

■ Veterans In Energy

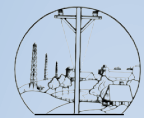
Co-ops are helping military veterans find jobs. **PAGE 2**

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Help make the holiday season brighter for fellow members. **PAGE 4**



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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.
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- 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.

country living

NOVEMBER 2017

PUBLISHED FOR MEMBERS OF EAST CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Prepare Your Home For Higher Costs

ECE's energy saving services can help you handle rising rates

Rising generation and transmission costs are at the root of the 5.5 percent rate increase from East Central Electric's wholesale power supplier. As a result, the power cost adjustment on your monthly electric bill will increase January 1, 2018. Most members can expect to pay roughly four dollars more per month.

East Central Electric understands that rising energy costs are a concern for members, especially for those on a limited budget. To help members manage the increase, your co-op offers a number of programs that will help you improve the energy efficiency of your home.

"Nearly every homeowner can find affordable ways to lower their energy usage by a few dollars a month without sacrificing their comfort or safety," said Tim Smith, general manager of East Central Electric (ECE).

Smith encourages co-op members to contact ECE's energy use specialist to schedule a free home energy audit. The audit is very thorough and will provide you with a blueprint you can use to improve the efficiency of your home.

"Changing to LED bulbs throughout the house is one of the simplest, easiest ways to shave a few dollars off of your monthly bill," Smith added.

For members who prefer "do-it-yourself" options, the Department of Energy and

Touchstone Energy offer free online energy audits and other tools and information that help you save energy. Visit www.ecoec.com and click on Energy Efficiency for a complete list of energy saving options.

Members who understand their usage habits tend to use less and enjoy lower bills. ECE's SmartHub provides a quick, easy way to track your daily usage and receive usage alerts. Register for SmartHub at www.ecoec.com, or download the app.

If you're ready to make a big change, ECE offers rebates on energy efficient geothermal heat pumps, Marathon water heaters and Energy Star-rated room air conditioners. For complete details, visit www.ecoec.com and view Rebates under the Services tab.

While you focus on lowering your usage, it's nice to know your co-op is doing the same. Reducing systemwide usage during extreme weather temperatures can play an important role in lowering generation costs. ECE's community solar project helps shave the peak by providing an alternative source of generation during peak periods.

For more information on the upcoming rate increase or to visit with your co-op about energy saving services, please call **918-756-0833**.

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.....	920
Applications granted.....	633
Applications denied.....	272
Applications tabled.....	19
Scholarships awarded.....	\$190,000

Total Disbursements.....\$1,493,171.78

Average member contribution.....44¢



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



Holiday Hours

East Central Electric Cooperative will close November 23 -24 for Thanksgiving. To report a service problem during this time, please call our 24-hour dispatch service at 918-756-0833.



From all of us at ECE, please enjoy a safe, happy holiday!

Less Daylight? Get A Security Light.

Daylight Savings Time ends on November 5, which means we will all be spending more time in the dark.

If you find your home or property could use a little extra light, remember that your electric co-op offers security lights. East Central Electric's 100-watt high pressure sodium lights improve the safety and security of your property.

Prices begin at \$6.35 per month and includes maintenance and installation. For details, please call your co-op at 918-756-0833 or visit www.ecoec.com.

We're Tweeting!



Stay connected with your co-op by following our Twitter feed @ EastCentralElec. You'll appreciate storm and

outage updates, energy saving tips to help you lower your electric bill, and other helpful information.

You can also follow us on Twitter by visiting www.ecoec.com and clicking on the Twitter icon at the upper right of our home page. We'll tweet with you soon!



Co-ops Help Veterans Find Jobs

ECE joins national co-op initiative to employ military veterans

Faced with the challenge of filling 15,000 jobs over the next five to seven years, America's electric cooperatives want to do more than simply thank veterans for their service this Veterans Day—they want to offer them a job.

"Our military veterans deserve our unending gratitude for their service to our country, on Veterans Day and every day," said Jim Matheson, CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). "Vets possess many of the qualities sought by electric co-ops, including a deep commitment to service and an uncompromising work ethic. More than 200,000 service members transition out of the military to civilian life each year, and we'd like to tap into that talent to help fill the thousands of co-op jobs opening up."

To achieve this goal, NRECA launched Serve Our Co-ops; Serve Our Country, a nationwide program to provide veterans, service members and military spouses with the opportunity to continue their mission of service by joining the ranks of America's electric co-ops. The program provides participating co-ops with resources and training to help them implement nationally-recognized best practices in attracting, hiring, onboarding and retaining veterans.



Fifty co-ops, including East Central Electric, have signed on to the initiative since its launch in 2016. ECE currently employs 11 veterans. One Gulf War veteran, Michael Vernnon, serves as a trustee on the ECE board.

"Not only do we get quality candidates to serve our members, we get local people who appreciate being back home and veterans who have served our country well," said Tim Smith, ECE general manager.

In addition to providing servicemen and women with a high-quality job, Serve Our Co-ops; Serve Our Country allows veterans to return to their rural roots. While approximately 40 percent of all military recruits come from rural America, less than 30 percent return to rural communities following their service.

For more information, please visit www.ServeVets.coop.



ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

Use correct bulb wattage fixtures. Light bulbs with wattages that are too high for the light fixture can overheat the fixture and start a fire.

SOURCE: ELECTRICAL SAFETY FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL



helpinghands

ECE Sends Lineman To Electrify Guatemalan Village

Energy Trails changes lives for those lacking power

Thirteen co-op volunteer linemen departed the country on October 10 for Guatemala. One of the team members is Jason Childress, a lineman with East Central Electric Cooperative. The team will build power lines in the isolated village of Chiis located in the northwestern part of the country, and provide first-time electricity to about 80 families.



Jason Childress

Electric cooperatives have a long-standing tradition of bringing lights where there are none. In a spirit of cooperation, the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives (OAEC) – a service organization representing Oklahoma’s electric cooperatives – partnered with NRECA International, the philanthropic arm for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), to electrify this poverty-stricken village in rural Guatemala.

The volunteers will stay at a training center near the village. The project will consist of approximately 1.74 miles of primary line and 1.2 miles of secondary line. The village is isolated, economically vulnerable, and mainly produces beans, spices and corn for self-consumption. Most villagers speak a Mayan-based dialect, Kekchi. A local utility, ADECORK, will generate power to the village by way of a small hydroelectric plant. Volunteers are scheduled to return to the U.S. on October 28, 2017.

“We are proud of the volunteers leaving to Guatemala today. Bringing electricity to remote areas in developing countries takes electric cooperatives back to their



roots,” says OAEC General Manager Chris Meyers. “It reinforces our commitment to improve the quality of life for local communities at home and abroad.”

“We are proud of one of our own, Jason Childress, lineman at East Central Electric Cooperative, for his willingness to leave his home for an extended period of time to empower far-away communities,” says East Central Electric Cooperative General Manager, Tim Smith. “Access to electricity will bring economic empowerment, better access to health care and enhanced safety for these villagers. It’s a life-changing gift.”

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



Energy hog problem?

CALL THE HOG HUNTERS!

Gaps beneath doors, cracks in and around windows, inefficient appliances, and clogged filters in your HVAC system. Energy hogs love to hide out in these places and consume energy.

Find out if your home is a haven for energy hogs. Your electric cooperative offers free home energy audits for members.

When you schedule an energy audit, our energy use specialists will help you locate the energy gobblers hiding throughout your home so you can get rid of them, once and for all.

To schedule an energy audit, please call **918-756-0833**.



Give a Powerful Gift!

Give A Watt helps members who are struggling to pay their bills

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.

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Recipes

Great tastes for members of East Central Electric Cooperative

Creamy Au Gratin Potatoes

INGREDIENTS

- 4 russet potatoes, sliced into ¼ inch slices
- 1 onion, sliced into rings
- salt and pepper to taste
- 3 tablespoons butter
- 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 2 cups milk
- 1½ cups shredded Cheddar cheese



DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F. Butter a 1-quart casserole dish. Layer ½ of the potatoes into bottom of the prepared casserole dish. Top with the onion slices, and add the remaining potatoes. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

In a medium-size saucepan, melt butter over medium heat. Mix in the flour and salt, and stir constantly with a whisk for one minute. Stir in milk. Cook until mixture has thickened. Stir in cheese all at once, and continue stirring until melted, about 30 to 60 seconds. Pour cheese over the potatoes, and cover the dish with aluminum foil. Bake 1½ hours in the preheated oven.

SOURCE: ALLRECIPES.COM

Got a favorite family recipe to share?

We'd like to publish it in the

80th Anniversary Cookbook of East Central Electric Cooperative



Please mail your recipe to:

East Central Electric/Attn: Recipes
PO Box 1178, Okmulgee, OK 74447

Note: Recipe must include contributor's name and town, list of ingredients, measured amounts of each ingredient, and directions.