

Watts Inside

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Hot Watts

Published monthly by Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Avoid placing lamps or TV sets near your room air-conditioning thermostat. The thermostat senses heat from these appliances, which can cause the air conditioner to run longer than necessary.



CHEC Offices will be closed May 30, 2016 in observance of Memorial Day

Congratulations!

Angela Wacoche is our online survey winner.

CHEC Honors Youth Tour Finalists

The 2016 Youth Tour essay contest finalists were honored at a banquet on April 5, 2016, at the Kiamichi Technology Center in Stigler. The annual event, hosted by Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CHEC), recognized four students whose written essays earned them an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., this summer.

The finalists competed with students from fourteen area schools. They wrote an essay on the topic "What are the biggest challenges facing electric cooperatives today? How can cooperatives meet those challenges?" From the essays entered, judges selected the four finalists.

The trip will begin on June 10, 2016, when they join 70 other students 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., to embark on an educational and fun-filled week.

This unique trip will give the students an opportunity to see history come alive as they explore the museums, memorials, and monuments. The students will tour the Capitol, will join Oklahoma's congressional delegation for breakfast, and will enjoy many other points of interest.



Photo by Brett Orme

Pictured left to right: CHEC General Manager Kendall Beck, Kenzie Taylor, Krystan Epperson, Graylen Fletcher, Emmy Cloud, and Youth Tour Coordinator Donna Rhodes

CHEC is pleased to announce the students who will represent CHEC for the 2016 Youth Tour: Graylen Fletcher of Vian High School, son of Dennis and Tramera Fletcher; Kenzie Taylor of Muldrow High School, daughter of Tristan and Kimberly Taylor; Emmy Cloud of Muldrow High School, daughter of Michael and Scarlett Cloud; and Krystan Epperson of Central High School, daughter of Scott and LeAnden Epperson.

Teachers and/or counselors of the winning students this year are: Donna Brewer from Muldrow High School, Jessie Young from Vian High School, and Jesse Bruesch from Central High School. We extend a special thank you to all the teachers, counselors, and administration for participating and supporting the Youth Tour program this year.

If you would like more information about Youth Tour, please visit our website at www.cooksonhills.com.

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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.

Felicia Williams, *Editor*
 E-Mail: fwilliams@cooksonhills.com



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

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 CHEC and were issued a check which was returned by the postal service as undeliverable or were 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 an alphabetical listing of names (A-Mix). The second half will appear in the June issue of the Hot Watts. If you have any questions about capital credits, please contact CHEC at 800-328-2368.

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ESFI warns public about the dangers of electric shock drowning



Despite being categorized as leisure activities, swimming and boating can quickly become dangerous. While water-safety behaviors such as wearing life jackets and maintaining safe boating speeds have become commonplace, a serious hazard remains that is often overlooked. This silent killer, classified as electric shock drowning, occurs in fresh water when a typically low level alternating current (AC) passes through the body, which causes muscular paralysis and eventually leads to drowning.

According to ESFI's president Brett Brenner, "Although there are reported incidents every year, there is a lack of awareness about the dangers of Electric Shock Drowning." A 21-year-old Illinois man died in 2015 when touching a dock ladder at the Lake of the Ozarks in Missouri. Additionally, there were at least two fatalities in Kentucky in 2013, and a pair of deaths in both Missouri and Tennessee during the Fourth of July holiday in 2012. Each of these victims was under the age of 13. Further, Electric Shock Drowning deaths are usually recorded as drowning because victims show no signs of burns, so many instances remain undocumented.

While a lack of awareness persists about the dangers of Electric Shock Drowning, positive strides are being taken to combat the problem. In Tennessee, state legislators passed the Noah Dean and Nate Act in 2014, which protects state residents from electric shock injuries and drowning deaths near marinas and boat docks. The bill is named in memory of 10-year-old Noah Dean Winstead and 11-year-old Nate Lynam, who died from electrical injuries they suffered on July 4, 2012 at a marina in Tennessee. Jessica Winstead, Noah Dean's mother, was the driving force behind the bill as a result of her tireless crusade to prevent similar tragedies from occurring. An inspection following the tragic incident found that the marina did not have ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs).

Under the "Noah Dean and Nate Act," Tennessee marinas must install ground fault protection, post notices about the danger of electrical leakage into waters surrounding a marina, and undergo a safety inspection conducted by the state fire marshal between Jan. 1, 2015 and Dec. 31, 2017, and every five years thereafter. The law went into effect April 1, 2015. A similar law was passed in West Virginia in 2013 following the death of Michael Cunningham, three years after he passed away at the age of 15, as well

as in Arkansas in 2012 after several electrocutions near docks there and in surrounding states.

The 2011 National Electrical Code® addresses the dangers in marinas and boat yards by requiring the main overcurrent protective device to be GFCI-protected. However, this only applies to installations and inspections, which are recommended annually but not enforced.

Protect yourself and your loved ones from the risk of electric shock drowning and common boat electrical hazards with these handy tips from ESFI.

- Don't allow yourself or anyone else to swim near docks. Avoid entering the water when launching or loading your boat.
- Always maintain a distance of at least 10 feet between your boat and nearby power lines.
- If you feel a tingle while swimming, the water may be electrified. Get out as soon as possible avoiding the use of metal objects such as ladders.
- Have your boat's electrical system inspected and upgraded by a certified marine electrician who is familiar with National Fire Protection Association Codes: NFPA 303 and NFPA 70.
- Have GFCIs installed on your boat, and test them once a month.
- Consider having Equipment Leakage Circuit Interrupters (ELCI) installed on boats to protect nearby swimmers from potential electricity leakage into water surrounding your boat.
- Only use shore or marine power cords, plugs, receptacles and extension cords that have been tested by Underwriters Laboratories (UL), Canadian Standards Association (CSA) or Intertek (ETL).
- Never use cords that are frayed or damaged or that have had the prongs removed or altered.
- Never stand or swim in water when turning off electrical devices or switches.
- Electric Shock Drowning can also occur in swimming pools, hot tubs and spas. Have 1927101 an electrician inspect and upgrade your pool, spa or hot tub in accordance with applicable local codes and the National Electrical Code (NEC).

For ESFI's complete collection of Boating and Marina Safety resources, visit www.esfi.org.



The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) is dedicated exclusively to promoting electrical safety in the home and the workplace. ESFI proudly sponsors National Electrical Safety Month each May, and engages in public education campaigns throughout the year to prevent electrical fires, injuries, and fatalities. To learn more about ESFI and electrical safety, visit www.esfi.org.