

# “Hotlines”

Published Monthly  
for the Members of  
Alfalfa Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Cherokee, OK  
www.aec.coop



A little sugar  
can go a long way...

February 2014

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



## Area News Briefs

Valentine's Day,  
Fri., Feb. 14th. Check  
out the full moon!

**Potential candidates  
for Districts 5 &  
7 MUST obtain a  
form from AEC  
Offices and file from  
February 1-10,  
2014 to be eligible  
to run for a Trustee  
position.**

**PREVENT DIVORCE!  
WARM UP TO A  
FURNACE CHECK-UP!**

**(580) 596-2638 or  
1-800-853-4969**

**SEE  
AEC ON  
FACEBOOK**

**POWER  
OUTAGE?**

**(580) 596-3333**

**OR**

**1-888-736-3837**

To place brief announcements  
in “Hotlines” please call  
(580) 596-3333 EARLY

## Touchstone Energy shooting for another Leadership Summit

Alfalfa Electric Cooperative (AEC) has selected the two students that will participate in the Touchstone Energy Leadership Summit to be held Saturday, January 18 at the Express Events Center in Oklahoma City.

Mollie Hawkins and Carter Stewart will be attending the 2014 Touchstone Energy Leadership Summit this year. Mollie is a senior at Cherokee High School and



*Goalie, ready for action.*

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## The Impact of Regulations on You

We've written before about how the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed to limit carbon dioxide at new power plants. This is concerning because these regulations, along with the ones EPA has in store for existing plants, have the potential to drive up your electric bills.

Now is the time for electric cooperative members to join their voices together to send a clear mes-

sage: please remember consumers as you are writing these regulations.

You can help first by visiting [www.Action.coop](http://www.Action.coop) today and sending a comment to the EPA. You can also help by sharing the link to your friends and family.

What's at stake? Beyond providing safe, affordable electricity, at Alfalfa Electric Cooperative, we're worried

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## ALTERNATING CURRENTS...

### Service is the Heart of our Community

By Colin Whitley, CEO

I'm seeing red (and pink). Valentine's Day could be a great holiday, but the cards, balloons, and candy cramming aisles this time of year miss the mark. I need a card for our community.

It's great to let loved ones know you care about them, but let's go a step further. As a member-owned electric cooperative, we're committed to powering our community and empowering you to improve your quality of life. How can life be better in northwest Oklahoma? We need hearts for service.

On February 14, take time to send a card to a police officer or firefighter. Give candy (or an apple) to a school teacher. Invite someone new to your area over for a cup of coffee, make a new friend. Visit a retirement home and spend time with the folks who built our community. Send balloons—or better yet, a donation—to Kids Against Hunger or anyone of the numerous organizations that reflect the heart of northwest Oklahoma.

These champions are the heart of our community. But why stop there? Through Operation Round-up, members like you are donating over \$30,000 annually to strengthen our community, by supporting local school and educational activities, youth sports organizations, civic organizations as well as those in need of a little assistance to overcome unforeseen difficulties.

Add your love—your time and spare change—to the effort.

On Valentine's Day (and every day), let's celebrate service, the heart of our community.

## The clean truth about detergents



*An unsuspecting child may find the dish detergent under the sink and cause serious injury to his eyes or skin.*

You wouldn't dare store a dangerous chemical under your sink. Yet, many households park powdered detergent next to the dishwasher in the kitchen.

Dishwasher powder contains chemicals that can burn a child who eats it. Anyone who exposes skin or eyes to it could end up with serious burns.

Whether you use single-wash packets or measure the powder with a spoon, be extra careful not to spill it on yourself or on the floor, especially if you have small children who crawl or play there.

Follow precautions with your cleaning powders:

1. Store them out of reach of children and pets or in a locked cabinet.
2. Wear rubber gloves when handling powdered or tablet detergents. If you don't have gloves, dry your hands thoroughly before handling the detergent.
3. After each load of dishes or laundry, clean leftover powder out of the soap dispenser to reduce the chance that someone will touch it.

4. Place single-load laundry detergent packets in the bottom of the laundry tub, not in the dispenser drawer.



*Would you knowingly place poisons near a grandchild?*

5. Avoid cutting or tearing a detergent packet open. Place it in the washing machine or dishwasher "whole." Each tab comes wrapped in protective plastic.
6. Store the product away from food.
7. If someone in your home ingests powdered detergent or gets it into the eyes, call your local poison center.

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about jobs in places like Carmen, Cherokee, and Freedom..

While these regulations are technical, the potential increase in electric rates is something we take personally because we know it's difficult to make ends meet month-to-month. We know the tough choices you face – we all face – in trying to live on a budget. That's what sets cooperatives apart from other utilities and that's why we must stick together.

Thousands have answered the call already and sent comments through [www.Action.coop](http://www.Action.coop). But we need more. Here at Alfalfa Electric Cooperative, we look out for you. And we don't take this request lightly. It only takes 30 seconds to help raise our voices together.

At Alfalfa Electric Cooperative, we've encouraged all of our employees to sign up ... and ask their friends and families. And now we're asking the same from you.

We need you to take a stand and urge our families and friends to join us.

Visit <http://www.Action.coop/>. And talk to your neighbors about what we're doing and why.

We're powering the future, driving economic growth and fostering innovation for you. And we don't want these new regulations to get in our way of progress. Please join the call and help us keep moving forward.



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## Summit shooting for hockey game

is the daughter of Damon and Rebeca Hawkins.

Carter is a senior at Burlington High School and is the son of Kelly and Jennifer Stewart.

Rhett Laubach, a motivational speaker, has been booked to present his leadership program again.

AEC will have tickets for students and their parents for the OKC Barons Hockey Game. The students are scheduled to meet the Barons team and coach, and one lucky student will be selected to make a puck shot for \$1000 scholarship during one of the intermissions.

The participating student will be given hockey equipment for protection but will not be issued skates or expected to maneuver on the ice. Players will set up and coach the play for an exciting experience for the student, as well as the crowd.

Both delegates will receive a \$250 scholarship for attending. This has been a very good event in the past. This event is part of the Sponsorship for the Oklahoma Youth Expo and The Great State of Oklahoma State Fair.

Thirty students representing Touchstone Energy electric cooperatives around Oklahoma will be attending the event.

Almost 200 Oklahoma high school students have been recognized for their leadership abilities by having the opportunity to attend one of the previous Touchstone Energy Leadership Summits.



Oklahoma City Barons logo.

# Convert a room into a home theater for the Super Bowl

How would you like to watch the Super Bowl in your own home theater?

Cool?

It might not be quite as expensive as it sounds; In fact it could be an option for next year!

The fact is, you can convert any room into a home theater-

-even a small one or a garage. Just cover the windows, mount a big TV and choose a quality sound system. Some pointers:

1. Choose a TV whose size doesn't overwhelm the room. Figure out where you will feel most comfortable sitting in your new home theater. Measure, in inches, the distance between that seat and the wall where you'll hang your flat-screen TV and multiply that by 0.84. The answer will tell you the largest screen you should buy. Divide the distance by three to determine the minimum size.

So if you like to sit five feet away from your TV, don't buy one bigger than 50 inches.

2. Pay special attention to lighting. Light from lamps can create on-screen glare and make the colors on the TV screen look faded. Strategically add lighting that you can control with dimmers and a remote on-off switch. A fairly simple automated lightning system might have a button for barely-there "theater" lighting and another, brighter option for "setup" or "cleanup." And think about installing a few long-lasting LEDs around the perimeter of the floor. This will serve as a guide for those

who need to excuse themselves for a few minutes mid-movie without disrupting everyone else by flicking on the overhead lights.

3. Add surround sound to your TV by placing three or more speakers around the room for a movie-theater experience. Then, keep the sound contained in your home theater by laying sound-absorbing carpet on the floor. Caulk around windows, doors, electrical outlets and other openings in the room's walls to keep the sound in. A bonus: Caulking also keeps the hot weather out. So does attic insulation, which will help soundproof an upper-floor theater.

4. Protect your expensive equipment from electrical surges by investing in whole-house surge protection, which is more reliable than protecting each component piece by piece with strip-style surge protectors.



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