The Current, 226 N. Broadway, Walters, OK 73572.

Local county free fairs

Caddo County Free Fair and Horse Show: Aug. 22 through Aug. 27 at Caddo County Fairgrounds in Anadarko.

Carter County Free Fair: Sept. 6 through Sept. 10 at the Hardy Murphy Coliseum in Ardmore.

Comanche County Free Fair: Sept. 6 through Sept. 10 at Comanche County Fairgrounds in Lawton.

Comanche - Empire District Fair: Aug. 12 - 13 at Patterson Ave. Baptist Church and Comanche FFA barn.

Cotton County Free Fair: Aug. 16 through Aug. 20 at Cotton County Ag Arena and Expo Center in Walters.

Grady County Fair: Aug. 25 through Aug. 27 at Grady County Fairgrounds and Event Center in Chickasha.

Stephens County Free Fair and Carnival: Aug. 17 through Aug. 20 at Stephens County Fair and Expo Center in Duncan.

Tillman County Free Fair: Sept. 8 through Sept. 10 at Tillman County Fairgrounds in Fredrick.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

SEPTEMBER

20

WE ARE BACK IN PERSON FOR COTTON ELECTRIC'S ANNUAL MEETING AT GREAT PLAINS COLISEUM IN LAWTON

REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 5:30 P.M. BUSINESS MEETING BEGINS AT 7 P.M.



COTTON
ELECTRIC CO-OP

Upcoming Deadlines for The Current

September		October		November	
Ad Sales	Aug. 19	Ad Sales	Sept. 23	Ad Sales	Oct. 28
Classified	Aug. 24	Classified	Sept. 28	Classified	Nov. 2
Publish	Sept. 6	Publish	Oct. 11	Publish	Nov. 14

What are degree days? Why do they matter?

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



Heath Morgan,
Energy Efficiency
Coordinator

Did you know the energy experts at Cotton Electric Cooperative use degree days to anticipate heating and cooling needs for you, our members?

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

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.

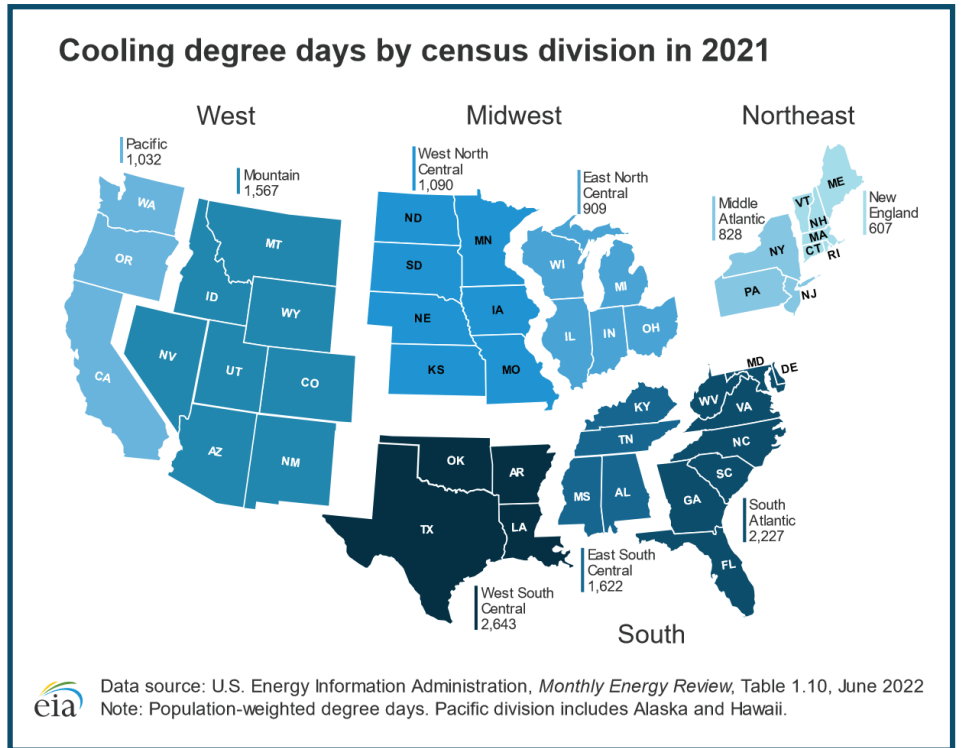
So, the more extreme the outdoor temperatures, the higher the number of degree days. And the higher the number of degree days, the higher the amount of energy used for space heating and cooling. An extreme summer is in full swing, so let's look at cooling degree days.

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

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

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

- Set your thermostat as high as comfortably possible. The smaller the difference between the indoor and outdoor temperatures, the lower your



cooling costs will be. The Department of Energy recommends setting your thermostat to 78 F when you're home and a higher setting when you're away.

- Turn off ceiling fans when you leave a room.
- Close window coverings, like curtains and blinds, during the day to block sunlight.

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

If you have questions about your energy use or want to learn more ways to save, give us a call at 580-875-3351 or 800-522-3520 or stop by our Duncan and Walters offices. Cotton Electric Cooperative is here to help.



Cotton County Rural Water District #2 is seeking a qualified candidate for the position of Water Treatment Plant Operator/Distribution System Operator.

The Water Treatment Plant Operator/Distribution System Operator's duties include operating and maintaining a water treatment plant and blending station, perform laboratory tests to ensure operations are meeting state and federal regulations, assist in the repair and maintenance of the distribution system, and other duties assigned by the System Manager.

The candidate must be 18 or older and possess a valid driver's license. Experience in water system operations is preferred but will train. Must possess a High School Diploma or GED. Must have or be able to obtain an Oklahoma class D Water Works Operations Certification within one year of hire. Must be able to lift and/or move over 50 pounds and must be able to bend, stoop, and kneel repeatedly. Must be willing to work on an "on-call" status for nights, weekends, and emergencies.

Benefits include competitive pay, employer-paid health, dental, and vision insurance (employee only). 80 hours vacation and 80 hours sick leave after 12 months.

Applications and a more detailed job description are available at the District Office located at 229 N. Broadway St., Walters, OK 73572.

This position is open until filled.

Cotton County RWD#2 is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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-282234 Croy Rd Meridian/
Comanche/Duncan MLS #2225192
\$109,900 (home 3/2/1)

-201 East Iowa Walters, Oklahoma
MLS #2219353 \$75.00(antique home)

-NEW LISTING - 937 N 2782Rd
Waurika Lake, 73579 \$199,900
(fresh) call Becky

More new listings next month! Thank
you for reading!

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Denver

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American Wagyu **BMS 7 to 11** available
(prices and availability subject to change
- we sell out often!)

Ribeye

Center cut Filet

Contact Information
Sales@Paladin.Farm

Available Saturdays at the
Lawton Farmers Market

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HOME • COMMERCIAL • LIFE • AUTO • BOAT • MOTORCYCLE • CAMPER

Convenience and control at your fingertips



Life can be fast and hectic, but it doesn't always have to be complicated. Keeping up with your Cotton Electric account shouldn't be a complex task, and with SmartHub, it won't be.

Some members may have heard of SmartHub but are unfamiliar with its benefits. SmartHub can help members take control of their account so they can spend less time worrying about their electric bill and more time enjoying life with others.

SmartHub has several features, including being able to pay a bill, viewing energy consumption, contacting Member Ser-

vices and getting the latest co-op news.

Upon login, members have access to their billing history. With the Payment History feature, they can view their current bill or previous ones to compare payments throughout the years.

Members are also able to view their energy consumption in the My Usage tab. SmartHub shows how member's energy use is trending over time by comparing month-to-month power use or showing a year's worth of kWh usage. This allows members to take steps toward lowering their bill.

Another feature in My Usage is a comparison of daily energy consumption to average temperature. This is shown on a bar graph overlaid with high, low and/or average temperatures. This illustrates the increase in electricity use during extremely hot or cold weather.

Making payments through SmartHub is fast and easy. The first time a member submits a payment, he or she is able to securely store payment information for future transactions, allowing for easy payment on future bills. SmartHub accepts payments via electronic check or with Visa, MasterCard or Discover credit cards any time of day. Most payments will post to an account within 15 minutes. Credit cards will not be accepted for payment on commercial accounts.

Members using our MyChoice prepay method can keep track

of their balance. MyChoice members know when the balance is running low by scheduling alert preferences through SmartHub.

Scheduling payments through SmartHub is another feature similar to bank draft, but is not automatic. Each month when a power bill arrives, for example, a member can schedule a one-time payment to be made on a date of his or her choosing.

SmartHub is a convenient way for members to update their account information. Many Cotton Electric members have new E911 addresses. Some members have dropped land lines in favor of cell phones, which may have different numbers. Some have new email addresses. Ensuring account information is updated and correct allows employees at Cotton Electric to provide our members service more efficiently and accurately during

outages, account questions or other inquiries.

SmartHub alerts account holders of important co-op notices. Members are able to select how they wish to be notified; options include emails and text messaging. Energy use thresholds can be set that notify members when they are using more energy than they would like and help them keep bills as low as possible. Cotton Electric members can arrange to have an email sent when a paper bill has been mailed.

Reporting a service issue is quick and easy from SmartHub. Co-op phone lines can get busy during large outages. Using SmartHub to report an outage immediately alerts the co-op that a member is without power. This feature should be used only to report a complete loss of power. Because it sends your account number with the report, it should not be used to report a

neighbor's power outage. Please use the Comments section to include a good callback number and related information about what was heard or seen before the power went out.

Contacting Cotton Electric's Member Services department can also be done through SmartHub should members have any non-emergency questions they need answered. If you have a time sensitive issue, please give us a call. Specific information requires an account number, but SmartHub automatically sends that with the email.

Members can access SmartHub through CottonElectric.com or by downloading the SmartHub app on your mobile device through the App Store or Google Play.

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ACP connects households to internet savings

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) runs a U.S. government program that can assist members with payments for broadband service and internet connected devices through the Affordable Connectivity Program.

The ACP offers only one monthly service discount and one device discount per household. To receive the connected device discount, members need to enroll in the ACP with a participating internet provider that offers connected devices. Not all internet companies offer device discounts. The internet company will provide the discount to the consumer.

Eligibility and qualifications for the ACP Program are based on the following:

- Household income is below 200% of the Federal Poverty Line.
- You or someone you live with currently receives a government benefit like SNAP, Medicaid, SSI, WIC, Pell Grant, or Free and Reduced-Price Lunch. A complete list of eligible government benefit programs can be found on the ACP website.
- If you live on qualifying Tribal lands, you are eligible for the APC Enhanced Tribal

Benefit. In addition, you must meet any of the program or income requirements listed in the two previous paragraphs or participate in one of these Tribal-specific programs: Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance, Tribal TANF, Tribal Head Start (if you meet the income qualifying standard), or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations.

- If you or anyone in your household already receives a Lifeline benefit. Lifeline is a FCC program to help make communications services more affordable for low-income consumers. If you currently receive a Lifeline benefit, you automatically qualify for the ACP, and you can receive both benefits at the same time. You can apply your ACP benefit and your Lifeline benefit to the same or separate services. Talk to your internet company to learn how to start receiving ACP discounts.

Proof documentation may be required during the application process, such as a proof of income or official letters or documents.

If your household is eligible, you could receive:

- Up to a \$30 per month discount on internet service
- Enhanced Tribal Benefit:

Up to a \$75 per month discount if your household is on qualifying Tribal lands

Your internet company can help determine whether your address is on Tribal lands. You can also view the nationwide map showing Tribal lands eligible for enhanced support on the ACP website. Application tips are also available online.

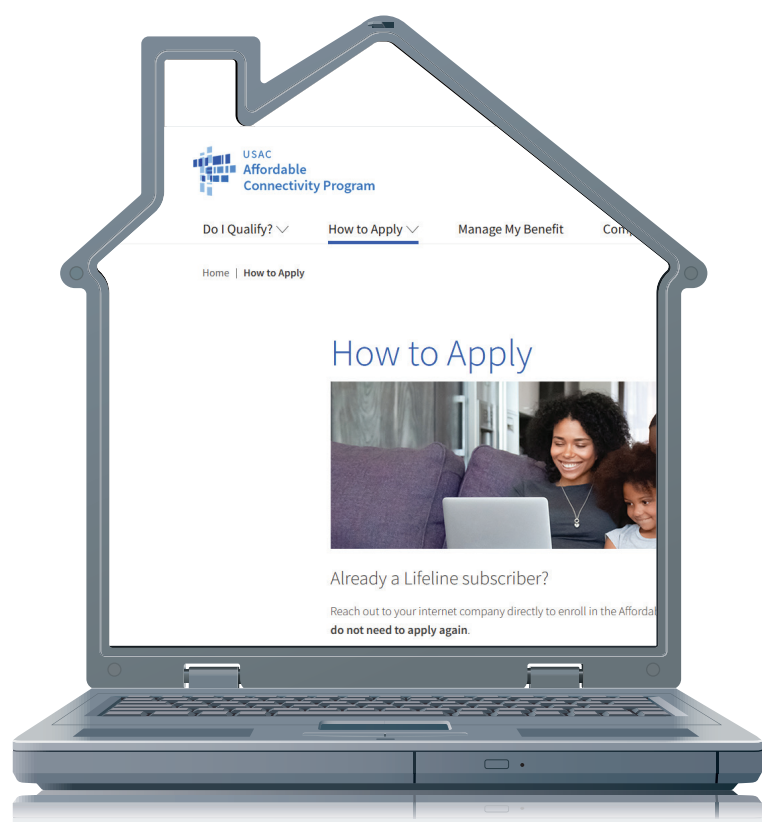
- A one-time discount of up to \$100 for a laptop, tablet, or desktop computer (with a co-payment of more than \$10 but less than \$50)

- A low-cost service plan that may be fully covered through the ACP

Through a separate non-FCC initiative, additional no cost plans may be available to Affordable Connectivity Program enrollees. To learn more please visit GetInternet.gov. Provision of a link to this initiative does not imply FCC endorsement of any particular participating provider.

There are three ways to apply for the ACP program: online, by mail, or through your current internet company.

If you are already a Lifeline subscriber, contact your internet company directly to enroll in the ACP. You do not need to apply for the program



again.

If members are already in a low-income program with a non-Lifeline provider, reach out to your internet company to see if you can enroll in the program. If you do not participate in Lifeline but receive service from a participating company that has its own low-income program, you may not need to apply for the ACP benefit. This option is only available if the company obtained approval for its application process from the FCC. Talk to your internet provider for more information.

Members can contact their internet company to ask if they participate in the ACP. There is also an online tool

on the ACP website to find participating companies near your area, and they can help members through their company's application process.

Applications can be completed online at www.affordableconnectivity.gov or mailed ACP Support Center P.O. Box 7081, London, KY 40742 along with copies of proof documentation.

If applications are approved for the ACP benefit, members can choose a company that offers ACP discounts and sign up for service.

For more information or questions about the ACP visit www.affordableconnectivity.gov or call the APC Support Center at 877-384-2575.



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Community Spotlight

Duncan's Annual Coin Show

Come to Duncan's Annual Coin Show to buy, sell or trade gold, silver, coins, currency, tokens and more. Free appraisals available. Free admission and parking. The event is Sept. 16 and 17 at the Stephens County Fairgrounds in Duncan. For questions, contact Ed at 580-475-4580.

Comedy show at local theater

Enjoy a night of laughter at the Matt Ferrell and Friends Comedy Show. The roster includes headliner Matt Ferrell with special guests Wayne Morris, Brent Maples, Derek Cochran and host Andrew Patterson. The event is from 8 p.m. to midnight on Sept. 17 at Palace Theatre in downtown Duncan. For more information, call 580-647-5700.

United Way BBQ Showdown

Try a delicious barbecue for a good cause as the United Way

5th Annual BBQ Showdown comes to Duncan's Fuqua Park from noon to 2 p.m. on Sept. 17. This event supports United Way of Stephens County's partnering agencies. Admission price is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 10-and-under and covers samples of meats, side dishes and desserts. Kiddie Land will be open to those who have a wristband during the event. For questions, contact Helen Stewart at 580-255-3648 or visit www.unitedwayofsc.org.

Celebrating citizenship

Join the Duncan Area Literacy Council in a celebration as their recent class is awarded their citizenship. The event is from 10 to 11:30 a.m. on Sept. 17 at the Duncan Public Library. For more questions, call 580-736-1170.

Local food pantry open once monthly

Walters Community Food Pantry is open from 8 to 11 a.m.

on the second Saturday of each month. The pantry is in the old City Hall, 131 1/2 W. California Street, Walters. 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 more information, contact Roger Noland at 580-591-6826.

Blessings Boutique continues to 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 drop-off arrangements.

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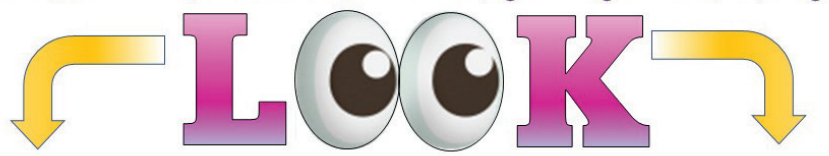
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Heritage Farm and Ranch cattle graze with the Wichitas in the background. Photo by Carli Eubank.

By Carli Eubank

There are many ways agriculture connects people: through nutritious food, durable clothing and vast landscapes. A growing sector of the agriculture industry bringing transparency between consumers and producers is agritourism. More than 350 agritourism destinations are in Oklahoma and two of them reside in the Cotton Electric service territory, working to bridge the gap from ranch to table.

Crossed Arrows Alpacas and Fiber Mill originally began while Duncan native Brenda Wyler, Cotton Electric member and owner of Crossed Arrows Alpacas and Fiber Mill, lived in Virginia. While working in the Army at the Pentagon, Wyler visited the West Virginia National Guard training facilities and learned about their connection

with Peru. After doing more research, Wyler found her interest in alpacas, an animal native to Peru.

Eventually, Wyler's only son would follow her footsteps and joined the Army. To help distract her worried mind during her son's deployment to Afghanistan, Wyler's husband took her to an alpaca seminar where their adventure to owning an alpaca farm began with purchasing two alpacas in 2011.

After a few location and career changes while living on the east coast, Wyler wanted to come back home to Duncan. With the help of family, Wyler eventually found the property where her business currently operates and brought Crossed Arrows Alpacas and Fiber Mill to Oklahoma in 2017. Today, they own 50 alpacas, along with 34 Aberdeen Red Angus cattle and a

company garden near Duncan.

The logo for Crossed Arrows Alpacas and Fiber Mill was created with significant depth and meaning behind it.

"The crossed arrows are the emblem for Special Forces, representing my husband's 36 years of service," said Wyler. "The middle arrow represents my belonging to the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma."

The business model for Crossed Arrows Alpacas and Fiber Mill focuses on the fiber portion, Wyler said. Each day around 30 pounds of fleece is processed. When fleeces come through the fiber mill, they go through the different machines to be washed, separated, spun, and transformed into end products to be sold, such as yarn, dryer balls, hats, gloves and more.

Harvest Hosts is a membership program that provides a tour of unique agritourism attractions across North America that welcome RVers to visit and stay at their location overnight. Becoming a host location with Harvest Hosts, Crossed Arrows Alpacas and Fiber Mill employees give visitors from across the country an up-close experience into their operations – including feeding alpacas in the field, watching the fibers twirl through needles, and seeing colorful yarn in their store.

Casey Brooksher, partner and director of operations of Crossed Arrows Alpacas and Fiber Mill, said a lot of people have seen alpaca farms, but they haven't been to a mill. What makes their ranch so unique is visitors have the opportunity to see the whole process from the field to the fiber mill.

"We offer a rural American experience to learn and see things they wouldn't get to see anywhere else," Brooksher said.

Wyler and Brooksher have plans to expand operations with regenerative agriculture and zero waste practices, incorporate more animals, and provide on-site processed cuts of meat.

"I like developing strategies and plans for the ranch, but I love

having good people to work with and watching them grow because we believe in educating others about what we do and our family-oriented lifestyle," Wyler said.

Another agritourism destination with deep family ties is Heritage Farm and Ranch located on the rolling hills north of Lawton. Owned by Cotton Electric member Robert Tucker, the company's name was inspired from the long generation of family recipes that are still used to this day.

Operating on family land with the Wichita Mountains in the background, Tucker raises a mix of 90 Angus and Charolais cattle and a variety of vegetables to provide to the community at their seasonal open-air market. Open every Saturday during the summer months and the entire month of October, people come from all around for their homemade bagels, jellies, cuts of beef, and genuine conversation.

Throughout the year, pies and other desserts are made and sold at the ranch. Tucker also got his permit to sell single cuts of beef directly from the farm, he said.

Heritage Farm and Ranch products are sold year-round at the following commercial locations: The Pink Elephant and Williams Foods in Elgin, Medicine Creek Olive Oil Company and Mrs. Chadwick's Bakery in Medicine Park and Revolution Coffee Company in Lawton.

At Heritage Farm and Ranch, customers get to see where their food comes from, meet the people who produce it, and experience lifestyle on the ranch.

"Kids and adults get so excited when they get to feed the cattle corn stalks or grain straight from their hands because they've never experienced that before," Tucker said. "We love getting to see that and creating an atmosphere where people can ask us questions."

Heather Pratt works with Tucker, helping with the marketing and production at Heritage Farm and Ranch. Pratt enjoys answering questions and sharing edu-

cational conversations with customers about their products – describing different cuts of meat, exploring new gardening tips, and swapping recipes.

"It is important to us that we take the time to treat others with kindness and teach them what we do – whether it's big or small," Pratt said.

Tending a ranch and growing produce comes with a lot of moving parts and shifts in operations. Whatever season is approaching becomes our focus of preparation and care, Pratt said.

"Out of everything we do, I enjoy being able to interact with the people," Tucker said. "It's

not so much the tasks as it is the people."

Agriculture is a diverse lifestyle that connects everyone, and agritourism is just one sector of the vast industry to be explored. To learn more and stay up to date about these local destinations, follow them on Facebook or stop by to get the full, fascinating experience.

For more information about Crossed Arrows Alpacas and Fiber Mill, call 580-444-3541, visit their website at www.crossedarrows-alpacas.com. For more information about Heritage Farm and Ranch, send a message on Facebook or email at heritage.farm.ranch@gmail.com.



Crossed Arrows Alpacas and Fiber Mill is home to 50 alpacas. Photo by Carli Eubank.



Many products, like yarn, are made on-site at Crossed Arrows Alpacas and Fiber Mill. Photo by Carli Eubank.



Homemade jellies are one of the many products sold at the Heritage Farm and Ranch market during the summer months. Photo by Carli Eubank.



A Charolais cow and calf take advantage of the shade at Heritage Farm and Ranch. Photo by Carli Eubank.



Robert Tucker, owner of Heritage Farm and Ranch, feeds a cow a tomato from the garden. Photo by Carli Eubank.

Reducing Food Waste Can Positively Impact Your Food Budget

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) estimates a family of four throws away \$1,500 of food each year. With increasing food prices continuing to gouge consumer wallets, implementing strategies to prevent food waste may be an opportunity to save on your overall food budget. The most commonly recommended strategies to prevent food waste are making a plan before grocery shopping, leveraging leftovers, and understanding food labeling terminology.

Effective and efficient meal planning involves considering the following before you assemble your list: what meals each week will involve food cooked at home (breakfast, lunch, dinner, snacks); how many times will you be able to grocery shop; what exact recipes will be used; can you allocate time to meal prep or will you need to rely on pre-prepped ingredients. Once you have answered these questions, you can take additional steps to further save by consulting grocery store advertisements for specials on ingredients. Then you can assemble your list including actual amounts of food items. It is most important to be realistic - if you know you are going to have a busy week, that is the time to lean on already chopped ingredients, as long as you

use them before they spoil. Also be cautious with store specials on items that have a short shelf-life - unless you have time to prepare them for canning or freezing, you may just end up tossing them in the trash. The goal is to only buy exactly what you need to make the meals and snacks you have planned.

Do you need to eat every meal at home? For most people that is not realistic or desirable. We also want to support our local businesses and if we can budget for it, we like to go out to eat. Work dining out into your food waste reduction plan using portion control and leftovers. Portion control at restaurants is a challenge. Most restaurants provide much more food than you actually need to consume in one meal as a way to enhance your dining experience. You can take steps to mitigate this and still have a great dining experience. If you are not a fan of leftovers, assemble your own meal by ordering off the a la carte menu. Otherwise take leftovers home, repackage into an airtight container and refrigerate as soon as possible. Eat the leftovers within three



Kim Bandelier, MPH, RD, LD

Food For THOUGHT

to four days. Reheat to 165 F using a food thermometer. Proper storage and reheating of leftovers are essential for quality and food safety.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) estimates that label date confusion contributes to 20% of food waste. Product dating is not required by the federal government with the exception of infant formula, so it will take a partnership to streamline labeling terminology. Commonly used phrases according to the Food Safety and Inspection Service of the USDA include the following: "Best if used by/before" (indication of best quality, not food safety), "Sell-By" (indicates to retailer how long to display), "Use-by" (a quality indicator, not safety indicator), and "Freeze-by" (indicates when to freeze to preserve quality, not safety). The FDA and research

suggests streamlining these terms to "Best if Used By". Even when this streamlining occurs, food dates will be indicators of quality versus food safety. Non-perishable foods liked canned goods and dried goods can be safely consumed well beyond a use by or sell by date as long as there are no signs of contamination (for canned goods, severely dented cans, rusted cans, or bloated cans should not be consumed; for dried goods, signs of insect infestation, mold, or rot are warning signs). For perishable foods like eggs, dairy, and meat, you must use your senses to detect if the food is still safe to consume after the use by date. Important details to consider are whether the food was kept at the proper storage temperature or are there any indications of spoilage like a foul order, discoloration, or alterations in texture. If these features of spoilage are detected, the food is not safe to eat, regardless of the use by or sell by date.

There are many resources online to help with reducing food waste. If you prefer a more personal touch, consider reaching out to your Oklahoma Cooperative Extension county offices. They are available to answer questions about reducing food waste and food safety and share educational materials on the subject.

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THROWBACK

2002 2002 2002

Let's look back 20 years ago and see what was cookin' in The Cuurent!

TATER TOT CASSEROLE

Ingredients:
 1 small bag frozen tater-tots
 1 lb. ground beef
 1 can cream of chicken soup
 1/2 c. sour cream
 1 1/2 c. shredded cheddar cheese

Brown and drain ground beef.
 In 9x13 casserole dish, cover bottom with frozen tater-tots in a single layer.
 Mix soup and sour cream and spread over tater-tots.

Sprinkle ground beef on soup mixture, then top with cheese.
 Bake at 350 degrees for 30 to 40 minutes or until bubbly around edges and cheese is melted completely.

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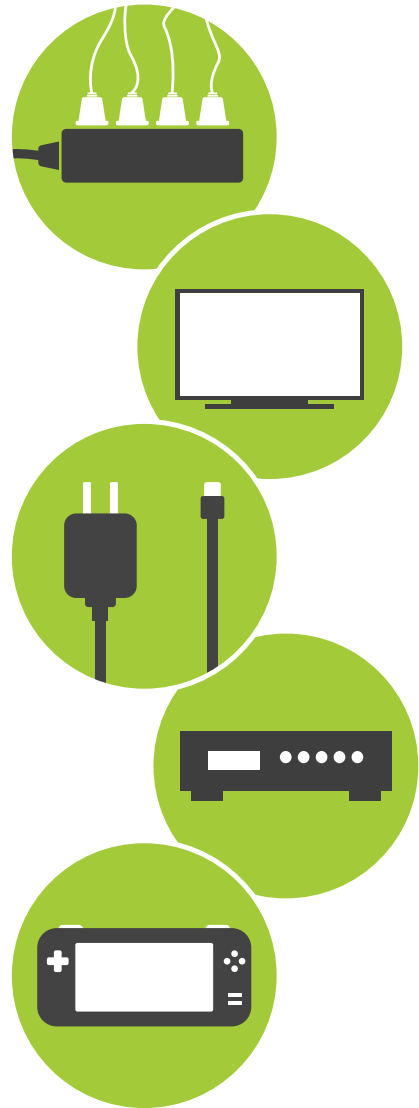
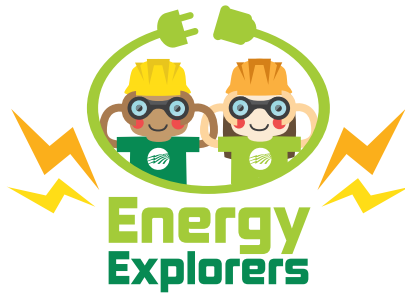
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ELECTRONICS WORD SCRAMBLE

You can be more energy efficient by turning off unused electronics. Many electronics consume energy even when they're not being used. Unplug them to save energy.

Unscramble the letters below to reveal electronics you can turn off when not in use.

Use the pictures for clues and check your work in the answer key.



1. NEPOH EHGRAC

2. MGAE NOESCLO

3. LCAEB XBO

4. EWROP PRSIS

5. ONSILEETIV

WORD BANK

Power strip Television Game console
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ANSWER KEY: 1) PHONE CHARGER 2) GAME CONSOLE 3) CABLE BOX 4) POWER STRIP 5) TELEVISION

	1	5	8	2		6		
7							4	
8	9	6	7			2		3
			1			3		2
1		8						6
					6	4		
6	4	2		5	1		3	
	7							4
		9	6	4				5

Level: Beginner

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Classified & Display Ad Deadlines

The deadline for classified ads for the next issue is Aug. 24. Display ad space must be reserved by Aug. 19.

If your ads are not received by this deadline, they will not be published in the next issue.

Please limit ads to 30 words. There is a \$5 charge for ads over 30 words.

Classified Cost

Cotton Electric members are entitled to two free ads *per membership* per month. Additional ads or ads over 30 words can be purchased for \$5 per ad.

Not a member, but still want to advertise? Ads must be prepaid, so enclose \$5 with your ad to guarantee placement.

Contact Us

Ads can be sent in the mail or be dropped off at Cotton Electric, 226 N. Broadway, Walters, OK 73572. Ads can also be dropped off at the Duncan office, 1101 W. Oak.

Ads can be emailed to classifieds@cottonelectric.com or they can be sent via fax to 580-875-3101. Place an ad by phone by calling 580-875-3351.

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Real Estate

Lots/Land

Land for sale: 1-3-acre tracts. Owner finance. Randlett and Walters areas. Call 580-591-1042, ask for Leon.

Commercial property for sale: 1817 W Bois D' Arc, Duncan, OK 73533. 1 Acre fenced, commercial location, with I 2 zoning. Concrete block and steel office building with central H/A, 2 baths, 4 offices, plus shop area and tool storage 50' X 50', low storage building open on one side 20' X 31', high wall storage building open on 1 side 30' X 47', enclosed material storage 25' X 40', 6 ft metal/wire fence. Lots of parking for utility vehicles, equipment etc. To view the property, call 580-255-7844 or 580-467-6182.

FarmsRanchesLand.com. 580-252-3880.

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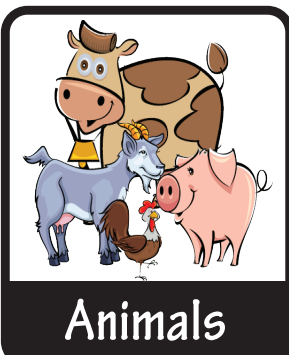
Mobile home lots for rent or sale. Randlett and Walters areas. 580-591-1042, ask for Leon.

Rentals

For rent/sale to be moved: 14'X60' mobile home, new CH&A, refrigerator & stove, 4 acres, corral, paved roads, rural water, no smoking, no pets, \$600/month, sell \$18,000. 580-215-2192.

Need space for an upcoming birthday party, baby shower, family reunion, or holiday dinner? Walters Senior Center has event space available for just \$25 per day! Call 580-875-3870 to schedule your event.

House for rent: 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 living areas, kitchen and laundry room. \$800/month. East 2050 road, Ryan, OK. Call 817-235-5348 or 817-701-8422.



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- Problems with your system since it's been installed?
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Mud Creek Creations! Come see what you've been missing! Main street Comanche. Open 10 am to 5:30 pm, Tues – Sat. Like our Facebook page.

Antiques

Knife Display; Aladdin lamp/hunting scene; Spark plug display; Rookwood pottery; 25 cent vending machine; Haywood Wakefield cabinet; 1950's Philco TV; Tom & Jerry punch/cogno set. Santa Fe Traders.

1950's Metal lawn chairs; gas pump; large Texaco sign; English Slot machine; Majolica pitchers and plates; sellers cabinet; anvils; working Barber pole; Green Stamp metal sign. Santa Fe Traders.

Fenton collection; savannah chandeliers; Frankoma Political Mugs; Cosco kitchen cart and stool; Pyrex; oak dining room tables and chairs; small oak ice box and large oak icebox; Addington Station Antiques 580-439-5566.

Chisholm Trail Trading Post: South Hwy. 81 in Comanche. Mon.-Thurs. Second Monday Trade Days. To reserve a spot call 580-439-8832.

Model airplanes; 1960's watch display; Enterprise Grinders; Hall trees; tiger oak dental cabinet; Coca-Cola machine; Conoco gas pump; Pac Man Arcade Up games; Victorian settee; Victrola. Addington Station Antiques.

Shop Gems inside Butterfields: 805 Main. in Duncan. 580-252-2288, 10:30-5:30 T- Sat. Native American posters, sport team shirts and beer signs. Harley Davidson, comics, Elvis, metalware, jewelry, glass, belts, buckles, collectibles. Due to store closing all merchandise will be 50% off already low prices.

Clothing

The Glorious Gecko at 130 N. Broadway, Walters has New & Nearly New Women's clothing sizes L to 3X. Hours: M-F 10-5. New items added every week.

MERCHANDISE

Firearms

For sale: Ruger American pistol. 9mm, model 8605, 2 double stack mags, lock, manual, extra grips, loader, in original case. Used very little. \$450. Call 580-704-7223.

Largest firearms accessory manufacturer, parts & accessories, gunsmithing tools. Military, commercial, obsolete and current manufacture parts. Available more than 5,000 items. 580-248-0828.

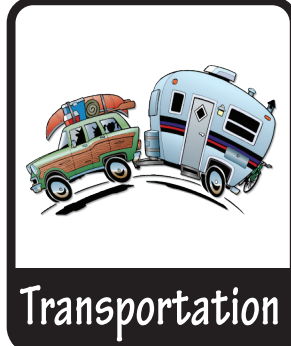
Entertainment

Stitching Memories Quilt Guild now meeting in-person, third Monday of each month. 6 p.m., Chisholm Trail Church of Christ, Duncan. SW corner of church building. Show and tell, no food.



Lawn & Garden

Dunn's Nursery 2116 N 5th, Duncan. Cell: 656-7273. Shade trees for sale: Bald Cypress, Bradford Pear, Chinese Pistachio, Lace bark elm, Red Maple, Red Oak, Redbud, Shantung Maple and Crepe Myrtle.



Transportation

Cars

2002 Maserati Spyder Cambio/Corso, yellow with black interior, 41,868 miles, \$15,000. 580-875-3677.

For sale: 1995 Lincoln town car. Excellent condition and runs great. Leather, brakes, tires. 140M. Has tap sound. Current license 995. Call 580-512-8736.

Cycles & ATVs

2012 Can Am Spyder. Only 404 miles. Black in color with new battery. \$12,000 or reasonable offer. 580-351-7052.

Golf Carts

Golf carts and parts. Service and rentals. Trailers, too! 580-656-2314.

Recreational Vehicles

Live the Simple Life! Town and Country RV Park, Marlow, OK 580-641-2836. RV spots available, with full hook-ups, in a nice and well-maintained park! www.marlowrvpark.com.

For sale: 1997 Excel 5th wheel. New roof, remodeled. Has never leaked. Great condition. Please text or call 580-467-1553.

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Friday & Saturday: 11:00 am to 10:00 pm

Puzzle Answers

4	1	5	8	2	3	6	9	7
7	2	3	5	6	9	8	4	1
8	9	6	7	1	4	2	5	3
9	6	4	1	7	5	3	8	2
1	3	8	4	9	2	5	7	6
2	5	7	3	8	6	4	1	9
6	4	2	9	5	1	7	3	8
5	7	1	2	3	8	9	6	4
3	8	9	6	4	7	1	2	5

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When can you choose retirement?

If you're like most people, your work has been a central part of your life. So, wouldn't it be nice to have the flexibility to decide when you no longer want to work?

Many people of retirement age have achieved this type of control. In fact, two-thirds of workers ages 65 and older say they work



primarily because they want to, not because they have to, according to a 2021 study by Edward Jones and Age Wave. But that means that one-third of workers in this age group feel financially compelled to work. This doesn't necessarily mean they dislike the work they do — but it's probably fair to say they would have liked the option of not working. How can you give yourself this choice?

You can start by asking yourself these questions:
• When do I want to retire? You'll want to identify the age at which you wish to

retire. You may change your mind later and move this date up or back, but it's a good idea to have a target in mind.

• What sort of retirement lifestyle do I want? When you retire, do you anticipate staying close to home and pursuing your hobbies, or do you hope to travel the world? Would you like to spend your time volunteering? Open your own business or do some consulting? Clearly, some of these choices will require more resources than others, so you'll want to follow a financial strategy that aligns with the retirement

lifestyle you intend to pursue.

• Am I saving and investing enough? As you chart your course toward your retirement journey, you'll want to assess the sources of income you'll have available. If you think you may be falling short of achieving your retirement goals, you may need to consider saving more.

• When should I start taking Social Security? You can begin collecting Social Security benefits as early as 62, but your monthly payments will be much

bigger if you wait until your "full" retirement age, which will likely be between 66 and 67. Your decision about when to take Social Security will depend on several factors, including your other sources of income and your family history of longevity. Of course, as you're probably aware, the Social Security system is facing significant financial stress, so it's possible that we may see changes to Social Security, based on actions Congress could take. In any case, you might want to be fairly conservative in estimating how much Social Security

can contribute to your retirement income.

By addressing the above questions, you can get a clearer sense of when you might reach the point at which work is optional. But you'll also need to consider other factors, too, such as how much you enjoy working or when your spouse or partner is planning to retire. In any case, the sooner you start planning for this next phase of your life, the better position you'll be in when it's time to make the transition.

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TRANSPORTATION

2008 Caralight RV. 36 max. 30 ft slide plus 2 more. Washer & dryer, 2 TV's, 2 A/C's, clean bed, fireplace, kitchen island, double door fridge. \$35,000 OBO. Call 580-504-1538.

Camper for sale: 19 ft Forest River Microlite, long slide. Electric awning, large corner bathroom, queen size bed and futon couch. Everything works. Great floor plan. Lake ready. \$18,000. 580-585-1212.

Trucks & SUVs

For sale: 2005 GMC Envoy. Heated leather seats, A/C and heater, dual climate control, air compressor, luggage rack, towing package, 4.2 in line V-6, no issues. \$6500 OBO. 580-475-8096 or 580-736-8451.

1991 Ford F-350 with Holliswell haybed and 1,500 pound feeder. 4x4, 460 engine, 185,000 miles. Truck, haybed and feeder works as should. \$9,550. 580-512-9859.



Miscellaneous

Cemetery plots for sale: 2 adjacent plots with cement crypts in Resthaven Memorial Gardens in Duncan. \$1,250 each or both for \$2,000. Prefer to sell together. 580-439-5408. Leave a message.

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.

Med supply: junior walker. 29 inches high. Good for young child - better than crutches. Will send picture. Text 580-585-9197 or leave a message at 580-232-2144.

Ed's Deer Processing can now do domestic, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. M-F. Hours during deer season, Oct. 1-Jan. 15, 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Daily. 4863 County St. 2850, Marlow. Find us on Facebook! Call 580-574-0287.

AC compressor for 79-86 Ford V8's, trailer hitch lock, misc. carburetors to be rebuilt. 580-252-3066.

Volume 1 of Spiderman Amazing Fantasy. 580-252-3066.

60' break over pole. \$100.00. 580-252-5525.

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MISCELLANEOUS

Chisholm Trail Trading Post: South HWY 81 in Comanche. Mon.-Thurs. Second Monday Trade Days. To reserve a spot call 580-439-8832.

"Thought my dog was just barking at nothing. Turned out it was global warming." Buying oil and gas royalties. Bruce Prater, 580-641-1952.

Angus beef for sale. Grass fed, grain finished, no growth hormones, no antibiotics, local livestock producer, butchered by state inspected custom processor. Sold by the side or whole. You decide the cuts of meat. 580-585-2691.

Fire wood. Seasoned, split mixed \$120.00 per rick. \$30.00 pickup full of wood chips. West Lawton. 580-917-0057.

For sale: Clean 55-gallon barrels. \$5 metal; \$8 plastic. Located in Duncan. 580-606-0620.

MISCELLANEOUS

The Creek at Trading Post Flea Market every month. South 81 Comanche. Weekend before second Monday! Saturday is the best!

Wanted: 35 - 160 or more acres to lease between Lawton and Duncan for light stocking rate cattle pasture. Will fence and improve pasture. Tom Beck, Beckwards T Ranch, 580-351-4439.

The Glorious Gecko at 130 N. Broadway, Walters has new & nearly new women's clothing sizes L to 3X. Hours: M-F 10-5. New items added every week
Hitch-mounted, fold-up hydraulic electric vehicle lift. Bruno model MSL250. Retail price \$2000, asking \$350. Call 580-351-7052.

Want to buy: Tandem axle 20-22 foot 5th wheel drop-deck semi-trailer frame (e.g. ex-military/Haliburton). 353-5011.

MISCELLANEOUS

Milk can bar table with two milk can stools, old town replica, cedar bird houses, tractor seat stool, small coffee table, bunk bed with mattresses. Call for pictures and prices. 361-510-4222.

For sale: 3 plots (lot 35, block 2E, addition 1) of Frederick Memorial Cemetery. Asking \$450 ea. If interested, call or text Linda 405-589-3156.

VVA Chapter 751 18th annual golf tournament at Fort Sill golf course. Monday, September 12, 2022. Four-person scramble. Cost is \$100 per player or \$400 per team. Check-in is at 10 a.m. Call Horace "Stonie" Whetstone at 580-713-1373 or 580-699-5096.

Porta potty, \$150. Charcoal BBQ, bought last year, \$50. Baby crib mattress, \$10. Call 580-875-3677. Walters.

MISCELLANEOUS

Expanding van, aluminum. 8' W x 17' L to 14' W x 17' L. On skids, so it is moveable. Party room? Summer Kitchen? Deer Lease?. \$2,500. 353-5011.

Proform 785 F Elliptical and Sunny SF-B901 exercise bike. \$75 ea or \$100 for both. Originally \$500 and \$329. Coleman Powermate 5000-watt generator \$200. 580-583-7443.

MISCELLANEOUS

Duncan's Annual Coin Show: Sept. 16-17 at Stephens County Fairgrounds in Duncan. Buy, sell or trade. Gold, silver, coins, currency, tokens and more. Free appraisals available. Contact Ed at 580-606-4570.

2005 Coachman Cascade. 26-foot bumper pool camper. \$9,000. Call 580-591-1244.

BACK IN PERSON!



Annual Meeting & Member Appreciation Night

**Tuesday, Sept. 20
Great Plains Coliseum • Lawton**

Registration at 5:30 p.m. • Business Meeting at 7 p.m.
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Traditional Post Frame

18 x 30 x 10 (3 bays)	- \$7,470 ⁰⁰	Material Only
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Parting Shots



This month's Photo of the Month contest was very popular. We appreciate everyone who participated and want to feature the runners-up. (top) Taken by Darren Beaver. (bottom) Taken by Belinda Yearby.

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OCTOBER 13TH * 14TH * 15TH

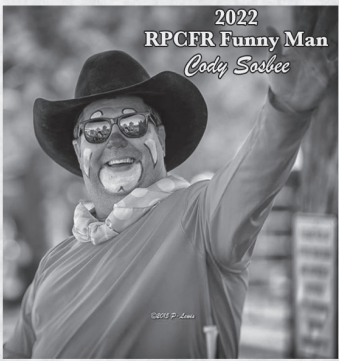
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Cody Sosbee






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