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country living

FOR MEMBERS OF EAST CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

\$1,460

given to local libraries through Operation Roundup.



\$10,000

given to 5 Youth Tour participants.

The Kids' Cooperative

East Central Electric Cooperative supports programs for youth in our communities. Already in 2021 we have provided educational tools, tens of thousands in college scholarships, and once-in-a-lifetime leadership experiences. This back-to-school edition of the Country Living newsletter is dedicated to the great kids in our service area, and the community members who support them.

\$19,000

given to 19 graduating seniors through Operation Roundup.



5 Chromebooks

given to 5 Energy Camp participants.

To learn more about your elected trustees, or to view a district map, please visit 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

Standing Up to the Bullies

Our Board’s responsibilities includes constantly looking forward to keep our co-op healthy by understanding new technology and programs that will benefit our members.

This includes approving a budget adequate enough to clear the right-of-way for our lines to insure adequate and dependable delivery of electricity to our homes and businesses. We are always mindful of the need to keep the cost reasonable.

Part of our training includes gathering information that hones our skills as directors by attending classes and interacting with personnel from other co-ops.

Very little social interacting has been achieved in 2021. I remarked that these virtual meetings are like kissing your girlfriend through the screen door. It ain’t much! but the best we can do for now.

We were reminded of one fact at our most recent virtual meeting. Dependable production of electricity cannot come from variable resources. Transmission line capability is not there to transfer power adequately with the intermittent supply of wind, solar, and water. Also, battery technology that will last beyond 4 hours is not here yet. That is why coal and natural gas are key components of our power supply.

I stated before that I made A’s in my vo-ag class, and A’s in English because my parents taught those classes.

Actually, I made A’s in all my classes because my parents expected me to. I also got up early enough to milk the cow, feed the pigs and chickens, get ready for school and catch the bus because it was expected by my parents.

That attitude carries over to my every day life, and I see that attitude in the other directors as well. We study, react, and strive to make our co-op strong, reliable, and reasonable as you expect. We are good stewards of your money and other resources as expected.

“I felt a lot bigger with Cub there; I could sic him on anything or anyone. I told the Carter boys to get on the rail -- it’s a new day!”

- LOWELL HOBBS

in Cleveland, we walked from the east side of Cleveland to West Side School which was eight tenths of a mile each way. Two years later we moved closer to West Side School (6 blocks).

A long wooden bridge lay between our house and school that we had to cross. (No kids in the street.)

The two Carter boys lived beyond our house, and they would meet me at the bridge after school and make me walk the railing. The bridge spanned a fairly deep ravine that was wild looking. The 3’ high bannisters on the wooden bridge were topped with a flat 2 x 4. The bridge was about 120’ long. It was scary for me. I feared I would fall into the ravine, or worse, they would push me off.

After several afternoons of their bullying, I left school on the run to my house, got my dog Cub and hurried back to the bridge by the time the Carter boys got there.

I felt a lot bigger with Cub there; I could sic him on anything or anyone. I told the Carter boys to get on the rail--it’s a new day! They said no and started toward me. I told Cub--sic em! He lunged his 120-lb burly body at them with a loud vicious bark. They immediately climbed on the rail. I (with Cub) made them walk back again just to prove it was no fun. This practice went on a few more days, and then one evening as I came home my Dad and Mrs. Carter were sitting on our back porch.

Mrs. Carter asked me for an explanation as to why her boys were late getting home and had to walk around several extra blocks. I meekly told my story. Mrs. Carter and my Dad agreed the Carter boys and I would stop this craziness and get along. They expected us to do as they said, and we did. The Carter boys never attended one of our class reunions. This may be a good thing because Cub died the first few months I was away to college.

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

Operation Roundup: Making A Difference



One of our Operation Roundup recipients, Jim Lucas Checotah Public Library, told us their grant went to purchase Launchpad tablets, preloaded with educational games for kids. Now high-tech education in the Checotah area doesn’t have a cost barrier, all thanks to East Central Electric members rounding up the spare change on their bills.

Energy Camp



Energy Campers John Russell of Dewar and Joel Bolding of Hilldale got some gloves-on training about the work lineworkers perform.

East Central Electric gave out five Chromebooks to 8th graders who participated in the 2021 Energy Camp. Both virtual and in-person options were offered.

This year's campers were Caleb Sylvester of Beggs, Joel Bolding of Hilldale, Lexie Beene of Checotah, John Russell of Dewar and Mason Hauptman of Bristow.

Campers learned about co-op careers, electrical safety, how to suit up like a line worker, and about the Energy Trails program.

Joel Bolding was elected to serve on the Energy Camp Board of Directors and John Russell won an additional prize for completing challenges.

\$19,000 in College Scholarships



Operation Roundup scholarship award winners, L-R: Christopher Gunn of Okemah, Colby Erickson of Haskell, Kaycee Moyer of Glenpool, Gentry Cantrell of Bixby, Rylee Skiles of Midway, A.J. Merrill of Morris, Faith Whitehouse of Kiefer, Rylee Jo Pinkston of Preston, Kate Todd of Bristow, Tyler Cornwell of Liberty, Abby Hayes of Warner, Ara'Seli Lizbeth Sala of Muskogee, Matigan Marion of Checotah, Cole Beets of Mason, Maralyssa Edmonds of Beggs, Broc Fletcher of Hilldale, and Brady Pippin of Graham-Dustin.

National Anthem Inspired 2021 Youth Tour



Clockwise: Kaylea Lawley, Rylee Bailus, Rylee Campbell, Rya White, and Bailey Todd.

In a typical year, Youth Tour is an annual, weeklong, all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C. for high school students sponsored by Oklahoma's Electric Cooperatives.

With the onset of COVID-19 in 2020, Youth Tour became a virtual event.

This year, Youth Tour took place June 22-25.

Students were each awarded a \$2,000 scholarship and took part in a week of leadership training and virtual conferences with community leaders.

Among the guest speakers was "The National Anthem Girl," Janine Stange, who spoke about the challenge of

following through on your big dreams, and how she met her goal of singing the National Anthem in all 50 states.

She left students with a motivational quote from Theodore Roosevelt: "Do what you can, with what you have, where you are."

Students also learned about the cooperative principle "Concern for Community," and spoke to local elected officials about how to get involved in their communities.

Each day was followed by a Facebook and Instagram Live Challenge, where participants were awarded with more prizes from OAC.

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.

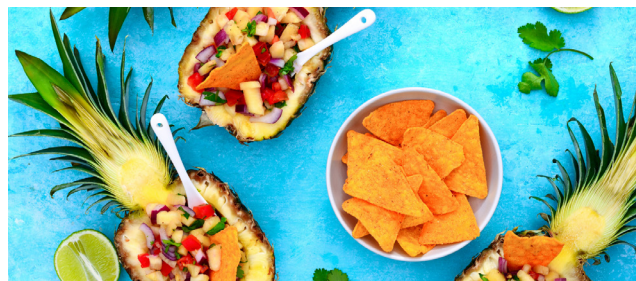
Applications reviewed	1,208
Applications granted	836
Applications denied	359
Applications tabled	13
Scholarships awarded	\$284,500
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Total Disbursements	\$2,017,481.88
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Average member contribution	48¢

ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

Make sure there are no power lines above or around any water activity, such as running through sprinklers, throwing water balloons, using water guns or fishing.

SOURCE: ASSOCIATED ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

RECIPES



Pineapple Salsa

INGREDIENTS

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1 (15 oz.) can chunk pineapple, drained | 2 tbsp. lime juice |
| 2 jalapeno peppers, seeded and diced | 1 tsp. salt |
| 3 green onions, chopped | 1/2 tsp. ground cumin |
| | 2 tbsp. cilantro |

DIRECTIONS

- Combine all.
- Cover and chill 1 hour.
- Serve with chips.

SOURCE: ECE 80TH ANNIVERSARY COOKBOOK



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