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# Hot Watts

PUBLISHED BY COOKSON HILLS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Energy Efficiency  
*Tip of the Month*

Electric bills rise in the winter for lots of reasons—holiday parties, house guests, and shorter days and longer nights. Take little measures to help control costs like turning down the thermostat, washing clothes in cold water, swapping out lightbulbs for high-efficiency versions, and using microwaves or toaster ovens to cook.

Source:  
TogetherWeSave.com

**Congratulations**

**Sam Casteel** is our online survey winner!



Cookson Hills Electric's offices will be closed November 28th and 29th in observance of Thanksgiving.

## We are Thankful to be Part of CHEC

At many Thanksgiving dinners each year, family members take turns saying something they are grateful for. The list is usually about the same—good health, wonderful family and friends, a good job, and a great place to live here in eastern Oklahoma.

We are thankful to be a part of Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative (CHEC). Our mission is to safely provide affordable and reliable electric service, but we also aim to improve the quality of life in the communities we serve. It's a mission that CHEC takes seriously.

We are thankful for our cooperative because it allows employees to live alongside those we serve. The beauty of a cooperative is that it's locally owned and operated; there are no distant shareholders pulling the strings behind the scenes. Members elect members to serve on the board of trustees and to govern the cooperative. We are your neighbors, your friends, your family.

We are thankful for our cooperative because it serves as a vibrant force in the local economy—partly because we *are* local. That means CHEC is investing in the future of its communities.

We are thankful for our cooperative because we care. From our Youth Tour/Energy Camp program, the Herman Driscoll Scholarship program, our "Take Control and Save" Rebate program, and our Operation RoundUp program, we care about the people and the towns we serve.

Finally, we are thankful for you, our members and faithful readers, because without you, there'd be no Cookson Hills Electric.

Happy Thanksgiving from all of us here at your electric cooperative.



**REMINDER:**

Cookson Hills Electric has a NEW PHONE SYSTEM. **The local phone number at Stigler, 918-967-4614, has been disconnected.** Please call **800-328-2368** if you need to contact the Stigler office to report an outage and for customer inquiries or customer service.

### 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 Electric Cooperative, Inc.** welcomes members to submit photos, and articles which will be subject to editing.

Cookson Hills reserves the right to publish or modify any article. Companies and individuals featured in the *Hot Watts* newsletter do not necessarily reflect the official policy, position, or view of Cookson Hills.

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

# 65th Annual Meeting

Cookson Hills Electric's (CHEC) 65th Annual meeting was a huge success. Amid intermittent rain showers, CHEC members filled up the Sallisaw High School gymnasium on October 5th to attend the meeting.

## Registration:

Members from every part of CHEC's seven county territory attended the meeting. Total members registered were 1,194. Approximately 2,500 people (including guests) attended the meeting.



## Entertainment:

The Ritter's Family Band provided entertainment this year. The Ritter's are longtime residents of the Vian area.

John Speir sang a beautiful rendition of the national anthem. John is Principal of Bokoshe Schools, and he lives with his family north of Sallisaw.

## Business Meeting:

CHEC General Manager Kendall Beck welcomed the membership and gave a brief update of the cooperative.

General Counsel, Bill V. Wilkinson directed the business portion of the meeting. With a quorum, members voted to amend the bylaws as proposed.



Photos by: Donna Rhodes

# ing Held in October

## Information:

Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc. (AECI), our power generation and transmission cooperative set up an exhibit at the meeting. Glennon Scheid, an AECI staff member from Springfield, Missouri, displayed an exhibit highlighting the steps AECI is taking to produce Clean, Affordable, and Reliable Electricity (CARE).

## Prizes:

Following the business meeting Mr. Eric Johnson, Assistant General Manager, Donna Rhodes, Member Services Representative, and seven year old, Kalaya Shepherd of Vian began drawing for prizes. There were 46 prizes awarded 445800 to our members.



Photos by: Kaytie & Kristie Cash

*Thank you to our contractors and vendors who graciously donated many of the prizes awarded.*

Gordon Construction Co., Inc.  
Wolf Tree Company  
Wright Tree Service, Inc.  
Arkansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc.  
D & R Electric Inc.  
Utility Sales Agents of Oklahoma  
National Information Solutions Cooperative  
Huxford Pole & Timber Company  
C.H. Guernsey & Company  
KAMO Power  
HD Supply Company  
Northwest Transformer Company  
WESCO (Diversified Electric)  
Acme Janitor & Chemical Supply

## *Congratulations to our Winners*

### Children

Joanna Ross  
Kenadee Spradley  
Standard Boisen  
Christine Harris  
Makayla Stone  
Hope Boisen

### Adult

Raymond/Barbara Ford  
Tammy Cooper  
John/Cathy Cheater  
Rose Kelley  
Terry Hargis  
Church of Jesus Christ Vian  
Watie/Gwen Chuculate  
Tommy/Bonnie Hix  
Mike/Gloria Powers  
Billy/Barbara Ross  
Charlotte Fain  
James/Janet West  
Gary Shamblin  
Sheila Williams  
Maudrine Ross  
Richard Murphy  
Steven Carey  
Blakely Smith  
Johnny/Krystal Moore  
Leslie/Todd Westberry  
Roy Dunaway  
Georgie/Lorene Roberts  
Shirley Malone  
Rose Anderson  
Ellen/Donald Wilson  
Ronald/Dora Lee  
David Gardner  
Chuck Davis  
Mickell/Artesia Watkins  
Carolyn Williams  
Beverly/Gifford Taylor  
Jack Phillips  
JoAnn Rhodes  
Crystal/David Bean  
Jerry Carter  
Carlos Magby  
Marvin/Edna Rushing  
Betty Poindexter  
Silas Real  
Harlis Cook  
Judy Crandall

# Local Banker Makes Cowboy Leather Work

What does a banker by day do at night? If you are Tracey Smith, you are a cowboy leather maker. This endeavor began as a hobby and has almost turned into another full time job.

Tracey Smith is the Vice President and Branch Manager of Central National Bank in Stigler. He moved to Stigler 13 years ago from his hometown of Nowata, and he resides on a ranch with his wife Pam.

“I like to do traditional cowboy leather work. I started doing leather work about 20 years ago, but I got busy working and having kids and it all got put in a box 17 to 18 years ago. I guess about a year and half ago I got tired of sitting in the house and watching TV at night, so I decided to get out here and start messing with this again. I moved my hunting cabin up here near the house and turned it into my shop. It is nerve racking, but it is peaceful too. I get so many orders, especially this time of year, and with Christmas coming up it has already started. People are buying Christmas presents already,” said Tracey.

After he began doing leather work again, his wife Pam also began making bling cowgirl leather goods. He cut the leather, and Pam creates whatever product she desires.

“I think I enjoy making chaps as much as anything. It is real satisfying to take a raw piece of leather and end up with something like that. Everything I make is hand made from start to finish. Every piece I do is unique and no two are alike. I make chaps, belts, billfolds, holsters, spur straps, breast collars, halters, knife scabbards, and gun scabbards.”

Tracey can make just about anything. He enjoys the tooling and diligently works to create a masterpiece that he’s satisfied with.

“People ask me how do you do it? I say it just starts with a piece of leather and you use the tools.”

There is one item however, that he doesn’t make: boots. Boots require another set of tools.

Tracey and Pam have always been around rodeos. They both ride and enjoy that way of life. They recently attended a saddle makers and boot makers show in Witchita Falls where they purchased more tools.

Tracey doesn’t have to advertise his business. It has spread simply by word of mouth. If you are interested in his products, you may contact him at 918-448-9501.



Photo by: Donna Rhoades



Photos by: Tracey Smith

