

country living

FOR MEMBERS OF EAST CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Poletop Rescue Training Tests Linemen's Lifesaving Skills

Every year, East Central Electric (ECE) linemen devote a full day to preparing for the event they hope never arrives. The coop's annual pole top rescue training evaluates each lineman on their ability to rescue an injured or stranded lineman. This year, the training took place on October 6 at ECE.

The OSHA-mandated safety training course requires each lineman to buckle on fall restraint equipment belts and climbing spikes, and ascend a utility pole to rescue a 185-pound mannequin. A safety instructor from the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives

evaluates every step of the process from the ground. Each step requires both skill and safety awareness, and must be completed within three minutes. The lineman must climb the pole, secure the mannequin using ropes and pulleys, and safely lower it to the ground. Afterward, the instructor discusses his findings with the linemen.

Because linemen work around dangerous voltages every day, safety is "priority one" at ECE. Pole top rescue training is just one example of ECE's ongoing commitment to keeping its employees and the general public safe.



Top: ECE Lineman Lael LaBlanc secures the mannequin with a rope/pulley system during ECE's annual pole top rescue training. Once secure, he will cut the safety belt and lower the mannequin to the ground. PHOTO/AMY NIX, ECE.

Left: Apprentice Lineman Easton Soucy prepares the mannequin for its next trip up the pole. PHOTO/AMY NIX, ECE.

To learn more about your elected trustees, or to view a district map, please visit www.ecoec.com. To contact your trustee, please call 918-756-0833.

notes from the chair



by Lowell Hobbs, President, East Central Electric Cooperative Board of Trustees

Revvng Up Fiber

Man, oh man, what a development! Our Drive Thru Annual Meeting resulted in a record number of attendees. Who'd have thought it. The analysis of member surveys on the meeting were not available at our September board meeting, but should be ready for us by the October board meeting. We are already formulating better plans for the 2021 meeting. Obviously, the drive-thru was popular with our members, but we have some work to do to improve for next time, and we will fix it.

Also, at our September board meeting we voted to accelerate the fiber-to-the-home project. We knew from the start our broadband project was scheduled for a six year plan. We are nearly one year in, and we have completed Phase I. Phase II is in high gear with Phase III started. With our experience and confidence to get it right, we are pushing for Phase IV. Check our website, www.ecoec.com, or call 918-756-0833 if you have questions.

At the first board meeting following the annual meeting we elect new officers of the board. I am pleased to be re-elected

chairman, so my newsletter column, "Notes from the Chair" will continue. In fact, all officers were re-elected. Larry Harvey as vice chairman; Dwight Luther as secretary-treasurer; and Jim Hall as assistant secretary-treasurer. Larry, Max, and Jim ran unopposed for their director positions. We have a good board, and I am proud to be a part of the co-op family.

Some people can get along with inoperable vehicles, tractors, implements, tools, gates, doors, and much more. I want to fix things that need to be fixed to make life easier. For instance, most of the gates on our ranch swing freely and latches are reachable from the back of a horse. (My wife and her horseback riding buddies like me better.) That hasn't always been the case, but over the years we have improved on our early ways. Next, maybe electric-automatic gates? Take a look at your life....if something needs to be fixed, now is a good time to just fix it. It can be done! 🍷

Lowell Hobbs represents ECE District #2. To reach him, please call his cellphone at 918-695-5289.

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The person responsible for coordinating this organization's non-discriminating compliance efforts is Gary Creekmore Director of Human Resources.

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- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov

East Central Oklahoma Electric Cooperative, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider and employer/VET/DISABLED.





'Tis the season of giving

Please Help Your Co-op Be A Catalyst For Good

Over the years, you've probably heard or read about East Central Electric's concern for its communities. This is one of the core principles that sets co-ops apart from other types of utilities and businesses. The East Central Electric (ECE) team takes this mission and responsibility to heart.

"It's who we are as a co-op," says Tim Smith, general manager. "Everything from our electric service, to our fiber broadband program, youth and safety education programs, and Operation Round-Up— all of these services were created to make life better for the communities and the members we serve."

Over the past few months, ECE has risen to meet new challenges and strengthen the safety net for local communities, particularly for those who are most vulnerable. Because of the pandemic, the co-op has adjusted its programs and operations to maintain business continuity, while keeping the safety of our employees and the public in mind at all times.

While ECE's purpose is to provide safe and reliable electricity and related services to members, the co-op has a greater mission—to be a catalyst for good. As the pandemic battle wages on, remember there are many families who are struggling to get by. Please consider a donation to your

local food bank, homeless shelter, or another organization of your choice that is working to help others get through this crisis. ECE offers charitable giving programs, too. Your participation is appreciated.

Rounding Up For Others

ECE's Operation Round-Up takes donations from generous members who "round up" the amount due on their electric bill to help local organizations and needy families. By giving a few cents each month, co-op members have donated more than \$1.4 million—and the number keeps growing. Through the generosity of our members, ECE's Operation Round-Up continues to make a difference.



A Watt Of Giving

ECE's Give A Watt program provides an opportunity for co-op members to help other members who are struggling. During the holiday season, many families find themselves facing a difficult decision: Heat or food? By making even a small donation, you can help make the holidays merrier for these families. (Find details on giving to the right.)



Give a little, or a lot, but please



The holiday season can be difficult for those on a limited income. With the ongoing pandemic, the situation is even worse. Many family wage earners have lost their jobs, or unable to work due to health problems or illness.

By donating to Give A Watt, you will help a struggling member pay their electric bill. Recipients and donors remain anonymous.

To participate, please choose from the following Covid-safe ways to give:

1. Drop your donation at the ECE drive-thru window or night drop at 2001 S. Wood Drive in Okmulgee. Our drive-thru is open Monday - Friday from 8 am to 4:30 pm.
2. Mail your donation to:
East Central Electric
Attn: Give A Watt
PO Box 1178
Okmulgee, OK 7 7447-1178

If paying by check, please make your check payable to East Central Electric, and write Give A Watt in the memo area.

Thank you for giving!

To visit with your co-op about its programs and services, please call 918-756-0833 or visit www.ecoec.com for details.

operation roundup

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.....	1,563
Applications granted.....	784
Applications denied.....	344
Applications tabled.....	28
Scholarships awarded.....	\$265,500
Total Disbursements.....	\$1,910,412.84
Average member contribution.....	48¢

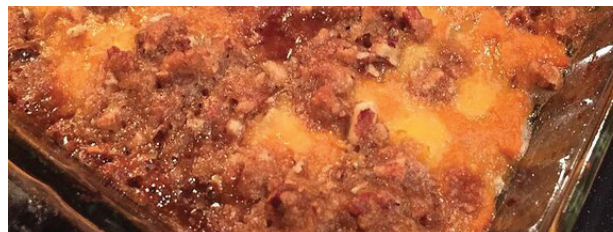


ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

Electric blankets keep you cozy on a chilly evening, but don't tuck it beneath mattresses or children, and don't put anything, such as comforters or bedspreads, on top of the blanket while it is in use.

SOURCE: ELECTRICAL SAFETY FOUNDATION INTERNATIONALZ

RECIPES



Sweet Potato Casserole

INGREDIENTS

4 cups sweet potato, cubed	1/2 cup milk
1/2 cup white sugar	1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
2 large eggs, beaten	1/2 cup packed brown sugar
1/2 teaspoon salt	1/3 cup all-purpose flour
4 tablespoons butter, softened	3 tablespoons butter, softened

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 325 degrees F. Put sweet potatoes in a medium saucepan with water to cover. Cook until tender; drain and mash.

In a large bowl, mix the sweet potatoes, white sugar, eggs, salt, butter, milk and vanilla extract until smooth. Transfer to a 9x13 inch baking dish.

In medium bowl, mix the brown sugar and flour. Cut in the butter until the mixture is coarse. Stir in the pecans. Sprinkle over the sweet potato mixture in the baking dish.

Bake in oven 30 minutes, or until the topping is lightly brown.

Source: allrecipes.com



East Central

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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