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August 2010

Hot Watts

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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Energy Efficiency *Tip of the Month*

Consider using ceiling and other fans during the cooling season.

They provide additional cooling and better circulation so you can raise the thermostat and cut down on air conditioning costs. Energy Star certified ceiling fans run more efficiently, especially those that include compact fluorescent light bulbs.

Source: Alliance to Save Energy

Congratulations

Sam Casteel of Vian is our online survey winner!



Annual Meeting
62nd Annual Meeting,
Saturday, Sept. 18. More
information available in
the Sept. Newsletter.

Local winners return from Youth Tour

June 11-17, 2010 Youth Tour winners representing 25 Oklahoma electric cooperatives traveled on a week long, all expense paid trip to Washington D.C. Upon arrival in D.C., they joined more than 1,400 other student delegates representing electric cooperatives from 44 states.

The students discovered that Youth Tour is more than a trip; it is a lesson in leadership. Delegates learned about the electric cooperative movement, as well as American history and how government works. They met Oklahoma representatives in the House and Senate,

participated in National Youth Day and toured the Washington D.C. sights.

Delegates returned home passionate about their visit to the national monuments, including the Jefferson, Lincoln and FDR memorials, where they reflected on the words of leaders who helped define and uphold our



Left to right: Jessica Jester, Rebecca Brannon, Matthew Land, and Katie Anderson, 2010 Cookson Hills Electric Youth Tour Delegates.

Courtesy Photo

nation's guiding principles.

At the Smithsonian, delegates discovered and explored art, science, nature, and America's culture and history.

These students visited the World War II, Korean War Veterans and Vietnam Veterans memorials. Touring the Arlington National Cemetery, the students realized the ultimate price of freedom paid by our servicemen and servicewomen.

Since 1964, electric cooperatives across the country have sent more than 40,000 student

delegates on the Youth Tour trip, providing the opportunity of a lifetime and offering them the chance to develop their leadership abilities, for the hope of a better future for their self and their communities.

Prospective participants and others interested, including Youth Tour alumni, can visit the Youth Tour website at www.youthtour.coop, to learn more about the tour's history or reconnect with fellow alumni.

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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Rocky Woods Director / District 1
Joe Ogle Director / District 6

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Larry Mattes - Editor

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**

Avoid High Electric Bills During Summer and Winter

CHEC's Average Monthly Billing Plan is designed to average members' monthly payments and level out those unusually high bills that occur during months of high electricity use, usually during summer and winter.

With the Average Monthly Billing Plan, your electric bill is calculated by adding your current electric bill to your previous 11 months total and dividing by 12. The purpose of the Average Monthly Billing Plan to help budget your bills be-

cause you pay approximately the same amount each month. This plan is especially valuable for anyone on a budget or limited income.

There is no charge to participate in the Average Monthly Billing Plan. Members can sign up if they have at least one year of billing history, no more than two late payments in the previous twelve months and no returned checks. Call (918) 967-4614 or 800-328-2368 and sign up today.

Spare change, Changes lives



Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative (CHEC) believes it is the little things in life that count, whether being kind to your neighbors, returning a lost wallet, or picking up after yourself while enjoying the great outdoors. While each of these actions might not amount to much on their own, if everyone does a little, we see a big impact in our local community.

CHEC is a proud supporter of our Operation Round-Up program. Six dollars is not a lot of money; it is what you would pay for a meal at a fast food restaurant. However, \$6 equals the average amount CHEC members pay every year to support our Operation Round-Up program.

Members like you, who receive electricity from CHEC and agree to automatically round up your monthly elec-

tric bill to the next whole dollar, can help your community. For example, let's say your bill is \$82.90, it would be rounded up to \$83, with a dime going to Operation Round-Up. The extra pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters then flow into a fund managed by the Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative Foundation, that assists worthy local organizations as well as individuals who have fallen on hard times.

Donating \$6 over the course of a year may seem like a little thing, but if you put all of that money together, it starts to get exciting. Roughly 13,667 CHEC accounts are chipping in to support Operation Round-Up.

Since CHEC launched Operation Round-Up in 2001, community groups and individuals have received assistance in the amount of \$495,136.80. This is something we should all be proud of. Your assistance is changing lives in our community.

It is the little things in life that count. If you are one of the members who make Operation Round-Up possible, thank you. If you have not heard about the program before and would like to participate, visit our website at www.cooksonhills.com or call us at 918-967-4614 or 800-328-2368. Together we can use a little pocket change to change our community. The next Operation Round-up meeting is Sept. 14, 2010 and the deadline to apply for an Operation Round-Up grant is August 25, 2010.



Haskell County Coalition Receives Grant

▪ *Grant helps relieve back-to-school financial hardship for parents and families.*

The Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative Foundation Board awarded a \$1,000 dollar check to the local Haskell County Coalition (HCC). HCC is a partnership of community organizations that are committed to improving the quality of life for everyone through efficient and effective partnerships. HCC received a \$1,000 grant for their Back-to-School Round Up 2010 program from CHEC's Operation Round-Up.

HCC provided the first 300 students of all ages from Haskell county and surrounding counties with a backpack filled with school supplies. The first 100 Head Start children also received a bag with a coloring book, crayons, ruler, pencils and a SoonerCare application. Parents and grandparents received educational materials from HCC.

Operation Round-Up allows enrolled members to round up their electric bills to the next dollar, using the extra change to fund worthy causes in the community.

"HCC is truly grateful to have received the Cookson



Photo By: Larry Mattes

Left to right: Chic Owens, CHEC Foundation Board Member, Sandie Rutherford, Smart Start Community Coordinator and Donna Carolan, Ki Bois C.A.R. Head Start Director.

Hills Operation Round-Up grant. So many children and families will reap the benefits from CHEC's members' contributions," said Sandie Rutherford, Haskell County Coalition Director.

District Meetings Scheduled for August

Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative will hold district meetings during August for those members who live in District 1 and District 3.

Rocky Woods Sr. currently serves as the trustee representing Cookson's District 1 and Joe Falleur currently serves as the trustee representing Cookson's District 3.

Your cooperative holds district meetings in order for you to elect your representatives to the Cookson Hills Board of Trustees. These local meetings are essential to Cookson Hills, a democratically 645100 controlled utility, owned by those who receive its services. Attending these meetings gives you, as a cooperative member, the opportunity to choose who will represent you on your cooperative Board of Trustees.

A seven member board of directors governs Cookson Hills, which divides its service area into seven districts with one trustee representing each district for a three year term. The board establishes policies and monitors cooperative finances and procedures. The board has set the following dates and times for the 2010 District meetings: District 1 meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Aug. 10, 2010, at the



Rocky Woods Sr.



Joe Falleur

Liberty School cafeteria in Sequoyah County; District 3 meeting will be held at 5:00 p.m. on Aug. 10, 2010, at the Central School cafeteria in Sequoyah County.

Cookson Hills Electric will send notices to cooperative members in each of these districts. If you have questions about the district meetings, please call 918-967-4614 or 800-328-2368.



Energy Efficiency

Does not have to be expensive

You do not have to spend a fortune on the latest energy-efficient appliances to save energy at home. Here are 10 low-cost, no-hassle ways to conserve energy and cut your electric bill:

1 Set your water heater at 120 degrees. Besides saving energy, you'll protect your family from getting scalded by water that's too hot.

2 Use the energy-saver settings on your refrigerator, dishwasher, clothes washer and clothes dryer.

3 Replace incandescent lights with compact fluorescent bulbs. CFLs use only one-fourth of the energy of traditional light bulbs.

4 Clean or replace your air conditioner, furnace or heat-pump filters.

5 If you have a waterbed, make it every day. The bedspread will insulate it so much that it will use one-third less energy.

6 Crank up the thermostat by one degree during warm weather. The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that you can save up to 3 percent on your summer energy bill for every degree you raise your thermostat for 24 hours.

7 Wash your clothes in cold water. Ninety percent of the energy it takes to wash clothes is for heating the water. Cold-water detergents will get the dirt out.

8 Set your computer and monitor to lapse into "sleep" mode rather than leaving them on when you're not using them. They use 80 percent less electricity in "sleep" mode.

9 Turn on your ceiling fans and raise the thermostat a little bit. The fans will circulate the cool air, which will make you feel comfortable at a warmer temperature.

10 Use your microwave. It uses one-fifth of the energy as your regular oven, and it doesn't add heat to the air in the kitchen.

Cookson Hills Electric

Statement of Non-discrimination

Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc. is the recipient of federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, or disability shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's non-discrimination compliance efforts is Kendall Beck, General Manager. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above from, and/or file a written complaint with this organization; or the Secretary, U.S. Department Agriculture, Washington D.C. 20250; or the Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Washington, D.C. 20250. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.



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THE PLUG ON
MY ENERGY
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I'm saving \$222 a year by unplugging things and turning off power strips. What can you do? Find out how the little changes add up at TogetherWeSave.com.

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TOGETHERWESAVE.COM