

## Inside

- Upgrades east of Sallisaw.....2
- Fire extinguishers.....2
- Right-of-way .....3
- Scholarship application.....4

February 2010

# Hot Watts

PUBLISHED BY COOKSON HILLS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Energy Efficiency  
*Tip of the Month*

Use your microwave for cooking whenever possible. They use 50 to 65 percent less energy than conventional ovens. However, conventional ovens may be more appropriate for larger size items when cooking time is increased.

—SOURCE: TOUCHSTONE ENERGY COOPERATIVES

Happy Valentine's Day from Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative.



## Congratulations

The online Survey winner is Michael Coble of Keota, Oklahoma

## Know who is on your property

Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative has contracted with Osmose Utilities Services to inspect and/or reinforce utility poles owned by CHEC. They have been working since the second week in January and will continue until the first of May, 2010.

This process may involve digging around the pole and inspecting it. The crews will need access to these poles which may be on your property.

To help you verify that the people working

on your property are indeed doing work on behalf of CHEC, note that the crew trucks should be identified by an OSMOSE logo on the door of the vehicle. The crews should be wearing safety vests and the foreman should be wearing a white hard hat.

Dalen Garner, CHEC Director of Operations will be happy to assist you, if you have any concerns. You can contact Dalen at (918)-967-4614.

## Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative Seeks Applicants for College Scholarship

The employees and directors of Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative are currently accepting applications for CHEC's prestigious Herman Driscoll Scholarship. CHEC offers four \$500 scholarships each year in memory of Herman Driscoll, a long-time employee and General Manager of the cooperative. Driscoll believed that education is essential for success.

Cooksons' directors and employees award scholarships to high school seniors whose parents or guardians are members of CHEC.

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.

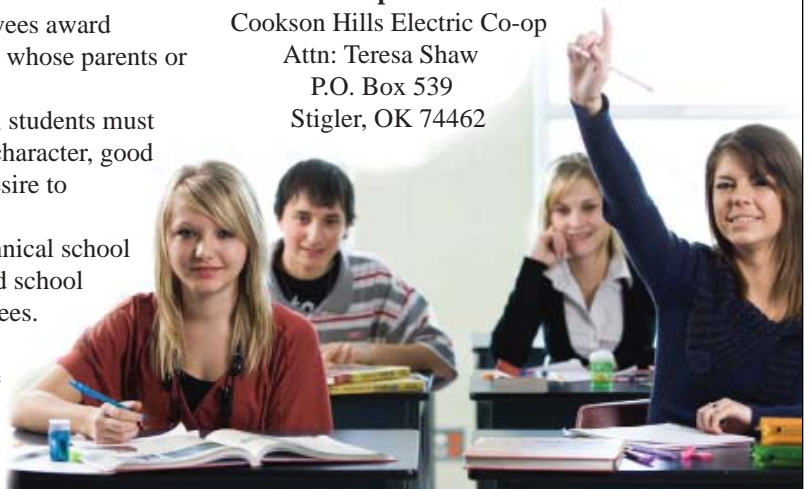
Additionally, the college or technical school of choice must be a state accredited school offering associate or bachelor degrees.

Scholarship money will be awarded in two installments, to the school of choice, if the following criteria are met: First semester grades will be a minimum of 2.0

average. Students must have a minimum of 12 academic hours per semester.

Please see back page for application or download application off of CHEC's web site [www.cookson-hills.com](http://www.cookson-hills.com) and return to CHEC along with two letters of recommendation by April 9, 2010, to the address below:

**Scholarship Committee**  
Cookson Hills Electric Co-op  
Attn: Teresa Shaw  
P.O. Box 539  
Stigler, OK 74462



### Hot Watts

is published monthly by Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc. *Hot Watts* informs members in parts of seven Eastern Oklahoma counties about Cookson Hills' programs and issues. Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative continually strives to provide quality electrical service at a reasonable cost for its members.

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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 *Hot Watts* You'll Receive a \$25 Credit on Your Electric Bill**

## CHEC Line Upgrades East of Sallisaw

Cookson Hills Electric is in the process of converting five and a half miles of single phase line to three phase. The project began approximately five miles east of Sallisaw on Redwood. It will then proceed one mile north towards Akins, then east towards Maple three and a half miles on Miller Ridge Road, then south one mile where the project will end.

During the five and a half mile conversion approximately 100 poles will be changed out and span lengths shortened.



*Tech Line Electrical Contractors working off highway 64B east of Sallisaw. Photo by: Larry Mattes*

The project will increase CHEC's capacity in this area, improve voltage, and increase reliability. It will also allow CHEC to switch load between its Muldrow and Sallisaw substations during high demand times or emergency

situations. Three phase electric service will also be available in the area as well.

Tech Line Electrical Contractors will be constructing this system upgrade.



## Safety

### Fire Extinguishers: A Little Preparation Can Go a Long Way

House fires can happen in seconds: in one instant, you could go from whipping up dinner to watching flames spring up from the stovetop.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, 410,500 fires, or 78 percent of all reported structure fires occur in homes. In the right hands, a household fire extinguisher can save lives and protect property.

"Every home should have at least one fire extinguisher, and you need the right type and you must know how and when to use it," says John Drengenberg, Consumer Affairs Manager at Underwriters Laboratories (UL), the Chicago, Ill.-based not-for-profit firm that tests and sets minimum standards for electric-consuming items.

Fire extinguishers should be placed in easily-accessible areas of the home, close to where they might be needed (such as in a kitchen, garage, or bedroom). Here are some basic rules to keep in mind when using household fire extinguishers: Know both your limits and that of the fire extinguisher. Periodically inspect your extinguishers to determine if they need to be recharged or replaced. Extinguishers need to be recharged or replaced after each use, even if you have not used the entire extinguishing agent. Check the gauge on the fire extinguisher for this information. When operating a fire extinguisher, stand at least 6 feet away from the fire and keep your back to a door so you can escape easily, if necessary.

"Fire extinguishers for home use are not designed to fight large or spreading fires," stresses Drengenberg. "Rather than fighting the fire, your number one priority should be getting out safely."

*Source: Underwriters Laboratories*



# Trees

## An On-Growing Concern



Trees, we all enjoy looking at them, whether it is the inspiring mighty oak in the fall of the year or a beautiful blooming dogwood in the spring time. Trees are certainly a part of our lives. They provide an abundance of qualities from shade in the summer, a wind break in the winter, lumber for construction purposes, or fuel for warmth.

Trees also pose a financial burden on the cooperative. We must remove or trim trees that are or will come into contact with the power lines.

The electricity that flows through the power lines is always seeking the least resistant path to ground or earth. Trees that come into contact with the power lines will provide such a path. When a tree limb or limbs come into contact with the power line the electricity will flow from the wire (conductor) through the tree to the ground (earth). When this happens it causes a fault or short that you, as a consumer, will recognize as a blink or in the worse case a complete power outage.

Blinks, or momentary outages, may be caused by a tree limb coming into contact with the power line and a protective device on the main power line operating, attempting to clear or burn off the limb. If the fault or limb is too large for the protective device to clear it, then the device will open up to keep the main line from burning down and thus creating an even longer outage requiring extensive repairs.

Your cooperative is responsible for clearing and maintaining approximately 2,851 miles of primary line in seven counties. As you can imagine this is a very expensive and labor intensive undertaking. We must budget money each year for tree trimming, cross country clearing, dozing and spraying. This does not take into account an ice storm or the damage caused from thunderstorms that may roll through at any given time of the year.

If at all possible, and the landowner is in agreement, we prefer to remove a tree or trees. Trimming will just provide a temporary fix to a problem. In some instances trimming is the only solution but it is also the most expensive. When a tree is trimmed the growth will return and will require trimming again in several years.

The cooperative makes every effort to follow the standards put in place for right-of-way trimming and clearing by Rural Utilities Services or RUS, a branch of the Department of Agriculture.

Right-of-way maintenance is expensive and provides no income to the cooperative but it is a necessary evil. We must make every attempt to maintain the right-of-way or the problems will compound themselves in outage times and inconvenience our customers.

**Your cooperative is responsible for clearing and maintaining approximately 2,851 miles of primary line in seven counties.**

We have implemented an aggressive right-of-way program over the last several years. Our intentions are to cut the right-of-way and then maintain it through our spray program.

At our present spray application rate we can make a complete cycle through the entire system every four years. Faster than four years would be a waste of financial resources.

If you have any questions concerning right-of-way issues whether it is about mechanical trimming, spraying or clearance concerns, do not hesitate to contact us. We will make every attempt to answer any questions you may have.

Eric Johnson  
Assistant General Manager  
Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc.



*Courtesy Photo: Right-of-way during the summer*

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### 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:

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List scholarships you have earned and their value: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Choice of Schools: \_\_\_\_\_

**Note: Please attach two letters of recommendation.**