

THE TRUTH ABOUT ELECTRIC



If it seems too good to be true, it probably is. When outside temperatures drop, it is common to turn up the heat in your home. However, because heating costs have been rising,

many are looking for a more cost-effective way to heat.

You may have heard claims that purchasing a “magic” space heater will slash your electric bill by up to 50 percent, or that you can heat your home for pennies a day. What is not said is how many pennies it will take. We advise to be cautious of such claims and investigate fully before purchasing a potentially costly space heater.

THERE ARE NO “MAGIC” SPACE HEATERS

To achieve the savings these “magic” space heater advertisements claim, you must turn the temperature in your house down to between 50 and 60 degrees and move the heater with you from room to room. Not only is this a potential safety hazard, you also sacrifice convenience and comfort in the rest of your home.

In addition, electric plug-in space heaters are not more efficient than other electric heating sources, and all electric space heaters are equally efficient. An electric space heater rated at 1,500 watts will put out the same amount of heat regardless what you pay for it.

You would be better off to take the money you would spend on a space heater and put it toward weatherization improvements to your home, such as adding insulation and caulking.

KEEP SAFETY IN MIND

Space heating poses a much higher risk of fire, death, injury and loss per million users than central heating. In 2006, an estimated 19,400 reported home structure fires involving stationary or portable space heaters resulted in 390 deaths, 820 injured persons and \$478 million in direct property damage according to the National Fire Protection Agency.

If you do use a space heater, be sure to:

- Keep the heater at least 3 feet from flammable items such as curtains and furniture.
- Choose a heater that is certified by a nationally recognized testing institution such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL).
- Select a space heater with a guard around the heating element.
- Keep children and pets away from heaters.
- Be sure the heater has an automatic shut-off switch if it tips over.
- Never leave a space heater unattended.

CONSIDER THE OPERATING COST

Before you purchase an electric plug-in space heater that claims to lower your heating bill, consider the operating costs. The cost to operate depends on the type of heater and the size of room you are heating. Use the formula provided on page 3 to calculate operating costs of an electric space heater, or any electric appliance.

STAY WARM FOR LESS

There are many ways to remain warm during the chilly winter months without the use of an electric space heater, such as dressing in layers and using an electric blanket at night. Such ideas provide a quick solution, but may not be comfortable or convenient.

If you are looking for long-term fixes for your heating needs, we have a program called Take Control & Save to help members manage energy use and reduce their energy consumption in smart ways. Using energy wisely will help members keep their electricity bills as low as

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THE LAST DANCE

BY C.L. HARMON

“If I could still do it, I would,” Mary Jo Hendrix said. Although her response was about dancing,

I believe her answer was more deeply rooted in her wish

to have kept alive a “family tradition” — a tradition that is as much a part of her as the rhythm of her own life.

All things come to an end. It’s a reality that Hendrix, her children and grandchildren know all too well. After

watching the last remnants of their family’s contribution to history crumble into the dust from which it once stood, that reality finally set in.

“It took part of my life when they tore it down,” Hendrix said about Jump’s Roller Rink, her parents Lonus and Maude’s dream of a place they could share their love of dancing.

The Jumps built the skating rink/dance hall in 1946 after moving from the river south of Fairfax. Soon after the skating became a hit, the dancing began.

With those shuffling boots came nights born to the sounds of old country and western music. Those same nights are now remembered as a waltz that played on for almost 45 years.

However, in September of this year, the waltz ended and the family watched as the old building came down. A random lightning strike from a July storm sparked a fire causing damage to much for insurance to pay and to extensive for Hendrix to repair.

Although the rink had been closed since 1989 and the building had become somewhat dilapidated and used for stor-

age, it remained a constant reminder for the family of a time when thousands of feet shuffled across the old wooden floor and laughter was the language of the night. In its heyday crowds of a 1000 people could be seen gathering at the rink, socializing and dancing.

There was even a time when the sides of the building

opened up and people could sit outside and watch the dancers and listen to the music of the Grand Ole Opry’s biggest stars, Hendrix said.

“Mom always said that Conway Twitty got his start there,” Hendrix went on to say.



artistic recreation

The rink would bring some of the biggest names in country music including: Jim Reeves, Hank Thompson, Tex Ritter, Merle Haggard, Little Jimmie Dickens, Wanda Jackson, Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys, Lefty Frizell, Ernest Tubb and Jerry Lee Lewis among many others.

The skating aspect dwindled in the early 1970’s but the dances, begun in the late 1940’s, continued to be the main attraction for miles around.

In fact their popularity would continually grow, eventually providing the opportunity for the Jumps to expand their business venture and add a six booth café called the Roller Inn Café and the first wing of the Roller Inn Motel.

Those ventures would grow into a 27 unit motel with swimming pool and a 250 seat café. But things were not always prosperous. The family suffered a fire in 1979 that destroyed 14 rooms of the motel.

A large portion of memorabilia from the acts that had played at the dance



*Lonus Jump with the Te
Jump Roller Rink in Fa*

hall was also lost. The rooms were rebuilt but there was a spirit that would never return to the long tin-roofed building off Highway 18 that spurred the motel and cafe.

A short ten years later it would hold its last dance on New Year's Eve. Lonus' health had started to decline. He was at this time age 82 and Maude 76.

This, in conjunction with the rising costs of performers and security and sparser crowds, convinced the Jump's to focus on the motel and café and close the dance hall.

"I miss those times more than anything in life," Hendrix said. The loss of those times was in her voice. It was as though she had lost a member of her family. After all, her life had been in those buildings.

She had slept on pallets in the dance hall as a child while the adults danced til after midnight. She began waiting tables at the cafe when she was seven years old and cooking by the time she reached her teens. She and her husband Runt cooked and ran the cafe together from 1957 until his death... her life has always been in those buildings.

"I'm sure everybody remembers my husband cooking them steaks," she said with a hint of joy in her voice. She continues to operate the cafe with the help of her grandchildren. Every morning at five she opens up and often works until ten in the evening. She does like to steal a nap in the afternoon whenever she can, she admits.

"Maybe when it's all cleaned up, I will make a courtyard where the dance hall was so people can sit outside and eat," Hendrix said. Although she misses the past, she

plans not to dwell on it, but to move forward into the future with plans to restore eight rooms of the motel and keep up the family tradition of selling the biggest steaks around.

Perhaps for Hendrix and all those who remember a time of innocence and fun in a long old building off Highway 18, there will never truly be a last dance as long as they listen to the rhythm of an old-fashioned song and dance with the ghosts of their past.

Special thanks to Mary Jo Hendrix, Barbara (Hendrix) Thornburg, John Hendrix, Jan Wil-laford and Ida Roberts for their contributions to this story. ♦



Texas Playboys at the Fairfax, Oklahoma

Space Heaters cont.

Operating costs

Watts x hours of operation ÷
1,000 x kilowatt-hour (kWh) electric rate
For example, a 1,500-watt space heater
running 24 hours per day would cost
\$2.99 per day at a rate of \$0.083 per kWh.

$$1,500 \times 24 = 36,000$$

$$36,000 \div 1,000 = 36$$

$$36 \times .083 = \$2.99$$

That's more than \$90 a month for just one heater!

possible while maintaining comfort.

EFFECTIVE MEASURES INCLUDE:

- Install a ground-source or air-source heat pump that will heat your home in the winter and cool your home in the summer.
- Install a programmable thermostat. Turn it down when you are gone for the day and when you are sleeping.
- Add insulation, caulk and weather-strip.
- Strategically place fans at low speed to pull warm air from the rest of the house into the cooler space.
- Change your furnace filter regularly. A dirty filter forces the furnace to work harder, decreasing its efficiency and increasing heating costs.
- Have a ventilation, heating and air conditioning technician check the duct work in your home. Ducts may have come loose from the main trunk and could be feeding warm air into the attic or crawl space instead of the living areas of your home.
- Complete a home energy audit and discover more ways you can improve your overall energy use.

To learn more about how to save energy, visit www.TakeControlAndSave.coop. ♦

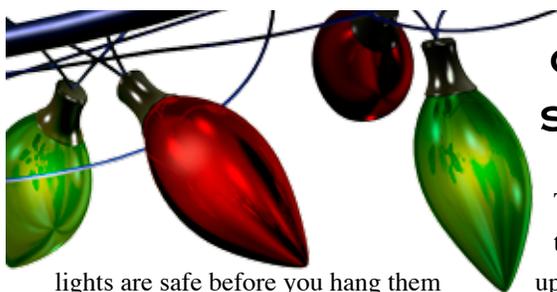


Recipe: Butterfinger Pie

- 1 (8-oz.) pkg. Cream Cheese, softened
- 1 (8-oz.) container Cool Whip, thawed
- 4 2.1 ounce each Butterfinger candy bars
- 1 9-inch Prepared Graham Cracker Crust

In a small mixing bowl, beat the cream cheese until smooth. Fold in the Cool Whip. crush the candy bars; fold 1 cup into cream cheese mixture. Spoon into crust. Sprinkle with remaining candy bar crumbs.
Refrigerate for 2-4 hours before slicing.

Yield: 6-8 servings.



CHRISTMAS LIGHT SAFETY TIPS

There are several things you need to do to ensure that your Christmas lights are safe before you hang them up.

VERIFY PROPER RATING – Bargain lights aren't a good deal if they pose a fire hazard. Only use lights that have been tested and rated by Underwriter's Laboratory (UL) or Intertek (ETL Semko).

CHECK FOR FRAYING – When you remove your holiday lights from storage, check the cords to make sure they are not frayed or otherwise damaged. Hanging lights with damaged cords can lead to an electrical short. This can potentially lead to a fire. If you discover damaged strings of lights, throw them away.

USE AS DIRECTED – There is a big difference between indoor holiday lights and outdoor holiday lights. Before hanging lights, make sure that you are using the fixtures only in the environment in which they were designed to be used.

CHOOSE LOCATIONS CAREFULLY – Avoid hanging holiday lights near any item that poses a potential fire hazard, such as candles, space heaters, fireplaces, etc. Make sure bulbs aren't too close to loose paper or any other flammable materials that present a safety hazard.

Hang Carefully - Never use tacks, staples, or nails to hang up your holiday light display. Instead, use insulated holders designed especially for this purpose.

SELECT EXTENSION CORDS WISELY – There's a good chance that you are going to need extension cords to complete your holiday lighting display. Make sure you have a sufficient quantity and length of grounded extension cords for the amount of the lights you plan to use. Do not overload extension cords with more wattage than they are designed to accommodate. It's also important to verify that any extension cords you are planning to use outside are rated for exterior use. ♦

Office Closings



IEC offices will be closed Thursday, Dec. 24, Friday, Dec. 25, and Friday

January 1, 2010 so our employees can spend the holidays with their families. Please call (918) 358-2514 or 1-800-482-2750 to report an outage.

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