



Happy Fourth of July

Southern Pine Electric Power Association offices will be closed Tuesday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day. A dispatcher will remain on duty to respond to emergency calls. We wish you and your family a happy and safe holiday!

From Southern Pine's kitchen

Butterfinger Trifle

1 angel food cake
 1 butterscotch ice cream topping
 1 large instant vanilla pudding mix
 2 cups milk
 1 (8-oz.) pkg. cream cheese
 3/4 cup confectioner's sugar
 1 large carton frozen whipped topping
 2 Butterfinger candy bars, crushed

In trifle bowl, break half the angel food cake into bite-size pieces. Beat cream cheese and sugar until creamy. Mix pudding and milk. Combine cream cheese and pudding mixture; add half of thawed whipped topping. Top the cake with a layer of pudding, ice cream topping and Butterfingers. Repeat layers. Top with other half of whipped topping and Butterfingers.

Oreo Frozen Delight

1 (15-oz.) pkg. Oreo cookies
 1/2 gal. vanilla ice cream
 1 cup pecans
 1 carton frozen whipped topping

Crush cookies and chop nuts. Let ice cream soften. Mix with the whipped topping and put into 13x9x2-inch pan. Keep in freezer until ready to serve. Cut in squares. Makes 12 to 15 servings.

Penny's Custard Ice Cream

3 3/4 cups sugar
 5 T. flour
 1 1/4 tsp. salt
 10 cups milk
 10 eggs, well beaten
 5 tsp. vanilla flavoring
 2 (14-oz.) cans condensed milk
 1 pint half-and-half

Mix sugar, flour, salt and milk. Cook in top of double boiler over simmering water, stirring until slightly thickened. Cover and cook 10 minutes more on low heat. Add hot mixture slowly to eggs, beating constantly. Return mixture to top of double boiler and cook over boiling water 5 minutes or until custard coats spoon. Cool. Add vanilla, condensed milk and cream. Freeze in an ice cream freezer. Makes 1 1/2 gallons.

WE'RE SERVICE PROUD

How to reach Southern Pine

Taylorville Headquarters:
 601-785-6511 or 800-231-5240
 Hattiesburg branch: 601-264-0185

Newton District Office:
 601-683-2200 or 800-698-9573

New Hebron District Office:
 601-694-2711 or 800-698-9571

Brandon District Office:
 601-824-7070 or 800-698-9574

Find Southern Pine online at www.spepa.com

#6 OF 7 GUIDING PRINCIPLES COOPERATIVES FOLLOW

COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES - Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional, and international structures.

We have the power to make a difference.

With fuel costs rising, we're exploring new ways to generate power and investing in new technology to improve efficiency and reliability. We're your local electric co-op and we work for you, providing safe, dependable electricity at the lowest possible cost.

Electricity doesn't take vacations

Planning a vacation? Great! But remember, while you're off having fun and relaxing, your electric service stays on the job. Some people expect their electric bill to plummet when they go on vacation. After all, no one is around to use electricity, right? Wrong! The amount of your electric bill may not reflect your vacation for these reasons:

- Major appliances keep working (and using electricity) while you're away. Your refrigerator keeps cooling and your freezer keeps freezing. And your water heater keeps heating water regardless of whether anyone is at home to use it.
- Many people raise their air-conditioning thermostat to 80 degrees or above to save on cooling costs while they're away. This is all well and good, but remember that warmer indoor temperatures will make your refrigerator and freezer work even harder—and use more electricity—to maintain set temperatures.
- There are a lot of smaller electrical equipment and appliances that keep on going while you're away: clocks, power ventilators, lights on timers, outdoor floodlights, alarm systems and such. It all adds up.
- Upon their return from vacation, people usually have loads of laundry to wash and dry. That takes electricity.

You can see that a lot goes into your home—electrically speaking—while you're on vacation. Electricity stays on the job 365 days a year, working hard to make your life as easy as possible.

Hotter weather means higher bills

As summer heats up Mississippi, Southern Pine Electric Power Association reminds members that high temperatures cause electricity use to soar. These tips can help you control energy cost:

- We recommend setting your thermostat at 78 degrees or higher to ease the load on your air conditioner.
- Use a ceiling or portable fan to provide a cooling breeze, but turn it off when no one is in the room.
- Replace your air conditioner's filter once a month to improve efficiency and to keep your system running smoothly. A dirty filter causes your air conditioner to work harder and can even shorten its life.
- Inspect ducts and vents for air leaks, and repair them immediately.
- Do not obstruct the air-intake vent.
- Use shades or awnings to prevent direct sunlight from heating your home—and making your air conditioner work overtime.

Wesson to observe Founder's Day

Wesson will celebrate its heritage June 9 and 10 at the 17th Annual Founders Day Arts and Crafts Show. Music and entertainment will begin Friday at 7 p.m. Saturday activities will begin at 8 a.m. For more information, call (601) 643-5121 or e-mail joy.wesbrooks@colin.edu. Wesson was founded by Col. James Madison Wesson, a successful industrialist who in 1863 began searching for a place in which to relocate after Federal troops burned his mills in Choctaw County. He eventually settled on the dividing ridge between the Mississippi and Pearl rivers, and on March 31, 1864 the town of Wesson was incorporated. In 1866 Col. Wesson and his associates established a cotton mill known as the Mississippi Manufacturing Co. and erected houses for its workers. Wesson sold the company in 1871 to Capt. William Oliver. Oliver and Col. Edmund Richardson created a cotton enterprise called Mississippi Mills, which became the largest manufacturing institution south of the Ohio River. By 1880 they had equipped the mills with electric lights—only one year after Thomas Edison perfected them. The steam-powered mill and its electric service became a source of pride for Wesson, which is said to have been home to more millionaires than Natchez. Source: "Wesson: Industrial City of the South" by Durr Walker and David W. Higgs

Touchstone Energy frequently asked questions: What is Touchstone Energy and what does it stand for?

Touchstone Energy is the brand identity program for Southern Pine Electric Power Association and other electric cooperatives around the country. It is designed to:

- Help cooperative members distinguish cooperatives from other providers.
- Help cooperative members know that cooperatives are owned by their consumers.

Touchstone Energy is more than advertising. It stands for:

- High standards in customer service.
- A successful way of doing business.
- Four core values: Integrity, Accountability, Innovation and Commitment to Community.

Touchstone Energy brand is communicated to members through branding, advertising, public and member relations activities, sponsorships and a Web site. Why are cooperatives doing this? Forty-six cooperatives from across the country got together and decided they need to work together to:

- Successfully face deregulation and competition.
- Effectively use new technology to cooperatives' advantage.
- Clearly communicate the strengths of cooperatives.

Research has shown that only 25 percent of current cooperative members understand what a cooperative is. With input from members, the Touchstone Energy brand was formed to:

- Promote the cooperative way of doing business.
- Focus on current and future cooperative members' needs.

By working together with other cooperatives and sharing resources, cooperatives can serve their members even better than before.

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative