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April 2010

# Hot Watts

PUBLISHED BY COOKSON HILLS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Check your heating and AC filter this spring. At a minimum, change the filter every three months. A dirty filter will slow down air flow and make the system work harder, wasting energy. A clean filter also prevents dust and dirt from building up in the system.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy



### Congratulations

James Horn of Muldrow is our online survey winner!

## Right-of-way contractors gear up for spring

Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative has private contractors working for them throughout the year. Right-of-way trimming is very important with spring approaching because crews can clear more miles of line with the longer days and nice weather.

Wright Tree Services, Inc. is one of the contractors who works for CHEC. They are providing CHEC with three tree crews, bucket trucks, chippers and men. Wright primarily works on yard trees and clearing that cannot be done with large mechanical machines.

Wright also has men that have experience climbing trees with chain saws to trim and prune, when there is no other way to reach the tree. This is a specialized type of work that requires training and practice to do it safely and effectively. CHEC has three Wright Tree Service crews that work throughout the service territory. Right-of-way trimming during the spring is very important and a key component to having safe, dependable electric service.



Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative has contracted with Northeast Rural Utilities Services, a subsidiary of Northeast Oklahoma Electric Coop., Inc. out of Vinita, OK. They will begin cutting right-of-way in April. NRUS specializes in distribution, transmission and pipeline right-of-way maintenance. They will be operating a Kershaw Sky Trim and Hydroax. This unique equipment is designed to be operated in rough terrain. NRUS will also have a bucket truck with a wood chipper and a crew of three men. NRUS will begin west of Fin and Feather Resort near Lake Tenkiller.



Contractor climbing tree.



Wright Tree Service truck with chipper.

Photo by: Eric Johnson

Photo by: Larry Mattes

### CHEC reminder

CHEC has contracted with Osmose Utilities Services to inspect and/or reinforce utility poles owned by CHEC. They have been working since the second week in January and will continue until the first of May, 2010. To help

you verify that the people working on your property are indeed doing work on behalf of CHEC, please note that the crew trucks should be identified by an OSMOSE logo.

### 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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**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**

# Linemen lend a helping hand

## ■ CHEC aids fellow Oklahoma cooperative after winter storm

CHEC linemen left their operations to help Rural Electric Cooperative in Lindsay, OK, bring the power to their members after the winter storm that caused many outages in western Oklahoma earlier this year.

CHEC sent nine men from Stigler and twelve men from Sallisaw. The first group of linemen, a crew from each office, left home on January 30 and returned on February 5. The second group relieved them on February 6 and returned on February 12.

CHEC crews helped Rural Electric for a total of 12 days. Working for electric cooperatives often means helping each other recover from weather disasters such as this storm that hit western Oklahoma. CHEC was proud to send these crews to help with the storm damage repair.



Left to right, Chad Martin, Mike Barnes, David Bumpers, Kevin Hendrix (in blue), Calvin Boren, Allen Hare, Nick Worsham, Jim Watson, and Tandy Sloan. (not shown)



Front row left to right, Kevin Harvell, Jason Blalock, Jeremy Baker, Ailee Stearns. Back row left to right, Curtis Eppler, Jack McLaughlin, Brian Jackson, Lyle Mathis, Dale Bilyeu, Matthew Davis, Scotty Holcomb, and Mark Blaylock.

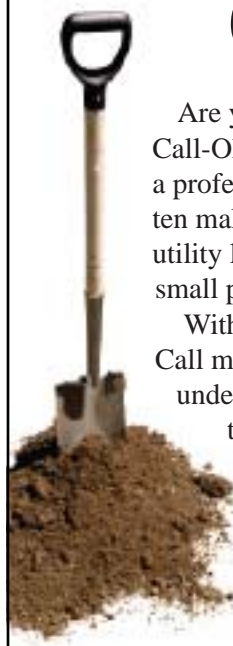
## IN THE KNOW

# Call before you dig this spring

Are you ready to start that outdoor project? Before you dig, remember to Call-Okie at 1-800-522-6543. Whether you are planning to do it yourself or hire a professional, smart digging means Call-Okie before each job. Homeowners often make risky assumptions about whether or not they should get their utility lines marked, but every digging job requires a call – even small projects like planting trees and shrubs.

Within 48 hours (two business days), an Oklahoma One-Call member in your area will mark the locations of any underground utilities, including electric, gas, pipelines and telecommunication lines.

If you hit an underground utility line while digging, you can harm yourself or those around you, disrupt service to an entire neighborhood and potentially be responsible for fines and repair costs.





## d Backpack Program receives Operation Round-Up Check

The generosity of the members of Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, through Operation Round-Up, will help assist in providing sack lunches for children in Sequoyah County. A check was presented to LaRuth Huggins and Elaine Cole with Lee's Chapel Assembly of God Church, from Philip Henson, CHEC Operation Round-Up Board member.

Lee's Chapel Assembly of God Church started the Muldrow Backpack Program, which works with the school counselors and teachers to make the decision as to the children needing food for the weekend. Then the program will supply the school with sack lunches to send home with the students.

"We appreciate all that Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative does to help in our efforts to serve our communities," said Huggins. "These funds will

be used to help purchase food for the sack lunches."

The Operation Round-Up program is in its ninth year at CHEC. Cooperative members allow their bills to be rounded-up to the next dollar. The money is put in a separate account and the CHEC Foundation Board meets quarterly to grant requests.

The money is allocated for area families struggling with financial burden, long term illness or tragic accident and also for area communities needs such as rural fire departments, senior citizen centers, food pantries and children's health programs.



Left to right: LaRuth Huggins and Elaine Cole with Lee's Chapel Assembly of God Church Muldrow Backpack Program, accepting CHEC Operation Round-Up check from Philip Henson, CHEC Foundation Board Member.

Photo By: Larry Matthes

## Giving Back through Operation Round-Up



By allowing Cookson Hills to "round up" member's electric bills to the nearest dollar, participating Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative members are able to help their local communities for just pennies a month.

In March, the first Quarter of 2010, the Cookson Hills Electric Foundation Inc. Board, which makes Operation Round-Up funding decisions, awarded \$9,253.22. Today, more

than \$488,918.44 has been awarded to provide much needed assistance to individuals and nonprofit organizations.

The next meeting is June 8, 2010 and the deadline is May 19, 2010 to apply for Operation Round-Up. The Cookson Hills Electric Foundation Inc. meets quarterly to review these requests. For more information about Operation Round-Up, visit CHEC's web site [www.cooksonhills.com](http://www.cooksonhills.com) or call Amy Smith at (918) 967-4614.



## Fridge Facts

The average refrigerator sold today uses less energy than a 60-watt lightbulb left on for 24 hours a day.

Every year refrigerator efficiency improves. An average 2008 fridge consumes 3 percent less energy than one made in 2007.

44 percent of fridges that could be retired or recycled are used as second fridges, sold, or given away.

26 percent of all U.S. households maintain a second refrigerator.

Only three out of every 10 refrigerators sold are Energy Star-qualified.

27 million inefficient fridge models made before 1993 are still in American homes.

Source: Energy Star, Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers. Image: GE Consumer Products

**2010 Newsletter Survey - Win a \$25 credit!**

Just fill out this survey and return to your local office or fill it out online at [www.cooksonhills.com](http://www.cooksonhills.com) by 4/30/10. Two \$25 bill credit prizes will be awarded. Your comments will be used only by Cookson Hills Electric Co-op and will not be sold or distributed to other firms. Thank you for your participation.

**MARKING INSTRUCTIONS**  
Use a black or blue ink pen. Fill in the circles completely. Make no stray marks.

Correct Marks	Incorrect Marks
● ● ● ● ●	⊗ ⊗ ⊗ ⊗ ⊗

Name (as it appears on your bill) \_\_\_\_\_

Account number (as it appears on bill) \_\_\_\_\_

Address (as it appears on your bill) \_\_\_\_\_

Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

911 Address (if different than above) \_\_\_\_\_

911 Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide e-mail address for future communications: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

**Your Home**

- Do you own or rent your home?       Own     Rent
- How many square feet of living space do you have?  
 Less than 1,000     1,500 - 1,999     2,500 - 2,999  
 1,000 - 1,499     2,000 - 2,499     3,000 or more
- Approximately when was your home built?  
 Before 1970     1980 - 1989     1995 - 1999     2005 - 2009  
 1970 - 1979     1990 - 1994     2000 - 2004     After 2009
- Which best describes your Cookson Hills Electric service location?  
 Single family residence                       Farm  
 Multi-family unit: apt/condo/duplex     Vacation or seasonal home  
 Mobile or modular home                       Non-residence

**Your Energy Use**

- What fuel does your water heater use?  
 Electricity     Propane     Natural gas     Other
- Approximately what year was your water heater installed?  
 Before 1990     1995 - 1999     2005 - 2009  
 1990 - 1994     2000 - 2004     After 2009
- What size is your water heater (in gallons)?  
 20 - 29     40 - 49     60 - 69     80+  
 30 - 39     50 - 59     70 - 79     Tankless
- What type of heating system is your primary heat source?  
 Geothermal heat pump     Wood stove/fireplace  
 Standard heat pump     Space heater  
 Electric central furnace     Gas stove/wall unit  
 Gas central furnace     Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- Approximately when was your heating system installed?  
 Before 1990     1995 - 1999     2005 - 2009  
 1990 - 1994     2000 - 2004     After 2009
- What type of air conditioning system do you have?  
 Geothermal heat pump     Central air                       None  
 Standard heat pump     Window unit(s)
- Approximately when was your cooling system installed?  
 Before 1990     1995 - 1999     2005 - 2009  
 1990 - 1994     2000 - 2004     After 2009
- Do you have a programmable thermostat installed on your heating and/or cooling system for automatically adjusting the temperature?  
 Yes     No

- How many refrigerators or freezers are currently in use in your home?  
 1     2     3 or more     None
- How many compact fluorescent (CFL) bulbs are used in your home?  
 1 - 3     4 - 6     7 - 9     10 or more     None

**Your Cooperative**

- How satisfied are you overall with Cookson Hills Electric?  
*Not at all satisfied*  1     2     3     4     5 *Very satisfied*
- Have you ever visited our website, [www.cooksonhills.com](http://www.cooksonhills.com)?  
 Yes     No     No Internet access
- How often do you read the cooperative's newsletter, "Hot Watts"?  
 Always     Occasionally     Rarely     Never
- How often do you read the "Oklahoma Living" Newspaper you receive each month?  
 Always     Occasionally     Rarely     Never
- Are you interested in any of these bill payment options currently offered by Cookson Hills Electric? (*all that apply*)  
 Automatic bank draft                       Fire department billing  
 Levelized billing                               Online bill payment
- What can Cookson Hills Electric do to improve your service?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Other Information**

- How many people live in your home?  
 1     2     3     4     5     6+
- Approximately what is your age?  
 Under 25     35 - 44     55 - 64     75+  
 25 - 34     45 - 54     65 - 74
- Which best describes your occupation?  
 White collar (office, retail, sales, etc.)     Retired  
 Blue collar (manufacturing, construction)     Unemployed/disabled  
 Professional (advanced degree or training)  
 Agriculture (farmer, rancher, livestock, crops)
- Cookson Hills is required by lenders to identify and document the racial/ethnic data on the eligible population in our service area. Your response is optional and the information will be used only for Federal Government Reporting purposes.  
 White (not of Hispanic origin)     Asian or Pacific Islander  
 Black (not of Hispanic origin)     Hispanic  
 American Indian     Other

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