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March 2013

Hot Watts

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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Appliances account for about 13 percent of your home's energy use. If they have energy-saving settings, use them! If they are nearing 20 years old, consider replacing them with a new, energy-efficient model. And remember to try smart power strips for smaller appliances and electronics that continue to draw power even when turned off.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Congratulations
Diana Clow
is our online survey
winner!

Easter



March 31st

Theft in CHEC Service Area

Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc. has reported several thefts and vandalism of utility property in Haskell and Muskogee Counties. The majority of thefts have occurred in the Keota area in Haskell County.

The thefts and vandalism have resulted in tens of thousands of dollars in damages to utility property, as well as damages to building structures of our members. In some instances grass fires have been started as a result of the vandalism. CHEC became aware of these thefts when members reported power outages caused by the vandalism, and also when CHEC's repair crews came upon damaged utility services. A CHEC crew was dispatched in January to a power outage in Muskogee County. The crew discovered a pole and a live wire on the ground, where allegedly, an individual had chopped the utility pole down. The individual was severely injured.

CHEC is concerned for the safety of those involved in the vandalism, as well as for the safety of the workers who have to repair

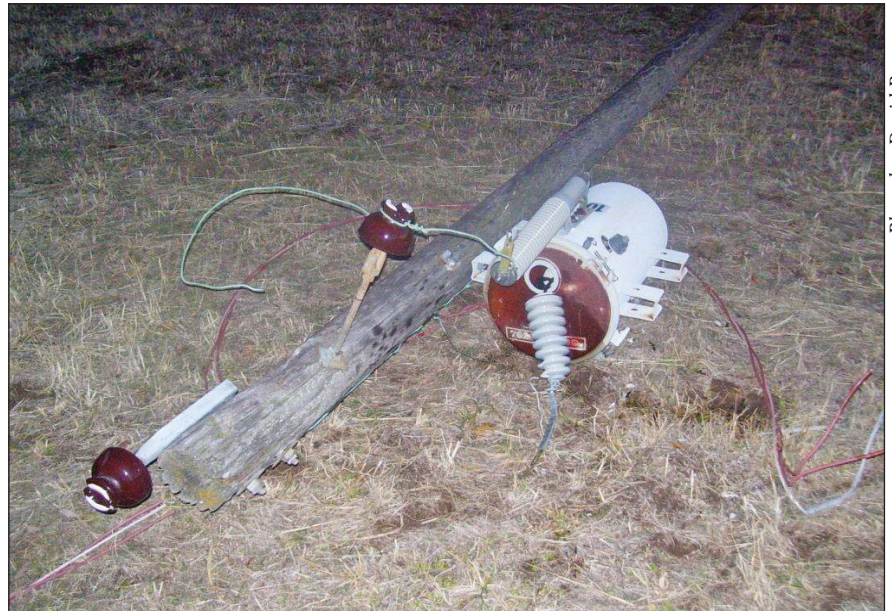


Photo by: David Bumpers

the damaged property. CHEC is also extremely concerned about the safety of the general public who may come in contact with a live wire, and are reminding people to stay away from and report any power lines that are on or near the ground.

CHEC encourages the community to be vigilant and to please report any suspicious activity. If you know who these people are or witness a theft or vandalism, please call the sheriff's office immediately.

CHEC is offering a \$1,000 reward to anyone that provides information leading to the arrest and conviction of the responsible parties.

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 the *Hot Watts* You'll Receive a \$25 Credit on Your Electric Bill

Time Changes March 10th



During early spring we move 1525300 our clocks one hour ahead and "lose" an hour during the night. Each fall we move our clocks back one hour and "gain" an extra hour.

The phrase "spring forward, fall back" helps people remember how Daylight Saving Time affects their clocks. At 2 a.m. on the second Sunday in March, we set our clocks forward one hour ahead of Standard Time.

The change to Daylight Saving Time allows us to use less energy in lighting our homes by taking advantage of the longer and later daylight hours.

Call Before You Dig

Notify Call Okie 2 to 10 business days before you dig at 800-522-6543 or dial 811 or submit your locate request online at www.callokie.com.

Tell Okie about your project including location, address, work done for whom, type of work, how long it will take, as well as any special instructions needed to make sure the proper area is marked.

Call Okie will notify utility companies in your area. They will mark their underground lines, as they determine necessary, and you will be able to work safely and without delay.



Applications for Scholarships Due April 5th



Are you a high school senior who is graduating this spring? Are you a dependent of a member of Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative? Do you need help with college expenses?

The employees and Board of Trustees of Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative award four \$500 scholarships to high school seniors each year. The

scholarship is in memory of Herman Driscoll, long time employee and general manager of the cooperative who believed in the importance of education.

Seniors may obtain an application from their high school counselor, visit our website www.cooksonhills.com, or contact Felicia Williams at our Stigler office at 918-967-4614 or toll-free 800-328-2368.

Pressures on Utilities Continue

Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CHEC) is a distribution cooperative and is part of an extended system organized into three levels or “tiers,” each with its own set of responsibilities.

CHEC is at the top tier of this system. CHEC provides electric service directly to 17,694 meters, including businesses, farms and households.

At the second tier of the system is KAMO Electric Cooperative, Inc. (KAMO Power), in Vinita, Oklahoma. KAMO is a Generation and Transmission (G&T) cooperative serving 17 member distribution cooperatives in northeast Oklahoma and southwest Missouri.

At the third tier of the system is Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc. (AECI), in Springfield, Missouri. AECI is the source of wholesale electric power. AECI provides the capacity and energy needs for KAMO and five other G&T’s in northeast Oklahoma, Missouri, and southwest Iowa.

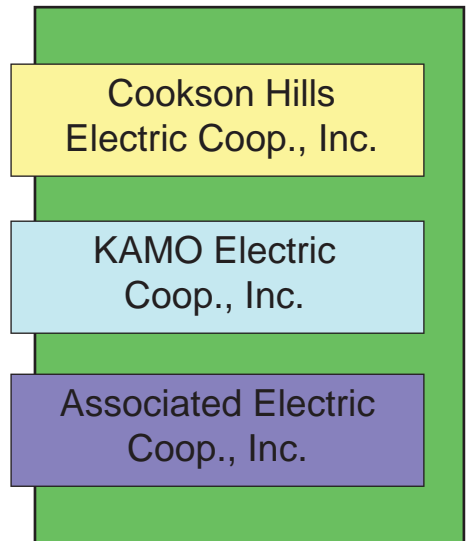
CHEC’s largest operational cost is our wholesale power bill. Our electricity is generated at AECI, it is transmitted to us on KAMO transmission lines to our substations. We build and maintain

the distribution power lines from the substation to your business or home.

Your electricity is produced using a mix of fuels and technologies: coal, natural gas, hydropower, wind and energy efficiency. AECI uses the lowest-cost resources and power plants whenever they are available to supply members. AECI typically serves member load first with low-cost hydropower generation when it’s available, then with coal, wind and natural gas. AECI also looks for opportunities to purchase power from other utilities at a cost that is lower than it can generate.

Growing pressures on the electric utility industry will continue to put upward pressure on costs, including additional environmental regulations, as well as continued increases in fuel prices. In general, rates go up because the cost to produce electricity continues to go up.

At the 2012 Annual Meeting, Kendall Beck, General Manager of CHEC, stated, “CHEC has not had a rate adjustment since 2009. However, there is more pressure on electric rates coming from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). As for the rates next year,



we are still awaiting more information to determine if an adjustment in the rates is needed. It may be possible members will see a slight increase in their electric rates in 2013.”

The CHEC Board of Trustees and management will continue to do everything they can to keep rates down for our members. Please continue to review your monthly Hot Watts newsletter for the latest news affecting your cooperative.

Where your electric dollar went in 2012





Photos by: Donna Rhodes

Yo Nannie Designs

Nestled on a dirt road in Haskell County is a small building with a sign out front that says, “Yo Nannie Designs.” Inside that building is a bag business started many years ago by a lady named Mary Campbell.

Mary started working for Cookson Hills Electric reading meters in the early 1980’s, and continued her career working in the Stigler office from August 1997 until December 2004.

One day another co-worker brought a bag into Mary’s office and asked Mary if she could make one like it. Mary made that purse and from there, the two ladies started a business called “Jabez, Inc.” The ladies made university bags and were licensed in eight states. Mary decided to quit working at CHEC and the ladies continued in their business until her co-worker moved away.

Mary said, “The design of “Yo Nannie” bags came from a prayer of what to do with all the



scrap pieces I had acquired from sewing other bags. The Lord woke me up at 3:00 a.m. one morning and gave me instructions. I look at these bags today and realize they have a life lesson to learn from them. I had a lot of throw away pieces in my life God couldn’t use. One day he started snipping away the rough edges and carefully placing each piece of my scraps on a piece of canvas. Sometimes there was a piece that needed ironed out, and sometimes a piece was put aside to be used later. Now and then I got stuck with a pin. At times I saw pieces of my life just knocked over in the floor and wondered why God didn’t pick that piece up and use it. He had a plan for my life.”

The name “Yo Nannie” came from Mary’s grandchildren. They call out to her, “Yo Nannie!” Mary’s sixteen year old granddaughter works in the business with her, designing and cutting out the fabric for most of the bags Mary sews. No two bags are alike; each bag is unique. She makes purses, totes, diaper bags, backpacks and does monogramming as well.

Mary says, “What I enjoy the most about my business is the end result. It’s putting them together and seeing them around town. My goal in life is to see every woman in Stigler with one of my purses on their shoulder. When you see one of my purses, you know who made them by the design, and they are made well. They are durable, and they will last.”

Mary enjoys spending time with her husband and the rest of her family; she works on her own schedule with no set hours. You may contact Mary on Facebook, or you can call her at (918) 967-2460 or (918) 348-4846.

Are you a member of Cookson Hills Electric? Do you have a hobby that turned into a business? Maybe you have an interesting story to tell, let us know so that we may feature you in an upcoming issue of the Hot Watts. Contact Donna Rhodes at (918) 774-1516.