



country living

FOR MEMBERS OF EAST CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

TOP STORY

Show Us The Love—For Fiber!

Go online to register your interest, get updates on progress, and more on ECE's high speed, fiber-based internet.

If you want the high speed fiber broadband internet service in your area, now is the time to let your electric cooperative know.

East Central Electric (ECE) created a special website that is linked to ECE's homepage where people can register if they want fiber broadband in their area. The site also provides updates

on the installation progress, and shows the status of registered interest in each particular area. ECE encourages you to share the web link with neighbors and friends, post it on social media, and publish it in your homeowner association newsletters and local newspapers. Remember, you don't have to belong to ECE to register for fiber broadband, but co-op members will receive priority.

Registering your interest is important because it is one of the determining factors in where and when the service will be installed.

East Central Electric is planning its broadband service in stages. Phase I is already underway, but other phases will be determined by interest, the availability and quality of other internet providers in the area, and the status of the right of way. A clear right of way allows crews to work efficiently and safely as they install fiber cable.

Don't miss your chance! Register today by visiting www.ecoec.com and choosing the ecoLINK button, or visit <https://register.ecoec.com> directly. ☺

ecoLINK
100 Mbps and 1 Gbps Internet • Home Phone Service

We're in the beginning stage of our project, but we're coming soon to bring high-speed fiber services to your area. Please visit our website to register your interest in fiber broadband service, view a map of the Phase I service area, and learn more about where we're going.

REGISTER TODAY:
<https://register.ecoec.com>

SPOTLIGHT



HEART *On*
The **LINE**

Co-op lineman faces dangers every day, but remains committed to his job—and his family.

East Central Electric (ECE) lineworkers aren't alone when working on the lines. Whether they are climbing poles to restore power or traveling to aid another cooperative in restoration efforts, they're never far from the hearts and thoughts of family members.

For a decade now, ECE Lineman Terry (Bubba) Casey has gone out when the lights go out. In

floods, tornadoes, snow or ice storms, Terry answers the call to restore members' power, while his family is left behind, praying for his safe return.

Terry's wife of 13 years, Lacy, says, "Being married to a lineman can be hard on your heart. They're on call and have to be ready to go at a moment's notice when needed. Sometimes they're going to miss those

life moments like family get-togethers or one of the kids' games. But he makes those sacrifices because he knows that people are depending on him to get their electricity back on."

The Casey's have one son, Hadyn, age 13, and two daughters, Shaelynn, age 11 and Brooklynn, age 2.

"The kids know that when I'm on call or if there's bad weather, chances are, daddy is going to have to go to work," says Terry.

To protect all of the "hearts on the line," the cooperative holds monthly safety meetings that highlight potential hazards. Safety protocols exist for any situation that may arise with daily safety briefings and an atmosphere that encourages open dialogue.

"Working with high-voltage electricity, lineworkers find themselves in life and death situations regularly," says ECE General Manager Tim Smith. "Safety is the key to everyone going home to their loved ones when the work is done." ❄️

ECE Lineman Bubba Casey with daughter, Brooklyn, age 2, wife, Lacy, and daughter, Shaelynn, age 11, and son, Hadyn, age 13.



"The kids know that when I'm on call, or if there's bad weather, chances are, daddy is going to have to go to work."

WARNING

Thieves Are Posing As Co-op Employees

East Central Electric Cooperative (ECE) is warning members about would-be thieves who disguise themselves as utility employees in order to gain entrance into the home. The men approach homeowners and claim there is a serious electrical problem that requires them to enter the home. Don't let them in! Once inside the home, they steal wallets, jewelry, and other items of value.

Please remember, ECE's service stops at the electric meter. Our repairmen have no reason to enter your home. Any problems beyond the meter should be handled by a licensed electrician.

Don't let them
inside your home!

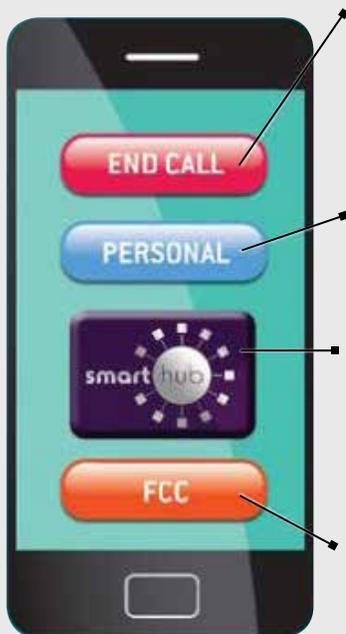
It's also worth knowing your ECE employees wear clothing with the cooperative logo visible so they can be easily identified. Cooperative vehicles are also clearly marked with the ECE logo on the doors.

If you are approached by someone claiming to be from any utility company who asks to enter your home, please contact your law enforcement immediately, and then call us at **918-756-0833**. Notifying ECE allows us to warn other members through social media, our website and our newsletter. Thank you, and please stay safe!

Slam The Door On Scams

Avoid being fooled by utility company imposters

You may get a call saying your electric bill is past due. The caller ID says its from East Central Electric Cooperative or ECE, and shows the cooperative's actual telephone number. This practice is known as "spoofing."



Listen, then hang up.

ECE does issue automated calls on past due accounts. We also contract with a third party to conduct member survey calls occasionally. But we will never ask for immediate payment over the phone.

Don't provide personal details.

ECE already has your account information. We won't call you to ask for it.

Check your account balance.

Use SmartHub at www.ecoec.com or on your mobile phone to access your account online and check your balance. You can also call ECE directly at 918-756-0833 to check.

Report spoofing to the FCC.

If you receive a call that is not legitimate, you can report it to the FCC at consumercomplaints.fcc.gov, or report to the Oklahoma district attorney's office.

Be wary of anyone who calls you to demand immediate payments, even if it appears to be someone you know.

We're here to help. If you have questions regarding a suspicious call or behavior, please call us at **918-756-0833**.



Has your status changed?

Please let us know

If you recently tied the knot, got divorced, or were widowed, please call us so we can update your account. East Central Electric needs up-to-date account information for proper allocation of your capital credits.

Accurate records also make it easier for you to do business with us. Federal privacy laws prevent us from discussing certain details with anyone not listed on the account. If you are recently widowed, your account will be placed in your name, but you need to update your application. If your parents or another family member belonged to the co-op, but are no longer living, please let us know. ECE can't keep an account in the name of a deceased person.

We are happy to help you update your account. Please call **918-756-0833**.

IMPORTANT REMINDER:

Urge Your Valentine To Shine



♥ **Youth Tour:** High school juniors can enter to win the trip of a lifetime to Washington D.C. **Enter by March 1.**

♥ **Energy Camp:** Eighth graders have the opportunity to attend this fun and educational camp. **Enter by March 1.**

♥ **Operation Round Up Scholarship:** High school seniors can apply for \$1,000 scholarship. **Deadline to apply: March 1.**

For more details, applications and entry forms, please visit www.ecoec.com, or call your cooperative at **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.....	1,033
Applications granted.....	700
Applications denied.....	319
Applications tabled.....	24
Scholarships awarded.....	\$218,000
Total Disbursements.....	\$1,692,840.88
Average member contribution.....	44¢

RECIPES



Sirloin Tips With Mushrooms

INGREDIENTS

- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 ½ pounds beef sirloin
- 1 (16 oz) can mushrooms, with liquid
- 1 (8 oz) can tomato sauces
- freshly ground pepper, to taste
- ¾ cup red wine

DIRECTIONS

Cut beef into cubes. In a large skillet over medium/high heat, heat the olive oil and brown beef cubes with the garlic.

Add mushrooms with liquid, tomato sauce, salt, pepper and red wine. Cook for 30 minutes or until beef cubes are tender. Add a little more wine while cooking if desired.



ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

Place lamps on level surfaces, away from things that can burn, and use bulbs that match the lamp's recommended wattage.

SOURCE: NATIONAL FIRE SAFETY PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

Source: allrecipes.com



East Central Electric Cooperative
PO Box 1178
2001 S. Wood Drive
Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447-1178

(918) 756-0833
www.ecoec.com



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.
- Pay using our drive-through window or lobby, Monday - Friday, 8 am to 4:30 pm.
- Pay via automatic draft of your checking or savings account. Sign up online or download the ebill form for easy automatic payments at www.ecoec.com.

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