

Inside

YouthPower
Energy Camp.....2

Keeping Electricity
Affordable3

Black Gum Area
Upgrades4

July 2009

Hot Watts

PUBLISHED BY COOKSON HILLS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



ENERGY
EFFICIENCY

Tip of the Month

Don't keep your refrigerator or freezer too cold. Recommended temperatures are 37° to 40° F for the main refrigerator compartment and 5° F for the freezer. If you have a stand-alone freezer, it should be kept at 0° F.

—US DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Independence Day Closing

Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative will close on Friday, July 3rd for Independence Day. To report a service problem during this time please call 800-328-2368.



Cookson Hills announces scholarship winners \$500 college scholarship for four local teens

The employees and board of directors of Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative support the educational goals of area youth by offering scholarships to college bound graduates and teens planning to attend a state accredited school or technical school offering associate or bachelor degrees. The scholarships are solely funded by employee fundraisers and donations received throughout the year.

This year, Cookson Hills is pleased to announce the recipients of the Herman Driscoll Memorial Scholarships. Congratulations to Deona Wingo, Quinton High School; James Clack, Gore High School; Ramie Toddy, Webbers Falls High School; and Lexy Ward, Gore High School.

The students submitted applications and two letters of *(Continued on page 2)*

2009 Herman Driscoll Memorial Scholarship Recipients



Deona Marie Wingo
QUINTON HIGH SCHOOL

Activities: Student Council, Cheerleading Squad Captain, Basketball, Softball, Track, Golf, Yearbook Editor, FCA, FCCLA, Speech & Debate, Dinner Theatre, Quiz Bowl, Band & Color Guard. **Awards:** Speech Team Regional Champs, Basketball Conference Champs, All American Cheerleader, Softball Districts, Track State Qualifier, Valedictorian, Superintendent's Honor Roll and Outstanding Academic Achievement Hist. & Sci.



James T. Clack Jr.
GORE HIGH SCHOOL

Activities: Bull Riding, MC & ROTC Salulpa, Oklahoma Faction, Connors Interscholastic Team, ICTC Muskogee Campus Automotive Field. **Awards:** NSDAR-Good Citizen award, Talking Leaves Chapter, Connors State College Interscholastic competition award, Certificate of Achievement English II & Biology, Honor Society, and National Technical Honor Society Indian Capital Tech. Center, Muskogee.



Ramie Sue Toddy
WEBBERS FALLS SCHOOL

Activities: Softball, Basketball and Drama. Ramie has been active in her community, while participating in nursing home visitation. Ramie plans to attend Rose State College to become a physical therapist or a high school coach. **Awards:** Webbers Falls Honor Roll.



Lexy Lauran Ward
GORE HIGH SCHOOL

Activities: Basketball, Softball, Cheerleading, Drama Club and FCA. **Awards:** National Cheerleading Association-All American Nominee, Softball Most Improved, Basketball Academic Achievement, All Conference, Honorable Mention, Defensive Player of the Year Basketball, Team Leader & Motivator, 3rd Team All Conference Softball, Honorable Mention High School Basketball.

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.

Headquarters: P.O. Box 539
Stigler, OK 74462
Phone: 967-4614
Branch Office: P.O. Box 587
Sallisaw, OK 74955
Phone: 775-2211

Toll Free: 1-800-328-2368

Home Page: www.cooksonhills.com

E-Mail: marketing@cooksonhills.com

Cookson Hills Staff

Kendall Beck
General Manager

Eric Johnson
Assistant General Manager

Dalen Garner
Director of Operations

Teresa Shaw
Office Manager

Cookson Hills Board of Directors

William T. MillsPresident/District 4
Joe Falleur Vice President/District 3
Kenneth Kelley Secr.-Treas./District 5
William R. Wilson Director / District 2
Ellis Sappington Director / District 7
Rocky Woods Director / District 1
Joe Ogle Director / District 6

Bill V. Wilkinson - Attorney

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

Driscoll Scholarship

(Continued from page 1)

recommendation in the annual contest. The program is open to any graduating senior whose parents or guardians are members of Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative.

The scholarship program was established in 1998 in memory of long time employee and General Manager of Cookson Hills, Herman Driscoll. Mr. Driscoll believed that education is of foremost importance to success.

Parents/Guardians of the 2009 scholarship winners are Joe and Shana Grubis-Bobby and Faye Wingo. (Deona), James and Sandra McFarland (James), Sue and C.W. Chapman (Ramie), and Mae Vinson (Lexy).

For details on the scholarship program, visit www.cooksonhills.com, or call 800-328-2368.

Energy Camp Builds Leadership Skills

Each year, Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative Inc. joins Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives and electric cooperatives from across the state in sponsoring the YouthPower Energy Camp at Camp Canyon near Hinton, OK. Eighth graders interested in attending the YouthPower Energy Camp were selected by their school administrators. This year Cookson Hills Electric sponsored 4 winners:



Pictured: Kristle Cash, Energy Camp Coordinator, Makala Tillery, Mallory Smith



Makala Tillery pole climbing.

Mallory Smith, Porum; Makala Tillery, Porum; Cord Crase, Stigler; and Elizabeth Mouser, Stigler. The camp is designed to help students develop leadership skills while having lots of fun.

While at camp, 1893000 the students attended sessions on energy, electrical safety

Energy Camp —

and rural electric cooperatives. They elected their own Manager and Board of Directors and operated a Coke & Candy Cooperative. Other special activities of the four day program included hands-on electrical demonstrations, such as pole-climbing and bucket truck rides, a 13 low element ropes course, swimming, an energy battle tournament and a trip to Celebration Station for video games and go-carts.



“In my opinion, the most exciting part of the trip was the dance. The dance was so up beat and fun, there were only a few people sitting, everybody, even the counselors, were dancing and having a good time,” said Smith.

This year campers were not able to tour the electric generation facilities at Western Farmers Electric Cooperative in Anadarko, due to the tornado repairs they were currently dealing with.

“Other highlights of the trip were meeting new people, and doing the ropes course,” said Mouser.

Elizabeth Mouser and Cord Crase

Now Paying your bill is just as easy



Make your monthly electric payment the easy way.

Sign up for Automatic Bank Draft today! Call your local Cookson Hills office for a sign up form or you may sign up online at www.cooksonhills.com. There is no fee for using the Automatic Bank Draft bill payment option.

You will see your electric bill payment reflected on your bank statement each month - all automatically. Remember the process is not complete until you see the words “Bank Draft” on your bill, so until that time you will need to continue to pay your electric bill as usual.

For more information call us: 8:00 a.m to 5:00 p.m. at (918) 967-4614 or 800-328-2368 or visit our website www.cooksonhills.com

We are stepping up to keep Electricity Affordable We need your help too with “Our Energy, Our Future”

This is still a very important issue for Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative. The fuels we use to make electricity are becoming more expensive. The price of natural gas continues to fluctuate, and the price of coal continues to rise as well.

On top of this, between now and 2030, consumer demand for electricity is expected to increase by 30 percent. How do we weather this “perfect storm” of growing demand, diminished power supply, skyrocketing construction and fuel costs while meeting national climate change goals? How do we make sure all members retain access to affordable electricity?

Co-ops are leading the way with

a grassroots campaign called “Our Energy, Our Future: A Dialogue With America.” This campaign seeks to inform policy makers on critical energy issues of power supply and technology, engaging them in the effort to keep electricity affordable

We need our representatives in Congress to step in with a long-term, politically and economically sustainable energy and climate change plan—one that takes the interests of consumers and monthly electric bills into consideration. As Congress tackles energy and climate change policy, it is critical that they hear from you.

www.ourenergy.coop

Cookson Hills Upgrading Facilities in Black Gum Area



Winsett Electrical Contractors working in the Black Gum Area along Ridge Route Road.

In order to accommodate an increasing electric load, as well as provide improved reliability and power quality, Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative is upgrading facilities in the Black Gum Area along Ridge Route Road. This area is on the south side of Lake Tenkiller just east of the Tenkiller State Park.

Winsett Electrical Contractors have been contracted to upgrade approximately 1 mile of wire to a larger size, and convert an additional mile from a single phase line to a three phase line. The upgrade will help to relieve future capacity concerns, and improve voltage and reliability. Many poles are being replaced and spans shortened, which will provide added strength to the pole line as well.

This project is expected to be complete by the first or second week in July, weather permitting.

Giving back through Operation Round-Up

Small changes makes a big difference to those in need. Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative established Operation Round-Up Foundation in 2001 to help meet some of the charitable needs of people in the co-op's service area. At the June meeting a total of \$7,801 was approved and disbursed. Today, more than \$469,919 has been awarded to provide much needed assistance to individuals experiencing hardships and non-profit organizations.

The board meets quarterly to review and act on grants requests. For more information about Operation Round-Up, visit www.cooksonhills.com or call (918) 967-4614.

Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative Winners

**Congratulations,
Mike Howard**

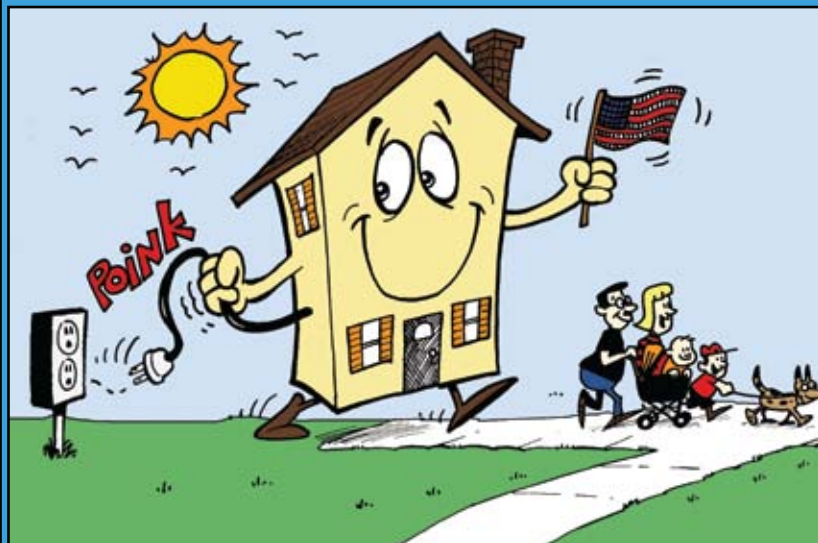
of Muldrow! Mike is Cookson Hills' May online survey winner.

Congratulations, Larry Merrill

of Gans! Larry found his hidden account number in the June issue of the Hot Watts.

This July 4th, relax and unplug

This Independence Day, unplug your home. Turn up the thermostat and give your air conditioner, appliances and TV a break for the day—and spend the afternoon outdoors. Here are some fun holiday ideas:



- Invite your friends and family to an outdoor barbecue. Keep everyone out of the house by arranging team sports; filling water balloons for a relay race; or enlisting your kids to set up an obstacle course. If your family is large, move the party to a public park with outdoor grills and picnic tables.
- Check local listings for street festivals or fireworks displays in public parks or community centers. You can enjoy music, food, games and the outdoors with little preparation.
- Spend the day at the pool or a nearby lake.
- Hit the mall; it's air conditioned, and it's prime time for seasonal sales.