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IT'S FAIR Time!

It's fair time. And while the reasons to attend vary — from food on a stick, to thrill rides to a competitive spirit — hundreds of thousands of people across Oklahoma will find time in their busy schedules to enjoy a day at the fair, be it the hometown fun of a county fair, or the lights and crowds of a state fair.

For many, going to the fair is a family tradition.

"Since we were married in 1976, my husband and I have never missed a Tulsa State Fair, said Indian Electric's Clara Eulert. "I like to see the new products, eat a foot long corn dog with mustard and I always rode the Zingo when Bell's was a part of the fair."

IEC's Mike Allen and his wife, Cheryl, also make the Tulsa State Fair an annual outing. "I like to people watch...Mike likes to eat," quipped Cheryl. Allen's favorite is a corn dog and they both agree cheesecake on a stick is a must.

But, when it comes to fair memories, Allen's first recollections are those as a youngster at the county fair in Horton, Kansas. "It was fun to just run around and ride all the rides. There was no fear of 'stranger danger,'" he said.

In the midst of a battle with cancer, Allen still hopes to visit the fair this year. "We'll just need to get him some wheels," Mrs. Allen said.

Indian Electric's Alicia Pate also recalled fond childhood fair memories. "There is nothing like going to a fair, especially in the evening. As a child, I remember going and see-

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State Fair of Oklahoma
Oklahoma City
Sept. 13-23
Endless carnival rides, delicious fair food and a wealth of agricultural, artistic and commercial exhibits. There is literally something for everyone. Enjoy browsing through exhibit halls, or stop by the fair's auto show.

Tulsa State Fair
Tulsa
Sept. 27 - Oct. 7
Take the whole family and enjoy fun-filled, family entertainment. Festival-goers are promised to be entertained with a large array of carnival rides, midway games, attractions, free concerts, creative art displays, agricultural exhibits and much more. Held since 1935, the Tulsa State Fair has blossomed into an entertainment bonanza with free concerts held each day on three stages.

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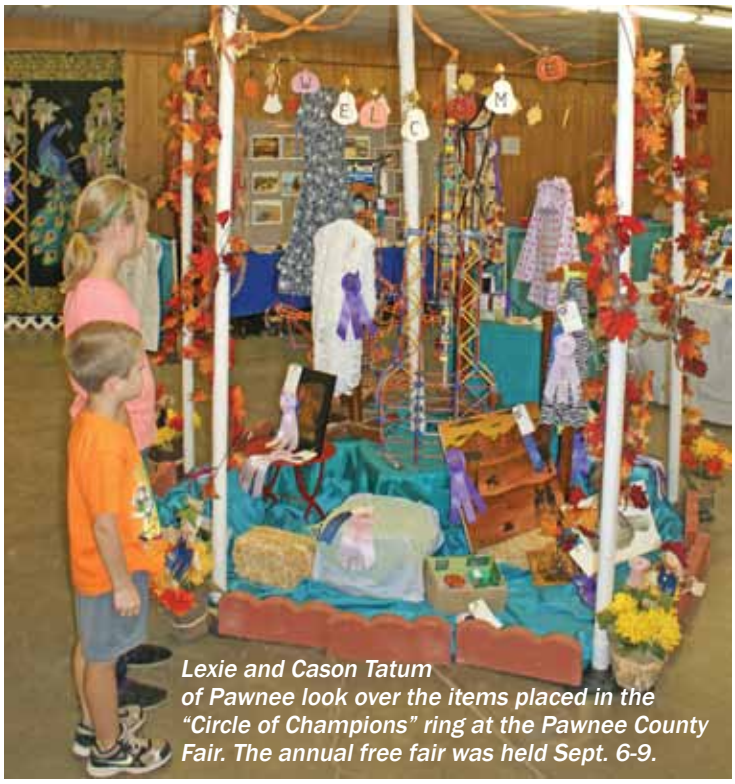
Hard Work Recognized At County Fair



Lexie and Cason Tatum of Pawnee look over the items placed in the "Circle of Champions" ring at the Pawnee County Fair. The annual free fair was held Sept. 6-9.

Cleveland High School FFA students work together to bring home champions.

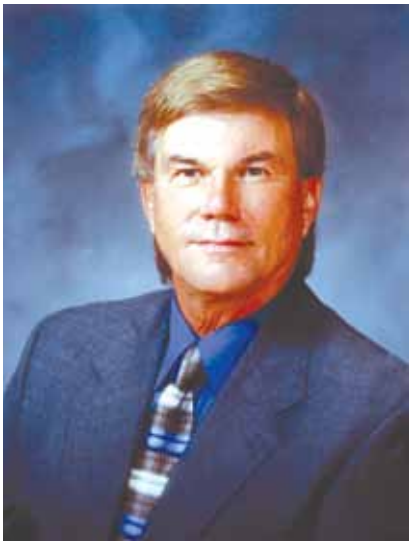
Echoe Friend, Cleveland, checks on her pig (left), while Blake Skidgel, Pawnee works with his lambs (right).

Pre-judging preparation is an important part of the fair process...just ask Woodland School's Sandy Garrett, shown here giving her goat a last minute trim.

Backing up proved to be difficult for some conestants in the tractor contest, but not for this Pawnee High School student.

Cages filled with poultry and rabbits provided laughs as well as an "ahh" factor for young fans.

Quilts and canned goods were just a few of the winning displays at the Pawnee County Fair held the first weekend of September.



IEC Board President Elected As Officer On KAMO Board

Indian Electric Cooperative would like to recognize Robert Burk, IEC Board Trustee President. He has been elected to the position of secretary of the KAMO Power Board of Trustees.

Mr. Burk's involvement with KAMO Power is considered veryi important to IEC and its members. KAMO Power is the generation and transmission cooperative providing electricity to IEC and 16 other cooperatives in northeast Oklahoma and southwest Missouri. KAMO owns the large power lines that transport to the 18 substations that serve IEC.

Mr. Burk, who is in his tenth year and fourth term as an IEC trustee, noted in an article in a previous Lamp that IEC is "ahead of the ball game" and is able to deliver affordable electricity due to efficiency enhanced by programs such as automatic meter reading. Mr. Burk said he enjoys serving on both boards. "I would like to continue as long as I can be of help.. And I hope to help keep IEC a strong co-op with low rates and good service for as long as possible.

It's Fair Time CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ing all the lights, rides and people and just staring in awe," she said. "It didn't matter if it was a small county fair or the big Tulsa State Fair." Pate says she now sees that same excitement in the eyes of her daughters and considers the expressions on their faces as "priceless," especially as they plead, 'Can we ride just one more time? Pleeeeease!'"

Children have also been the primary focus of Indian Electric's (Fairfax District Office) Dusty Rice's fair involvement. Being involved with 4-H and FFA for the past 12 years, has allowed Dusty to not only attend, but to participate in lots of fairs. He commented that the friendships made between the youth while showing livestock will be friendships that last a lifetime.

In addition to his two daughters showing livestock, Rice said he has always encouraged them to enter still exhibits in the county fair, and have had several items make it to the Tulsa State Fair. "When we would arrive at the fair we would have to go and find there exhibits so they could see what place they received and if they got a ribbon. It's always a proud moment for them to see their items on display for the whole state to see," he said.

Eulert also recalls the excitement of entering fair contests as a teenager. "When I was in junior high and early high school I did a lot of embroidery, crewel embroidery specifically. I loved making art with needle and thread and figuring out the directions to make all the different stitches the patterns designated," she recalled. "One year I entered a piece featuring a Bengal tiger head surrounded by different flower blooms all created using different embroidery stitches. I thought it would surely win a ribbon! However, in every life a little rain must fall and when I got to the fair and found my entry, there wasn't a ribbon in sight."

There's no denying that it's the rides that draw many children and youth to the fair. And, sometimes it's the "fun" rides that prove as popular as the thrillers.

For her children, Pate said it's always the funhouse that is chosen when they're told it's time to pick one last ride. "You know the one... with the moving steps up to the top, conveyor belt floors and, of course, the spinning tunnel to get out," Pate said. "Now that one daughter is getting older, she's choosing the rides that go fast or upside down and spin around. But, the funhouse will always be a favorite." She said the Pate family always ends their rip to the fair by riding the Sky Ride back to the side of the park near where they parked.

Pate, like everyone else, has her favorite "fair food," and said that no fair experience would be complete without a funnel cake, caramel apples, and cotton candy.

Food choices at the fair are often as dizzying as the Tilt-A-World, and according to WebMD, fairgoers might be interested in the calorie count of some of their favorites. For example: a funnel cake packs 760 calories, a foot-long hot dog is about 470 calories and a turkey leg is a whopping 1,136 calories.

Most health conscious people who want to enjoy fair food make a point to eat lighter the day before and the day after and enjoy the food while at the fair...while drinking plenty of water.

For those who enjoy strolling through the aisles and aisles of booths, you're likely to come across friendly faces at a rural electric cooperative booth.

"I've especially enjoyed working our electric cooperative's booth at the fair and talking with the IEC members that stop in for news and tips," said Eulert. "It's a great time to encourage them to inspire their children and grandchildren to enter our Youth Tour and Energy Camp contests, to answer their questions, and thank them for their loyalty."

Just a Pinch

Sharing Hometown Recipes, Cooking Tips and Coupons

By Janet Tharpe

Get Creative with Convenient Cake Mixes

"Oh my gosh these are so good and so easy! I love the flavor the cream cheese gives them."

Sherry Symmonds

There's a time and a place for a cake mix. When you're in a pinch, a boxed mix gets dessert on the table fast, and allows you to check one more thing off your list!

But beyond cake, use these convenient mixes for cookies too! Home cook Sherry Symmonds includes cream cheese for flavor and to keep her cake mix cookies moist. She also suggests getting imaginative with mixes and add-ins - any favorite combo will do!

See step-by-step photos of Sherry's recipe plus thousands more from home cooks nationwide at:

www.justapinch.com/cakemixcookies

You'll also find a meal planner, coupons and chances to win! Enjoy and remember, use "just a pinch"...

- Janet

Cream Cheese Cake Mix Cookies

What You Need

1 bx cake mix, any flavor

8 oz. cream cheese, room temperature

1/4 c butter, room temperature

1 large egg

1 tsp vanilla, optional,

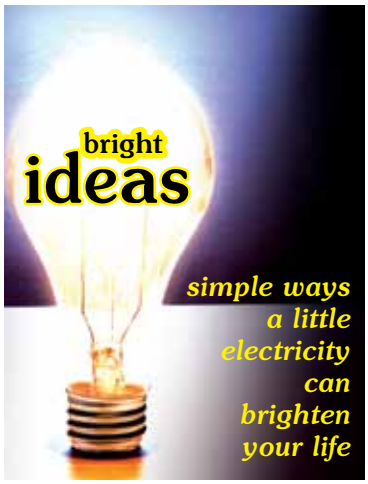
1 12 oz. bag of semisweet chocolate chips, or your choice of add-ins such as flavored chips, candy, nuts, etc.

Directions

- Preheat oven to 375 degrees F.
- Cream together butter and cream cheese. Add egg and vanilla (if using) and mix until well blended. Use an electric blender if desired.
- Stir in cake mix a little at a time until well blended, then add any chips, candy or nuts.
- Bake for 10 minutes, until edges are brown, and enjoy!

Submitted by: Sherry Symmonds, Hamilton, MS (pop. 457)

www.justapinch.com/cakemixcookies



When it comes to holidays, strands of lights are no longer reserved for the Christmas season.

Seasonal shopping at many stores will reveal "bright ideas" to light up Fall, particularly Halloween. What better way to chase away the ghosts and goblins than with light?!

Fall decorating is being embraced by more and more each year. Entrance ways are draped in orange and purple lights. Lighted pumpkins shine bright from doors and windows. Some choose to be "spooky" while others keep the celebration bright and cheerful.

When you find the lights just right for you, just plug them in for all to enjoy.

Here are a few such "bright ideas":

Cleveland Office
P.O. Box 49
Cleveland, OK 74020
(918) 295-9500
or
(800) 482-2750

Fairfax Office
P.O. Box 545
Fairfax, OK 74637
(918) 642-3314

Account Information
(918) 295-9597
Automated Outage Reporting
(918) 295-9598
On the Web @
WWW.IECOK.COM

Office Hours
7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
(Monday - Friday)

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