

“Hotlines”

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



‘See you in church
on Easter Sunday.



April 2014

Number 4, Volume 69

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Area News Briefs

**Annual
Meeting
Fri., April 4,
2014**



**EASTER,
APRIL 20.**

**AVOID THE HOT SEAT,
TIME FOR AN A/C
CHECK-UP!**

**AEC SERVICES, INC.
(580) 596-2638 or
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To place brief announcements
in “Hotlines” please call
(580) 596-3333 EARLY

Crowd anticipates AEC’s annual dinner/entertainment



Taylor Mason introduces one of many characters.

It is 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 4. The first hungry AEC members thread through the serving line, led by the tantalizing smell of the roast beef and mashed potatoes. Holding a plate with generous portions, a member chooses his dining chair, among old friends and neighbors. The scene is repeated every year

and has been a tradition since electricity first came to area farms.

Members come from five Oklahoma counties and two Kansas counties served by AEC. They gladly pick up capital credit checks and put their registration cards in the hopper to be

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ALTERNATING CURRENTS...

AEC Launches New Website

By Gail Ridgway

Alfalfa Electric launched our new website on March 13th. The new site has a lot of features of the previous site, but we hope it is more user friendly for our consumers. You may access AEC's website at www.aec.coop, www.alfalfaelectric.com, or www.alfalfaelectric.coop.

The home page has four colored tabs on the left menu titled Online Bill Pay, Report Outages, AEC Services, and Operation Round-up. Across the top of the home page you will find tabs for Account Services, Member Services, Products, Community, and Who We Are. These tabs all have drop down menus to direct you to specific areas.

The Online Bill Pay tab provides a secure way for consumers to access account information, access capital credit retirement information and pay their electric bill by credit/debit card or echeck. New users will need to sign up for this service on the electronic form provided using their account number, last name or business name, email address and creating a password. Current users will see no change in this process.

Under Account Services you will find information for AEC's various payment options, new service information, account maintenance options and outage safety information. The Member Services tab takes you to our monthly newsletters and Coop Connections Card member discount information. Under the Products tab you can explore products and services AEC provides such as AEC Services Heat & Air, Energy Resources Conservation Loans available to members, Water Heater & Heat Pump rebates, and Cellular Phones sales.

The Community tab includes Operation Roundup information and applications for individuals as well as non-profit organizations. New features under the Community tab include a work-in-progress Community Calendar as well as a Photo Album. Who We Are provides company history, current trustee information, and employee contact information.

Please forward community activity information to be included on the Community Calendar to Christina Eshleman at ceshleman@akslc.net or call her at 580-366-4582 x102.

AEC continues to work to improve communications with our members which will include ongoing changes to our website.

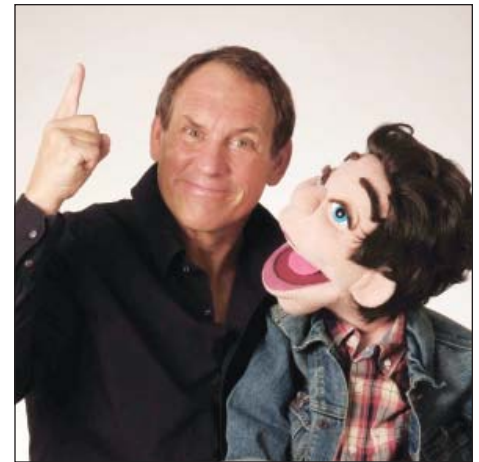
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Annual Meeting

eligible for an astounding amount of great door prizes. They find seats in the gym because they know "you must be present to win" and winning the \$1,000 check at the end of the meeting would end a perfect day. The winner is always a nice surprise.

No matter the weather, the crowd warms up to music in the gym. AEC employees in crisp white shirts dispense door prizes throughout the evening.

Districts 5 and 7 remain unopposed leaving both Trustee Members Joe Hise and Joe Waggoner serving again in their respective districts. Following the business meeting Taylor Mason will amaze the crowd with his talkative group of friends. A talented musician, comedian and ventriloquist Mason brings a menagerie of friends to entertain the crowd.



Taylor Mason and fellow "actor."

Mark **April 4** on the calendar and remember to bring the registration form which has been mailed to your address. Don't forget the grandchildren and remember: To win any door prize or the \$1,000 cash prize at the end, **you must actually be present when your name is drawn.**

One lucky member will receive the grand prize at the end-- **\$1,000** to spend in any capacity.



Tornado tips for motorists

April and May are tornado months. Last year's terrible storms left neighborhoods in the town of Moore (south Oklahoma City) stripped of everything.

Weather information is plentiful if we stay in tuned to it. But little is said about what to do when driving an *automobile*.

According to **AAA Oklahoma**, A "tornado warning" means a twister is developing or is actually on the ground. It is more severe than a "tornado watch," which indicates conditions are favorable for the development of severe thunderstorms, with a possibility of spawning twisters.

If a **tornado warning** is issued for your area, leave your vehicle immediately and seek shelter.



Ponder what you would do driving into a scene like this.

Never try to outrun a tornado. Your car or pickup will offer no protection from a twister. It is impossible to know which direction a tornado may decide to go.

Seek shelter indoors. A basement is safest. Closets or small interior rooms are best. Get under a sturdy piece of furniture and stay away from south and west walls and all windows.

If you are caught in the open, with no indoor building

available to you, find a ditch, ravine or low-lying area and lie flat. Stay away from roadway overpasses.

Do not seek shelter in a mobile home. These structures, even if tied down, offer little protection from tornadoes and should be abandoned in storms.

Remember, wet roads mean poor traction. Conditions are most dangerous during the first 10 minutes of a heavy downpour as oil and debris wash away.

Driving on wet roads in the rain is just like driving on ice. Slow down. Take it easy. Allow extra time to reach your destination.

Never use your motor vehicle's cruise control feature in rainy weather.



A tornado threatens to cross a field and perhaps the very road you may be traveling!



Saving your cell phone

A working cell phone can help save your life. A wet cell phone is useless. According to a news release from **Geek Squad Tech Support**, a division of **Best Buy**, there are steps that will save your cell phone.

The Geek Squad recommends some simple items for a cell phone rescue kit. Gather the following and tuck away in your kitchen *before* your

phone accidentally falls in something:

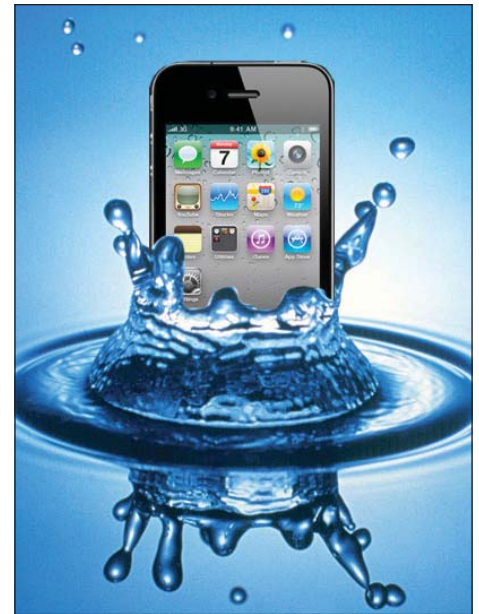
- 1. a large airtight container
- 2. A large bag of uncooked white rice (one or two pounds)
- 3. A silica packet rescued from some source such as a pill bottle or bag of jerky

Here are the seven steps to save a wet cell phone using the silica packet:

- 1. Turn off the phone and remove the battery.
- 2. Dry the phone (inside and out) with a clean cloth.
- 3. Secure the items for your rescue kit.
- 4. Take the silica packet from the bottle or bag.
- 5. Place the phone and the silica packet in the airtight container.
- 6. Seal the container and leave overnight.
- 7. Put the battery in the phone and turn it on.

Here are the seven steps to save a wet cell phone using the rice:

- 1. Turn off the phone and remove the battery.
- 2. Dry the phone (inside and out) with a clean cloth.



Your cell phone will not work if it becomes wet.



The **Hotlines** is published monthly by Alfalfa Electric Cooperative, Inc.
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Remember to see Christina Eshleman if you do need to replace your phone. AEC has a fine assortment of Pioneer Cell phones to keep you connected.