

July 2017

Hot Watts

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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Let the sun work for you! Consider solar lights for outdoor lighting. Solar cells convert sunlight into electricity that can be stored in a battery and tapped at night to make light. Check manufacturers' instructions to make sure your solar lights are situated to receive sufficient sunlight to recharge during the day.

Source: U.S Department of Energy

Congratulations!

Misty D. Spears-Kerr is our online survey winner.



Offices Closed

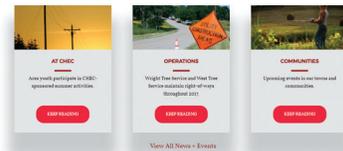
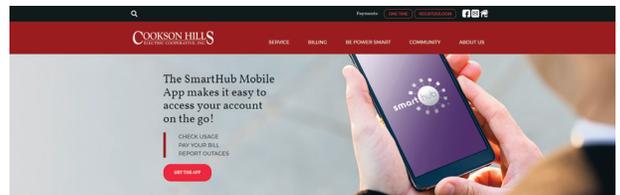
CHEC offices will be closed on July 4th in observance of Independence Day.

New CHEC Website is Here

CHEC recently launched a newly redesigned website on June 7, 2017. The new website features a new modern look and is more user friendly. Some of the new features include:

- SmartHub – Members have multiple options to use SmartHub for payments and access to account information.
- Outage Updates – Members can now view outages on a map. Click on Outage Updates link on the home screen to view where outages are and how many outages CHEC has at any time.
- Facebook – If you don't have Facebook, don't worry. You can now see a live feed of CHEC's Facebook page on the new website. Facebook is the fastest way CHEC updates you on outages, emergency situations, and information regarding CHEC and the surrounding communities.
- News and Events – Members can read about what is going on at CHEC and in your community.
- Oklahoma Living Magazine – This link connects you with the Oklahoma Living Magazine's website. Members can read the current issue of the magazine and also see an archives of past issues.
- Hot Watts – The Hot Watts link takes you directly to the current issue of the Hot Watts. Also, if you click Community > Newsletter – Hot Watts, at the top of the home page, you can view archived issues of the Hot Watts.

Please check out www.cooksonhills.com and let CHEC know how you like the new website. A lot of changes have been made. If you need help navigating the new website, please call 800-328-2368 or 918-775-2211.



Some Oklahoma electric cooperative members have recently received phone calls from potential scammers. The calls informed members of a supposed rebate that they would receive as a result of good payment history, but the caller asked the member for personal information. Although CHEC may contact you to notify you of delinquent account status, or prepay accounts that have low credit balances, we do not contact our members and request payment over the phone or ask for your banking or credit card information over the phone in order to provide members with rebates. Always guard your personal and financial information. If you have any questions or need to report a scam, please contact CHEC at 800-328-2368 or 918-775-2211.



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www.cooksonhills.com

Alternate Emergency Only:
918-552-0016



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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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Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



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

**MEMBER
ALERT!**

CHEC recently received a report from a member regarding a email they received from Arcadia Power. The email led the reader to believe that CHEC was working with Arcadia Power to provide members with green power. CHEC submitted the information to our state and national electric cooperative associations, and CHEC has since learned that other electric cooperative members across the nation have received similar emails and phone calls from Arcadia Power asking members to purchase renewable energy certificates. First, CHEC has no contract or affiliation with Arcadia Power. We purchase our power through KAMO Power, which is generated by AECl. Second, your electricity that you purchase from CHEC already has a mix of "green power." By opting into Arcadia Power's clean energy program, you will not only pay your electric bill with CHEC, but you will also pay for renewable energy certificates for green power that could be generated in a completely different region of the U.S. Third, ask questions. If it looks questionable, please contact us. We 1014603 will work to find the answer to your question.

If you have any questions about this issue, feel free to contact CHEC at 800-328-2368 or 918-775-2211.



Watt's Cooking?



Strawberry Icebox Cake

- 2 cups heavy cream
- ½ cup powdered sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 pound strawberries, sliced
- 1 ½ packs graham crackers



- In a stand mixer or with a hand-held mixer, beat the cream, powdered sugar, and vanilla until stiff peaks form.
- Place a very thin layer of cream on the bottom of a square pan. Next, add a single layer of graham crackers. Top with 1/3 of the whipped cream and smooth with a spatula. Add 1/3 of the strawberries in an even layer. Repeat layers two more times, ending with strawberries. Arrange the berries in a pretty pattern, if desired.
- Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least four hours or overnight before serving.

Students Attend YouthPower Energy Camp

OAEC

Three area eighth graders started their summer improving their leadership skills, making new friends, and having lots of fun. The students attended “YouthPower” Energy Camp May 30 through June 2 at Canyon Camp just south of Hinton, Oklahoma.

Those students are Kaytie Cash of Porum Junior High, daughter of Burkley and Kristie Cash; Eli Holcomb of Central Middle School, son of Dion and Angela Holcomb; and Mason Kennedy of Porum Junior High, son of Marshall and Shannon Kennedy.

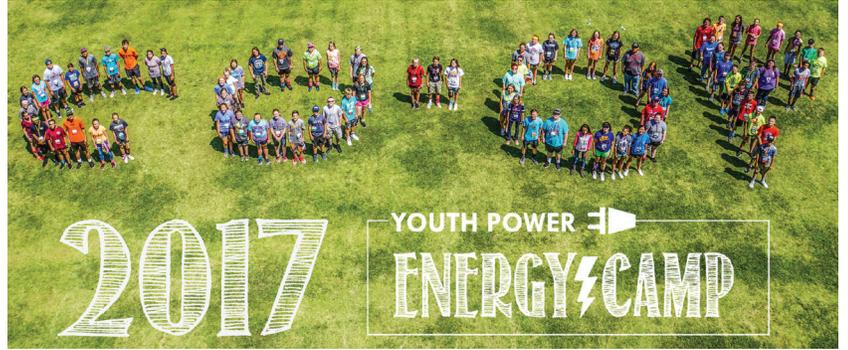
CHEC, along with OAEC, sponsor eighth grade students for Energy Camp each year. Oklahoma’s rural electric cooperatives have been sending kids to the camp for nearly 28 years. Energy Camp was founded on three principles: cooperation, teamwork, and development of leadership skills.

The students experienced first-hand the exciting world of rural electricity. They learned about “life before electricity,” watched electrical safety demonstrations, climbed poles, and rode in a bucket truck. Students also formed their own “Coke and Candy Co-op,” and set up and ran their own cooperative business which included electing a board of directors and a general manager.

Students enjoyed volleyball, swimming, hiking, and many other games while at Canyon Camp. Each student completed the Canyon Camp ropes course. Students realized the value of trust and dependability of others by participating in these events.

Since inception in 1989, more than 1,400 students across Oklahoma have experienced the camp. Many have gone on to participate in the Youth Tour program. Energy campers walk away from camp with sharper leadership skills and new-found friends from every corner of the state.

For more information about “YouthPower” Energy Camp, visit our website at www.cooksonhills.com or contact Donna Rhodes, Youth Tour/Energy Camp Coordinator, at 918-775-2211.



Donna Rhodes

Eli Holcomb



Donna Rhodes

Kaytie Cash



OAEC

Left to right: Mason Kennedy, Kaytie Cash, and Eli Holcomb.



Donna Rhodes



OAEC

Mason Kennedy



Donna Rhodes

Right-of-Way Crews to begin Spraying in August

CHEC has contracted with Progressive Solutions, LLC, to proceed with our annual brush control program on the right-of-way associated with CHEC.

Starting in August, Progressive Solutions' crews will be spraying certain areas within Sequoyah, Muskogee, and Haskell Counties. The program is expected to last approximately three weeks. They will be selectively spraying the tall growing brush under the electric lines, using products that will stop the growth of brush and trees in the right-of-way.

Please note that the people spraying on your property are indeed doing work on behalf of CHEC. Progressive Solutions' crews will walk the right-of-way using backpack sprayers. The contractor crews' vehicles should be identified by a company name or logo on the door of their vehicle.

Progressive Solutions, LLC, are responsible applicators, and the products they use are selected based on our concerns for your safety and for our environment. Their service is one of the very effective tools that we use to assure reliable electric service.

If you have any questions, please contact the office at 800-328-2368 or 918-775-2211.



**Progressive
SOLUTIONS**

Wind and Solar Generation

With all the buzz in the news about solar and wind generation, CHEC would like to remind our members if they are planning to install solar or wind generation at their service location, they must submit an application and must receive approval before connecting to CHEC's grid. Applications are available by calling the Stigler office at 800-328-2368. Failure to complete an application for a connected solar or wind generation system is grounds for disconnection from CHEC's distribution System.

Attention members on Liberty Volunteer Fire Department billing:

The Liberty Fire Department has voted to increase their monthly dues from \$3.00 to \$5.00 effective immediately. Please direct all questions to the Liberty Fire Department at 918-427-4512.



Statement of Non-Discrimination

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs).

Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Person with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202)720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the

Federal Relay Service at (800)877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov

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