

■ Pick A Bulb

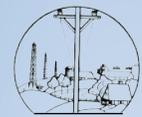
Help others by picking a bulb from Give A Watt. **PAGE 2**

■ Changing Lives

Co-op linemen learn one light can make difference. **PAGE 3**

■ Console for Christmas?

Choose newer models for greater energy savings. **PAGE 4**



country living

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

POWER OUTAGE HOT LINE
(918) 756-0833

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This institution is an equal opportunity employer, Veteran/Disabled.

No Power? No worries.

ECE offers Generac generators to power you through any storm

You've lost power. Perhaps it's a storm or maybe a vehicle accident. In any case, the electricity you depend on is suddenly gone.

East Central Electric (ECE) prides itself on providing reliable service, but there are times when outages will occur. To help members remain as comfortable as possible during an outage, ECE is proud to announce the addition of Generac generators to the co-op's line of products and services.

Beginning in January 2018, co-op members can purchase a Guardian Series Generac home backup generator through the co-op and have it installed by certified electricians. ECE has partnered with Mabrey Bank who will provide members affordable financing.

"These Generac generators will offer a safe source of backup power and peace of mind for our members," Tim Smith, East Central Electric General Manager.

Among the Generac advantages are its ability to sense power loss within seconds and switch on and off automatically. Members who happen to be out of town during an outage won't have to worry about returning home to a fridge full of spoiled food.



A GENERATOR WITH BENEFITS

- **Automatic operation.**
- **No need to refuel.**
- **Power directly to your home.**
- **24-hour customer support.**

With multiple fuel options to choose from, there's no need to fill up gas cans to operate your generator. Generac also hooks directly into your home's electrical panel so you won't have to run an extension cord through the window. If you prefer, you can monitor it remotely using your cellphone and enjoy an around-the-clock support team to answer any questions.

For more details on Generac generators available at your electric co-op, please call ECE at **918-756-0833** or visit us online at www.ecoec.com.

operation roundup update

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

Figures to date:

Applications reviewed.....	943
Applications granted.....	647
Applications denied.....	282
Applications tabled.....	19
Scholarships awarded.....	\$190,000
Total Disbursements.....	\$1,533,871.61
Average member contribution.....	44¢





Holiday Hours

East Central Electric Cooperative will close December 25-26 for Christmas and January 1 for New Year. To report a service problem during this time, please call our 24-hour dispatch service at **918-756-0833**.

Have a wonderful holiday!

REMINDER

New Year, New Rate For Members

January 1 is the inauguration of a new year and a higher price for wholesale electricity from East Central Electric's power suppliers. The increase of 5.5 percent, or roughly four dollars per month, will appear in the power cost adjustment (PCA) of your monthly electric bill.

The increase is due to higher transmission and generation costs. The rate increase is explained in detail in the September, October and November issues of your newsletter, *Country Living*. You can view these issues by visiting www.ecoec.com and clicking on Country Living.

To help you adjust to higher energy costs, your co-op encourages members to take advantage of ECE's energy saving services. A free home energy audit is a great way to learn where and how your home uses electricity. Usage monitoring, available via SmartHub, is another smart way to become more energy aware. By increasing the efficiency of your home, you can net savings that help you balance the effect of the increase.

To visit with your co-op about the power cost increase or learn more about our free energy saving services, please call **918-756-0833** or visit www.ecoec.com.



Pick A Light Bulb And Help Someone

ECE's Give A Watt program makes Christmas brighter for co-op members who are struggling to make ends meet.

If you're looking for a way to help cash-strapped families or senior citizens enjoy a brighter Christmas, please consider a donation to East Central Electric's Give A Watt program.

Give A Watt helps co-op members who are struggling to pay their monthly electric bill. Please share the spirit of the season with those in need by making a Give A Watt donation. Your participation is appreciated!



How To Participate in Give A Watt

1. Stop by ECE and select a paper lightbulb from the tree in the lobby.
2. Take the lightbulb to the front desk and tell them you wish to make a Give A Watt donation.
3. Donations of any amount are welcomed. Donations are credited to the account of the recipient as a Give A Watt contribution. Names of recipients and donors remain anonymous.

Give A Watt raised **\$989** for members in need in 2016. Since the program began, it has helped **25** members.

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

Winter weather can make it difficult for senior citizens to travel to the doctor, pharmacy, and even the grocery store. Some on a tight budget may skimp on basics such as food and heat, just to get by.

This holiday season, consider giving those in need the most valuable gift of all—your time. Check on your aging friends and neighbors regularly. Offer to drive them to the grocery store or help them with tasks around the house.

Be sure to take action if you haven't seen them in awhile, or if you notice mail or newspapers piling up. Your thoughtfulness will be appreciated more than any store-bought gift.



ENERGYTRAILS

To the Guatemalan children of Chiis, the linemen looked like giants. Towering over them in hard hats; some of the men sporting beards and facial hair the likes of which these kids had never seen. In a sense, the children were right.

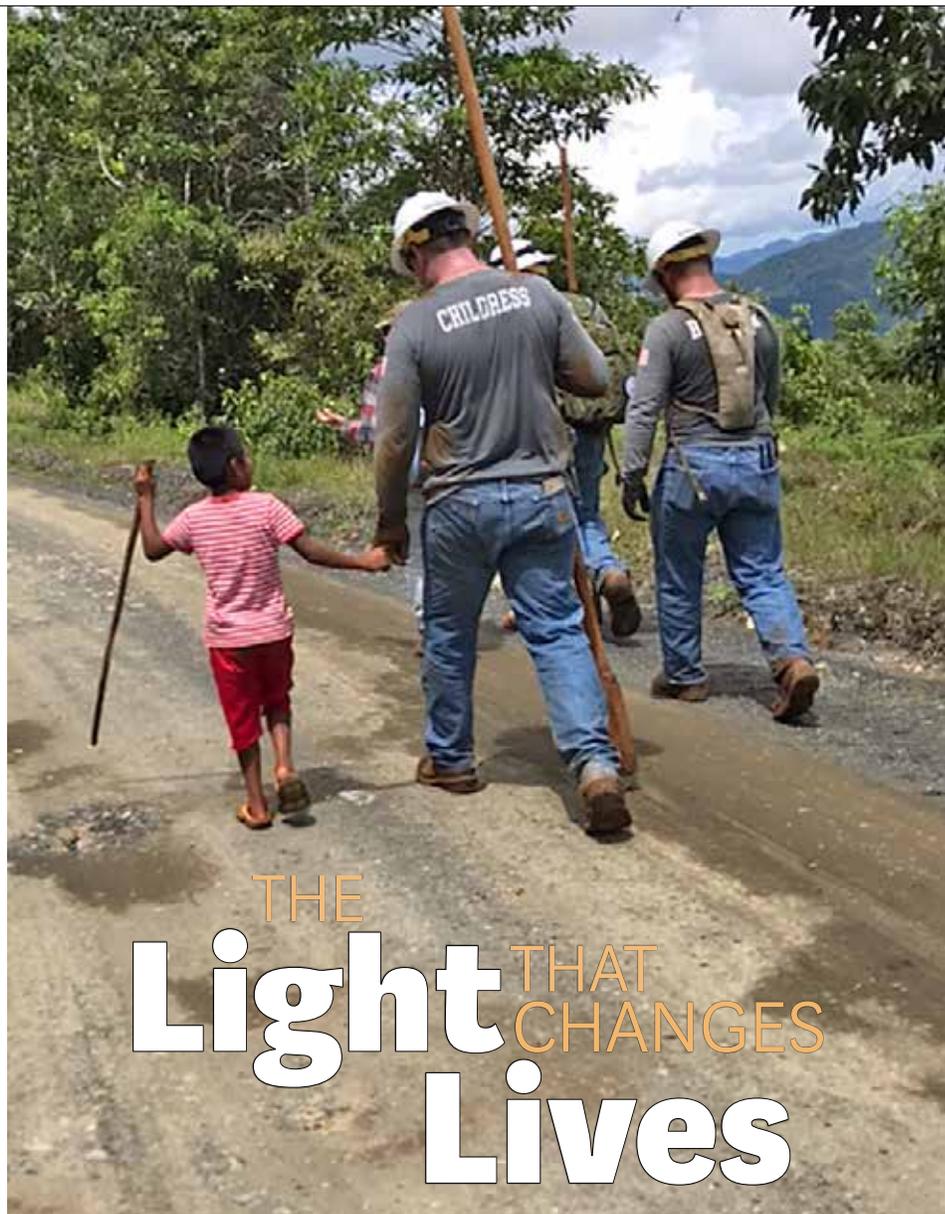
The thirteen linemen participating in Oklahoma's Energy Trails project became mythical heroes, bringing the magic of electricity to a village that is so remote you can't Google it.

East Central Electric Lineman Jason Childress said when he heard about the project he was eager to volunteer. "I was all in right off the bat," Childress said. "It seemed like the opportunity of a lifetime."

His first time to travel outside the U.S., Childress was impressed by the beauty of the mountainous country. "It was so steep you couldn't run a billygoat up it, but they grew corn everywhere," he said.

Villagers lived in one or two room homes with dirt floors and a fire pit that served as the kitchen. The women washed clothes on a rock in the sink. Bath day was any day it rained.

The children formed close bonds with the team members, following them throughout the day, reaching out to hold



THE Light THAT Lives CHANGES

their hands and offering to carry their tools. Fascinated by some of the team member's beards, the kids wanted to touch their faces constantly, Childress said.

The warm, humid weather and steep, muddy terrain made for tough working conditions. The team drank water nonstop to combat dehydration, but Childress recalls the villagers barely broke a sweat.

Excited about electricity, the villagers asked every day, "¿Cuántos días?" How many days? The team finished the project in three weeks, bringing power to sixty-six homes.

A 14-year old boy named Alfonso particularly impressed the team. Alfonso walked two hours one way to attend

Jason Childress with one of the village children. The kids formed a close bond with team members. On the day the linemen left, all of the children cried.

school. He told the linemen that electric lights would allow him to study in the evening after he gets home from school. One day he hopes to become a doctor so that he, too, can give back.

For Childress and the other team members, Alfonso's story revealed a powerful truth: One light can make a difference. ■

To learn more about the Oklahoma Energy Trails Foundation, please visit: <http://tinyurl.com/energytrails>.



Game Console for Christmas?

Choose newer models that use less energy

If a video-game fanatic is on your holiday shopping list, consider updating his or her video game console to a newer model. Newer consoles use a lot less energy than older ones. Still, gaming consoles are still energy hogs. In 2015, a study by the National Resources Defense Council found they consume enough electricity nationwide each year to power every house in Houston, Texas.



POWER HUNGRY
Games consoles cost a collective \$1 billion in energy cost each year.

Game consoles cost a collective \$1 billion in energy costs each year. And \$400 million of that power is used while the gamers are sound asleep. The NRDC found that while the consoles are in standby mode—when nobody is using them—they still “listen” for voice commands, like “turn on,” which takes a lot of energy.

In fact, the report said, some consoles consume more energy each year while they are in standby mode or playing videos than they do for playing games. Video streaming on a console is especially energy-intensive, said the report, which noted that watching high-definition movies on a video player or TV uses far less electricity.

Find more energy saving tips at www.ecoec.com, or call East Central Electric at 918-756-0833 to learn about our energy-saving services.



ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

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

SOURCE: ELECTRICAL SAFETY FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL

Great tastes for members of East Central Electric Cooperative

Apple Crisp

INGREDIENTS

- 10 cups all-purpose apples, peeled, cored and sliced
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1 tablespoon all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ½ cup water
- 1 cup quick-cooking oats
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- ¼ teaspoon baking powder
- ¼ teaspoon baking soda
- ½ cup butter, melted



DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350°F. Place sliced apples in a 9x13 inch pan. Mix white sugar, 1 tablespoon flour and ground cinnamon together, and sprinkle over apples. Pour water evenly over all.

Combine the oats, 1 cup flour, brown sugar, baking powder, baking soda and melted butter together. Crumble evenly over the apple mixture. Bake at 350°F for about 45 minutes.

SOURCE: ALLRECIPES.COM

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