

Watts Inside

- »Space Heater and Electric Blanket Safety, *Page 2*
- »Annual Meeting Continued, *Page 3*
- »Why Co-ops Replace Utility Poles, *Page 4*



Hot Watts

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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Reduce energy for water heating. Take simple steps like lowering your water heater's temperature and installing low-flow showerheads to reduce your water heating bills.

Source: energy.gov

67th Annual Meeting a Huge Success

Cookson Hills Electric's (CHEC) 67th Annual meeting was a Huge Success. On a beautiful fall morning, CHEC members filled up the Sallisaw High School gymnasium.

Registration:

Members from every part of CHEC's seven county territory attended the meeting. Total members registered were 1,195. Approximately 2,500 people, including family members, friends, and guests, attended the meeting.

Entertainment:

The Ritter's Family Band provided entertainment this year. The Ritter's are longtime residents of the Vian area.

Sallisaw Cub Scout Pack #731 posted the Colors and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dave Sharp from Stigler sang a beautiful rendition of the National Anthem.

Business Meeting:

CHEC General Manager Kendall Beck welcomed the membership and gave a brief update of the Cooperative. General Counsel Bill V. Wilkinson directed the business portion of the meeting.

Prizes:

Following the business meeting, Assistant General Manager Eric Johnson, Member Services Representative Donna Rhodes, and ten-year-old Lucas Allen began drawing for prizes. Lucas is the great-grandson of James and Shirley Gibbons who live East of Muldrow. There were 48 prizes awarded to our members.

Congratulations!

Rob Fuller

is our online survey winner.

Offices Closed

CHEC will be closed November 26th & 27th in observance of Thanksgiving.



Thank you to our members for making this meeting a success!

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Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc. welcomes members to submit photos, and articles which will be subject to editing. Cookson Hills reserves the right to publish or modify any article. Companies and individuals featured in the Hot Watts newsletter do not necessarily reflect the official policy, position, or view of Cookson Hills.

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

Use Space Heaters and Electric Blankets Safely This Winter

Nothing can put chills down your spine quite like winter weather creeping its way through every crack of your home. In order to save money and stay warm, many chose to turn down the heat and plug in space heaters or electric blankets. While these products may be a simple 411101 solution from the cold, the Safe Electricity program warns that they can also cause fires if caution is not used.

Safe Electricity offers the following tips for safely using space heaters and electric blankets:

- Read and follow all space heater and electric blanket instructions.
- Check space heaters and electric blankets before use. Cords should not be frayed, brittle, or cracked. The blanket should not have any charred or dark areas.
- One of the biggest causes of fires is one of the most easily avoidable. Many fires start when flammable products are placed too close to heating devices, such as space heaters. Space heaters should be kept at least 3 feet from blankets, clothing, paper, and other flammables.
- Place space heaters out of high-traffic areas and on a level, hard, non-flammable floor surface—NOT on carpets, furniture, or countertops.
- Look for a space heater that has guards from heating elements and automatically shuts off if it is tipped over or overheating.
- Do not attempt to warm your entire home using space heaters. Space heaters are useful in small areas, such as a study or living room. However, if you need to keep large areas warm, your home heating system will do the job more efficiently.
- Plug space heaters directly to the outlet, and never use an extension cord.
- Only use electric blankets with an automatic shut off designed to prevent the blanket from overheating.
- Pets should never be allowed to sleep on top of electric blankets.
- Electric blanket wires should never be bent or tucked under a mattress.
- Replace old or damaged electric blankets.
- Choose a space heater or electric blanket with a safety certification. You should look for the UL, ETL, or CSA mark on the device. These verify that the product has been tested and is safe to use.
- Always remember to turn off space heaters and electric blankets when not in use. Never leave one of these devices on unattended or after going to bed.

To learn more on how to avoid electrical hazards, visit SafeElectricity.org.



Safe
Electricity[®]



Keagan Coday



Jazmine Sharp



Shirley Reed



Lucas Allen & Brett Orme



J.R. Bowles



Daryl & Shirley Crawford



Sebastian Briggs

Annual Meeting Prize Winners

Children

Sebastian Briggs – V-TECH Learning Tablet
 Jazmine Sharp – 20" Bike
 Keagan Coday – Nextbook 8 Android Tablet
 Isiah Drew - \$25 Walmart Gift Card
 Xavier Blackbird - \$25 Walmart Gift Card
 Brice Owens - \$25 Walmart Gift Card
 Jim Fain Jr. - \$25 Walmart Gift Card
 Mikeesha Watts - \$25 Walmart Gift Card
 Emily Goolsby - \$25 Walmart Gift Card

Adults

Daryl Crawford - \$500 Cash
 J.R. Bowles - \$300 Cash
 James Bengel - \$200 Cash
 Paul Burris - \$100 Cash
 Melinda Lasiter - \$100 Cash
 Shirley Reed – 50" Vizio Smart TV
 Cecil Chambers - \$25 Bass Pro Gift Card
 Phoebe Wann - \$25 Bass Pro Gift Card
 Pauline Rainey - \$25 Bass Pro Gift Card
 Floyd Adams - \$25 Cabela's Gift Card
 Ron Morris - \$25 Cabela's Gift Card
 Hannan Walters - \$25 Cabela's Gift Card
 Arbie Farris – Head Country BBQ Package
 M.J. Williams – Head Country BBQ Package
 Charlie Brannum - \$25 Cabela's Gift Card
 Betty Poindexter - \$25 Cabela's Gift Card
 Gloria Vanzant – IPAD Mini
 Paulette Moore – DeWalt Bench Grinder
 Arline Rogers – DeWalt Compact Drill/Driver Set
 Edna Baldrige – Stanley 99 Piece Socket Set
 James Aldridge - \$25 Cash
 Vicki Southerland - \$25 Cash
 First Indian Baptist Church - \$25 Cash
 John Wilhite - \$25 Cash
 Louis Locust - \$50 Walmart Gift Card
 Gary Hall - \$50 Walmart Gift Card
 Dale Barnes - \$50 Walmart Gift Card
 Kenneth Sinyard - \$50 Walmart Gift Card
 Phyllis Reichert – DeWalt Compact Worksite Radio
 Katy Parks – Tailgate Inverter
 Floyd Allbaugh – Thermos Lunch Bag
 Jerry M. Williams – Samsung Galaxy Tablet
 Clifford Eppler - \$25 Walmart Gift Card
 Members in Christ Assembly - \$25 Walmart Gift Card
 Pope Chapel Church - \$50 Cash
 Beverly Bolin - \$50 Cash
 Kimogene McCombs - \$50 Walmart Gift Card
 John Hill - \$25 Walmart Gift Card
 Clara Glover - \$25 Walmart Gift Card

Thank you to our contractors and vendors who graciously donated many of the prizes awarded.

**Huxford Pole & Timber Company
 C.H. Guernsey & Company
 Northwest Transformer Company
 Arkansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc.
 HD Supply
 Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc.
 Utility Sales Agents of Oklahoma
 WESCO (Diversified Electric)
 Wolf Tree Company
 D & R Electric
 Wright Tree Service, Inc.
 KAMO Power
 OSMOSE Utility Services Inc.
 One Source T&D L.L.C**

Why Electric Co-ops Replace Utility Poles

By Abby Berry

You probably don't pay much attention to the utility poles found throughout CHEC's service territory, but did you know these tall structures are the backbone of our distribution network?

Strong, sturdy utility poles ensure a reliable electric system, which is why we routinely inspect the thousands of poles found on our lines. Throughout the year, our crews check poles for decay caused by exposure to the elements. They know which poles are oldest and conduct inspections through a rotational process. Typically, a standard wooden distribution pole is expected to last more than 50 years.

Occasionally, poles need to be replaced for other reasons besides decay and old age. Weather disasters, power line relocation and car crashes are potential causes for immediate replacement. When possible, CHEC communicates when and where pole replacements will take place so that you stay informed of where crews will be working.

Here is a quick breakdown of how crews replace a utility pole:

When a pole needs to be replaced, crews will start the process by digging a hole, typically next to the pole being replaced. The depth of the hole must be 15 percent of the new pole's height. Next, the new pole must be fitted with bolts, cross arms, insulators, ground wires and arm braces – all of the necessary parts for delivering safe and reliable electricity. Then, crews safely detach the power lines from the old pole. The new pole is then raised and guided carefully into position, and the lines are attached, leaving the new pole to do its job.

So, the next time you come across a CHEC crew replacing a pole, use caution and know that this process ensures a more reliable electric system for you, our members.

Abby Berry writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.



MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

Can you afford to **pay more** for your electricity bill?
THE **EPA** THINKS YOU CAN.

>>>> ACTION.COOP <<<<

