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May 2012

Hot Watts

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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Smart home landscaping can lower your electric bills. Trees on the east and west sides of your home provide shade, and reduce your cooling costs during hot summer months. Shade for your air conditioner can save 10 percent of your cooling costs. And by adding vegetation to the north side of your home, you can reduce winter winds that trigger higher heating costs.

Source: Touchstone
Energy Cooperatives

Congratulations

James Currier
is our online survey
winner!



High School Juniors Win a Trip to Washington, D.C.



Photo by: Larry Mattes
Left to right: Kendall Beck, CHEC General Manager, Elizabeth Mouser, Hannah Franklin, Heather Deere, Katlyn Leach, and Kristie Cash, CHEC Youth Tour Coordinator.

On April 3, 2012, Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative (CHEC) held their 34th Annual Youth Tour Banquet. Four students were chosen to receive an all expense paid trip to Washington, D.C., June 15 – 21, 2012.

The trip will begin when they join other winners from across Oklahoma for a “Get Acquainted Banquet” in Oklahoma City. The delegates will board a plane the following morning and fly to Washington, D.C.

Six eventful days in the nation’s Capitol will include a tour of the Capitol, riverboat trip on the Potomac River, tour of Mount Vernon, meeting with Oklahoma’s Congressional Delegation, and many other points of interest.

The Youth Tour competition is available to all students in the CHEC service territory, who are completing their junior year in high school. Kristie Cash, CHEC

Youth Tour Coordinator, visits local schools and gives a presentation about the electric cooperative history and the Annual Youth Tour trip.

The contest consisted of an essay written on a topic chosen by the cooperative. This year the topic was “What Washington D.C. Means to Me.” From the essays entered, a judge chose four finalists. These four students were then invited to give an oral presentation of their essay.

CHEC is pleased to have these four students representing the cooperative for the 2012 Youth Tour: Elizabeth Mouser from Stigler High School, daughter of Lisa and Randy Mouser; Hannah Franklin from Stigler High School, daughter of Rhonda and David Franklin; Heather Deere from Muldrow High School, daughter of Mary and David Carr; and Katlyn Leach from Sallisaw High School, daughter of Lisa and David Leach. If you would like more information about Youth Tour, please contact Kristie Cash at 918-967-4614. In addition, you can visit www.youthtour.coop to view pictures and videos from previous trips.

Last Chance to Receive an Energy Star Clothes Washer and Dishwasher Rebate



Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative offers rebates through our Take Control & Save Energy Efficiency Program. These rebates are provided in part by Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc. The criteria for certain rebates has changed and the clothes washer and dishwasher rebates will end May 31, 2012. Rebates will be honored through Sept. 1, 2012 for those appliances purchased prior to June 1, 2012.



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 the *Hot Watts* you will receive a \$25 credit on your next electric bill.

Construction begins on Stigler facility



Photo by: Newcomb Associates Architect and Engineering

After planning and complete evaluation, the Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative Board of Trustees approved a plan to build a new facility in Stigler. The new facility will remain in the same location, on the corner of Main Street and 9th Street.

The construction of the warehouse began in April 2012. The temporary offices will be relocated in the warehouse during the demolition of the old building and construction of the new building. The picture shown above is an example of what the facility will look like upon completion of construction.

As we move forward, we will continue to update members through the Hot Watts and our website (www.cooksonhills.com) regarding any changes to our business operations due to construction.

Know How to Stay Safe After a Storm

Severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, and flooding can leave more than damage in their wake, they can leave hidden dangers as well. In some cases, more lives are lost after the storm than from the storm itself.

When you are dealing with storm cleanup or flood-damaged property, the prospect of an electrical accident needs to be in your mind. It is the first thing you should think of before you go outside, step foot into a flooded area, or enter a storm-damaged building.

When outside, stay away from downed power lines 2568000 and be alert to the possibility that tree limbs or debris may hide an electrical hazard. Treat all downed or hanging power lines as if they are energized. Lines do not have to be arcing or sparking to be live. Warn others to stay away, and contact your electric cooperative.

Do not touch downed power lines, and do not touch objects or puddles of water in contact with those lines. There is no way to know if they are energized. Encountering these objects can be as hazardous as coming into contact with a downed power line itself.

If you are driving and come upon a downed power line, stay in your vehicle, warn others to stay away. Never drive over a downed line, as it could pull down poles and other items along its path. For more electric safety tips, visit www.SafeElectricity.org.



Photo from: SafeElectricity.org

Unclaimed Capital Credit Checks

The names listed below are member accounts that have capital credit refund checks available to them. The owners of these checks received service from Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative (CHEC) and were issued a check which was returned by the Post Office as undeliverable or never cashed. If your name appears on the list, or if you are the surviving heir of a name listed below, please contact CHEC about the capital credit refund check. Below is a list of names (A-P). The second half of the list will appear in the June issue of the Hot Watts. If you have any questions about capital credits, please feel free to contact CHEC at (918)-967-4614 or 800-328-2368.



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B O BRAZEAL
LARA BREESE
FORREST F BRENTS
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JOHN THOMAS CURRY

Heating and Cooling Tips:



**Right
Size,
Right
System**

Choosing the right heating and cooling system for your home is a matter of asking the right questions, getting the right contractor, and installing the right size. Here are some tips:

Right Questions

- What's the weather like in my region?
- How many people live at my house?
- What type of energy efficiency upgrades have I made to tightly seal my house?

Right Contractor

- Only a NATE (North American Technician Excellence)-certified contractor should install your heating and cooling system.
- Your contractor should use computer software to calculate the size of system your home needs.

Right Size

- Systems that are too large are:
 - more expensive to install
 - break down more often
 - operate inefficiently.
- Central air conditioners and heat pumps that are too large don't run long enough to dehumidify the air, which can spur mold growth and leave inhabitants feeling clammy.

**Need more information?
Visit TogetherWeSave.com.**

Sources: *EnergySavers.gov*,
Cooperative Research Network

List of names continued on page 4.

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