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February 2012

Hot Watts

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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Energy Efficiency *Tip of the Month*

Air is drawn into your home from low areas, so inspect your foundation for potential air-infiltration points. Fixing these leaks makes a bigger impact on your electric bill than sealing doors and windows! Caulk all cracks and gaps around your home including spaces around wires for telephone, electrical, cable, and gas lines, water spigots, and dryer vents.

Source: Touchstone Energy

Congratulations

Matthew Farris is our online survey winner!

Correction

We did not place a hidden account number in the last issue. We have made it up to you by placing two in this issue. Be sure to look through the Hot Watts for your hidden account number to claim a \$25 bill credit.

New Trustee Appointed to the Board



Ronnie Pevehouse

Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative's (CHEC) Board of Trustees and employees would like to introduce and welcome Mr. Ronnie Pevehouse as our new board member for District 7, serving Muskogee County. Mr. Pevehouse accepted and was officially seated during the December 2011 board meeting.

Mr. Pevehouse was born in Kodiak, Alaska, when his father was in the Navy. When he was a boy, the family moved back to Muskogee County. He graduated from Webbers Falls High School in 1972, and then studied agriculture at Connors

State College and Oklahoma State University. Mr. Pevehouse served as Muskogee County Commissioner (District 2) from 2005 to 2008.

Ronnie and his wife, Dianna, live south of Webbers Falls where he operates and runs his own cattle ranch. They have a son, Casey Pevehouse and a daughter, Roni Lynn Burrough, as well as four grandchildren, Drew and Devin Pevehouse and Cash and Dusti Burrough. Mr. Pevehouse has been a member of CHEC for roughly 35 years.

"There are some great board members on the Cookson Hills Board of Trustees, and I look forward to working with them. I am excited about the opportunity and I am looking forward to serving the members," said Mr. Pevehouse.

College Scholarship Available for Members' Children

Area high school seniors, whose parent or guardian is a member of Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative (CHEC), have an opportunity to apply for a \$500 scholarship. Each year the Herman Driscoll Memorial Scholarship committee awards four scholarships to help deserving seniors pay for college or technical school.

To be eligible for consideration, students must have a GPA of 2.0 or better, good character, good citizenship, financial need and a desire to further their education. Additionally, seniors must enroll

as a full-time student at a college or technical school.

High school seniors may complete the application on page four of this Hot Watts issue or obtain an application from the CHEC website (www.cooksonhills.com).

Please return your application, along with two letters of recommendation, by **April 6, 2012** to the following address:

Scholarship Committee
Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative
Attn: Teresa Shaw
P.O. Box 539
Stigler, OK 74462



Hot Watts

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Cookson Hills welcomes members to submit photos, and articles which will be subject to Cookson Hills editing.

Any submissions must be received before the 12th of the month prior to the publication date.

**If You Find Your
Account Number Hidden
in This Issue of the *Hot Watts*
You'll Receive a \$25 Credit
on Your Electric Bill**

Community Food Pantry Receives \$4,500 Grant Through Operation Round-Up

The Cookson Hills Electric Foundation Board awarded a \$4,500 grant through the Operation Round-Up program to the High Impact Services (H.I.S.). H.I.S. is a faith-and-community based outreach organization, which operates the Joseph Project Community Food Pantry in Stigler.

"The Cookson Hills Electric Foundation is a major blessing to our organization. This grant allows us to purchase food at just 17 cents on the dollar from the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma in Tulsa. It enables us to purchase food that is direly needed, which we do not receive from the donations of our other partners. Because of the gracious grant we received from the Operation Round-Up program, we are able to sustain the viability of our food pantry and offer excellent service in food assistance to those in need," said Angela Stevens, H.I.S. Director of Operations.

The Joseph Project Community Food Pantry serves individuals and/or families in need of emergency food assistance. These individuals and/or families may apply once a month if they have a need due to being out of food. "Some of the people have lost their jobs, and some have run out of food stamps before the month's end, as well as other reasons," said Stevens.

The food pantry is open every Tuesday and Wednesday from 10 a.m. to noon and is operated completely by volunteers. Along with the weekly food pantry operations, they also do an on-site feeding program for youth ages 12-18 on the second Saturday night of every month. For more information on the community food pantry and ways you can help, call 918-967-3932.

The Operation Round-Up program is a small contribution, averaging around \$6 annually per contributor. The voluntary contributions are made through Cookson Hills

members' electric bills, by rounding up the total to the next dollar.



Applications for an Operation Round-Up grant are available at the Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative offices and can be found on our website at www.cooksonhills.com.

The next Cookson Hills Foundation meeting is scheduled for March 6, 2012 and the deadline to submit applications for that meeting is February 10, 2012.



Photo by: Larry Mattes



Joseph Project Community Food Pantry Volunteers

Courtesy photo

Co-op Connections Card Coming Soon

As your electric cooperative, it is important for Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative (CHEC) to provide its member with safe, reliable power. Yet our service goes beyond the wires. It is also important that we offer additional value that has a positive impact on everyone in the community.



That is why CHEC, in conjunction with Touchstone Energy, will be launching the Co-op Connections program. This new card-based member benefit program is designed to deliver benefits to our members by offering valuable discounts at participating businesses.

Whenever a Co-op Connections cardholder shows the Co-op Connections card at a participating business, they receive a discount. Equally, those businesses benefit from increased customer visits by cooperative members participating in the program.

CHEC members will receive Co-op Connections cards in the mail in April 2012. Once a member has signed the back of the card, it is ready for use. Look for future articles in the Hot Watts with more details about the Co-op Connections 198100 program.

So while our number one priority is keeping the lights on, CHEC is committed to bringing additional value to our members and the communities we serve. The Co-op Connections program is just another way to accomplish that goal.

Safe Use of Mylar Balloons Near Power Lines

Colorful mylar balloons can brighten any celebration, but using them improperly causes inconveniences and safety hazards. With the proper precautions, mylar balloons can be used without problems.

Mylar balloons have a metallic coating that conducts electricity. If the balloons are released and come in contact with overhead electric lines, they can cause serious damage, including power outages and fires.

The following tips will help you use mylar balloons safely:

1. Always keep the balloons weighted so they do not accidentally fly away.
2. Never release a mylar balloon. When you are finished with the balloon, deflate it and throw it away.
3. Do not tie mylar balloons to children with metallic ribbon. If the mylar balloon comes in contact with electric lines the child could receive a fatal shock.
4. If a balloon does get in a power line, do not attempt to retrieve it yourself. Contact the electric utility and emergency services.



For more information, visit SafeElectricity.org.



Stop Air Flow and High Energy Bills

After a long day at work, we are ready to go home and relax. Our homes should be an oasis for all of us, where we can kick back and get comfortable.

There is no oasis of comfort when your home is too cold in the winter or too hot in the summer. That means it is leaking air, and wasting money.

One of the best things you can do if you have high electric bills is check the insulation. How much is in your attic and basement or crawl space? What kind is it? Is there an air barrier along with the insulation? The answers to these questions will determine how much energy and money you can save.

Air infiltration is one of the main problems for most homes. It is healthy to have some air flow in and out of your home, but too much leads to discomfort and high electric bills. Properly installed insulation paired with an air barrier can do a lot to save energy.

If you have fiberglass insulation, whether blown or rolled batts, you will need to create an air barrier by sealing all of the cracks and gaps between the living spaces and unfinished areas with caulk and expanding foam. Cellulose does a better job of blocking air, but only foam insulation offers its own air barrier.

Check out EnergySavers.gov to learn more about insulation. By stopping air flow, you will be well on your way to a more comfortable home, and lower electric bills.

Source: EnergySavers.gov

Application for the Herman Driscoll Memorial Scholarship

Name _____

Social Security # _____ Telephone # _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Parents' (guardians') name(s) _____

Number of children at home or in college _____

Family income last year (check one): Below \$35,000

Above \$35,000

GPA Score _____ ACT Score _____

Currently attending school at _____

List your involvement in school, community and vocational groups. Also include any work experience:

In 75-100 words tell why you are applying for the scholarship and share your goals and ambitions:

List scholarships you have earned and their value: _____

Choice of Schools: _____

Note: Please attach two letters of recommendation.