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country living

FOR MEMBERS OF EAST CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



Members pack the house at the ECE Annual Meeting on July 25. Held at the OSU Institute of Technology in Okmulgee, the event drew a record-breaking crowd. PHOTO/ECE.

TOP STORY

Annual Meeting Pulls A Crowd

Strong member turn out assures vote on bylaw amendment

Maybe it was the grand prize truck giveaway. Or the \$1,000 cash prize. Or the vote on a bylaw amendment that assured no bureaucratic red lights blocking East Central Electric's roll out of its high speed fiber broadband service. Whatever the reason, cooperative members turned out for the ECE Annual Meeting, bringing spouses, children, and friends with them. At final count, 1,673 members registered at the meeting on July 25, making it the largest attendance in recent history, and easily securing the five percent of members required to conduct official co-op business.

For ECE employees who worked hard to assure a fun, well-organized event, the response was rewarding. "With a quorum we were able to hold elections and take care of important business matters. Members approved the bylaw amendment, which is good news for the cooperative," said Tim Smith, ECE general manager.

Members also re-elected Mike Vernnon, District 4 incumbent trustee, for another three-year term. District 7 incumbent Dwight Luther will also continue to serve his member constituents.

Tim Smith reported on the ecoLink fiber initiative, receiving several rounds of

Closed for Labor Day

East Central Electric Cooperative will close on **Monday, September 2** for Labor Day. To report a service problem during this time, please use ECE's SmartHub, or call us 24/7 at **918-756-0833**.

Have a safe holiday!

applause from the crowd. Commenting on the meeting later, Smith said, "Our members are eager for service to reach them. Fiber broadband is to today's member what the light bulb was to the first co-op pioneers. It's a life changer."

As members strolled the vendor booths at the meeting, the most popular stop by far was the ecoLink fiber booth.

"There were people lined up to spin the prize wheel for a chance at free internet service and other prizes," said Amy Nix, ECE member services representative.

Other members won it big that evening, including Rebecca Autaubo of Okmulgee, winner of the 2010 Ford F-150 grand prize, and Charles Hiner of Haskell, who walked away with the \$1,000 cash prize.

Find a complete list of prize winners on page 2 of this issue.

To members who turned out for the meeting, ECE is especially grateful. Your presence—and your vote—made a difference. Thank you! 🙌



Congrats!

Check Out Our Winners from the ECE Annual Meeting

Next year it could be you!



EARLY BIRD DRAWINGS

Keith Perceful, Muskogee - Go Pro Camera
Sharon Harris, Okmulgee - \$100

KID'S \$25 WALMART CARD

Isabelle Sissom

RECIPE DRAWING - \$25 WALMART CARD

Jen Prodoehl, Beggs

\$50 STAY TO WIN DRAWINGS

Shirley Haney, Muskogee
Samantha Henderson, Muskogee
Sherry Tiger, Sapulpa
Jennifer Colwill, Morris
James Fowler, Checotah
Phillip Long, Muskogee
Sharon Anderson, Henryetta
James Matthews, Moore

\$100 PRIZE DRAWINGS

Wanda Wittman, Okmulgee
Gerald, Monley, Okmulgee
Lori Elliot, Mounds
Ted L. Rodgers, Wainwright
Randy Jarvis, Mounds
Michelle Fox, Bixby
Jaime Cheatwood, Okemah
Edward Bailey, Morris

\$500 PRIZE DRAWINGS

Wilson Volunteer Fire
Kenneth Gramlich, Checotah

\$1000 PRIZE DRAWING

Charles Hiner, Haskell

2010, F-150 GRAND PRIZE

Rebecca Autaubo, Okmulgee



▲ Sharon Hiner of Haskell holds the big check she and her husband, Charles, won at the ECE Annual Meeting. Presenting the \$1,000 prize is Tim Smith, ECE general manager.

◀ Rebecca Autaubo with her granddaughter, Anna Autaubo, and Tim Smith, ECE general manager. A longtime ECE member from Okmulgee, Autaubo won the shiny Ford F-150 at the ECE Annual Meeting in July. Congratulations on your new wheels, Mrs. Autaubo!

💡 WATT WISE

August Heat Will Show In September

By September, most Oklahomans are ready to put the 100+ degree temperatures of August behind them. That's understandable, but remember: Those high August temperatures set usage peaks for Oklahoma utilities, and caused many a home AC to work double-time to keep the home comfortable.



Please remember those hot days when you open your September electric bill. It may be higher than normal. And with September's more reasonable weather, it can be all too easy to forget those days in the sauna.

If you have questions about your usage, please log on to ECE's SmartHub. The app's monitoring tool lets you check your kilowatt-hour use in greater detail so you can see how your home—and your family members—are using electricity.

If you need help sniffing out your home's worst energy gobblers, please contact ECE's energy use specialist at **918-756-0833**. What you learn may surprise you.

How Fiber Broadband Reaches You

There's a lot more to stringing fiber cable than tacking up a line. Take a look at our diagram, below, to better understand how data/voice will flow into your home via fiber.

Using the East Central Electric (ECE) power grid as its sky road, the "backbone" fiber will hang roughly two to four feet below the power line. This ensures a "safe" zone for the ecoLINK workers who may have to repair line.

33% of Oklahomans lack access to internet speeds of **25 Mbps** or faster. Once ecoLINK fiber is installed throughout the ECE system, co-op members will surf at speeds of **100 Mbps** —no longer be part of the underserved minority.

Notice the added equipment, such as splice cases and fiber huts. When you see these things going up in your area, get ready: The world's fastest internet service, and a world of infinite possibility, is on its way to you!

Phase II of ECE's fiber buildout is scheduled to begin in early 2020.

Check out the map at www.ecoec.com. Please register your interest for broadband internet or telephone at <http://register.ecoec.com/>.



Residential Package Pricing:

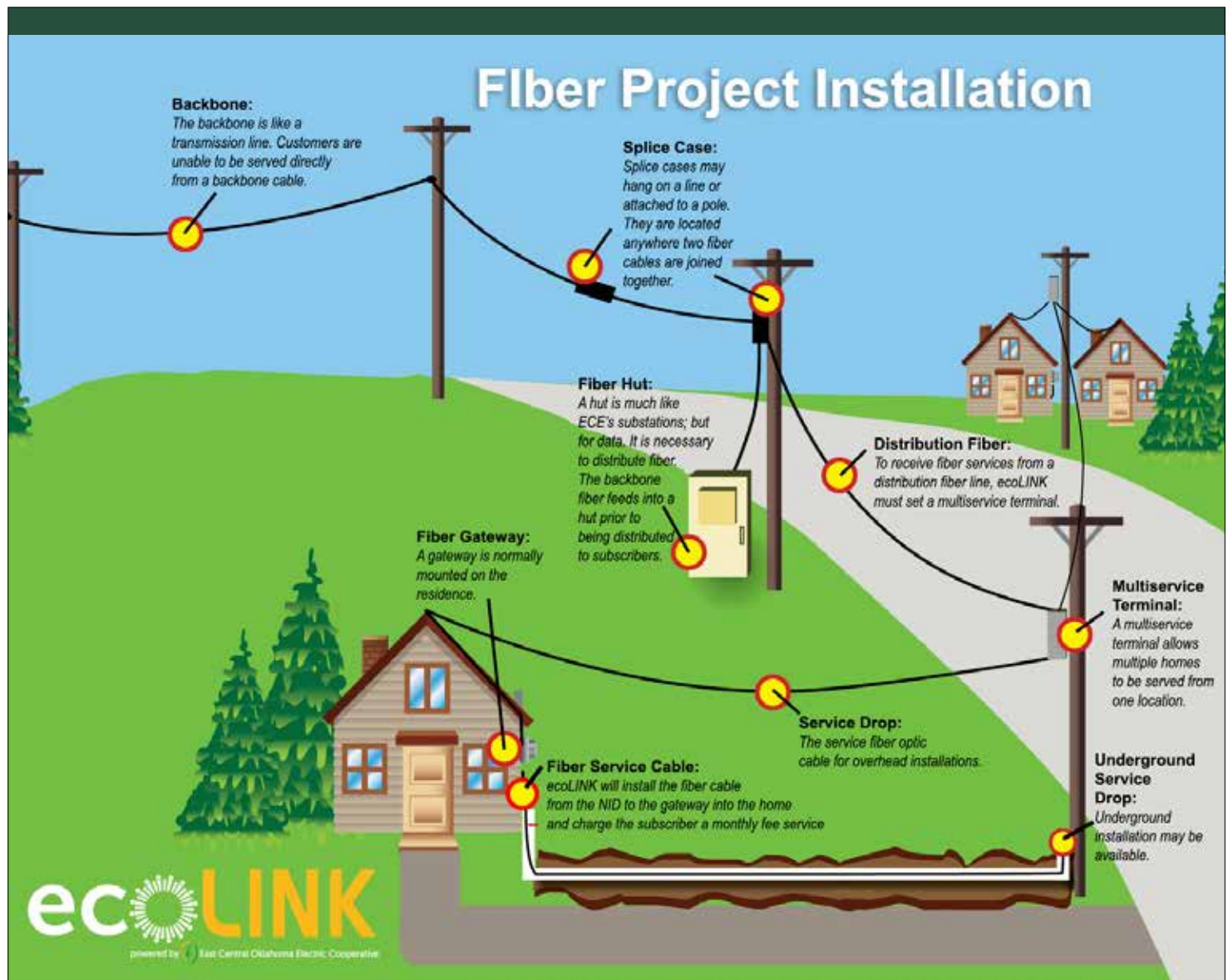
\$55/month

Up to 100 Mbps download/upload.
Download a HD movie in as little as 6 minutes!
Bundle w/ residential telephone service for \$85/mo.

\$85/month

Up to 1Gbps download/upload.
Download a HD movie in as little as 40 seconds!
Bundle w/ residential telephone service for \$115/mo.

For commercial pricing, please call
918-756-0833



operation round-up

MONTHLY UPDATE



Operation Roundup funds support local charitable organizations, civic groups, youth programs, community services, and needy families. For more information on this voluntary bill roundup program, please visit us online at www.ecoec.com.

Applications reviewed.....	1091
Applications granted.....	725
Applications denied.....	327
Applications tabled.....	26
Scholarships awarded.....	\$245,000
<hr/>	
Total Disbursements.....	\$1,757,562.73
Average member contribution.....	48¢



Grilled Bacon Jalapeno Wraps

INGREDIENTS

- | | |
|--|---|
| 6 fresh jalapeno peppers,
halved lengthwise
and seeded | 1 (8 oz) pkg. cream cheese
12 slices bacon |
|--|---|

DIRECTIONS

Preheat an outdoor grill for high heat.

Spread cream cheese to fill jalapeno halves. Wrap with bacon. Secure with a toothpick.

Place on the grill, and cook until bacon is crispy.

Yield: Six servings.

Options: Mix a package of dried Ranch dressing mix with the cream cheese for a tasty twist, or try 1 Tbsp Cajun seasoning and 2 tsp garlic powder.

Source: allrecipes.com



ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

Heavy reliance on power strips is an indication that you have too few power outlets to address your needs. Have additional outlets installed by a qualified, licensed electrician.

SOURCE: ELECTRICAL SAFETY FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL



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OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Friday, 8 am - 4:30 pm.

POWER OUTAGE HOT LINE

(918) 756-0833

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PAYMENT OPTIONS

- Pay online at www.ecoec.com using SmartHub, or download the app.
- Pay by phone using VISA, Mastercard or Discover at **866-999-4584**. Available 24 hours a day. Convenience fee associated with payments.
- Pay with cash or credit/debit card at participating Moneygram or Pay Site locations. Convenience fee associated with payments.
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