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The Current

A Publication of Cotton Electric Cooperative Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

“The Current - Informing Our Members Since 1957”

VOLUME 65

November 14, 2022

NUMBER 3

2023 Youth Tour essay contest open for entries

Are you or someone you know a high school junior in the Cotton Electric Cooperative service area? Looking for a trip of a lifetime to our nation's capital while making friends from across the nation? Applying for Cotton Electric's Youth Tour essay contest is a great opportunity to do so.

Cotton Electric Cooperative is excited for another year of essay competition, where two finalists will go on an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C.

Youth Tour is a week of hands-on learning while making memories that will last a long time. Student finalists will learn about government and the cooperative business model, see historic monuments, gain leadership experience

and meet new people.

Tyler Hertzler, a 2022 Youth Tour winner, encourages students to apply for Cotton Electric's essay competition for the chance to experience this incredible opportunity. Hertzler said his favorite part of the trip was witnessing the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

“Watching the changing of the guard was one of the best things I have ever seen,” Hertzler said. “I wasn't watching a history video. I was able to watch the real thing before my eyes. I can't explain it.”

To be eligible to enter the competition, contestants must be a high school junior in the Cotton Electric service territory. The student and their families do not

have to be Cotton Electric members; however, sons or daughters of Cotton Electric employees and board members are not eligible to participate in the contest.

The contest is divided into three rounds. For the first round, applicants will submit an essay of 400-500 words on this topic: “Cotton Electric Cooperative operates on the Seven Cooperative Principles. Which three of these resonate most with you, and why?” Sources must be cited and do not count toward the total word count.

Essays will be judged by the following criteria: knowledge of subject, 40%; originality, 30%; composition, 10%; grammar, 10%; and spelling and punctuation, 10%. All sub-

missions are made anonymous before submission to judges. Employees and board members of Cotton Electric will not serve as judges.

The top 15 essays to move onto the second round – a live video interview, via Zoom. The question-and-answer interview between students and judges will be arranged by Cotton Electric. From there, the top five contestants will advance to the final round. They will be required to submit a recorded oral presentation of their essay.

The top two presenters will be awarded with an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., in June 2023, or a \$1,500 scholarship. The scholarship will be awarded



only if safety

conditions do not allow for travel.

“Youth Tour is a special opportunity that not everyone gets to do,” Hertzler said. “Words can't describe how amazing and impactful this trip was. It truly was one of the greatest things I've experienced.”

Another 2022 Youth Tour winner was Isabel Moore. One of the things she took away from the trip was the incredible sights she saw

in-person that she had only seen before in movies or read about in books.

“The whole trip was surreal to me,” Moore said. “It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. I am really thankful.”

The deadline to submit an essay is 3 p.m. on Jan. 17, 2023. Apply online at www.cottonelectric.com/youthtour. For questions or more information, please call us at 580-875-3351 or email zyoung@cottonelectric.com.



Youth Tour Schedule 2023

Oct. 31, 2022

- Contest opens for entries

Jan. 17, 2023

- Deadline to submit essays - 3 p.m.

Feb. 9, 2023

- Live interviews for Top 15

Feb. 21, 2023

- Video presentations due for Top 5

June 7, 2023

- Youth Tour Meet & Greet in OKC

June 16, 2023

- Youth Tour Banquet in OKC

June 17-23, 2023

- Youth Tour trip to Washington



2022 Youth Tour winners Tyler Hertzler and Isabel Moore in front of the White House on one of their many site visits during the trip.

Power Cost Adjustment Calculated

The power cost adjustment now being applied to bills mailed after November 1, 2022, is \$0.02400 per kWh.

On a member's average bill of 1,300 kilowatt hours (kWh), this will amount to a charge of \$31.20 on the October bill.

October 2022 Temperature Extremes

Day	High	Low	Avg.	Day	High	Low	Avg.
1	86	49	68	16	72	60	66
2	87	44	66	17	66	42	54
3	86	45	66	18	61	37	49
4	88	47	68	19	71	33	52
5	88	52	70	20	83	39	61
6	88	59	74	21	92	41	67
7	70	57	64	22	95	64	80
8	60	49	55	23	90	66	78
9	77	53	65	24	75	51	63
10	81	58	70	25	70	44	57
11	81	62	72	26	70	40	55
12	86	50	68	27	73	48	61
13	78	48	63	28	55	52	54
14	88	45	67	29	67	53	60
15	94	52	73	30	74	45	60
				31	76	41	59

Source: srh.noaa.gov/oun/
Average Daily High: 78 Average Daily Low: 49

Did You Know?

Cotton Electric offices will be closed on Nov. 24 and 25 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

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

The next issue of The Current should arrive in mailboxes on Dec. 12, 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.



COTTON
ELECTRIC CO-OP

Mission Statement

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

From the CEO

Winter heating costs expected to be higher this season

The U.S. Energy Information Administration recently released its Short-Term Energy Outlook. The report forecasts average household expenditures for home heating costs for the upcoming winter. Compared to last winter, the forecast predicts we'll pay more to heat our homes this year because of higher fuel prices as well as forecasted increased energy consumption.

On a national average, homes heating with natural gas should expect a 28% increase, heating oil by 27%, electricity by 10% and propane 5% for the October 2022 – March 2023 timeframe. The full report is available at www.eia.gov/outlooks/steo.

What is driving the increases in electricity prices?

There are several contributing factors including higher wholesale electricity prices, primarily driven by increased natural gas prices used for power generation; continued retirements of coal-fired plants throughout the country and constraints in coal deliveries for those still in operation; and tight global supply conditions.

As I wrote earlier this year, Cotton Electric has experienced increases in the cost of wholesale

power that affects all of us. The cost of power we purchase on your behalf is typically 70% of our total expenses. For the first nine months of 2022, it has increased to 76.9% of our total expenses.

Although our rate structure has not changed, members see the impact of increased wholesale power costs through the Power Cost Adjustment (PCA).

What is the PCA?

As a not-for-profit electric utility, it is critical that we recover all of the Cooperative's power cost from the members who used it. Our goal is to break even and our rates are designed to accomplish that task through the monthly PCA. The PCA reflects the increase or decrease in Cotton Electric's cost of power purchased from our power provider, Western Farmers Electric Cooperative.

Residential members on Cotton Electric's General Service rate pay \$0.08950 per kWh. The rate includes 6.25 cents per kWh to cover the cost wholesale power. Cotton Electric maintains your electric system and distributes electricity on the small difference of 2.7 cents per kWh.

When the cost of purchased power is more or less than 6.25

cents per kWh, the PCA is increased and shown as a charge in order to recover the price we paid for power. When the cost of purchased power is less than 6.25 cents per kWh, we return the difference and members receive a credit.

The costs for wholesale power are a straight pass-through meaning Cotton Electric makes no margin on the PCA.

For October 2021 billing, the PCA was \$0.00708/kWh. For October 2022 billing, it increased to \$0.03292/kWh. If a member used 1,000 kWhs in October of both years, they would see an increase of approximately \$25 over the previous year. The PCA Charge is listed on your monthly bill under the Service Detail section.

What can we do this winter?

We encourage all of our members to make small changes to conserve electricity such as:

- Adjust your thermostat a few degrees. Heating above 68 F in the winter increases your costs.
- Turn off unnecessary lights, computers and other office equipment when they're not being used.
- Consider our Average Monthly Payment plan. Instead



Jennifer Meason, CEO

of high and low bills as the seasons change, bill amounts will tend to flatten and be closer to the same amount each month, which helps budgeting throughout the year.

These small changes can make a difference in your overall energy bill. Additional energy efficiency and conservation information can be found in this month's issue of The Current, as well as on our website, www.cottonelectric.com/energy-efficiency.

We're Here to Help

We know that increasing costs can be difficult to manage. To get a clear picture of how you're currently using electricity, we offer billing reviews over the phone and a free home energy efficiency evaluation to our members.

If you need assistance or would like to make a payment arrangement, please contact our Billing and Member Services Staff at 580-875-3351.

Deck the Halls
SAFELY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON
Safe Electricity.org



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Is your home heating system ready for the winter chill? One of the easiest ways to keep your system running efficiently is to regularly replace filters. If your central air system has a furnace filter, it should be replaced about every 90 days.

If your home is heated through warm-air registers, baseboard heaters or radiators, remember to clean regularly to boost efficiency.

Source: Energy.gov

September 2022 Operating Stats		
	2022	2021
Total Amount Billed/Accrued	\$7,852,968	\$6,222,176
Cost of Purchased Power	5,639,220	4,628,177
Taxes	167,140	134,166
Total Operating Expense Per Mile	1,371	1,204
Average Farm and Residential Bill	185	157
Average Farm and Residential kWh	1,275	1,239
Total Meters Billed (farm, residential)	19,287	19,039
Miles Energized	5,385	5,216
Density Per Mile	3.58	3.65
New Service Connects YTD	390	367
Services Retired	94	130

Upcoming Deadlines for The Current	
December	
Ad Sales	Nov. 25
Classified	Nov. 30
Publish	Dec. 12
January	
Ad Sales	Dec. 30
Classified	Dec. 30
Publish	Jan. 16

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Energy Efficiency

Five ways to fight the winter chill and save energy

We all have our favorite season. Some people love crisp, cool weather and bundling up under a favorite blanket, while others prefer the warm temperatures summer brings and all fun outdoor activities that go with it.

But there's one thing we can all agree on: High electric bills are never fun. Cotton Electric Cooperative is here to help you find ways to manage your home energy use and keep winter bills in check.

Here are five tips to help increase your home's energy efficiency this winter:

Mind the thermostat

This is one of the easiest ways to manage your home energy use. We recommend setting your thermostat to 68 degrees (or lower) when you're home. When you're sleeping or away for an extended period of time, try setting it between 58 and 62 degrees; there's no need to heat your home when you're away or sleeping and less active.



Button up your home

The Department of Energy estimates that 24% to 40% of the energy used for heating and cooling actually leaks out

of the home. Caulking and weather stripping around windows and doors is another simple, cost-effective way to increase comfort and save energy. If you can feel drafts while standing near a window or door, it likely needs to be sealed.



Use window coverings wisely

Open blinds, drapes or other window coverings during the day to allow natural sunlight in to warm your home. Close them at night to keep the cold, drafty air out. If you feel cold air around windows, consider hanging curtains or drapes in a thicker material; heavier window coverings can make a significant difference in blocking cold outdoor air.



Consider your approach to appliance use

When combined, appliances and electronics account for a significant chunk of our home energy use, so assess how efficiently you're using them. For example, if you're running the dishwasher or clothes washer, only wash full loads. Look for electronic devices that consume energy even when they're not in use, like phone chargers or game consoles, and unplug them.



Think outside the box

If you're still feeling chilly at home, think of other ways to warm up--beyond dialing up the thermostat. Add layers of clothing, wear thick socks and bundle up under blankets. You can even add layers to your home! If you have hard-surface flooring, consider purchasing an area rug to block cold air that leaks in through the floor.



**Heath Morgan,
Energy Efficiency
Coordinator**

If you're taking steps to save energy but continue to see major increases in your bills, call 580-875-3351 or take advantage of our free home energy evaluations. I can help identify areas and other factors impacting your home energy use and recommend next steps for savings.



Winter months often bring some of the highest energy bills of the year. By being proactive about saving energy, you can increase the comfort of your home and reduce monthly bills. Visit our website at www.cottonelectric.com/energy-efficiency for additional energy-saving tips.

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goodness and gratitude.

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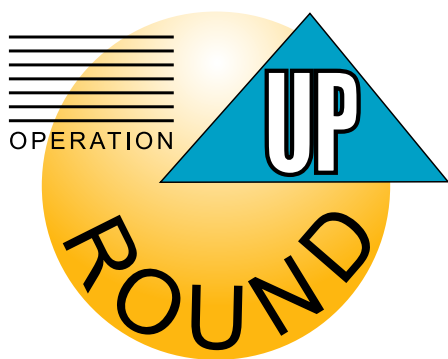
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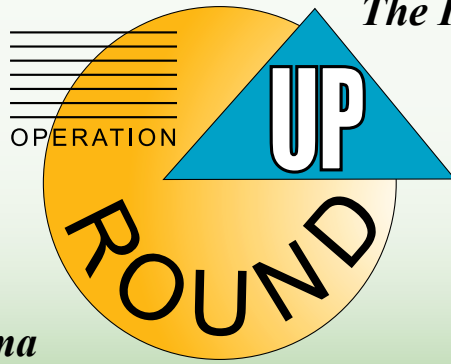


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Thank you to the 2022 Not-So-Summer Classic Golf Tournament sponsors



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2022 golf tournament raises funds for CECF

On a cool, fall morning, 100 golfers showed their support for the Cotton Electric Charitable Foundation (CECF) during the 14th annual Not-So-Summer Classic golf tournament fundraiser on Oct. 21 at The Territory Golf and Country Club in Duncan.

The tournament drew 25 teams which were divided into two flights. A scorecard playoff determined the winners in each flight.

With a score of 53, the Comanche Nation Team 1, represented by Adam Red Elk, Eric Dedmon, Billy Thomas and Barney Hastie, won first place in the first flight.

Representing City Mart Energy and claiming second place in the first flight with a score of 57 was Ross Hutson, Danny Merser, Jeff Elroy and Ethan Elroy. Scoring 59, third place was awarded to Dean Church, Jennifer Meason, Bryce Hooper and Jace Zacharias, representing CoBank.

The winners of the second flight were Skylar Smith, Sam Gonzales, Josh Belcher and Heath Morgan, representing PenTex Energy, with a score of 63.

Second place went to representatives of Cornish Properties: Steve Robinson, Jodie Reece, JC Grayson and Chris Brown, who had a score of 64. The team of Ken Layn, Craig Patterson, Press Mahaffey and Ash Lovell won third place with a score of 64, as well.

Winners of the Closest to the Pin competition included Cole Wasinger, Adam Red Elk, Max West, Danny Merser and Mike Wolfe. Kelby Boyd was the winner of the Long Drive contest.

A new addition to this year's golf tournament was a CO² ball launcher, provided by JP Peacock, where golfers "teed" off at Hole 10 by shooting their golf ball with the launcher.

"We would like to express our appreciation to the players who took time to support this great cause and to the hole sponsors and contributors who continue to help make the tournament a success," said Jennifer Meason, Cotton Electric CEO. "We would also like to thank the staff at The Territory for having the course in excellent shape and always going out of their way to take care of our tournament participants."

Proceeds from the golf tournament will be distributed by CECF board members to local organizations and individuals throughout the co-op's service territory.

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Be aware of charity and disaster scams

Cyber criminals know that one of the best ways to rush people into making a mistake is by creating a heightened sense of urgency. And one of the easiest ways to create a sense of urgency is to take advantage of a crisis. This is why cyber criminals love it whenever there is a traumatic event with global impact.

What most of us regard as a tragedy, cyber criminals view as an opportunity, such as the breakout of a war, a major natural disaster such as a tornado, and of course infectious disease breakouts like COVID-19. When there is an immense amount of social media and news coverage about a certain event, cyber criminals know that is the time to strike.

They use this opportunity to create timely phishing emails or scams about the event, and then send that phishing email or launch the scam to millions of people around the world.

For example, during a natural disaster, they may pretend to be a charity asking for donations to save children in need.

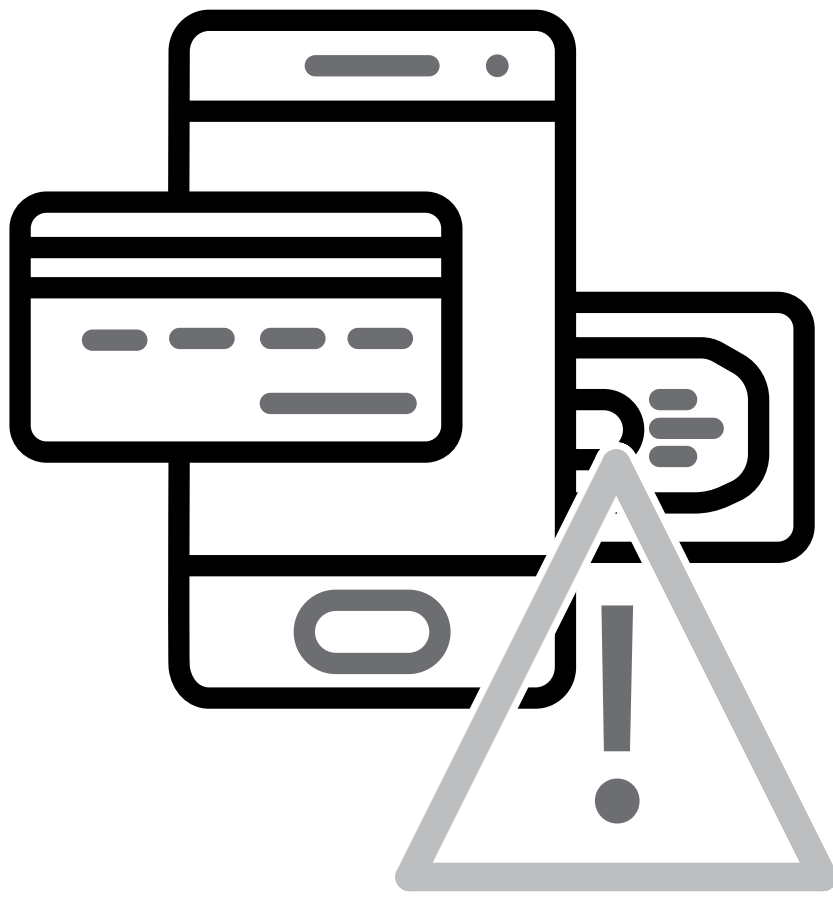
Cyber criminals can often act within hours of a crisis or disaster, as they have all the technical infrastructure prepared and are ready ahead of time.

How can we protect ourselves the next time there is a big crisis or disaster, and cyber criminals seek to exploit it?

How to detect and defend against these scams

The key to avoiding these scams is to be suspicious of anyone who reaches out to you.

For example, do not trust an urgent email claiming to be from a charity that desperately needs donations, even if the email appears to be from a brand that you know and trust. Do not trust a phone call claiming to be a local food bank pressuring you to donate. The greater the sense of urgency,



the more likely the request is a cyber-attack.

Here are some of the most common indicators of a charity scam:

- Be very suspicious of any charity that requires you to donate via cryptocurrency, Western Union, wiring money, or gift cards.

- Cyber criminals can change their caller ID phone number to make their phone call look like it's from your local area code or from a trusted name.

- Some cyber criminals will use names and logos that sound or look like a real charity. This is one reason it pays to do some research before giving.

- Cyber criminals will often make lots of vague and sentimental claims about what they will do with your money but give no specifics about how your donation will be used.

- Do not assume pleas for help on crowdfunding sites such as GoFundMe or social media sites are legitimate, especially in the wake of a crisis or tragedy.

- Some cyber criminals may try to trick you into donating by

thanking you for a donation you made in the past when, in reality, you never donated to them.

- Do not give out personal or financial information in response to any unsolicited request.

How to make a difference safely

To donate in times of need or to help those impacted by a disaster, donate only to well-known, trusted organizations. You initiate the connections and decide who to reach out to, such as what websites to visit or what organizations to call. When you consider giving to a charity, search its name plus words like "complaint," "review," "rating," or "scam."

Not sure which charities to trust? Start by researching on government websites you trust, or perhaps links provided by a well-known and highly trusted news organization.

Donating in times of need is a fantastic way to make a difference, just be sure you are giving to legitimate organizations.

Source: sans.org

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Cotton Electric seeks addresses for returned capital credit checks

CEC capital credit checks totalling \$1,150,148.64 were issued recently to people and businesses.

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

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

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

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Rosario, Jose
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 Schwenn, Robert
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U
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Walters junior high groups attend the inaugural Co-opreneur Day

On Oct. 26, around 90 seventh and eighth grade students from Oklahoma electric cooperatives traveled to the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives (OAEC) conference center in Oklahoma City for the first-ever Co-opreneur Day. Students were divided into teams to form a cooperative and present a business plan that meets the needs of imaginary communities.



Cotton Electric was well-represented at the 2022 Co-opreneur Day. Two junior high teams from Walters and three employee volunteers were in attendance. Photo courtesy of Lance Shaw.

Cotton Electric was represented by two eighth grade teams from Walters Middle School. One of the Walters Middle School teams, named Devil's Voltage, won the championship in the eighth-grade division.

Day because we wanted to give our students the opportunity to try something they may have never done before," said Dossanna Goode, a teacher at Walters Middle School. "We knew it would be a great learning experience for each of them."

The event was broken into three activities. First, students learned about the definition, business model and principles of cooperatives. A group activity demonstrated how cooperatives operate by businesses working together to alleviate problems each of

them were experiencing. After the demonstration, each team elected a president, vice president, secretary and treasurer to represent their group.

The second activity was led by Amy Lee from the Oklahoma Council on Economic Education. She discussed with students the characteristics of a successful entrepreneur.

Since students just learned about cooperatives and entrepreneurship, they moved onto the third activity of the day: to create a cooperative business plan addressing concerns in their communities. Students were given 20 minutes to create a plan before presenting it to judges.

Competitors were divided into three team categories: seventh graders, eighth grad-

ers and a blend of seventh and eighth graders.

After team members presented their plan, everyone went outside for a live high-voltage power demonstration, provided by Oklahoma Electric Cooperatives.

"Our students gained a plethora of knowledge about how cooperatives work during this competition," Goode said. "They gained leadership skills, confidence in presenting in front of a panel of judges, and most importantly they learned how to be good teammates and work together to come up with the best possible business plan."

Cotton Electric Cooperative is proud of the students who represented the cooperative during the competition.

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Helpful tips when planning ahead for new electrical services

Building a new home can be an exciting process for home owners, and there are many factors to consider throughout the planning process. A large piece of the project is establishing new electrical service.

For new home builds and mobile home relocations that will be serviced by Cotton Electric, the first step is calling our engineering department to schedule a field visit.

Before the field visit:

One of the most important pieces of information for our engineering department to have before a field visit is a good location of the property.

"It is best for members to provide us a legal description, driving directions to the property or both," said Scott Crew, Cotton Electric supervisor of engineering services. Street addresses do not provide enough information to find the true geographical location of the property.

Secondly, members need to know where on the property they would like to build their house or any other structures. This helps our engineers give a true estimate of what the project will cost.

If members know where they want their house to sit, footers of the structure will need to be clearly dug or marked prior to the visit.

It is also beneficial for members to know the amp load of their future house or

structure. Most homes are 200 amps, but the builder or electrician of the project can provide that information.

Other things to mark for crews are property lines and other utilities not covered under Okie811. Clearly marking both of these helps limit confusion and issues when building on the property.

If you aren't sure what service lines are covered under Okie811, visit www.okie811.org or try contacting the previous landowner.

If Cotton Electric crews have to cross another person's property to get to yours, members are required to get an easement.

During the field visit:

After members have called the co-op's engineering department to schedule the field visit, members (or soon-to-be members) will meet with one of the co-op's engineers at the property to begin the design job. Having the builder present at the field visit isn't required, but it is beneficial and helps prevent miscommunication throughout the process, Crew said.

During the field visit, engineers will only design the job. They will not build or install anything at that time.

For members considering adding additional structures or features in the future, such as pools, sheds and fences, let our engineers know during the field meeting.



Cotton Electric Staking Technician David Break marks where lines for a new build will be laid. Photo by Carli Eubank.

"Being aware of underground or overhead lines when building or planting helps prevent members from disturbing the ground below or above our lines and causing serious injuries during that process," Crew said.

Other considerations:

For a new build to qualify as a house or conventional residence, it must have a functioning kitchen, bathroom and living space, Crew said.

Members are encouraged to plan early when setting up appointments with Cotton Electric engineers, Crew said. With five engineers covering appointments across eight counties while ensuring quality power and service, the entire process can take a few weeks to complete.

It is important that members do not miss their field visit with our engineers.

When setting up an appointment, it could take about two weeks until someone from the engineering department can meet members for a field visit. After the appointment and members have filled out paperwork and paid, construction will take four to eight weeks to complete, Crew said.

Members can call Cotton Electric anytime about their circumstances or questions at 580-875-3351 or 800-522-3520, or visit our website at www.cottonelectric.com/residential-new-service.

"If members will let us know about future structural additions to the property, we will design the job anticipating those projects in the future," Crew said.

Engineers will also advise members to not build below an overhead line or above an underground line to prevent serious injuries or issues, like cutting into an underground wire when installing a pool, Crew said. Cotton Electric crews will not build power lines through trees or across creeks. This helps maintain quality power, he added.

After engineers have visited with members and gathered all the information to design the project, they will provide an estimate and paperwork for members before proceeding with building a new electrical service.

After the field visit:

Once electrical services have been provided to a structure, mapping the lines will be helpful for referencing future projects, especially if an underground line was installed on the property. Members can use GPS or landmarks to map the wiring, Crew said.

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U.S. Marines



KEVIN BARRINEAU
U.S. Army

Cotton Electric honors all who served

Every November 11 on Veterans Day we honor those who've served in the United States military. Here at Cotton Electric, we salute five veterans who now serve as Cotton Electric employees: James Apriesnig, Heath Morgan, Dillon Wiygul, Jason Red Elk and Kevin Barrineau.

Cotton Electric Energy Efficiency Coordinator Heath Morgan's four-year stint in the U.S. Air Force began a few months after graduating from high school.

"At that point in life, serving in the military seemed like a way to build a positive future," Morgan said. "I also felt a sense of duty to serve."

After completing his basic training at Lackland Air Force base in San Antonio, Morgan went to technical training at Sheppard Air Force base in Wichita Falls. He was primarily stationed at Tinker AFB in Oklahoma City, Morgan said.

Coincidentally, Morgan's aptitude test results indicated career strengths in line operations and air craft technicians, he said. This prepared him for his journey and skillset for what he does for Cotton Electric members today.

Morgan's main career field was aircraft electro-environmental systems technician. He worked on anything electrical: from power generation to distribution, and then environmental projects such as cabin pressurization, air conditioning, and more.

One of the most significant days of Morgan's military career was Sept. 11, 2001. That day, one of his planes was dispatched to escort Air Force One from Virginia to an airbase in the central part of the country, he said. Morgan was in the E3 AWACS acting as

an ariel radar, making sure nothing else was in the air.

"That day definitely stands out to me," Morgan said. "It was a crazy day."

After the first tower was hit, we thought it may have been an accident, but after the second tower was hit, it got a lot more real, Morgan said. Everything was happening so quickly, he added.

One of the many medals Morgan received was a Global War on Terrorism Service Medal during Operation Enduring Freedom.

Morgan had many cultural experiences throughout his service while visiting 10 countries. He spent extensive time in Oman, Saudi Arabia and Turkey and also visited England, Germany, Greece, Curacao, Iceland and Canada.

"My career in the military definitely led into my progression in life and related to what I do today," Morgan said.

Upon completing his military service, Morgan starting his career in heating and air conditioning and spent 12 years in the industry before coming to Cotton Electric.

"Serving in the military definitely instills some values in you that you might not have had before going in," Morgan said. "You gain more self-accountability, self-awareness, and even self-worth, knowing you were able to accomplish something and part of a team."

James Apriesnig, Cotton Electric General Accounting Supervisor, entered the Marine Corps at the young age of 17. His career in the U.S. Marine Corps spanned 30 years.

After high school, Apriesnig brought up the idea about enlisting to his father, a World War II veteran, and both decided it could be a good idea

for him, he said. Apriesnig's entry into the service was quick: a recruiter visited their home to go over paperwork together on a Tuesday night, Apriesnig had a physical the next day, and then by Friday he was aboard a plane headed to San Diego for boot camp.

"It all kind of worked out because I didn't have time to question or overthink my decision," Apriesnig said. "I didn't initially plan to serve as long as I did, but I knew it would be good for me and give me a more direction."

Apriesnig joined so quickly that he had an open contract, but due to his good test scores, he was assigned to the computer operations field.

Apriesnig's first station was in North Carolina. He was meritoriously promoted to corporal just before leaving for Japan to finish the last year of his initial three-year contract. There, he was meritoriously promoted to sergeant.

When he was sent back to California to complete his out-process paperwork, Apriesnig discovered he enjoyed the administrative side of things and talked to the career planner about reenlisting.

Throughout his service Apriesnig saw many new places, including Japan, North Carolina, Iraq, Africa and Virginia, where he met his wife of 23 years. Africa was a great experience for Apriesnig personally because he worked with the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines on a joint duty mission, he said.

Apriesnig rose through many ranks, but one of the most rewarding fields of his career was when he was assigned to a manpower position for three years, he said. In this busy position, he gave

people their duty assignments and visited different stations.

"It was really neat because you got to see what others were asking about and then try to make their dreams come true," Apriesnig said.

Apriesnig finished the final ten years of his career at the highest U.S. Marine Corps enlisted grade possible: an E9 Master Gunnery Sergeant. He earned many priceless medals over his career including the Bronze Star and a Joint Meritorious Unit Service Award, Apriesnig said.

"I got much more out of it than they got out of me," Apriesnig said. "It is a humbling experience and it taught me a lot about service to others. I never regret it a day in my life."

After three decades with the U.S. Marine Corps, Apriesnig retired and earned an accounting degree at Cameron University. During college, he started volunteering to do taxes for others in the community at Goodwill in Lawton. Apriesnig has continued his sense of service at Cotton Electric by being there for our members, he said. He also volunteers on the Fort Sill Federal Credit Union board.

Cotton Electric Journeyman Lineman Dillon Wiygul is another U.S. Marine Corps veteran. He enlisted when he was a junior at Marlow High School and began his four years of active duty two weeks after graduation.

"I knew I wanted to be part of a greater purpose and try to better myself," Wiygul said.

Wiygul's career field in the military was in small arms repair. His duties were to repair and maintain guns.

Wiygul spent quite a bit of time in southern Califor-

nia for training throughout his career. During his service, Wiygul was deployed twice to Iraq. Toward the second half of his enlistment, he oversaw a few Marines and earned the rank of E5 Sergeant, he said.

Over his career in the military, Wiygul earned many medals, including Good Conduct and more, he said.

"Serving in the military is a bittersweet experience to me, and it's something I would never change," Wiygul said. "I am so glad I did it because it brought me right where I needed to be."

Wiygul's career transition from the U.S. Marine Corps to the co-op was seamless to him because both are structured similarly, he said. An example was when Wiygul joined other linemen volunteers to help with mutual aid after Hurricane Ida hit Louisiana. That time away from family was similar to being deployed, Wiygul said.

"There are some parallels between working for the U.S. Marine Corps and Cotton Electric because you have similar entities and departments working together towards a common goal of serving others and keeping the lights on," Wiygul said.

Cotton Electric Meter Tester Jason Red Elk served in the U.S. Navy from 1990 to 1994, and Cotton Electric's part-time dispatcher, Kevin Barrineau, will retire from the U.S. Army this December.

Cotton Electric honors and appreciates the years of service that Heath, Jason, James, Kevin, Dillon and all veterans gave for America and its citizens.

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Co-op Connection vendor cares for four-legged community

Part of Cotton Electric's mission is to "improve the quality of life in the communities we serve." Stephens County Humane Society (SCHS), a Co-op Connections partner, also aims to improve quality

of life, but for dogs, cats, and other furry friends who are looking for their new home.

SCHS has been a Co-op Connections partner for more than eight years. Cotton Electric members can

use their Co-op Connections card to save \$10 on adoption fees.

Kelly Nelson was a long-time volunteer and board member before recently becoming the organization's executive director. She shared different ways to get involved with SCHS.

Volunteer opportunities include washing dishes, walking dogs, socializing cats, helping with fundraising and other events, data entry and more.

"If anyone feels like caring for and protecting these animals, we encourage you to get involved in any way you can," Nelson said.

Another way to volunteer is to serve as a foster for animals. The SCHS program allows

animals too small or unvaccinated to live in a home before coming to the shelter for adoption. This program allows animals to build immunity and strength and be ready for their forever homes and families.

For those interested in taking advantage of the Co-op Connections card and adding a new member to their family, dog adoptions are \$100 and cat adoptions are \$75 before the discount is applied.

Don't have your Co-op Connections card? No problem! They are available to all co-op members and can be downloaded in the app, printed online, or picked up at Cotton Electric Cooperative offices in Walters or Duncan.



One of Stephens County Humane Society's programs is Puppy and Kitten Therapy. Medical workers from Duncan Regional Hospital get time to destress by playing with kittens and puppies brought from the shelter. Photo by Carli Eubank.



Kelly Nelson, Stephens County Humane Society executive director, plays with kittens at the shelter. Photo by Carli Eubank.

Members can also visit www.connections.coop.com or www.cottonelectric.com under the Member Services tab to discover how you can be part of this free, money-saving opportunity. To learn more about SCHS, visit their website at www.stephenscountyshelter.com, email schshelter@gmail.com or call 580-252-7387.

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5% discount on services.</p> | <p>Wichita Furniture
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ANOTHER GREAT MEMBER BENEFIT BROUGHT TO YOU BY COTTON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



Co-op Life

Making a difference with each stride

By Carli Eubank

A quote from Ronald Reagan states, "I've often said there's nothing better for the inside of a man than the outside of a horse." Reagan's words are lived out through riders every Monday at Giddy Up 'N Go within Suncrest Stables in Lawton.

Giddy Up 'N Go, a 501(c)3 organization, received a Cotton Electric Charitable Foundation grant in June.

The program is a space that provides safe, enjoyable horseback riding experiences for people with disabilities. During each session, riders focus on their therapeutic goals, such as improving balance and posture, strengthening and relaxing muscles, improving speech and increasing self-confidence.

The program started in 1992 with just a couple of riders and has been growing ever since. Today, there are approximately 30 volunteers, a volunteer occupational therapist, a certified instructor and a few in-training instructors.

Nancy Arntz, Giddy Up 'N Go board president, got involved with the program in the early 2000s. At the time, her daughter in high school needed volunteer hours for the National Honors Society. She chose to help at Giddy Up 'N Go. A few times after drop-

ping her daughter off to volunteer, Arntz decided to stay and volunteer for the program, as well, she said.

"I think it's important to be able to give something to the community," Arntz said. "God has blessed me with two healthy children and two healthy grandchildren, so the least I can do is give my time to families who do not have that."

After a couple years of volunteering, Arntz wanted to get on a horse to experience what the riders do every Monday.

"If I'm interacting with the riders, I need to know what they're feeling each week when they ride," Arntz said. "Each horse has different widths and strides, and I wanted to connect a horse with a rider that would help their progress."

Therapeutic riding has many benefits for individuals with disabilities. Horses have the closest animal stride to the human's gait, and this similarity helps those who have weak core strength and lack of mobility, Arntz said. When a rider is on a horse, they feel sensation in their hips and lower body.

Giddy Up 'N Go board member and volunteer Julie Swofford has brought her aunt, Vicky Lee, to riding ses-

sions for more than 15 years. Swofford believes if it weren't for her therapeutic riding lessons at Giddy Up 'N Go, her aunt would be in a wheelchair, she said.

Riding is great for Lee's muscles, Swofford said. During her sessions, Lee works on reaching objects due to her arms tightening. Grabbing rings and stretching her arm out to slide them down a pole helps loosen her muscles and increase mobility. Lee also practices weaving through cones on horseback to increase her core strength while keeping herself balanced.

"This program is one of my aunt's outings," Swofford said. "She doesn't want to miss it, and neither do we. Whenever she's here, this is her time and her therapy."

While horseback riding has many physical benefits, it also helps those with cognitive or emotional issues, allowing them to relax while riding, Arntz said.

Ryan Harrison has been riding with Giddy Up 'N Go since 2019. His mother, Shannon Harrison, speaks highly about the connection they have grown with the program.

"There are some weeks I get overwhelmed with emotion because of the impact this program has on my son," Harrison



Ryan Harrison throws bean bags from horseback as one of his exercises during his session. Photo by Carli Eubank.

said. "Ryan may not be on a typical sports team, so for him to come here and be part of this program and feel special, it's not an opportunity that we get often."

Ryan has reached many milestones while riding, including breaking through his nonverbal barrier. He becomes so calm and happy whenever he has that motion of riding and being with the horse, Harrison said.

"Giddy Up 'N Go is more than riding," Harrison adds. "This pro-

gram is incredible and the volunteers are amazing. They do so much for the kids and their families."

The part Arntz enjoys the most about the program is watching the riders have the time of their life and seeing their progress over the years.

"Riding brings out the best in everything," Arntz said. "For 30 minutes, riders are in their own world and happy as can be. It does your heart good when you see them and try to brighten their day."

Giddy Up 'N Go is a team effort that wouldn't be where it is today without the help of volunteers, Arntz said. There are many opportunities for individuals to get involved with the program, including grooming the horses, leading the horses during session, walking beside the rider while on horseback and more.

"If there is a program to get involved in, it's this one," Harrison said. "This program changes worlds, and we are so lucky to be part of it."



Vicky Lee saddles up for her riding session. Photo by Carli Eubank.

Community Spotlight

If you would like your community event listed in the December issue, please submit information by calling 580-875-3351 or send an email to TheCurrent@CottonElectric.com by Nov. 25. Only events occurring after Dec. 12 will be published in the next issue.

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

CTHC hosts book club

The Chisholm Trail Heritage Center is hosting Let's Talk About It, a book club for people who love to read and discuss great literature. Ken Hada will lead a talk about Lonesome Dove by Larry McMurtry. Books for the series may be borrowed from CTHC. The event is from 7 to 9 p.m. on Nov. 14 at the Chisholm Trail Heritage Center, 1000 Chisholm Trail Parkway in Duncan. For more information, contact Edie Stewart at edie@onthechisholmtrail.com or 580-252-6692.

Comedy show coming to Duncan

Come to the annual Comedy and Coffee Fundraising Event in Duncan, featuring comedian Leland Klaussen. Refreshments include coffee and cake. The event is from 6 to 9 p.m. on Nov. 15 at the Simmons Center, 800 Chisholm Trail Parkway, Duncan. For more information, call 580-786-6000.

CTAC hosts art exhibit and sale

The Chisholm Trail Arts Council will feature pieces from local artists available to purchase just in time for the holiday season. The exhibit will be on display from Nov. 17 to Dec. 15. The opening reception is from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 17 at the Chisholm Trail Arts Council, 810 W. Walnut Ave. in Duncan. For more information, call 580-252-4160 or visit their Facebook event page.

WSPBR coming to Duncan

The World Senior Professional Bull Riding Organization is coming to Oklahoma. The organization will have an event Nov. 17 through 19 at the Stephens County Fairgrounds, Duncan. For more information or questions, visit www.wspbr.com.

Indoor drone race in Lawton

Drone professionals and enthusiasts can compete in the first-ever Lawton FPV Invitational Whoop Race. Lawton Drone Racing will have S.T.E.M. activities, viewing areas, simulators and 3D printing activities for those in attendance. Cash prizes will be awarded to first, second and third place winners. The race will begin at 9:30 a.m. on Nov. 19 at Central Plaza inside the

Lawton Central Mall, 200 SW C Ave, Lawton. For more information, visit the events tab at www.multitp.com.

Stroll through local holiday event

Kick off the holiday season at Duncan's annual Holiday Stroll. Enjoy music, delicious food and holiday cheer while browsing in-store specials from Main Street businesses. In addition to shopping the stores on Main Street, you can stroll down 9th St. to shop businesses at Duncan Tower and various unique vendors at The Exchange Boardroom and Event Center on Walnut. Bring kids to meet with Santa Claus and make crafts to take home. The festivities also include refreshments, gift wrapping, and hot chocolate. The event is on Nov. 19. For questions or more information, visit www.mainstreetduncan.net.

Holiday festivities on the trail

Celebrate the Christmas holiday in downtown Ryan at Christmas on the Trail. There will be music, games, a gingerbread house contest, food, vendors, bounce houses, a cash prize drawing, a tree lighting at dark and more. The event is from noon to 5 p.m. on Dec. 3 in downtown Ryan. For more information or questions, visit their Facebook event page.

Temple to host pictures with Santa

Bring the kiddos to have classic "milk and cookies" photos taken with Santa. Prices are \$10 for one picture, \$15 for two pictures and \$20 for three pictures. Payment must be made within 24 hours in advance through Venmo or Cash app. To book photos, message them on Facebook. Finished images will be sent by mail. The event will be from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Dec. 8 at Rockin H Land Co. Steakhouse and Saloon, 116 N. Commercial St., Temple. For questions, visit their Facebook event page.

Food pantry open once monthly

Walters Community Food Pantry is open from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month. The pantry is in the old City Hall, 131 1/2 W. California Street. Pantry organizers try to provide a two-week supply of basic staples to anyone with identification and proof of Cotton County residency. Monetary donations may be sent to Food Pantry, c/o Paul Metcalfe, 211 E. Colorado St., Walters, OK 73572. For information, call Roger Noland at 580-591-6826.

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Cotton Electric member Rachel Brennan snapped this photo of the sun setting over the field after the Empire vs. Walters Junior High football game.

Enter your "best shot" in our Photo of the Month contest. The theme for December is Southwest Oklahoma! Entries can be emailed to TheCurrent@CottonElectric.com or mailed to The Current, 226 N. Broadway, Walters, OK 73572.

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Functional beverages supplement nutrition health benefits

Functional beverages are a subset of functional foods, loosely defined as foods that claim additional health benefits beyond basic nutrition. The functional beverage industry in the US began by adding stimulants to beverages to provide energy. Now functional beverages add ingredients to make claims of providing a myriad of health benefits - stress relief, enhancing immune function, digestive health, and many others.

The most popular functional ingredients in beverages include vitamins, minerals, antioxidants, prebiotics, probiotics, omega-3 fatty acids, herbs and herbal extracts, tea and coffee extracts, and superfruit extracts. There is no legal definition of functional beverages, but the FDA does regulate the ingredients and the health claim. Given these products cost more, are they worth it?

Beverages should be used to hydrate first and foremost. Past hydration, some beverages contribute to basic dietary needs of carbohydrates, protein, vitamins, minerals, and in a small subset, fat. Dairy beverages are the best example.

Functional beverages go a step further - in addition to hydration, an in-



Kim Bandelier, MPH, RD, LD

Food For THOUGHT

redient or ingredients have been added to impart additional health benefits. The challenge is most of these "health benefits" are not well researched, will not be achieved by consuming just one serving, and when combined with added sugar of any kind, are largely negated.

Water remains supreme for normal hydration needs, but if you find yourself in need of something different to help meet your hydration goals, here are some suggestions to evaluate functional beverages:

- Review the nutrition facts label and make note of calories and sugar - choose the beverage with the lowest amount. Artificial sweeteners remain safe but controversial.

- Next make note of vitamins and minerals - is there anything of concern based on your underlying health conditions? If you are unsure, it may be best to choose a different beverage and discuss with your healthcare team.

- Finish reviewing the beverage label by looking for herbs, spices, and health claims. Added caffeine or other ingredients that act as a stimulant (guarana, ginseng, ginkgo biloba, yerba mate, etc) or a relaxant (melatonin) will most likely impart an immediate effect - make sure it's the effect you are looking for.

Other health claims like improving immune function, digestion, risk of heart disease or cancer should be evaluated by your healthcare team as they relate to your individual health goals/needs. They also will not be achieved by consuming one drink.

Functional beverages can help you meet your hydration needs but they come at an additional cost and require additional scrutiny. If you have chronic medical conditions or are on prescription medication, it is best to discuss functional beverages with your healthcare team to avoid any side-effects.

A registered dietitian can help you evaluate nutrition facts labels and health claims of functional beverages they relate to your individual health goals and needs.



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Turkey Cranberry Dinner Rolls

Ingredients:

- Nonstick cooking spray
- 1 package of Wonder Dinner Rolls
- 2 cups diced turkey, cooked
- 1 cup cranberry sauce or relish
- 6 slices Swiss cheese
- 6 tablespoons butter
- 1 tablespoon yellow mustard
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1/2 tablespoon dried minced onion salt, to taste
- pepper, to taste
- 1 tablespoon parsley
- 1 cup Parmesan cheese



Directions:

Preheat oven to 325 F. Cover 9-by-13-inch baking pan with foil and spray with nonstick cooking spray. Remove rolls from package in one piece,

cutting entire slab in half lengthwise to create one half of "tops" and one half of "bottoms." Place bottom half in foil-covered pan and layer with turkey, cranberry sauce and Swiss cheese.

Add top half of rolls. In microwave, melt butter and whisk in mustard, Worcestershire sauce, onion and salt and pepper, to taste. Pour evenly over rolls. Cover with foil and

let sit 5-10 minutes then bake, covered, 20 minutes. Uncover and bake 5 minutes. Sprinkle with parsley and Parmesan cheese. Slice into individual rolls and serve.

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Thanksgiving traditions and memory-making meal

(Family Features) Starting with parades and ending with family meals, Thanksgiving provides all-day opportunities for celebrating life's special moments with those nearest and dearest to your heart.

Waking up to watch the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade is a tradition that brings smiles and happiness for many families, and this year, an iconic brand will join the festivities.

Since 1921, Wonder Bread has captured the "wonder" its founder Elmer Cline experienced when first watching a hot air balloon race. It's often credited with the popularization of sliced

bread in the United States and now, for the first time, its legacy will be on display Nov. 24 parading through the streets of New York City.

To celebrate the special occasion and the joy that Thanksgiving brings, look no further than this Thanksgiving Stuffing, a classic accompaniment to holiday meals and a favorite of home chefs across the country.

To learn more about the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and find family-favorite recipes fit for Thanksgiving feasts, visit wonderbread.com/macys-parade.

Thanksgiving Stuffing

Ingredients:	2	teaspoons celery seeds	
1/2	cup unsalted butter, divided	1	pinch grated nutmeg
3	cups chopped onion	1	pinch ground cloves
2 1/2	cups chopped celery	1	teaspoon kosher salt
1	clove garlic, finely chopped	1	loaf Wonder Classic White Bread, cubed
1 1/2	tablespoons chopped fresh sage	1/2	teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
1 1/2	tablespoons chopped fresh thyme	1 1/2	cups low-salt chicken broth

Directions:

Heat oven to 325 F.

In large skillet over medium heat, melt 1/4 cup butter. Add onion, celery, garlic, sage, thyme, celery seeds, nut-

meg, cloves and salt.

Cover and cook until onions are soft, 5-7 minutes. Remove from heat.

In large bowl, toss sauteed vegetables with bread cubes and season with pepper. Melt re-

maining butter and pour over stuffing along with broth then toss to coat.

Bake, covered, until heated through, about 35 minutes. Uncover and bake for an additional 15 minutes.



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What to know about sustainable investing

You may have heard about "sustainable investing." But if you're not familiar with it, you may have some questions: What does it involve? Is it right for me? Can I follow a sustainable investing strategy and still get the portfolio performance I need to reach my goals?

Sustainable investing can be defined in different ways, with different terminologies.



However, one way to look at a sustainable approach is by thinking of it as investing in a socially conscious way which may involve two broad categories: environmental, social and governance (ESG) investing and values-based investing.

As its name suggests, ESG investing incorporates a broad range of environmental, social and governance risks and opportunities, along with traditional financial measures, when making investment decisions. This approach may have a neutral impact on performance because it maintains a focus on managing risk, traditional fundamental analysis and diversification. Here's a quick

look at the ESG elements:

- Environmental – Companies may work to reduce carbon emissions, invest in renewable energy, decrease pollution and conserve water resources.
- Social – A business may promote gender and pay equality within its workforce, and maintain positive labor relations and safe working conditions for employees.
- Governance – Companies distinguished by good governance may institute strong ethics policies, provide transparent financial reporting and set policies to ensure it has an independent, objective board of directors.

You can pursue an ESG investing approach through individual stocks, mutual

funds or exchange-traded funds (ETFs), which hold a variety of investments similar to mutual funds, but are generally passively managed – that is, they do little or no trading. As an ESG investor, you don't necessarily have to sacrifice performance because ESG investments generally fare about as well as the wider investment universe. Some investments may even gain from the ESG approach. For example, a company that invests in renewable energy may benefit from the move away from fossil fuel sources.

Now, let's move on to values-based investing. When you follow a values-based approach, you can focus on specific themes where

you may choose to include or exclude certain types of investments that align with your personal values.

So, you could refrain from investing in segments of the market, such as tobacco or firearms, or in companies that engage in certain business practices, such as animal testing. On the other hand, you could actively seek out investments that align with your values. For instance, if you're interested in climate change, you could invest in a mutual fund or ETF that contains companies in the solar or clean energy industries.

One potential limitation of values-based investing is that it may decrease the diversification of

your portfolio and lead to materially lower returns due to narrowly focused investments, prioritization of non-financial goals and too many exclusions.

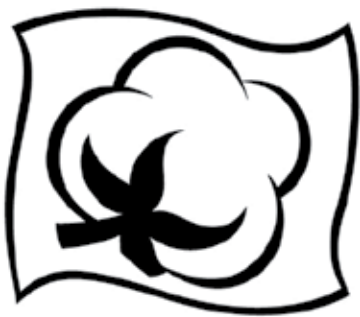
Ultimately, if you choose to include a sustainable investing approach, you will want – as you do in any investing scenario – to choose those investments that are suitable for your goals, risk tolerance and time horizon.

If sustainable investing interests you, give it some thought – you may find it rewarding to match your money with your beliefs.

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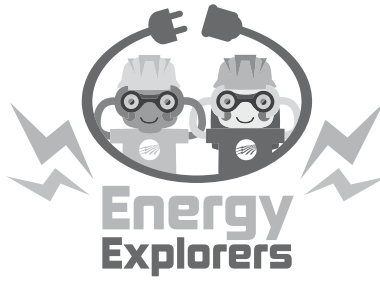
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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



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FALL SAFETY WORD SEARCH



Fall is finally here! The leaves are changing, the weather is cooler and the holidays are just around the corner. But Fall also brings greater risks of home fires and electrical hazards.

Read the safety tips below, then find and circle the **bolded** words in the puzzle.

- Adults should always stay in the **kitchen** while food is **cooking**.
- Smoke alarms** should be tested monthly to ensure they're working properly.
- Batteries** should be replaced every year or right away if the alarm starts to chirp.
- Candles** should never be left burning when someone isn't in the room.
- Keep flammable items away from the **stove, toaster** and other cooking **appliances**.

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 -Marlow (directly across the street from the school), 4 b, 3 full baths, lg inside utility, large single car garage. New inside and out, fresh paint, electric, plumbing, flooring. Move in ready. 201 S 5th St, Marlow, OK; \$150,000.
 -Meridian property, 2 bed, 1 bath, living room, authentic pine stained & varnished plank floor and ceiling, large inside utility, single car garage, elec. door opener, metal roof, siding and insulation, 1 acre chain link fenced lot. 282210 Oliver Rd, Comanche, OK; \$75,000.
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ACROSS

	1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11	12	
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DOWN

- Beloved hound
- Equal to 100 grams
- S-shaped moldings
- Hawaiian cliff
- Everyone has one
- Subatomic particle
- Ghost
- Adult female bird
- Greek temple pillars
- Emits coherent radiation
- Measures the width of printed matter
- Musical interval
- Tantalizes
- Places of worship
- An unskilled actor who overacts
- One who volunteers to help
- Precaution
- Beverage holder
- Very long period of time
- Bullfighting maneuvers
- More critical
- Sends packing in a boxing match
- Taxi
- Decorative Russian tea urn
- North American Great Plains natives
- Seize
- A passage with access only at one end
- Cut a rug
- Devil rays
- Bubble up
- Veranda
- Outcast
- Car mechanics group
- Realm
- A place to get off your feet
- Popular music awards show
- Consumed
- A way to make cooler
- Thus
- Indicates it's been registered

Parting Shot



Cotton Electric received two AMP Awards at the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives Member Relations and Communications Association conference. Carli Eubank, Cotton Electric communications specialist, received an Award of Merit for Best Overall Content for Large Cooperatives. Jennifer Meason, Cotton Electric CEO, received an Award of Merit for Best Column. Photo courtesy of Lance Shaw.

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