

# "Hotlines"

Published Monthly  
for the Members of  
Alfalfa Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Cherokee, OK  
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*The Fall Equinox is September 23.  
Why did the summer go so fast?*



September, 2014

Number 9, Volume 69

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



## Area News Briefs

The last summer holiday is Monday, September 1, 2014. Yahoo! Labor Day! AEC will be closed for our employees to enjoy the vacation with their families and friends. Celebrate wisely!

**COOLER DAYS ARE COMING SO GET YOUR NAME ON THE LIST... CALL FOR A FURNACE CHECK-UP!**

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



*Kelsey Hull, Waynoka; Conner Whitley, Cherokee; and Keyra Clark, Burlington; pose outside the Capitol in Washington, D.C.*

## AEC sends students to Washington, D.C.

Imagine that you are a junior in high school, living in AEC's service area. Because your essay was selected a winner in the annual Youth Tour Essay Contest and judges were impressed with a personal interview, **you are going to Washington, D.C.!**

Two lucky students win this opportunity each spring. Frequently a participant has never been out of the

state or flown in an airplane. Students describe the whole experience as "fantastic," and "life-changing."

This year, AEC was represented in Washington, D.C. by three students--Kelsey Hull of Waynoka; Keyra Clark of Burlington; and Conner Whitley, Cherokee Homeschooled. Conner was a scholarship winner

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## ALTERNATING CURRENTS...

### The Last Word

by Ron Shafer

I came to work on the morning of July 9, 1973 thinking that Alfalfa Electric would be a good place to be employed. I really didn't know what I would be doing but I wasn't too worried about that. A little over 41 years later, about the time you receive this newsletter, I will finish my career at AEC.

It has been my great privilege to work alongside some very good people while providing an important and necessary service to other very good people. It is those very people that I will miss the most. Well, that and the monthly paycheck I suppose. When I first started I couldn't even spell cooperative but today I realize what a great place this is. Through the years my job functions and responsibilities have changed but the goal and our mission has remained the same. We are owned by the people we serve and we try very hard to provide that service the best, most efficient way we possibly can.

In recent years I have worn more than one hat and it has kept things both busy and interesting. My capacity as the editor of the newsletter has been the hardest thing I have tried to do. Perhaps I should have tried harder to learn more from my English teacher when I was in school. Robyn Turney (a retired English teacher) has been hired to be the new Director of Communications and I know she will do a great job.

Goodbye to all of my friends and, as always, AEC will continue to keep the lights on for you.



*This Georgia scene could happen anywhere.*

## “I’ll get a line, you hit a pole”...

If you have a car accident that involves a utility pole, don't get out of your car.

Instead, stay inside and use your cell phone to call 911. If you don't have your phone with you, yell for help until someone else agrees to make the emergency call.

The reason: Until an electric cooperative line crew can reach you and de-energizes the power line, you have to assume the wire is “live” and can electrocute you and your passengers. Wait for the OK from the pros before touching anything outside of your car.

Of course, if your car catches on fire, you'll need to get out in a hurry. In that case, jump out so you land—on both feet—as far away from your car as possible. Hop—don't walk—away from the car, making sure that both feet touch the ground at the same time with each hop.

Do not touch the utility pole, any utility wire or anything that's touching or even close to a utility line. Assume everything is energized with electricity that can harm or even kill you if you touch it.

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## ALLOCATED PATRONAGE DIVIDEND BASED UPON PATRONAGE TAXABLE INCOME FOR 2013 TAX PURPOSES

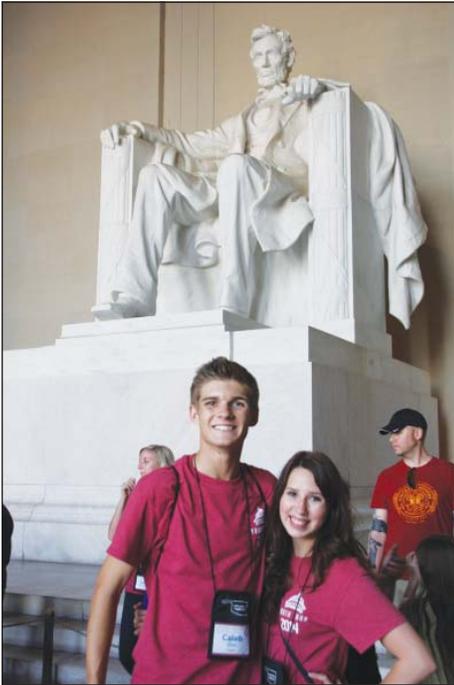
The Notice of Patronage Taxable Income Allocation for Tax Purposes is issued in accordance with the Bylaws of Alfalfa Electric Cooperative, Inc. The amount of patronage taxable income for the calendar year 2013 that exceeds patronage book income due to 2013 net temporary book/tax differences is \$4,865,654. The allocation factor is .1831674647. To determine your amount of this allocation, multiply the allocation factor by the total amount of your electric bill for 2013, less the bill minimum. This allocated amount is not immediately available as either cash or credit on your electric bill. These notices are redeemable only at the discretion

of AEC's Board of Directors, and are not required to be reported by you for income tax purposes until redeemed for cash and then only if you receive an income tax deduction for the payment made to the cooperative during 2013. Accordingly, it is unlikely that residential patrons will be required to report such allocations even when paid to them in cash or credited to their electric bill. If you have any questions concerning this allocation please contact Christy Schanbacher at 580-596-3333 x117.

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**Washington, D. C. trip**

whose parents paid his entire expenses when a slot opened. (AEC General Manager Colin Whitley is Conner's father. The Manager is very familiar with the program and felt it was a wonderful opportunity for his son.)



*Kelsey Hull (right) and another Oklahoma delegate stand in front of one of her favorite memorials.*



*Keyra Clark with Oklahoma Congressman Frank Lucas.*



*One of the Iwo Jima survivors joins Conner Whitley.*



*Marine Band's Sunset Parade.*

All the participants came home with favorite experiences. Kelsey Hull felt patriotism viewing the Lincoln Memorial—thinking about the turmoil of the Civil War, Emancipation and that President's untimely assassination. She also enjoyed meeting other delegates from throughout Oklahoma.

Keyra Clark has connected with many new friends she met on the trip. She feels these associations will continue throughout her senior year and college. The Capitol Building impressed Keyra. "Just thinking about all its history—it was exciting to finally see it."

The war memorials caught Conner's attention—especially the Iwo Jima Memorial. "I loved the Sunset Parade of the Marine Marching Band," added Conner. "I also liked the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials."

During a week's activities, students saw a variety of places and events. Even though most shy delegates only knew their own cooperative's representatives when they left the state, in a couple of days everyone used first names.

No doubt the exhausted travelers will tell and retell their experiences for many years to come.

# Cool kitchen key to September comfort

If you can't stand the heat, cool off your kitchen.

The kitchen can be the hottest room in the house, especially when it's hot outside. Keep the heat under control with a few summertime tips:

Whenever possible, cook a lot of meals at the same time. This uses less energy than when you cook each meal separately. You can always store the leftovers for later or freeze them.

If you're baking, avoid the

temptation of opening the oven door. Peek through the glass! This lets out 20 percent of the heat. Use a cooking timer instead to check on the treat's progress.

Use pots and pans that match the size of the burners on your stove. This allows more heat to get to the pan so less heat is lost to surrounding air.

Use the range instead of the oven. Or better yet, turn on the microwave or use a pressure cooker. Both use less power than a standard electric range.

Open and close the refrigerator door quickly. Know what you want before opening the door.

Make sure your refrigerator door seals are airtight. Check it by closing a piece of paper in the door, half in and half out. If you

can pull the paper out easily, you may need to make some adjustments or replace the seal.

Keep your food covered. Moisture buildup in the refrigerator makes the air inside harder to cool.

Run the dishwasher, dryer, and stove after the sun goes down to avoid adding heat to your house during the hottest part of the day.

When using the dishwasher, turn off the drying cycle if you don't need dishes right away.

Wait until the dishwasher is full before running. Partial loads can use just as much water and power as a full load.



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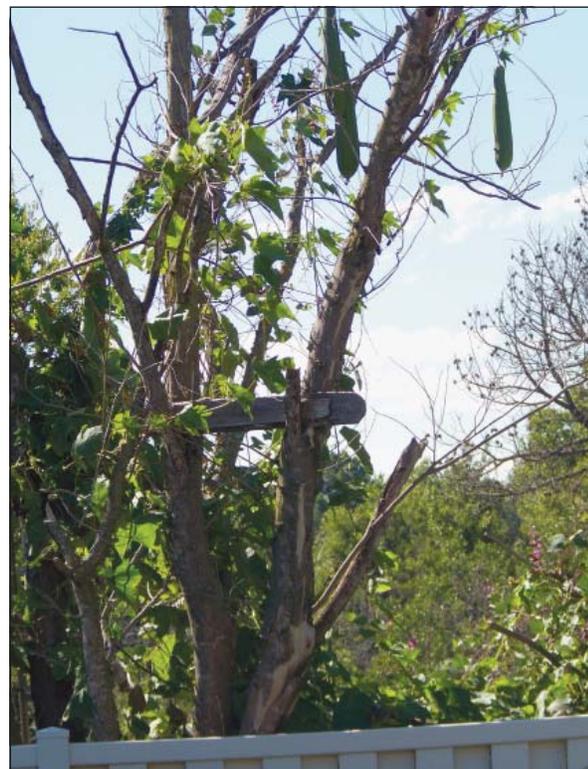
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## Late garden cucumbers, high energy?



Fall gardens bring many benefits but this stand of cucumbers in Oklahoma is "highly unusual." A patch of long, thin vegetables, commonly called "Syrian cucumbers" marched right up the trees nearby. The result was this unusual sight.

Gardeners must use a ladder to grab the cukes, evidently the highest in vitamin C. When harvested at 30 foot in the air, the task is labor intensive and enough to confuse several squirrels, recently evicted.