

Inside



- Unclaimed capital credits **Pages 2 & 3**
- May is National Electrical Safety Month **Page 4**

May 2015

Hot Watts

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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Keep cool this summer! ENERGY STAR certified refrigerators are about 9-10 percent more energy efficient than models that meet the federal minimum energy efficiency standard.

Source: energystar.gov

Congratulations!

Jennifer Pettit

is our online survey winner.



OAE

CHEC Offices will be closed May 25, 2015, in observance of Memorial Day

CHEC Honors Youth Tour Finalists

The 2015 Youth Tour essay contest finalists were honored at a banquet on April 7, 2015, at the Kiamichi Technology Center in Stigler. The annual event, hosted by Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CHEC), recognizes four students

whose written essays earned them an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., this summer.

The finalists competed with students from fourteen area schools. They wrote an essay on the topic "What impact do environmental regulations have on electric cooperatives and their members?" From the essays entered, judges selected the four finalists.

The trip will begin on June 12, 2015, when they join 70 other students from across Oklahoma for a "Get Acquainted Banquet" in Oklahoma City. The delegates will board a plane the following morning and fly to Washington, D.C., to embark on an educational and fun-filled week.

This unique trip will give the students an opportunity to see history come alive as they explore the museums, memorials, and monuments. The students will tour the Capitol, will join Oklahoma's congressional delegation for breakfast, and will enjoy many other points of interest.



Pictured left to right: Kendall Beck, CHEC General Manager, Hannah Holt, Kaylee Childers, Jessica Magie, Shadow McCain, and Donna Rhodes, Youth Tour Coordinator

CHEC is pleased to announce these students who will represent the Cooperative for the 2015 Youth Tour: Kaylee Childers from Muldrow High School, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Gary Childers Jr.; Hannah Holt from Gans High School, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Trent Holt; Jessica Magie from Central High School, daughter of Ms. Christina Magie and Mr. Robert Magie; and Shadow McCain from Central High School, daughter of Ms. Tara McCain and Mr. Greg McCain.

Teachers of the winning students this year are: Renee Claborn from Muldrow High School, Regina Brannon from Gans High School, and Jesse Bruesch from Central High School. We extend a special thank you to all the teachers, staff, and administration

for participating and supporting the Youth Tour program this year.

If you would like more information about Youth Tour, please visit our website at www.cooksonhills.com.



OAE

Putting safety first this month—and throughout the year

It's May – and CHEC is celebrating National Electrical Safety Month. While safety for our members is top priority year-round, Electrical Safety Month is a time to acknowledge the importance of safety excellence.

This year, we're focusing on electrical safety in the home. Electricity is the cause of over 140,000 fires each year, resulting in more than 500 deaths, 4,000 injuries and 1.6 billion in property damage, according to Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI).

There are many measures you can take to ensure the safety of your loved ones. Use these helpful tips from ESFI to safeguard your home:

In the kitchen

- Vacuum refrigerator coils every three months to eliminate dirt buildup that can reduce efficiency and create fire hazards.
- Ensure all countertop appliances are located away from the sink.
- All appliance cords should be placed away from hot surfaces. Pay particular attention to cords around toasters, ovens, and ranges. Cords can be damaged by excess heat.
- The top and the area above the cooking range should be free of combustibles, such as potholders and plastic utensils. Storing these items on or near the range may result in fires or burns.

Light the way to safety

- The wattage of the bulbs you use in your home should match the wattage indicated on the light fixture. Overheated fixtures can lead to a fire.
- Check lamp cords to make sure they are in good condition – not damaged or cracked. Do not attempt to repair damaged cords yourself. Take any item with a damaged power cord to an authorized repair center.
- Extension cords should not be used to provide power on a long-term or permanent basis. Have additional

receptacles installed by a professional to provide power where needed.

Be prepared

- Nearly two-thirds of fire deaths result from fires in homes without working smoke alarms. Smoke alarms should be located on every level of your home, inside each 779000 bedroom, and outside each sleeping area.
- Test smoke alarms every month. Batteries should be replaced at least once a year – or sooner if indicated in the manufacturers' instructions. All smoke alarms should be replaced *at least* every 10 years.
- Talk to your family about an emergency plan in the event of a fire in your home. If you have small children, include them in planning an emergency escape route – they are more likely to remember the plan if they're involved in creating it.

Electrical safety awareness and education can save lives. For more tips and information about electrical safety, visit www.esfi.org.

