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July 2011

Hot Watts

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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Energy Efficiency *Tip of the Month*

Consider using solar lights for outdoor lighting. Solar cells convert sunlight into electricity that can be stored in a battery and used at night to make light. Check manufacturers' instructions to make sure your solar lights are situated to receive sufficient sunlight to recharge each day.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Congratulations

Sarah Drowningbear is our online survey winner!

Office Closed

CHEC's offices will be closed on Monday, July 4th in observance of Independence Day.

If you have an emergency or outage during this time please call 800-328-2368.



Students Awarded Scholarships

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 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.

Cookson Hills is pleased to announce the four recipients of the Herman Driscoll Memorial Scholarship.

Congratulations to Alisha Sarah Carter of Webbers Falls High School, daughter of Clifton and Derena Carter; Taylor Rae Glasco of Wilburton High School, daughter of John and Showana Glasco; Jess Locust of Vian High School, son of Jess and Carmela Locust; and Hannah Swaim of Kinta High School, daughter of Keith Swaim and Ginger Bibee.

To be considered for this scholarship students submitted applications and two letters of recommendation. 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.

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

2011 Herman Driscoll Memorial Scholarship Recipients



Alisha Carter

Webbers Falls High School

Activities: Little League volunteer for 6 years, Volunteers of America (working with disabled individuals) for 4 years, varsity basketball, slow pitch softball, fast pitch softball, and track team. Alisha also helped with several class projects.



Taylor Glasco

Wilburton High School

Activities: Honor Roll, Pep Club, Fellowship of Christian Students member, and Academic Team member. Taylor was placed in AP English class and had the highest average. Taylor plans to pursue a career in veterinary science.



Jess Locust

Vian High School

Activities: Senior Class Vice President, Future Farmers of America (FFA) officer - 4 years, Art Club, Math Club, National Honor Society - 2 years, football, track and wrestling team member. Jess also tutors English students and operates his own business mowing lawns.



Hannah Swaim

Kinta High School

Activities: FCCLA District Secretary - 3 years, FCCLA Chapter President - 3 years, 4-H - 1 year, Senior Class Treasurer, STUCO Treasurer - 1 year, Yearbook - 2 years, cheerleading - 4 years, softball - 3 years, United States Tae Kwon Do Federation, Drama Club - 1 year, and Adopt-A-Highway volunteer.

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: 918-967-4614

Branch Office: P.O. Box 587
Sallisaw, OK 74955
Phone: 918-775-2211

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

Juli Orme
Manager of Finance and Administration

Teresa Shaw
Office Manager

Brett Orme
Director of Engineering

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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**

Youth Return Energized About Camp

Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative (CHEC) has a continuing history of providing support to local schools through educational programs, student activities, scholarships and more. This year was no exception; CHEC joined Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives and other electric cooperatives from across the state in sponsoring students to attend the Youth Power Energy Camp at beautiful Canyon Camp near Hinton, OK.

Youth Power Energy Camp is a program specifically for eighth grade students. While at camp they formed a coke and candy co-op, selected a manager and dispersed dividends. Students also enjoyed many games, the chance to climb a utility pole, and riding in a bucket truck.

Students who attended camp this year were: Leah Qualls of Gore, daughter of Lonny and Joanna Qualls; Tyler Ellis of Gore, son of William and Cheryle Ellis; Hannah Staton of Warner, daughter of Tom Staton; and Carly Anderson of Porum, daughter of Jerry and Deedra Anderson. These students attended camp with approximately 72 other outstanding students from Oklahoma.

During the camp, students attended sessions on energy, electrical safety and rural electric careers. Other special activities of the four-day program included hands-on electrical demonstrations, a 13 low element ropes course and swimming.

"In my opinion, the most exciting part of the trip was the rope course. In the rope courses we got to work with and trust in each other," said Carly Anderson.

"Other highlights I enjoyed while at camp was the pool, volleyball, and scaring the boys. Everyone was scared of the canyon creeper. Of course a major part I enjoyed was making new friends and just meeting new people," said Leah Qualls.



Leah Qualls



Left to right: Tyler Ellis, Carly Anderson, Leah Qualls, and Hannah Staton.

Photos by: Kristie Cash

Cut cooling bills with new A/C

If your home's cooling bill has been inching up over the years, high energy prices might not be the only culprit.

An air conditioning system that is more than 10 years old could be costing you a bundle in unnecessary cooling costs.

The same is true for a furnace that is more than 15 years old. A new one could cut your heating bill substantially.

Heating and cooling your home accounts for more than 40 percent of your

energy costs, so if you replace an older air conditioning system or furnace with a modern model that uses energy more efficiently, you could save big bucks.

Energy Star estimates that you can save up to 20 percent by replacing an inefficient air conditioning unit with one that has the Energy Star label, which guarantees that it is energy efficient. Get a unit 2398800 that is even more energy efficient, and you could cut your bills by up to half.

New Stigler Office Building Q&A

Question: Why is Cookson Hills Electric building a new headquarters facility in Stigler?

Answer: The Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative headquarters facility in Stigler has served the employees and members well for more than 50 years. However, we cannot escape the challenges facing the aging facilities. The administrative office, garage and warehouse were first built in the early 1960's and the cooperative has now outgrown these facilities. Standing water has been discovered in an abandoned under floor duct system. This water can cause mold and pose possible health risks.

Question: Where will the new facility be located?

Answer: The Cookson Hills Electric Stigler headquarters office will remain at: 1002 E. Main St., Stigler, OK 74462.

Question: Who will design the new facility?

Answer: C. H. Guernsey & Company out of Oklahoma City, OK.

Question: Will my rates increase because of the new facility?

Answer: Your rates could increase because of the new facility; however, any increase caused by the new construction will most likely be minimal. We do not have any plans to increase electric rates specifically to pay for the new facility.

Question: How will Cookson Hills pay for the new facility?

Answer: The construction of the new facility will be financed through a combination of debt and general funds.

Question: Why is Cookson Hills building a new facility instead of renovating the existing facility?

Answer: It would cost members more to renovate the existing 1960's building, and bring it up to required compliance codes, than it would cost to tear down the existing facility and build a new structure.

Question: Where will the temporary Cookson Hills offices be located while the new facility is being constructed?

Answer: The plan is to bring in portable buildings and locate them in the pole yard directly behind the existing office building for the convenience of Cookson Hills members. This will be where members may come to take care of transactions on their accounts in Stigler.

CHEC Line Upgrades East of Stigler

Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative (CHEC) is performing system upgrades in the Stigler area as well as having KAMO Power construct a new Stigler substation. KAMO Power is a Generation and Transmission (G & T) cooperative serving 17 member distribution cooperatives in northeast Oklahoma, with CHEC being among them. As KAMO Power crews finish the new Stigler substation, CHEC contractor Gordon Construction will tie in the new feeders.

These upgrades consist of constructing 6 miles of double circuit lines coming from the new Stigler substation and will add capacity, improve voltage and increase reliability, as well as having the ability to redirect electricity if damage occurs to the Stigler substation. This ability to redirect electricity will help CHEC in restoring service to our members faster in an outage situation.

Many poles will be replaced with larger class poles, making the distribution line much stronger. The addition of the double circuit will give Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative the ability to back feed loads during storm and emergency conditions.



Photo by: Larry Maites

Contractor Gordon Construction working east of Stigler on Airport Rd.

Right-of-Way Spraying Crews May Be Working in Your Area

Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc. has contracted with Progressive Solutions LLC, a company based out of Marshall, Arkansas, to proceed with our annual brush control program on the right-of-ways associated with the cooperative.

Their crews have started selectively treating the tall growing brush under the electric lines, using products that will stop the growth of grasses and low growing vegetation in the Stigler area and will work north and east towards the Cowlington area. They are licensed in the State of Oklahoma to perform this work and their crews are trained to safely apply these products according to label directions.

Progressive Solutions will use a mixture of three herbicides: Accord XRT II® and Tordon K® manufactured by Dow AgroSciences and Arsenal 2NS manufactured by BASF. These chemicals were thoroughly tested for toxicological effects on many animal species including, fish, earthworms, birds and mammals. These products have also undergone rigorous field and laboratory testing before being reviewed and registered by the EPA. All these products break down readily and will not be residual in the environment. There are no special precautions required to limit access into treated areas by pets, people or livestock.

The EPA classified these herbicides

with the “Caution” signal word. “Caution” is the most desirable, least dangerous classification and signals that the product is only slightly toxic or relatively nontoxic. Shampoo, ballpoint pen ink, and window glass cleaner also carry the “Caution” signal word. The active ingredients in these products control a plant growth by inhibiting enzyme production and the synthesis of amino acids in plants. These enzymes and amino acid processes are not present in humans, other mammals, birds, aquatic life or insects.

“Our practice of right-of-way management is endorsed by the National Wild Turkey Federation. The products Progressive Solutions will be applying are used regularly by Project Habitat® partners to enhance wildlife habitat and have received the support of many organizations such as Quail Unlimited, Quality Deer Management Association and North American Butterfly Association,” said Michael Economopoulos, Progressive Solutions LLC, President.



Photos Courtesy of Progressive Solutions

made to the very best applicators in the country, that have a proven record of quality work, environmental stewardship and the highest level of customer service

We at the Cooperative want you to know that Progressive Solutions LLC are responsible applicators and the products that they use were selected based on our concerns for your safety and our environment. Their service is one of the very effective tools the Cooperative uses to assure

you reliable electric power.

If you would like any additional information or have any questions, please contact Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative at 800-328-2368.



Progressive Solutions LLC
Exceeding Your Expectations

Progressive Solutions and its employees have also been recognized by DuPont as a “ProTeam Applicator” and Dow AgroSciences as an “Ace Applicator”. These designations are only