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Hot Watts

Published monthly by Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

If you only want to heat or supplement inadequate heating in one room, small space heaters can be less expensive to use than your central heating system.

Source: energy.gov

Congratulations!

Samuel Casteel is our online survey winner.



CHEC offices will be closed on January 1st in observance of the New Year.

Akins Substation Completed

Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative (CHEC) is pleased to announce that the Akins Substation project has been completed in Sequoyah County. The Akins Substation was placed into service December 1, 2015, and has transferred some of the electrical load from the Sallisaw and Muldrow substations. The Akins Substation will provide better reliability in the areas of northern Sequoyah County and will allow for future growth and expansion.



Akins Substation



Photos by Donna Rhoades

Substation Construction Underway

CHEC has begun construction of a new substation in Muskogee County. The Porum Substation will replace an older, antiquated substation located west of Webbers Falls.

CHEC will be adding three new feeders out of the Porum Substation. Construction of these lines will occur along 1090 Road and along Ross Road. The Porum Substation and feeders will increase the reliability of service in the area, as well as will add capacity for future growth.



Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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Stigler, OK 74462
800-328-2368

Branch Office
PO Box 587 • 1800 KOA/Power Drive
Sallisaw, OK 74955
918-775-2211

Pay-by-Phone: 1-888-678-1937
www.cooksonhills.com

Alternate Emergency Only:
918-552-0016



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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

Round UP Update



The Cookson Hills Electric Foundation Board of Directors recently met on December 1, 2015. At the meeting, the Board awarded grants to assist Liberty, Southside, and Keota Fire Departments for fire fighting equipment and gear. The Foundation also approved grants for Vian Peace Center for food and supplies for their backpack program; to Boys and Girls Club of Sequoyah County for supplies and learning materials for members; and for the Sequoyah Council for Children for purchasing gifts for children in foster care.

The next meeting will be held on March 1, 2016, with applications due by February 5, 2016. For more information about Operation Round Up or to obtain an application, visit CHEC's website at www.cooksonhills.com or call 800-328-2368.

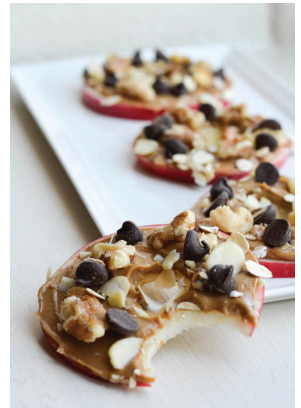
Watt's Cooking



Apple Cookies

- 1 Apple
- 2 Tbsp Peanut Butter
- Pecans
- Coconut Shreds
- Chocolate Chips

Slice apple into thin rings and remove core. Spread peanut butter over one side of rings. Top with pecans, coconut shreds, and chocolate chips.



Important NEW YEAR Resolutions . . .

That don't involve diet or exercise!

1. Make sure outlets have GFCIs in the kitchen, bathroom & laundry
2. Replace frayed electrical cords
3. Check for loose-fitting plugs
4. Replace missing or broken wall plates
5. Check for overloaded outlets
6. Make sure light bulb wattage matches the fixture requirements
7. Have an electrician check outlets that are warm/discolored



Learn how to keep your family safe at:



Be Prepared for Winter Storms

By Abby Berry

When winter temperatures drop and storms hit, it can be challenging to stay safe and warm. Winter storm severity varies depending on where you live, but nearly all Americans are affected by extreme winter storms at some point. CHEC cares about your safety, and we want you to be prepared.

Heavy snow and ice can lead to downed power lines, leaving co-op members without power. During extremely low temperatures, this can be dangerous. During a power outage, our crews will continue to work as quickly and safely as possible to restore power, but there are a few things you can do to prepare yourself.

- Stay warm – Plan to use a safe alternate heating source, such as a fireplace or wood-burning stove during a power outage. These are great options to keep you and your loved ones warm, but exercise caution when using, and never leave the heating source unattended. If you are using gasoline-, propane- or natural gas-burning devices to stay warm, never use them indoors. Remember that fuel- and wood-burning sources of heat should always be properly ventilated. Always read the manufacturer's directions before using.

- Stay fed – The CDC recommends having several days' supply of food that does not need to be cooked handy. Crackers, cereal, canned goods and bread are good options. Five gallons of water per person should also be available in the event of an extended power outage.
- Stay safe – When an outage occurs, it usually means power lines are down. It is best not to travel during winter storms, but if you must, bring a survival kit along, and do not travel alone. If you encounter downed lines, always assume they are live. Stay as far away from the downed lines as possible, and report the situation to our dispatchers by calling 800-328-2368 if possible.

Winter weather can be unpredictable and dangerous, and planning ahead can often be the difference between life and death. CHEC is ready for what Mother Nature has in store, and we want you to be ready, too. For more winter safety tips, visit www.ready.gov/winter-weather.

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.

What Payment Option Is Best For You?

SmartHub – Payments can be made using a Visa or Master Card online at www.cooksonhills.com or by downloading the SmartHub app on your mobile device. SmartHub can be accessed 24 hours a day. A \$3.95 convenience fee will be assessed with each payment transaction.

Kiosks – Payments can be made with cash and/or a Visa or Master Card at a kiosk located at both the Stigler and Sallisaw offices. Kiosks can be accessed 24 hours a day. A \$3.95 convenience fee will be assessed with each transaction made with a Visa or Master Card.

Pay-by-Phone – By calling the Secure Pay line (888-678-1937), payments can be made 24/7 by a Visa or Master Card. A \$3.95 convenience fee will be assessed with each transaction.

Automatic Bank Draft – Payments are transferred to CHEC directly from your bank. You can sign up for Automatic Bank Draft in the office at Stigler or Sallisaw, by going to www.cooksonhills.com, or through SmartHub.

Automatic Credit/Debit Card Draft – CHEC can automatically charge your Credit or Debit card each month. You can sign up for Automatic Credit/Debit Card Draft through SmartHub. There are no convenience fees assessed with this payment option.

Night Deposit Box – Payment can be dropped off after hours in the night deposit box. The Stigler and Sallisaw offices have night deposit boxes conveniently located in each drive-thru.

Stigler or Sallisaw Office - Payments can be made during business hours by using the drive-thru or by visiting our lobbies. Both offices are open Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

If you have questions regarding a payment option, please call us at 800-328-2368 (Stigler) or 918-775-2211 (Sallisaw).



New Alternate Emergency Phone Number

During a power outage, our main goal is to restore your power as quickly and as safely as possible. And there's nothing more frustrating to our members when you cannot reach a CHEC representative to report that outage. But recently CHEC has experienced multiple phone interruptions through our phone carrier, stranding CHEC and our members with no way to communicate via phone. In an effort to prevent this issue again, we've added a new alternative emergency phone number. The alternative emergency number has been added as a backup number in the event our primary phone provider service fails. The addition of this number will not alleviate high call volume issues.

We strongly encourage members to continue to use the Stigler and Sallisaw Office main phone numbers first, and only use the alternative number if you are unable to reach an operator through the main numbers. Please keep in mind that during a major power outage, you may not reach an operator immediately due to high call volumes.

Please clip and save the information box below for easy access to CHEC's important phone numbers.

✂ Clip & Save

Cookson Hills Electric's Phone Numbers

Stigler Office – 800-328-2368

Sallisaw Office – 918-775-2211

Pay-by-Phone – 888-678-1937

Alternate Emergency Only – 918-552-0016



Youth Tour Trip to Washington D.C.

Annually Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative (CHEC) participates in the cooperative – sponsored National Youth Tour program. This program provides rural electric cooperative students an opportunity to earn a trip to Washington, D.C. by writing an essay on a topic determined by the cooperative. This year's topic is "What are the biggest challenges facing electric cooperatives today? How can cooperatives meet those challenges?"

Donna Rhodes, Youth Tour Coordinator, has visited or will visit area schools to share a presentation on the history of electric cooperatives and on the annual Cookson Hills Youth Tour Essay Contest. The local high school teachers will administer the annual contest. Completed essays must be submitted by February 19, 2016. All essays will then be reviewed by a judge that is not employed by CHEC. Four finalists will be selected.

The four finalists will present their essays to the CHEC Board of Trustees and other special guests at the CHEC Youth Tour Banquet held in Stigler. The winners will be presented with a plaque and the Youth Tour trip details.



During the Youth Tour trip (June 10 – 16, 2016), students will join 1,500 other youth from across the nation in Washington, D.C. Participants will visit the monuments and other attractions, as well as visit Capitol Hill to learn more about how our government operates.

Youth Tour contest information is presented by appointment only. If your school is interested in participating this year, please contact Donna Rhodes at (918)775-2211.