

HARMON
ELECTRIC

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

www.harmonelectric.com

Hi-Lites

November 2004

Serving Southwest Oklahoma and North Texas

Supplement to Oklahoma Living

Trust Is the Key to Cooperatives' Success

Getting customers to trust a business in today's corporate environment has become a nearly insurmountable objective, (Thanks, Enron.) Fortunately for you and me, electric cooperatives are the exception.

Our unique relationship with our member-owners goes beyond the mere flip of a light switch. It's a relationship that can be traced back through decades - 66 years, in fact - of serving customers with unmatched accountability. Just ask someone who has been a member for 20, 30 or even 40 years, if you want to find out how strong that relationship can be.

By its very nature, the cooperative business model incorporates a high level of trust. For-profit electric companies serve two masters: the shareholder and the customer. In cases of recent corporate scandal, companies falsified their earnings to please investors. While employees, customers and shareholders suffered, trust in corporate America eroded.

Trust in cooperative America remains strong, however, because the owners and the customers are one and the same. You've probably heard this time and time again: Cooperatives exist solely to serve their member-owners, not to create profits for outside

investors. Electric Co-op customers elect their boards of directors to oversee us, your employees, and all are accountable to the member-owners. Your directors and employees live here. Our kids and grandkids go to the same schools. We have a stake in the economy and that well-being of this community. For these reasons, your cooperative operates with a high level of accountability.

Every member has a vote, giving each one a voice in how the cooperative business operates. The co-op business model provides a transparency that fosters trust and offers customers a genuine sense of ownership.

As a Touchstone Energy® Cooperative, we're part of a nationwide community of co-ops working together to complement the local connection we have with our members. Two of Touchstone Energy's core values are accountability and integrity. We do business with both guiding us.

We know that trust is earned. Day in and day out, the employees of Harmon Electric Association work to earn the continued trust of our member-owners.

That's the cooperative difference.

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RULES FOR CUT-OFF

The termination of electric service during severe weather is of major concern to your electric cooperative. The following outline is to provide our members with an explanation of how Harmon Electric deals specifically with the discontinuance of electric service.

At Harmon Electric Association the bills are mailed on the 25th day of the month. If the bill is not paid by the tenth day of the following month, a penalty of 1 1/2% of the balance is added to the bill.

If unable to pay the bill the co-op will offer the following option:

1. A listing of public service agencies available to assist eligible persons.
2. A deferred payment plan as calculated by Harmon Electric.
3. The opportunity to notify the Cooperative that a life-threatening situation exists.

If the member hasn't made arrangements for payment by the 25th of the following month, the Cooperative will disconnect service.

If the member, at the time of disconnect, wishes to pay by check, but has a history of dishonored checks, the Cooperative may contact the members bank for verification of sufficient funds before reconnecting the service.

Below is a list of the Social Services Offices that can be contacted for financial aid for paying electric bills:

BECKHAM COUNTY
 Department of Human Services
 Court House
 Sayre, OK 73662
 (580) 928-3348

HARMON COUNTY
 Department of Human Services
 Court House - 1st Floor
 Hollis, OK 73550
 (580) 688-3361

KIOWA COUNTY
 Department of Human Services
 130 N. Oklahoma
 County Office Building - 1st Floor
 Cordell, OK 73632
 (580) 726-3339

GREER COUNTY
 Department of Human Services
 130 N. Oklahoma
 Mangum, OK 73554
 (580) 782-3657

JACKSON COUNTY
 Department of Human Services
 1220 North Grady
 Altus, OK 73521
 (580) 482-5812

HAPPY THANKSGIVING



from your

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

**The Offices of Harmon
 Electric Association
 will be closed
 Thursday and Friday,
 November 25 & 26,
 so that employees can
 enjoy the holiday
 with family.**

**HARMON ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION
 Incorporated**

114 North First Hollis, OK 73550

Operating in

Beckham, Harmon, Jackson, Kiowa
 and Greer Counties, Oklahoma

Hardeman and Childress Counties, Texas

Member of

- Western Farmers Electric Cooperative
 - Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives
 - National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
 - National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative
 - Texas Electric Cooperative, Inc.
 - Oklahoma Rural Water Association, Inc.
- www.harmonelectric.com

HARMON ELECTRIC HI-LITES

Charles Paxton, Editor

The Harmon Electric Hi-Lites is the publication of your local owned and operated rural electric cooperative, organized and incorporated under the laws of Oklahoma to serve you with low-cost electric power.

Dwight BowenManager

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

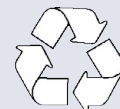
- Pete LassiterDistrict 1
- J.B. McAlexanderDistrict 2
- Clinton NesmithDistrict 3
- Bob AllenDistrict 4
- Burk BullingtonDistrict 5
- Jean PenceDistrict 6
- Billy R. NowellDistrict 7
- Charles HortonAttorney

Monthly Board of Directors meetings
 Held Fourth Thursday of Each Month

**IF YOUR ELECTRICITY GOES OFF
 REPORT THE OUTAGE**

We have a 24-hour answering service to take outage reports and dispatch servicemen. Any time you have an outage to report in the Hollis or Gould exchange area, call our office at 688-3342. Any other exchange area call toll free, 1-800-643-7769.

**TO REPORT AN OUTAGE
 CALL 688-3342 or 1-800-643-7769
 ANYTIME**



Winter-Proofed House Needs to 'Breathe'



Spending a little time every fall caulking, sealing and insulating your home is a good thing. But too much of a good thing—even an energy-efficient practice like weather-proofing a home—can spell trouble

The Environmental Protection Agency has labeled homes that are too “tight”—that is, they’re sealed to the point that they can’t ‘breathe’—a major cause of poor

indoor air quality. And that, says the EPA, is one of the top five environmental risks to public health.

Homes that are too airtight trap pet dander, dust, mold and smoke indoors with no escape route. The American Lung Association says those airborne particles can make indoor air up to 100 times more polluted than the air outdoors.

Clear the air inside of your home by taking a few precautions this fall and winter:

- **Run the fan on your furnace continuously.** This will force air through the filter and allow it to catch the polluted particles. Change or clean the filter every two or three months using the most efficient one you can find. The more efficient the filter, the more particles it keeps out of your indoor air.

- **Install carbon monoxide alarms on every floor** of your house. Keep them away from gas appliances to avoid false positives.

- **Call a qualified service professional every year** before the cold weather comes to make sure your heating system is running efficiently

- **Crack a window** to ventilate the house before lighting a fire.

- **Store firewood outdoors.** Piling firewood inside near the fireplace brings harmful contaminants into the home.

- **Remove moisture from bathroom air** by running fans or opening a window during showers.

Protect Home, Prevent Death with \$20 Alarm

Something nobody can see, taste or smell causes half of all poisoning deaths in the United States—at least 1,500 a year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The culprit is carbon monoxide, a colorless, odorless gas that is a byproduct of fuels like natural gas, gasoline, coal, wood, propane, oil and methane when they burn incompletely

Many of its victims die in their sleep; others suffer without seeking treatment because the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning mimic the flu. Between 10,000 and 40,000 people seek medical attention from hospital emergency rooms for carbon monoxide poisoning each year.

Yet the malady is preventable. A \$20 carbon monoxide detector will warn the occupant of a house when the gas is present at dangerous levels.

The detectors come in three styles: electric units that plug into any outlet; battery-powered models; and permanent devices that are hard-wired into the home’s circuitry and come with a back-up battery in case of a power outage.

Whichever style you choose, follow some guidelines for the safest use:

- Install at least one carbon monoxide alarm on each level of your home.
- Plug electric models all the way into the outlet.
 - Replace batteries in battery-powered units frequently
 - Clear the devices of dust and debris.
 - Make certain all people in the house can hear the alarm from their bedrooms.
 - Install alarms at least 15 feet away from sources of carbon monoxide to reduce the number of nuisance alarms.



Hidden Account Number Worth \$50.00

Mr. John Weaver did not locate his hidden account number 456001 which was located in the “It’s Time To Winterize!” section on the third page of the October 2004 issue of the “Harmon Hi-Lites.” The hidden map location for November 2004 is worth \$50.00.

Remember the contest rules as you search you “Harmon Hi-Lites.”

1. The hidden account number must be your own. Find the account number somewhere in the newsletter and compare the number listed in the lower left corner of your power bill, if same it is your number.

2. Your number must be reported by the 12th of the same month of publication of the newsletter.

3. You must report your own number to the association’s headquarters office in Hollis, Oklahoma by phone, mail or in person.

4. Money will accumulate at the rate of \$10.00 per month until the number is found or until January 1, 2005.

CLASSIFIED ADS



605 F Vermeer Bales,
Steery New Holland Hay-
Bine Mower Conditioner
495, call (580) 782-2975.

Little Kittens and Large Cats, call (580) 683-4265.

House for Sale in Duke: On Large corner lots - 3 BR -
1 3/4 bath - large utility room - wood burning stove in liv-
ing room, 2 blocks from school. Price \$39,500, please
call (580) 679-3938 or cell (580) 679-4787.

Upright Freezer (not frostfree) \$100 cash or will trade for
good small chest freezer, call (580) 688-2701.

10 General LMT 460, 225/70R19.5 tires with less
than 10,000 miles, \$150 each, call Gary at HEA,
(580) 688-3342 or (800) 643-7769 or e-mail at
grippetoe@harmonelectric.com

House For Sale: Large corner lot, 4 bedroom, 2 3/4 bath,
den, living room, large country kitchen, very comfortable,
must see to appreciate, 301 B Chestnut, Hollis, call (580)
688-2913.

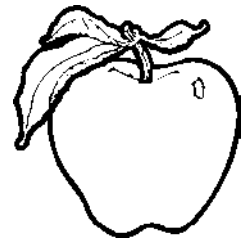
Classified ad space is offered free to Harmon Electric Association Members. Send your ad to Harmon Electric Association, P.O. Box 393, Hollis, OK 73550 for next month's issue. Ads will be run one month only and must be re-submitted if you still wish the ad to be run. Service ads will be run three months before they must be resubmitted.

Spiced Apple Pudding

Recipe of the Month

3 cups bread crumbs
3 cups apples, chopped
1 cup sugar
1/4 lb. raisins

2 tbsp. brandy
1 tbsp. ground cinnamon
1/2 tsp. cloves
2 or 3 eggs, beaten



Cook the bread crumbs a few minutes with a pint of milk before adding the other ingredients. Add the whites of the eggs the last thing before baking. Bake half an hour in a hot oven. Serve with any sweet sauce.

FORGET FRIED TURKEY THIS THANKSGIVING

Celebrity chefs have whetted Americas appetite for twists on traditional dishes like the Thanksgiving turkey. But Underwriters Laboratories (UL) is warning holiday cooks to leave the preparation of one newfangled favorite—fried turkey—to the TV gourmets.

Backyard turkey fryers, says UL, which rates appliances for electrical safety, are unsafe. "Based on our test findings, the fryers used to produce those great-tasting birds are not worth the risks," says John Drenenberg, UL consumer affairs manager.

Here are the problems with turkey fryers, according to UL:

- Many units easily tip over, spilling the five gallons of hot oil in the cooking pot. ²⁹⁷⁰³
- If the cooking pot is overfilled with oil, it may spill out when the turkey is placed into the pot. If spilled oil contacts the burner—which houses a flame—fire could quickly engulf the entire unit.
- Partially frozen turkeys placed into the fryer can cause the oil to spill.
- The units have no thermostat

controls so the fryers can overheat to the point of combustion.

• The oil in the cooking pot stays ultra-hot for hours after the turkey is done.

• The sides of the cooking pot, lid and pot handles, get "dangerously hot," says UL.

So consider cooking the turkey the old-fashioned way—in your oven.

