

PHENOMENAL GROWTH

New Substation a Welcome Addition

Western Farmers Electric Cooperative (WFEC) staff recently joined Choctaw Nation leaders, staff members from Choctaw Electric Cooperative (CEC) and Hochatown City Officials to recognize the new Chahta Substation, with a ribbon-cutting event.

The Choctaw Nation partnered with CEC and WFEC to add this new substation that will help accommodate the influx of businesses and people moving into the area, which has been served by a 28 megawatt (MW) substation. With the new 22 MW substation, in totality, there will be 50 MW available, noted CEC General Manager/CEO Kooney Duncan.

Choctaw Nation Chief Gary Battan said the new substation will not only provide essential infrastructure for new Choctaw Nation facilities but will also provide additional capacity for a six-mile radius of the site to support growth in the area. “There has been a huge amount of growth, which we want to continue



Choctaw Nation Chief Gary Battan (left) and Choctaw Electric General Manager/CEO Kooney Duncan were among those responding to media questions at the ribbon-cutting.



Hochatown Mayor Dian Jordan (center) prepares to cut the ribbon in recognition of the new Chahta Substation. Also shown are (from left) Assistant Chief Jack Austin Jr. & Chief Gary Battan, both of the Choctaw Nation; Choctaw Electric Cooperative CEO Kooney Duncan; WFEC Executive Vice President, Power Delivery & Technology Ron Cunningham; WFEC Transmission Project Coordinator Aaron Henage; CEC Board Secretary Perry Thompson Jr.; CEC Board President Brent Franks; CEC Board Member Jana Burris; Choctaw Nation Utility Authority Director Stanley Self & Trent Marlett, Choctaw Nation.

for the prosperity of people in the Broken Bow and Hochatown areas,” Battan commented.

“The cooperative already had a presence in the area and CEC staff worked closely with the Choctaw Nation staff and everything just kind of meshed and came together. Plus it took WFEC to make it all happen,” Duncan explained.

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“It’s an honor for us to support the phenomenal growth in this area. Those who live here may not recognize the phenomenal growth as much as some of us who have not been here in a few months. It’s just miraculous what has been done,” commented Ron Cunningham, WFEC Executive Vice President, Power Delivery & Technology.

Hochatown Mayor Dian Jordan was also on hand for the ribbon-cutting, and pointed out the importance of this new substation. “It’s great for us. Hochatown has been incorporated for less than a year and we are working to develop the infrastructure, roads, utilities, paid police and fire departments and more services and resources to control our growth and help us to grow responsibly,” explained Jordan.

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Ron Cunningham, WFEC Executive Vice President, Power Delivery & Technology, and Transmission Project Coordinator Aaron Henage, who served as the project manager on behalf of WFEC, visit with officials attending the Chahta Substation ribbon-cutting, hosted recently in Hochatown.



Four of the five jet engine/gas turbines at the Anadarko Plant have recently underwent an overhaul consisting of the replacement of the engine’s hot section (and numerous other, smaller, worn out parts). During these outages, the generators have been disassembled and thoroughly tested and inspected. Beginning in mid-September, a similar project began on another Anadarko unit.

This generator rotor (shown above) was removed and loaded onto a truck for testing, inside the combined cycle plant. The outage on this unit is scheduled to run through late December.

(right) The generator rotor is removed and positioned for testing inside the plant by WFEC plant personnel and contractors.



REDUCING CANCER BATTLES

WFEC Employee Joins Lobbying Efforts

With a goal of helping those facing cancer battles, a WFEC employee recently accompanied a group of fellow Oklahomans to Washington, D.C. to lobby Congress for legislation that would benefit the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN).

WFEC Information Specialist Howie Jackson, a three-time cancer survivor, accompanied group members from ACS CAN that advocates for evidence-based public policies to reduce the cancer burden for everyone. They engage volunteers across the country to make their voices heard by policymakers at every level of government. ACS CAN believes everyone should have a fair and just opportunity to prevent, detect, treat, and survive cancer.

Since 2001, as the American Cancer Society's nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy affiliate, ACS CAN has successfully advocated for billions of dollars in cancer research funding,

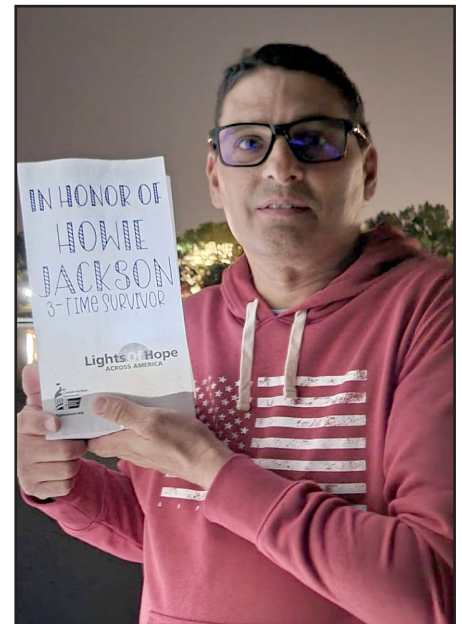
expanded access to quality affordable health care, and advanced proven tobacco control measures.

Jackson is not a stranger to lobbying Congress. He was approached by the National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP), now known as Be the Match, back in 2010 to travel to Washington, D.C.

As a resident of the Fourth Congressional District, his representative, Tom Cole, has been on the right committees, namely appropriations, and Jackson's voice was needed. The appropriations committee directs where the money budgeted flows to and how much.

The entire group of almost 600 ACS CAN volunteers from across the nation were asking for the same three things from their Representatives and Senators.

First, increased funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Cancer Institute (NCI) for research.



Howie Jackson shows his bag that was one in over 50,000 bags displayed during the "Lights of Hope" event

Second, encourage the congressperson to support or sponsor the Nancy Gardner Sewell Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection (MCED) Screening Coverage Act, named for Rep. Sewell's late mother who passed away in 2021 from pancreatic cancer. This bipartisan legislation would create a pathway for Medicare to cover emerging blood-based cancer screenings, which hold the potential to catch cancer earlier than ever before. Last Congress, the bill garnered the support of a bipartisan majority of both the House and Senate - with 258 House co-sponsors and 54 Senate co-sponsors - and over 400 organizations across the nation.

And third, to sponsor or support the PSA Screening for HIM Act,



The Oklahoma delegation met with Senator Mullins' staff, among a number of other Senators and Representatives, during their recent lobbying efforts in Washington, D.C. Howie Jackson is shown middle left.

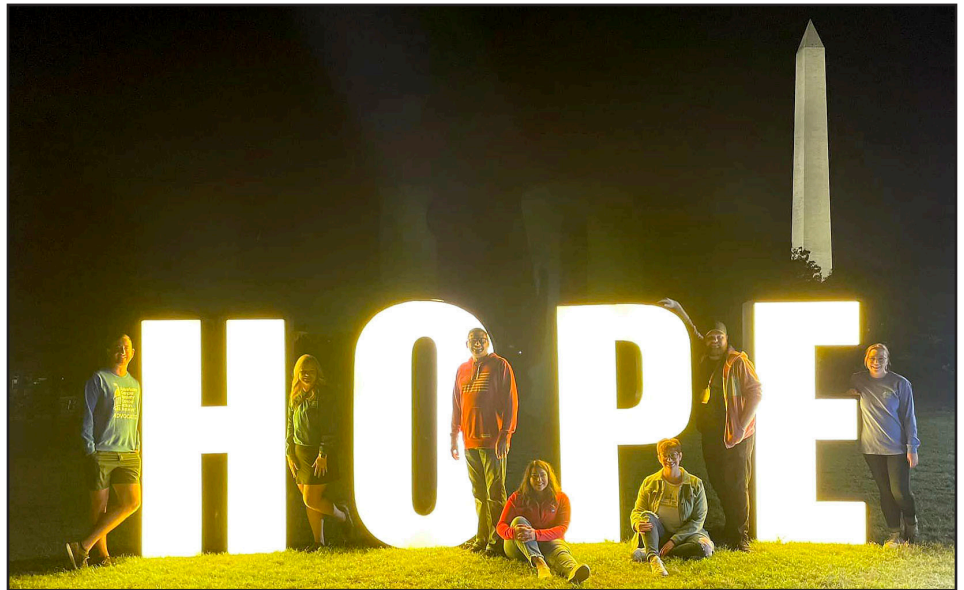
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which would require insurance companies to cover prostate cancer screenings for those at high risk for the disease, without out-of-pocket costs. By removing cost barriers for individuals, more people at high risk can receive the necessary screenings to detect prostate cancer in its earliest stages, often before any symptoms of the disease are present.

Jackson is currently in a clinical trial for prostate cancer at OU Medical Center that is funded by the NIH and NCI. His story was important to the three tasks previously outlined. He is a three-time cancer survivor and advocate for the American Cancer Society, ACS CAN and Be the Match.

Jackson is open to sharing his story. So, if you run into him at any WFEC facilities, feel free to ask him about his cancer battles and any or all of these organizations.

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Oklahoma team at the "Lights of Hope" event, hosted one evening during the delegates' lobbying efforts



Howie Jackson (right) visits with Dr. Karen Knudson, CEO of the American Cancer Society, during his trip to Washington, D.C.

American Cancer Society
Cancer Action Network/
Oklahoma - ACS CAN team at
"Lights of Hope".



COOPERATIVE WAY

Annual Meetings Winding Down

A few more member cooperatives have been added to the previous list of those who have been busy with their annual meetings during the summer months, with only a couple remaining this weekend. Thirteen of WFEC's cooperatives host their meetings between July and October, with the other eight being hosted in March, April and May.

Choctaw Electric Cooperative

Choctaw Electric Cooperative hosted their 83rd annual meeting on Saturday, Sept. 23 at the Hugo Agriplex. Between 550 and 600 members and family members were in attendance, with 356 members registering, and a quorum being established.



Choctaw Electric Board Member Ken Autry (above, left) visited with members during the cooperative's 83rd Annual Meeting recently. Autry also serves as a member of WFEC's Board of Trustees. (At right) Choctaw Electric members are set for the meeting to begin, which featured a circus theme.

Members were greeted with a perfect, fun, "big top" theme, and there were even some huge dinosaurs walking through the event. Several vendors, bounce houses and a snow cone stand were available, along with free chili dogs and apple pies.

More than 64 prizes were given away before the meeting began, with a \$1,000 bill credit prize announced at the end of the meeting. WFEC provided a battery-operated Black and Decker drill. Vice President of Special Projects David Sonntag and Information Specialist Maria Crowder were on-hand to work an information booth and answer questions.



Cotton Electric Cooperative

Cotton Electric Cooperative hosted their Annual Meeting and Member Appreciation Night on Tuesday, Sept. 26 at the Stephens County Fairgrounds in Duncan, with over 825 members and their families in attendance. Some 455 members registered for the meeting, which fell short of their quorum of 828.

A barbecue meal was served to members in attendance. A Kid's Area was also provided, complete with bounce houses, other games, cotton candy, gifts and prizes. Members received a five-piece barbecue set and a limited-edition Kelly-green cap, in honor of former Cotton Electric Board Member Ronnie Bohot, who passed away this year.

The grand prize was a \$500 bill credit. Other prizes included bill credits, \$50 cash prizes, ice chests, kitchen items, tools and lawn equipment. WFEC provided a battery-operated Black and Decker drill as a door prize. Those attending on behalf

of WFEC included Matt Caves, Vice President, Legal & Regulatory Compliance, and Sondra Boykin, Communication Coordinator, who manned an informational booth.



(left) Cotton Electric Cooperative CEO Jennifer Meason addresses the audience during the annual membership meeting. Other board members are also shown on the stage. (above) Members could have their photos taken in a Cotton Electric setting during the cooperative's annual meeting.

