



## YOUTH TOUR WINNERS ATTEND VIRTUAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Gabriel Gonzalez from Crowell, TX and Gavin Sonnenberg from Frederick, OK attended the 2021 Virtual Oklahoma Youth Tour Leadership Conference (OKYTLC) in June hosted by the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives (OAEC). Gonzalez and Sonnenberg were sponsored by Southwest Rural Electric to attend OKYTLC and received scholarships earlier this year for winning the cooperative's annual Youth Tour essay and speech competition.

Approximately 50 rising high school seniors, selected by Oklahoma's Electric Cooperatives, met online each morning to interact with one another and the impressive slate of guest speakers including Janine Stange (aka "The National Anthem Girl"); Jim Matheson, CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA); Congresswoman Stephanie Bice; Rep. Mike Osburn; Rep. Cyndi Munson; Oklahoma Corporation Commissioner Todd Hiett; Laura Vogel, Senior Advisor for NRECA Political Affairs; Leann Paradise, NRECA Senior Grassroots Associate; Tim Downing, Associate Attorney General of Oklahoma; and Ryan Walters, Oklahoma Secretary of Education.

"The 2021 OKYTLC program gave students the opportunity to discover their strengths through personal leadership, learn the benefits and opportunities of being involved in a cooperative and resources to get involved in the legislative process and interact with their elected officials," said Stacy Howeth, Director of Member Services at OAEC. "This year's student leaders were actively engaged and a pleasure to host during the conference. I'm proud of the growth I saw during the week and encourage the students to continue their efforts for personal development as they move into their senior year and beyond."

Both SWRE Youth Tour representatives went above and beyond to represent the co-op this year. Gonzalez was the recipient of an additional scholarship as a result of the effort he put into completing the OKYTLC daily challenges. Sonnenberg was selected as a Top 12 Finalist in the Youth Leadership Council competition. We are proud of these student leaders!

## CEO's Message



CEO, Jeff Simpson

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Rebecca Chambless, *Power Source* editor

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## A LABOR OF LOVE



Each September we celebrate Labor Day, a national tribute to the contributions American workers make to the strength and prosperity of our country.

The word labor is defined as an expenditure of physical or mental effort, especially when difficult or compulsory. That definition is not lost on the employees of Southwest Rural Electric. When the lights go off—whether due to thunderstorms, wildfires, hurricanes or ice storms—our lineworkers leave their families to work tirelessly in harsh and dangerous conditions to restore your power. Other employees handle your phone calls and dispatch crews to get electricity flowing to your home as quickly and safely as possible.

But that doesn't mean the job is a laborious punishment. It's a labor of love.

When the weather goes awry and the calls come in, employees who were safe at home often call in to see if there's anything they can do to help. We've had customer service representatives simply show up to help answer members' calls during a crisis. This is because they care about what they do. They care about the membership. And nothing is more important than making sure that every

member is safe and sound—with the power humming—even during inclement weather.

And it's not just when the lights are off that our employees are working hard. Their dedication is evident every day.

Our lineworkers go through extensive training to ensure their safety and that of their fellow crew members. Our office staff is also trained to stay safe around electricity, and this, in turn, helps ensure your safety. SWRE is always here to educate you about the dangers of electricity, and through *Oklahoma Living*, *Texas Co-op Power* and other avenues, we pass along tips to help keep you safe and save you money by making energy-conscious decisions.

We don't do this because it's our job. We do it because we care about you, our members, who are our friends, family and neighbors.

Today I want to ask you, our member-owners, to thank a co-op employee if you see one. Thank them for their commitment, their talent, their hard work and their service to the membership of this cooperative. After all, even though our offices will be closed for Labor Day on September 6, if your power goes out, we'll be on our way to fix it, holiday or no holiday. //

Jeff Simpson  
CEO

## COMMUNITY GRANTS AVAILABLE

SWRE's charitable foundation, Operation Round Up, has given back \$114,050 in grants to SWRE communities since 2018. The 2021 grant applications are now open and can be completed online at [SWRE.com/RoundUp](http://SWRE.com/RoundUp). Grants are awarded to community organizations, civic groups, youth programs, senior citizens organizations, emergency assistance departments, and individuals in need in SWRE territory that meet grant guidelines. Grant applications are due to the cooperative by **October 1**.

September 2021

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BY SWRE

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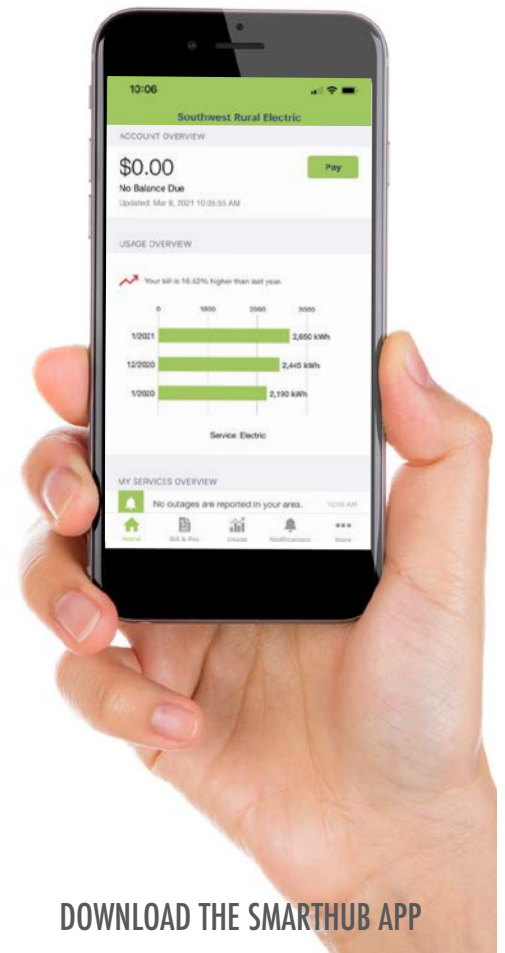
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## Trading Post

**For Sale:** FREE 24x30 corrugated metal building in exchange for take down. Usable heavy corrugated metal, usable 2X6 raters, 2X4 studs and joist, etc. Email [hwcs@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hwcs@sbcglobal.net) to request a photo. Call (940) 552-7402 if interested.

**For Sale:** Golden Retriever/German Shepherd mix puppies—five male and five female—located in Altus, OK. Father is a purebred AKC-registered Golden Retriever, mother is a purebred German Shepherd. Born on 6/13/21. Asking \$350 or best offer (payment by check preferred). Text (580) 301-2143 for pictures and details.

**For Sale:** Certified seed wheat. AP Roadrunner, Butler's Gold, OK Corral (awnless), Showdown, and

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## PORK CHOPS WITH THREE-APPLE SLAW

### INGREDIENTS:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 4 (10-ounce) bone-in rib-cut pork chops (about 1 inch thick) | ¼ cup mayonnaise  |
| 1 ½ teaspoons kosher salt, divided                           | 4 teaspoons apple cider vinegar   |
| ¾ teaspoon black pepper, divided                             | 1 teaspoon poppy seeds  |
| 1 tablespoon canola oil                                      | ¼ teaspoon hot sauce (such as Tabasco)                                    |
| 1 Honeycrisp apple   | 4 inner celery stalks, thinly diagonally sliced, plus ¼ cup celery leaves |
| 1 Gala apple   | 1 cup chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley                                     |
| 1 Granny Smith apple   | 1/3 cup snipped fresh chives  |

### DIRECTIONS:

1. Season pork chops with 1 teaspoon salt and ½ teaspoon pepper. Heat oil in a large cast-iron skillet over medium-high. Add pork chops to skillet; cook, turning occasionally, until browned and an instant-read thermometer inserted in thickest part of chop registers 135°F, 5 to 6 minutes per side. Set aside.
2. Cut each apple lengthwise into quarters, and discard cores. Thinly slice apple quarters lengthwise; stack slices, and cut lengthwise again into thin sticks.
3. Whisk together mayonnaise, vinegar, poppy seeds, and hot sauce in a large bowl; season with remaining ½ teaspoon salt and remaining ¼ teaspoon pepper. Add apple sticks, celery, celery leaves, parsley, and chives; toss to combine. Serve immediately with pork chops.

*Source: Full recipe can be found at <https://www.foodandwine.com/recipes/pork-chops-three-apple-slaw>.*

# SWRE

Southwest Rural Electric Association, Inc.

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