

# HOTLINES

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PO Box 39, 121 E Main, Cherokee, OK 73728 | [www.aec.coop](http://www.aec.coop)

## Cyber crime is here to stay

By Britni Holloway

Most of what we do on a daily basis is connected to the online world in some capacity. Cyber-crime is here to stay and is best summed up as “not if, but when.” At some point, cybercriminals will breach you, someone you know, or even your business. The question now is, how much information will they be able to gain? It has become common-place to receive spam phone calls, emails, and even text messages trying to get us to offer information out of fear.

Good news! There is a ton of information available on how to keep your data as safe as possible. Here are some tips from the Department of Homeland Security for their “Be Cyber Smart” campaign. You can find the full article at <https://www.dhs.gov/be-cyber-smart/cyber-lessons>.

### Multi-Factor Authentication

Enable multi-factor authentication (MFA), when available, to ensure that the only person who has access to your account is *you*. Use it for email, banking, social media, and any other service that requires logging in. This way, even if cybercriminals

guess your password, they are still out of luck!

### Wi-Fi Safety

Practice safe web surfing wherever you are by checking for the “green lock” or padlock icon in your browser bar—this signifies a secure connection. Avoid free internet access with no encryption. If you do use an unsecured public access point, avoid sensitive activities (e.g., banking) that require passwords or credit cards. Your personal hotspot is often a safer alternative to free Wi-Fi.



### Oversharing and Geotagging

People don't realize that seemingly

random details are all criminals need to know. They can target you, your loved ones, and even your physical belongings—online and in the real world. Avoid posting names, phone numbers, addresses, school and work locations, and other sensitive information (whether it's in the text or in the photo you took). Disable geotagging, which allows anyone to see where you are—and where you aren't—at any given time.

### Phishing

Cybercriminals will often offer a financial reward, threaten you if you don't engage, or claim that someone needs help. Don't fall for it! Keep your personal information as private as possible. They gather vital details from your life—your job title, multiple email addresses, full name, and more that you may have published online somewhere. With this information, they can attempt a direct spear-phishing attack on you. Cybercriminals can also use social engineering with these details to try to manipulate you into skipping standard security protocols.

If you're unsure who an email

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## ALTERNATING CURRENTS...

**John Regier**  
President; District 4



Since 2004, John Regier has represented the members of District 4. He has been married to his wife Deb for 44 years, and they have four children and eight grandchildren. John has farmed and ranched in the Ringwood area for most of his adult life. He has also served on the Ringwood Fire Department for almost 30 years and was a school board member for 20 years. He enjoys time with his family, music, and motorsports.

John sees opportunities to build relationships and to work with people as some of the best aspects of serving on the AEC Board. He thinks highly of his time spent working with Doug McMurtrey. While serving on the board, they discovered they had similar world views and shared several interests.

Sorting out conflict, as it inevitably arises in business and life, is one of John's least favorite aspects of board membership. However, they work through those tasks to keep the board functioning efficiently. John believes the AEC board handles these tough situations professionally and respectfully.

John has learned a great deal about cooperatives since being elected to the board. Rural areas would not have reliable electricity without co-ops. Investor-owned utility companies are more interested in a significant profit, leaving the lower-profit regions in the dark. AEC is near the top in the reliability of its power supply while continuing to improve and grow.

John is honored to serve on the AEC board of directors. He is proud of the excellent service AEC provides to its members.

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is from—even if the details appear accurate—do not respond, and do not click on any links or attachments found in that email. Always avoid sending sensitive information via email.

### Passwords

It's important to mix things up—get creative with easy-to-remember ways to customize your standard password for

different sites. Try not to reuse passwords. Having different passwords for various accounts can help prevent cybercriminals from gaining access to these accounts and protect you in the event of a breach. Every time you share or reuse a password, it chips away at your security. The most secure way to store and even help generate your unique passwords is by using

a password manager. There are several available, one of the most popular being LastPass.

Here at Alfalfa Electric, we are continually implementing measures to keep your information (and our own) safe from prying eyes. Join us in National Cyber Security Awareness Month and #BeCyberSmart.

## Celebrate cooperative month

**O**ctober is the month when members and employees of co-ops celebrate being part of businesses that are consumer-owned and community-run.

This October, resolve to become more active with your electric cooperative. Plan to

attend the utility's annual meeting, to vote in board of director elections, to sit on a volunteer committee or even to run for the board yourself.

Cooperatives are owned and controlled by the consumers who do business with them. That means you are

not just a consumer—you're a member and an owner. That gives you a vote in how the business operates.

Get to know more about your cooperative by participating in it. When a utility operates as a cooperative, every member is equally important.

## Prepaid Metering is now available!

Prepaid is a personal choice that allows members to purchase electricity on a pay-as-you-go basis. There is no deposit required and it helps avoid penalty charges.

The Prepaid plan gives you:

- flexibility to pay what you can afford when you need electricity
- clarity of knowing just where your energy dollars are going
- benefit of saving energy and money
- POWER to control your energy bill

If it is easier to make daily or weekly payments instead of a larger monthly payment, then prepaid metering may be right for you! AEC is excited to offer the Prepaid Metering Plan to our members. Call AEC at 580-596-3333 for more information.

The post office has determined that these capital credit checks were undeliverable. AEC would like your help in finding the rightful owners. Please call (580) 596-3333 and ask for Christy Schanbacher, Gina Waugh, or Jess Schanbacher if you have current contact information for the following individuals or their heirs. If you are unable to speak with one of these ladies, please leave a message with the name and the correct address. The remaining individual list along with the list of businesses will continue in the November *Hotlines*.

Achenbach, Donald	Bergdall, Jason	Caring Company	Crain, Pearl
Adams, Walter	Bergerson, Blanche	Carpenter, Evelyn R	Cramer, Loren
Adamson, Mike	Biberstein, Charlotte	Carpenter li, Ron	Crenshaw, Deven
Adkins, Gerald	Biberstein Jr, Frankie	Carrico, Linda	Criswell, Alonzo B
Adkisson, Rex D	Bible Baptist Church	Carver, Eugene E	Cromwell, Frank
Ake, Roy	Bishop, Joel	Cavanaugh, Jon	Crosley, Stewart
Albert, Cary	Blackledge, Keith	Cellan, Helen J	Crow Creek Op Co II Llc
Alder, John	Blevins, Jim	Charter Oak Production Co	Crusader Energy 3 Llc
Allen, Ruby	Blevins, John E	Cherokee Insurance	Crusader Energy Corp
Allen, Desiree	Bobwhite Prod Co Inc	Chesapeake Energy Marketing	Cummins, C B
Allen Estate, Ruth E	Bohnert, Howard	Inc	Curry, Netanya
Allison, Kori	Bolar, Lonnie	Chestnut, Jay	Curtis, Mike
Almack, Jim	Boston, Tom	Chewning, Jacqueline	Cutright, Diane
Anderson, Allen	Bowman, Frances	Chillcott, Jean	Dale, Bill
Anderson, Sharlott	Box, Lloyd E	Choate, Virginia L	Dallman, Alvin
Andrews, Janet	Boyce, Bessie	Christmas, Harry	Darr, Debra J
Ash, Geraldine	Boyer, Marie	Church, Cora	Davis, John
Ashley, Jackie	Brack, Shawn E	Cimarron Neighbors Club	Davison, Kari
Ashley, Shirley	Brackney, Brad	Cimarron Operating Co	Daykin, Catherine
Askew, S B	Bradford, Bonnie J	Cink, Robert	Dehaas, Doug
Assembly Of God Aprs	Bradford, Walter B	Claflin, Doris	Dehaven, Karen
Ault, Marjorie	Brady, Myrtle	Clara Lahr Estate	Demo, Anthony T
B&G Production	Bridges, Frances	Clark, Harry V	Demuth, Floris L
Bagshaw, Leona	Brinson, Charles J	Classic Cable Of Oklahoma	Detwiler, Wendell
Bahm, Clint	Brinson, Jeremy	Cleary Petroleum	Devous, Jim
Bain, Vernon	Briscoe Oil Operating Co	Cochran, David	Dewolfe, Lora
Baker, Fern	Brittany Energy Llc	Coleman, Eunice	Dick, Larry
Baker, Frank	Broce, Kevin	Coles, Kendall	Dickson, Troy C
Barber Co Savgs & Loan	Brooks, Gene	Collins, Jack N	Dietz, Sylvia E
Barefoot, N V	Brown, Olen R	Collins, Christina	Digman, Earl D
Barnes, Grace P	Brown, Kenny	Collins, Mildred	Dill, Joe
Barnes, Jeanifer	Browning, Patrick	Collins & Mitchell	Dillard, Dick
Barnes, Lorene	Brune, Emma J	Conrady, Herman	Ditamore li, W P
Barns, Edward L	Brune, Albert	Conrady, John	Dittrich, Bertha
Bartlett, Thomas	Buckingham, Bessie	Continental Gas Inc	Dohrer, Jon
Bartness, Irene S	Bugg, Virgil	Cook, Geraldine	Dooley, Ila
Beckwith, Pauline	Bullard, Gary	Coontz, Hazel	Doris Swallow Trust
Beckwith, William M	Buller, Josh	Copenhaver, Lacey	Dorman, Everett
Beer, Jack	Buller, Leonard	Coppock Jr, Stanley	Doty, Joy
Bell, Chris	Bullock, Marvin	Corbin, Mar Vin	Draper, Henry
Bell, Grace	Burgess, Lula	Corbin, Robert	Drouillard, Eddie
Bell, Lawrence	Burnett, Robert J	Cottrill, L L	Drummond, Dan
Bender, Kialeee J	Byron Tennis Court	Courtright, Wilma	Dryer, Art
Beneficial Finance	Camlen, Donald D	Cox Estate, W Earl	Dubbs, Rose
Bennett, Jack	Campbell, Jimmy L	Cox Gas Corporation	Dugas, Greg
Benningfield, Kenneth	Campbell, Justin	Crain, Virginia	Dunagan, Robert

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Dunavant, H J	Floyd, Jerald	Gordon, Bill	Harmon, Lee R	Hogue, R J
Easley, A G	Ford, Roy E	Gould, Donald E	Harmon, Zola M	Holcomb, Donna
Eaton, Ada D	Foster, Preston	Gould, Harry T	Harper, Deanna	Holderby, Majorie
Eck, Jim	Freedom Health Center	Graham-Michaelis Corp	Harper County	Holt, John T
Eck, Ollie W	Freedom Housing	Grant, Buddy R	Engineers	Hooker, Keith
Eckels, Otia	Authority	Gray, Regina	Harrell, Scott	Hooper, Don
Elam, David	Fremont Exploration Inc	Gregg, Phillip	Harris, Ray	Hopkins, Edith M
Engler, Jana	Frey, Mitzi	Griffin, Kinzie	Hartwell, David	Hopkins, Hazel
Ent, Carolyn J	Frieden, C H	Griffin, Mike	Hartwell, Pam	Horn, Max
Equal Energy Corp	Frye, Clyde	Griffin, Faye	Hatch, Sarah	Howland, Desiree
(Formerly Altex)	Fuson, E L	Grove, Phyllis	Hawkins, Kevin	Hughes, Amber
Escue, Dick	Fyffe, Ira J	Gspa	Hay, Margie	Hughes, Dale
Estate Of Emil Pecha	Garleigh, Mariel T	Gunning, Ron	Hayes, Harold	Huston, Jere
Estate Of Helen M	Garner, Curtis W	Gustafson, Michael	Hayes, Kasey	Huston, John M
Simpson	Garner, Ruby Blew	Haas, F L	Hayward, Beulah	Hutchison, Ed
Fairbanks, Lillian	Garrett, Nadine	Hackney, George	Heartland Comm Inc	Hutson, Donald
Farabee, Goldie	Garrett, William A	Hagen, Jess	Heffernan, Dee Ann	Hutton, Ira
Fargo, Jim	Gaskill, Guy	Haggard, Leroy	Hefner Land & Cattle Llc	Imke, Braxton
Farney, Reuben	Gassett, Maxine	Hagood, Fred	Hein, Tracy	Investment Equipment
Faulkner Corporation	Gates, Jeryl	Haines, Teresa	Heinrich, Frances	Llc
Fechner, Vicki	Gauley, Shane	Hale, Elinor	Henderson, O B	loof Hall
Federko, Brittney	Gavitt, Jeff	Hall, William R	Hendricks, Scott	loof Lodge
Ferguson, Dana	Gay, John	Hallren, F F	Henley, Henry	Isom, Velma
Fetters, Steve	Geis, Wanda	Hamand, William	Hepner, Diana	Jackson, Bernard C
Filley, Danny	George Dyer Trust #1	Hamilton, Richard	Hess, Dallas	Jackson, Clara M
First Baptist Church	Gerber, Glenn	Hamm, Tom	Hess, James R	Jackson, Dale
Freedom, OK	German, Jim	Hansen, Ron	Highfield, Clare	Jacobs , Aaron
Fisher, Angelina	Gieswein, Jack	Hanson, Doug	Highfill, Richard E	Jacobson, Jerry
Fisher, Glenda	Gilbert, C E	Harbaugh, Casey	Hiland Partners Lp	James, E W
Fisher, Leonard	Girty, Walter	Harding, Eddie	Hill, Virgil	James, Ray
Flake, Carl	Goodwin, William	Hare, Scott	Hodges, Stuart	James, Owen W
Flake, Ernest L	Gordon, Angela	Harl, Lonnie	Hodgson, Sage	Jennings, Dana



### Power Outage?

SmartHub App

580-596-3333 | 888-736-3837



580-596-3333

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