July 2014

Hot Watts

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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Replacing your conventional power strips with advanced power strips (APS) can help reduce the electricity wasted when electronic devices are idle. These power strips are a convenient and low-cost way to save.

Source: Department of Energy

Congratulations!

Rebecca Tayloe is our online survey winner.

Offices Closed

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

Remembering William R. Wilson

Longstanding Trustee served 30 years

Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative (CHEC) recently lost one of its longtime trustees. William R. Wilson, a member of CHEC's Board of Trustees, passed away on May 27, 2014, in Vian at the age of 77.

Mr. Wilson was appointed to the board on February 20, 1984, and served District #2 which encompasses the western 1/3 of Sequoyah County. He served as Secretary of the Board of Trustees until September of 2002. He was also a member of the Board's policy committee.

He sat on the Board of Directors for Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives (OAEC) for many years. He served as their president in 1997. He retired from OAEC's board on April 24, 2012.

"Being a trustee was extremely important to him, and he was proud to represent CHEC," said his son Bill. The dedication and service Mr. Wilson provided to the rural electric community will benefit members and employees for generations to come.

Mr. Wilson was born in Inola, Oklahoma. After high school he received his Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering from Oklahoma State University. Following college he joined the U.S. Army. Then he began his 35 year career with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers building dams and maintaining the navigation systems on the Arkansas River.

William R. Wilson

He was an avid golfer; he loved to spend his free time on the golf course. He and his wife of 51 years, Lula, were members of the First Assembly of God Church in Sallisaw.

Mr. Wilson is survived by his wife Lula Wilson, daughter Julie Sugg, son Bill Wilson, two grandchildren, Riley Sugg and Eli Wilson. He is also survived by two brothers John and Jerry Wilson.

"Being a trustee was extremely important to him"

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

SAFETY TIPS TO SHARE WITH KIDS BEFORE THEY HEAD OUTDOORS

When the weather is nice, many children enjoy going outdoors to fly kites, climb trees, and play with their friends. While playing outdoors is a great pastime for kids, there are electrical hazards that children need to be aware of to keep them safe. Safe Electricity offers a variety tips to share with children before they head outdoors.

Stay away from pad mounted transformers. Pad mounted transformers are green metal boxes that contain the above ground portion of an underground electrical installation. These cabinets carry high voltages and are safe when locked, but they can be deadly if someone reaches inside. If you see one in your neighborhood that is open, call authorities and your utility company immediately.

Never enter an electrical substation for any reason. If a ball or other toy enters the fence surrounding the substation, call your utility for help. Substations hold deadly amounts of electricity and should only be entered by professionals.

Always be aware of overhead power lines. Do not fly kites or model planes near power lines or electrical substations. A kite string can conduct electricity from an overhead line directly to the person on the ground.

Be careful when using Mylar balloons for a party. These metallic coated balloons conduct electricity, so never tie one to a child. If the balloon comes into contact with electricity, the child could receive a fatal shock.

Ensure your children are protected from the electrical service connection to your home. Keep ladders or long poles stowed and away from youngsters who might be tempted to use them to reach the wires connected to your house. Also be aware of these lines around pools. Pool skimmers can be long enough to reach service connection lines.

Under no circumstance should anyone climb trees near power lines. If branches are touching the wires, the tree could be energized. Even branches not touching power lines could become energized if a child's weight is added.

Finally, storm fronts can move rapidly, and lightning can strike 10 miles in advance of a storm. Remember the rule of thumb from the National Weather Service, "when thunder roars, go indoors." Make sure kids know that it is not safe to be outside during a storm.

For more information on electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

SUMMER ENERGY EFFICIENCY:

Myth vs. Fact

Myth #1: When I'm not home, keeping my air conditioner at a lower temperature throughout the day means it doesn't have to run harder to cool my home when I return.

FACT: To save energy, set your themostat to a higher temperature during the day, and lower it when you return home.

Myth #2: Closing vents on my central air conditioning system will boost efficiency.

FACT: Closing vents can cause the compressor to cycle too frequently and the heat pump to overload. You'll also use more energy.

Myth #3: Time of day doesn't matter when it comes to running my appliances.

FACT: Time of day does matter when running electrical loads. For example, Take advantage of the delay setting and run your dishwasher at night to avoid peak times of use and save energy.

Myth #4: Bigger is always better when it comes to cooling equipment.

FACT: Too often, cooling equipment isn't sized properly and leads to higher electric bills. A unit that's too large for your home will not cool evenly and might produce higher humidity indoors.

Many Factors Impact Electricity Prices

Electricity prices generally reflect the costs to build, finance, maintain, manage, and operate power plants and the electrical grid (the complex system of power transmission and distribution lines), and to operate and administer the utilities that supply electricity to consumers.

Some key factors that affect the price of electricity include:

- **Fuels** — Coal is relatively inexpensive while natural gas tends to be more costly.
- **Power plants** — Construction and maintenance costs are greater for some kinds of power plants than others.
- **Transmission and distribution lines** — Maintaining and using the transmission system to deliver electricity contributes to the cost of electricity.
- **Weather conditions** — Rain and snow can provide water for hydropower generation. Extreme heat can increase the demand for electricity for cooling.
- **Regulations** — In some states, prices are fully regulated by Public Service Commissions, while in others there is a combination of unregulated prices (for generators) and regulated prices (for transmission and distribution).

Beyond the flip of a Switch

With the mere flip of a switch, electricity illuminates our lives. But have you ever thought about where your power comes from? Most of us don't give it a second thought until our service is interrupted and we're left in the dark – even if only for a short amount of time. In today's word, electricity is a necessity, and this necessity travels a great distance to reach you – our members.

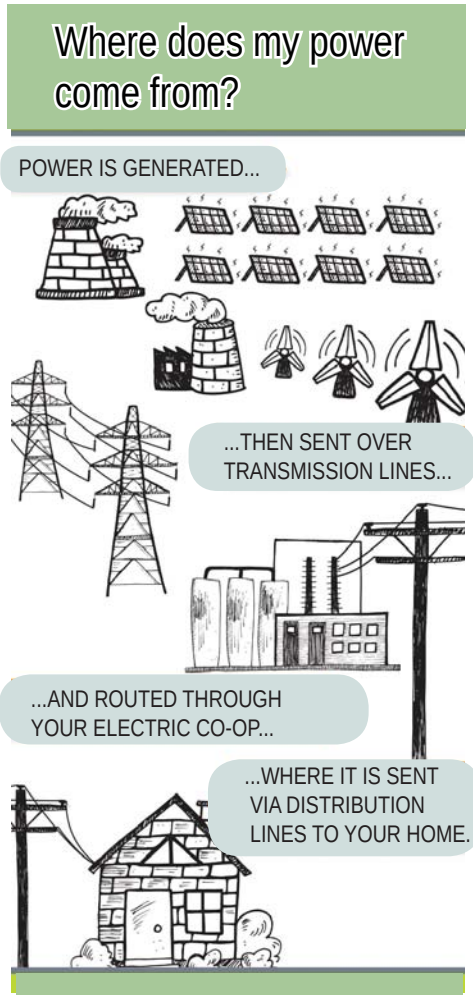
CHEC provides electricity to 17,703 members, and it takes a network of folks to do so. We build and maintain overhead power lines and manage the equipment needed to provide you with safe, reliable power – but did you know that we don't actually generate the power that is supplied to your home? That's where our local generation and transmission cooperatives, Associated Electric Cooperative Inc. (AECI) and KAMO Power Inc. comes in.

CHEC receives electricity from AECI, a generation and transmission cooperative located in Springfield, Missouri. G&T's are wholesale power suppliers that are owned and governed by electric distribution cooperatives, just like CHEC. AECI produces or purchases electricity then sends the power over high-voltage transmission lines.

After the power is sent over KAMO's high voltage transmission lines, it then makes its way to our substations, where the voltage is reduced in order to make it to your home safely. KAMO operates 13 substations within our service territory. From the substations, power is sent 2347000 to CHEC transformers and then directed to your home.

As you can see, there's a little more to it than flipping a switch, but we've got you covered. CHEC has provided our members with safe, reliable and affordable electricity for 66 years, and that continues to be our number one goal today.

Source: Cooperative.com



Students Attend YouthPower Energy Camp

Four area eighth graders began their summer improving their leadership skills, making new friends, and having lots of fun. The students attended "YouthPower" Energy Camp May 27th through 30th at Canyon Camp just south of Hinton, Oklahoma.

Those students are Drew Spradlin of Porum Junior High School, son of Stan and Leah Spradlin; Samantha Pearce of Porum Junior High School, daughter of Brent and Jamie Pearce; Matthew Blaylock of McCurtain Public Schools, son of Mark and Janna Blaylock; and Shyann Adams of Sallisaw Middle School, daughter of Michael and Alisha Sizemore.

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 25 years. Energy Camp was founded on three principles: cooperation, teamwork, and development of leadership skills.

Pictured left to right: Matthew Blaylock, Shyann Adams, Donna Rhodes, Samantha Pearce and Drew Spradlin

The students experienced first-hand the exciting world of rural electricity. They learn about "life before electricity." They 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 1,100 students across Oklahoma have experienced camp. Many have gone on to participate in the Youth Tour program their junior year. 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 800-328-2368.

Lineman completes climbing school

CHEC employee Jesse Ruark recently completed climbing school at Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperative's (OAEC) training center in Oklahoma City. Climbing school is one of the first aspects of training to become a journeyman lineman. Over the next few years Jesse will receive training in the classroom and technical on-the-job training to acquire the journeyman lineman certification. The program meets both state and national certification requirements. All CHEC lineman either are in training for or hold a journeyman lineman certificate.

Jesse Ruark