

"Hotlines"

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Celebrate responsibly!

January, 2013

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Area News Briefs

Happy
New Year
from the
AEC crew!



**Martin Luther King,
Jr.'s birthday-Tues.,
January 15, 2013**

**High school
Juniors!
AEC is now
visiting schools
for the Youth
Tour Contest!**

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in "Hotlines" please call
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Operation Round-Up pennies sandbag leaking economy



Operation Round-Up Board Member Edith Jones presents Mrs. Jo Nelson and Aline's sixth grade class \$500 for the purchase of Kindle Readers; A smart idea.

Who knew ten years ago that the country would nearly suffer a fiscal collapse? In 2003, when AEC suggested members donate extra cents to round-off electrical bills every month, who could predict those tiny pennies could mend **\$290,000** worth of hurts in communities?

Picture fire departments needing essential equipment to save property and lives during the driest years this wheat belt has ever seen. Senior citizen groups paid facility rents, replaced appliances and made needed repairs.

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ALTERNATING CURRENTS...

Getting Bossy!

By Douglas Conrady

How does one get to be a good supervisor? Well, you can use the old "This is the way we've always done it" (by the way - you have to spit when you say it) which doesn't work very well, or you can take a few classes. I was given the opportunity to attend a week long seminar on supervising. There were mini classes covering nine subjects a manager ought to know, or at least be trained on how to handle. There were about twenty five of us in the class. This was the first time the Oklahoma Association of Electric Coops has hosted these classes with out of state personnel. There were two from Minnesota, three from New Mexico, one from Arizona, and a couple from Arkansas. The instructor was very knowledgeable in the subjects. He made the class fun by using comedy and making the class highly interactive. We covered two subjects a day, except for Friday. We only did one that day.

The first class was how to hit the ground running as a supervisor. This class gave tips on how a newly named supervisor can get started on the right path. The second was time management. Apparently, drinking coffee all day doesn't get anything done. Who knew? Starting Tuesday was how to manage change within the COOP, a class on how to get or keep everyone on the same page when a big change is coming. After lunch, the class covered communicating effectively. This is when we learned to shut up. The fifth class held covered conflict and negotiation. We took a few tests to see what our personality and conflict mode was. Following that was the employee motivation segment. Did you know a swift kick in the can doesn't motivate very effectively? Thursday we covered human resources and performance management, or how to evaluate employees. The last class was loss and safety. This covered how much a simple ailment like a splinter could cost the COOP.

All in all, it was a great week and I learned a lot. When I get a chance to supervise, I will be ready to go.

Fireplace efficiency; Don't let your money go up in smoke

Your fireplace creates a warm, cozy atmosphere during wintry weather, but don't let it add unnecessary dollars to your electric bill.

Fireplaces heat the room they're in but at the expense of the rest of the house. Most of the heat in traditional fireplaces goes up the chimney instead of warming living space, and the draft pulls heat from other rooms. So if your thermostat is located away from the fireplace, it will work harder to maintain room temperatures for the rest of the house.

Fireplace "inserts" help boost energy efficiency. However, emissions from old inserts and fireplaces without inserts are up to 20 times worse than using U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-certified wood stoves, pellet stoves, or gas/oil furnaces. So look for an EPA-certified insert if you want to supplement your home's heating.

Contact a local retailer to learn about efficient stoves and inserts that will circulate hot air into a room to help lower heating costs. But keep in mind the disadvantages of using high-maintenance fires as heat sources, including constant attention and ash disposal.

If you don't have an efficient insert but love a crackling fire, follow these measures for safety and improved efficiency:



Seal those cracks. While sealing drafts around your home, don't forget to check the chimney. Smoke and heat that escapes through cracks can pose a fire hazard. It's best to hire a professional to fix cracks in high-heat areas.

Fight the draft. If you plan on a long-lasting fire, lower the thermostat to save energy--just be prepared to wear a sweater in other rooms--and resist the temptation to crank the temperature back up after the fire goes out.

Clean sweep. A National Fire Protection Association standard suggests having your chimney and fireplace inspected once a year, and cleaned or repaired when necessary. Even if you don't use your fireplace often, an annual inspection will find any blockage from animal nests or other deterioration.

Batten down the hatch. Keep the chimney flue closed when not using your fireplace to prevent conditioned or heated air from escaping.

Choose your wood wisely. Wood that's dried at least six months provides the best heat.

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ORU, sandbagging leaking economy...

Youth sports groups purchased equipment, uniforms and subsidized operating expenses with those marching pennies.

The very active Operation Round-Up Board of Trustees stands aware of needs throughout AEC's seven counties. Applications are received from individuals and groups in all of the respective areas.

The ORU Board is very sensitive to those individuals who apply for *personal* assistance and respects their privacy by not even revealing situations anonymously. (If you know of a truly deserving individual with a serious need, applications are available by contacting **Regina Waugh at 580-596-3333, ex 115**)

Members currently serving on the ORU Board of Trustees include: Larry DeWitt, District 2, acting as Trustee President; Roland Pederson, District 1; Charla Turner, District 3; Paul Jackson, District 4; Debbie Biby, District 5; Stan Michel, District 6; Edith Jones, District 7; and Gordon McDowell, District 8.



Burlington Foundation Chairman, Brent Garvie and Burlington Principal Shane Feeley are recipients of a \$500 check for the purchase of video equipment. ORU Board member Roland Pederson makes the presentation.



ORU Board President Larry DeWitt presents a \$500 "good deed" to Ivan Taylor, Scout Master. The funds will apply to utility bills for Cherokee's Boy Scout Hut.

**Is your furnace
operating safely and
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or

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See
AEC
on
FACEBOOK

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ORU, photos



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Roland Pederson, from District 1 recently presented \$500 to Lions Club member James Maltbie to help subsidize lighting for Burlington's Christmas program. ORU made the situation much brighter.



Kiowa Librarian Gayle Bowden will be purchasing a new computer for the Library with a \$500 ORU grant. Stan Michel, District 6 Trustee Member, brings the good news.