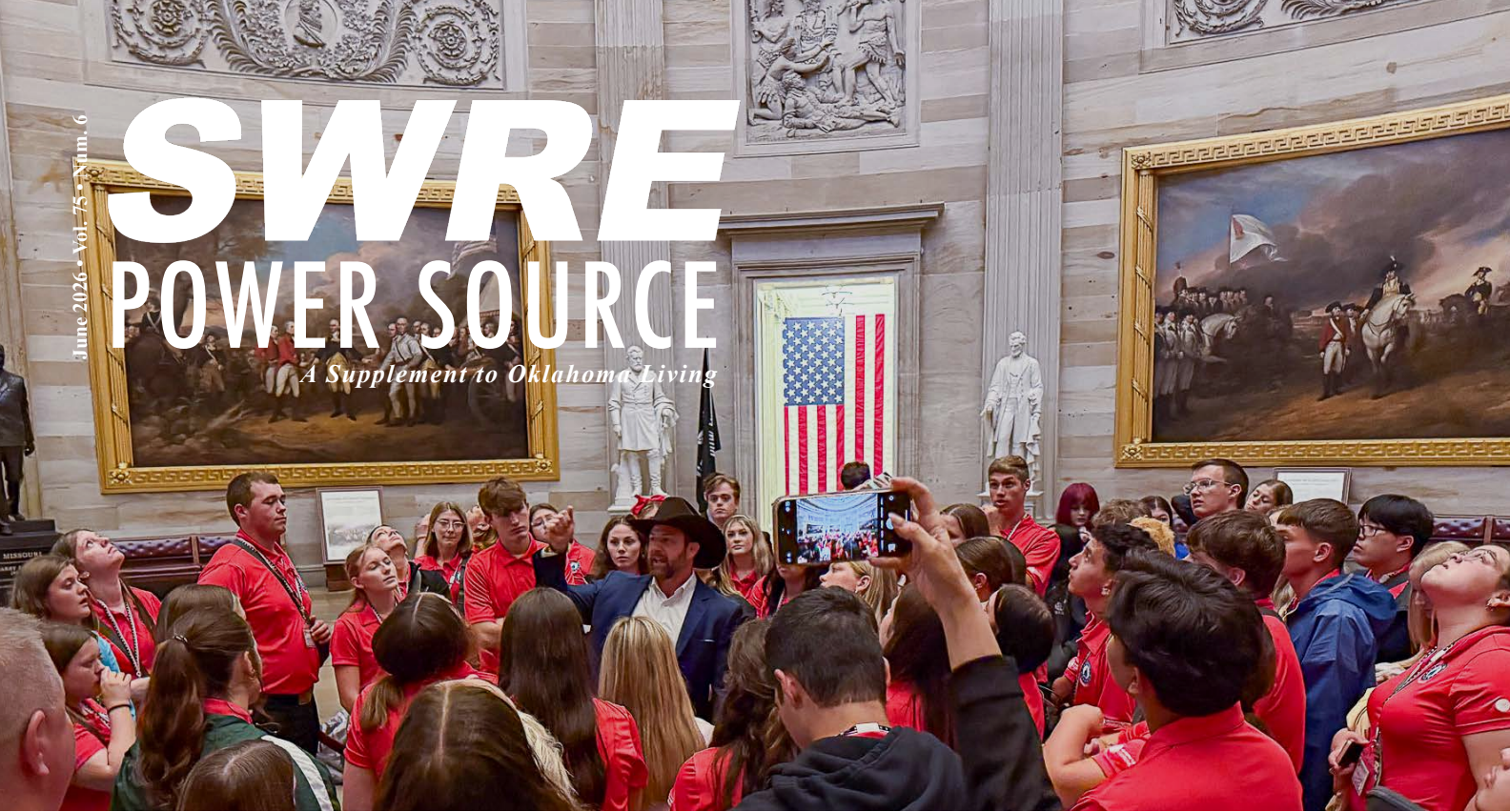


SWRE POWER SOURCE

A Supplement to *Oklahoma Living*



— YOUTH PROGRAMS INSPIRE FUTURE CO-OP ADVOCATES —

Every year, Southwest Rural Electric invests in something powerful: the future.

Through its youth programs, SWRE is proud to support and celebrate the next generation of leaders—students who will represent the cooperative this summer at Energy Camp and the Government-in-Action Youth Tour.

Energy Camp is where curiosity meets adventure. Students step into the world of electric cooperatives by electing their own board of directors and general manager, gaining hands-on insight into how a co-op operates.

Along the way, they explore the science of electricity and discover exciting career pathways. From climbing a utility pole and riding in a bucket truck to unforgettable evenings like the camp dance party, Energy Camp is packed with experiences students will talk about long after they leave the beautiful Canyon Camp in Hinton, Oklahoma.

Meanwhile, Youth Tour delegates are preparing for an incredible, weeklong journey to Washington, D.C.

Often called *the trip of a lifetime*, this experience brings history to life as students explore iconic monuments, memorials and museums across the nation's capital. A highlight of the trip includes a day on Capitol Hill, where delegates meet with U.S. senators and representatives—an opportunity few students ever experience.

Even after the trip, Youth Tour continues to open doors through ongoing leadership development and scholarship opportunities.

At the heart of these programs are two guiding goals:

- To invest in local youth and strengthen the communities we serve
- To share the cooperative story and inspire future leaders to carry it forward as future members, educators and advocates for rural values.

SWRE's youth programs are a great place to challenge yourself, make lifelong memories and discover opportunities you've never imagined. Learn more at [SWRE.com/EnergyCamp](https://www.swre.com/EnergyCamp) or [SWRE.com/YouthTour](https://www.swre.com/YouthTour).

Pictured above: Senator Markwayne Mullin gives the 2025 Oklahoma Youth Tour delegation a private tour of the U.S. Capitol. Mullin now serves as the U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security.



ELECTRICITY COSTS HAVE BEEN SOMEWHAT FLAT WHILE OTHER COMMODITIES HAVE PRICE HIKES

Article by Western Farmers Electric Cooperative

In an economy where prices continue to rise steadily year after year, electricity stands out as a rare example of cost stability. While the prices of many everyday items have surged over the past two decades, the cost of electricity has remained relatively flat, providing consumers with somewhat predictable energy bills amidst broader economic uncertainty.

Western Farmers Electric Cooperative (WFEC) is a not-for-profit, wholesale power supplier for 21 distribution cooperatives and Altus Air Force Base. These members, located across Oklahoma and into parts of New Mexico, have had this same cost stability in past years.

Consider the following examples: Since the early 2000s, the average price of a loaf of bread has increased by nearly 60%. A gallon of milk has gone up by over 50%, and the cost of a dozen eggs has more than doubled. Gasoline, always a volatile commodity, has seen fluctuations ranging from around \$2 to over \$5 per gallon in the same timeframe. Even basic household goods like paper towels, laundry detergent, and personal care products have experienced noticeable price hikes due to inflation, supply chain disruptions and changes in raw material costs.

Electricity, however, has shown remarkable restraint. According to U.S. Energy Information Administration data, residential electric rates have increased by only about 1.5% to 2% annually on average over the past 20 years - far lower than the inflation rate of many consumer goods.

This price stability is due in part to long-term infrastructure investments, regulatory oversight and a diversified fleet that helps stabilize costs. Unlike groceries or gasoline, electricity pricing is often set through structured utility rate cases, which undergo careful review and public input, ensuring fairness and transparency.

In a world where consumers are increasingly squeezed by unpredictable expenses, the steady cost of electricity offers a measure of financial certainty. It's an essential service that remains reliably priced - even when everything else seems to be going up.

For additional information, please visit [WFEC.com](https://www.wfec.com).

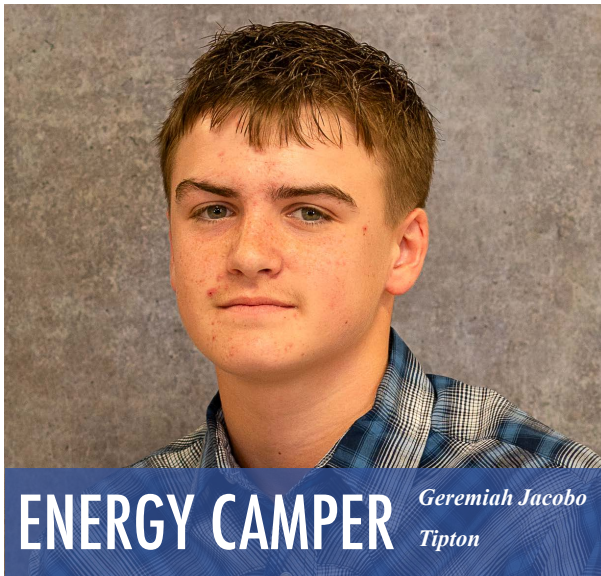
2026 YOUTH CONTEST WINNERS



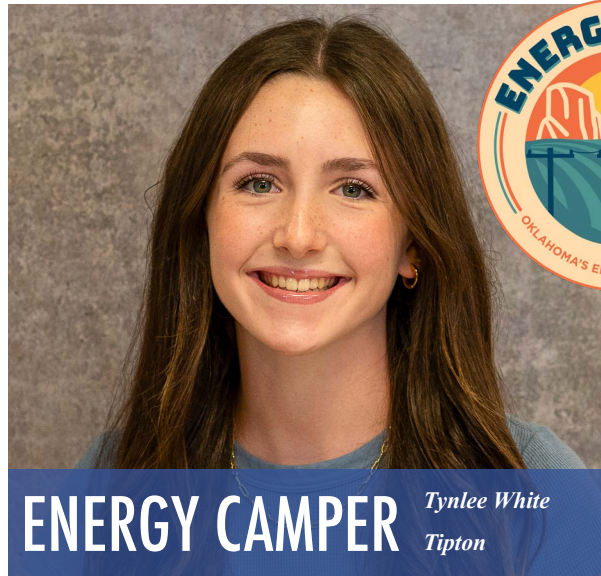
YOUTH TOURIAN *Huntley Kreutziger*
Frederick



YOUTH TOURIAN *Carter Miller*
Altus



ENERGY CAMPER *Geremiah Jacobo*
Tipton

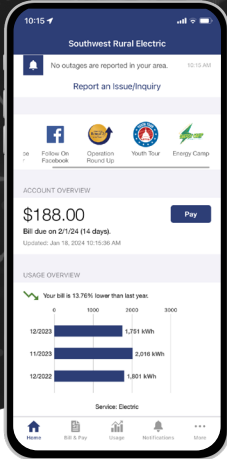


ENERGY CAMPER *Tynlee White*
Tipton





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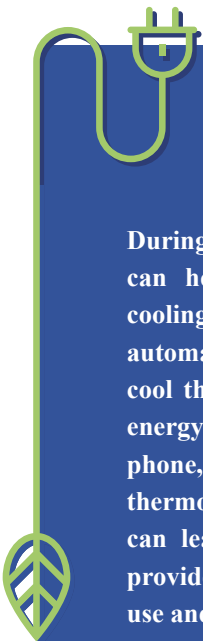


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ENERGY EFFICIENCY

TIP OF THE MONTH

During these warm summer months, a smart thermostat can help keep your home comfortable while reducing cooling costs. Smart thermostats learn your routine and automatically raise the temperature when you're away and cool things down before you return, avoiding unnecessary energy use. You can also adjust settings remotely from your phone, so you're never cooling an empty house. Setting your thermostat a few degrees higher while you're away or asleep can lead to significant savings. Many smart thermostats provide reports and tips, helping you fine-tune your energy use and stay cool while keeping your electric bill in check.

SWRE

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