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country living

OCTOBER 2016

PUBLISHED FOR MEMBERS OF EAST CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

A Lineman's Goodbye

ECE loses "larger than life" employee

The booming voice alone was enough to separate him from the crowd, but it was only a small part of East Central Electric Lineman Rex Young's big personality. Young, 51, died August 31, 2016, following a six-month battle with lung cancer. His passing leaves a hole in the hearts of family and coworkers who will miss his gregarious spirit, gentle heart and giant voice crackling over the dispatch radio.

Born and raised in Okmulgee, Young worked for East Central Electric for 26 years. As senior lineman in charge of maintenance, he dedicated himself to his position and took great pride in serving co-op members.

In tribute to Young, co-op employees attending his funeral on September 3 wore ribbons bearing his name and unit number, #54. Co-op employees spoke at the service while linemen from ECE and other friends served as pallbearers. Co-op bucket trucks led the procession from the funeral to the grave site, where Young's co-op truck was parked. At the conclusion of the graveside ceremony, ECE General Superintendent Steve Shrum gave Young the perfect lineman's goodbye. From the dispatch room at ECE, Shrum's voice broadcast through the radio in Young's truck.

"Unit 54 is 10-7," Shrum said.

Young is survived by his wife, Deidra; two children, Danielle Young and Reid Young, both of Glenpool; two step-daughters, Devin Davis of Stillwater, and KayDee Davis of Okmulgee; mother, Carolyn McCullar and her husband Jessie "Skip" McCullar of



An assortment of Young's lineman tools and his photo displayed at the funeral.

Henryetta; two brothers, Wesley Young and wife Janet of Tulsa, and Timothy Young of Okmulgee, Oklahoma, and a host of family and friends. Rex was preceded in death by his father, Willie Ray.

Memories, condolences, photos and videos may be shared with the family on Rex Young's tribute page at www.mcclendon-winters.com.

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- 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 is published monthly by East Central Oklahoma Electric Cooperative, Inc., 2001 S. Wood Drive, Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447. Second class postage paid at Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447 and at additional mailing office. Subscription price: 60 cents /year. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to ECE *Country Living*, PO Box 1178, Okmulgee, OK 74447.

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.....	816
Applications granted.....	573
Applications denied.....	231
Applications tabled.....	16
Scholarships awarded.....	\$169,000
Total Disbursements.....	\$1,374,170.45
Average member contribution.....	44¢





Seasonal Checklist For Your HVAC

It's time to have your heating and air unit serviced. For a thorough tuneup, your HVAC contractor should check the following:

- Check thermostat settings.
- Tighten all electrical connections and measure voltage and current on motors.
- Lubricate all moving parts. Parts that lack lubrication cause friction in motors and increases the amount of electricity you use.
- Check and inspect the condensate drain in your central air conditioner, furnace and/or heat pump (when in cooling mode). A plugged drain can cause water damage in the house and affect indoor humidity levels.
- Check controls of the system to ensure proper and safe operation.
- Check all gas (or oil) connections, gas pressure, burner combustion and heat exchanger.

For more tips on keeping your HVAC running efficiently, please visit www.energystar.gov.



Connect with East Central Electric on Facebook for updates on power outages and information on member benefits and services, energy saving tips and more. If you like what you see, we'd appreciate your "thumbs up."



Co-ops Salute Their Special Month

East Central Electric Cooperative is celebrating National Cooperative Month in October.

"Cooperatives Build" is the theme of Co-op Month this year. "This theme is perfect because co-ops work for their communities in many ways," said Billy Moore, ECE director of member services.

Cooperatives Have Principles

Most co-ops adhere to seven key cooperative principles, which help build trust between the co-op, its members and the community. For example, the first principle is Voluntary and Open Membership, which means that co-ops are open to all people who are willing to accept the responsibility of membership. The second, Democratic Member Control, gives members a voice in the co-op's policies and decisions. Principle three is Member's Economic Participation, which states that members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their co-op. Number four, Autonomy and Independence, says co-ops are independent entities controlled by their members. The fifth principle, Education, Training and Information, contributes to the development of the co-op by making sure employees are qualified to do their jobs and that members get the information they need

on co-op services. Cooperation Among Co-ops is number six. It ensures co-ops remain strong by helping one another.

Cooperatives Build Community

The seventh cooperative principle is Concern for Community. Cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through employee involvement in local organizations, contributions to community efforts and support for schools. ECE's Operation Roundup has donated over \$1 million to local organizations and charities, while co-op employees give their time to various community organizations. ECE also supports youth through programs such as Youth Tour, Energy Camp, Operation Roundup scholarships, safety programs and a free energy curriculum for classrooms.

Cooperatives Build Jobs

Cooperatives generate jobs in their communities, keep profits local and pay local taxes to help support community services. Cooperatives often take part in community improvement programs, ensuring that everyone has an opportunity to benefit from the cooperative experience.

Through all of the above ways, cooperatives build a better world. For more information, visit www.coopmonth.coop.



**ELECTRIC CO-OPS
BUILD
COMMUNITY**





Co-op Members See Solar As Way Of The Future

Karen and Leroy Higginbotham joined East Central Electric (ECE) in 1966, but don't let their age fool you. The Haskell couple doesn't let tradition get in the way of progress when it comes to their electric service.

When ECE announced its community solar project— one of the first co-op projects of its kind in Oklahoma—the Higginbotham's wasted no time signing up. "It came out in the paper that they were selling solar panels and right then I said, "I'm buying a couple," Karen recalls.

On March 4, the Higginbotham's became ECE's first solar panel subscribers. Karen said her travels around the U.S. showed her that other regions were turning to solar

power and she thought it was a great idea. "I think it's the way of the future," she said. "And it's a good investment."

Once up and running, the 950 panels in ECE's solar array will provide a low cost, renewable source of electricity for the co-op during peak usage periods. It will also reduce ECE's use of more expensive power generated at power plants.

As electricity costs climb, measures such as community solar could mean more affordable rates for co-op members.

This notion appealed to the Higginbothams. "This is a way to help the co-op and we wanted to do it," she said.

"We're looking forward to seeing how this will affect our electric bill. We might buy some more!"

—KAREN HIGGINBOTHAM, HASKELL

ECE solar subscribers will receive a small credit on their monthly electric bill, which will increase as the cost of wholesale power goes up.

"We're looking forward to seeing how this will affect our electric bill," she said. "We might buy some more."

For information ECE's Community Solar Project, visit www.ecoec.com or call 918-756-0833.

Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation (Requester Publications Only)		
1. Publication Title Country Living	2. Publication Number 2 4 2 - 8 2 0	3. Filing Date 9-6-16
4. Issue Frequency Monthly	5. Number of Issues Published Annually 12	6. Annual Subscription Price (If any) .60
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4®) East Central Oklahoma Electric Cooperative, Inc. P.O. Box 1178 Okmulgee, OK 74447		Contact Person Amy Nix Telephone (Include area code) 918-365-1229
8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer) East Central Oklahoma Electric Cooperative, Inc. P.O. Box 1178 Okmulgee, OK 74447		
9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank)		
Publisher (Name and complete mailing address) Tim Smith P.O. Box 1178 Okmulgee, OK 74447		
Editor (Name and complete mailing address) Mary Logan-Wolf P.O. Box 1178 Okmulgee, OK 74447		
Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address) Amy Nix P.O. Box 1178 Okmulgee, OK 74447		
10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)		
Full Name East Central Oklahoma Electric Cooperative, Inc.	Complete Mailing Address P.O. Box 1178, Okmulgee, OK 74447	
11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box. <input type="checkbox"/> None		
Full Name Rural Utilities Service	Complete Mailing Address Washington D.C.	
Full Name National Rural Cooperative Finance Corp.	Complete Mailing Address Washington D.C.	
Full Name CoBank	Complete Mailing Address Denver, Co.	
12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one) The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months <input type="checkbox"/> Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement.)		

PS Form 3526-R, July 2014 (Page 1 of 4 (See instructions page 4)) PSN: 7530-09-000-8855 PRIVACY NOTICE: See our privacy policy on www.usps.com.

13. Publication Title	14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below	
Country Living	October 2016	
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
Newsletter of electric cooperative members		
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)	26,500	26,500
(1) Outside County Paid/Requested Mail Subscriptions stated on PS Form 3541. (Include direct written request from recipient, telemarketing, and Internet requests from recipient, paid subscriptions including nominal rate subscriptions, employer requests, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies.)	0	0
b. Legitimate Paid and/or Requested Distribution (By mail and outside the mail)		
(2) In-County Paid/Requested Mail Subscriptions stated on PS Form 3541. (Include direct written request from recipient, telemarketing, and Internet requests from recipient, paid subscriptions including nominal rate subscriptions, employer requests, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies.)	0	0
(3) Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid or Requested Distribution Outside USPS®	120	120
(4) Requested Copies Distributed by Other Mail Classes Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®)	24,110	23,330
c. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))	24,230	23,450
(1) Outside County Nonrequested Copies Stated on PS Form 3541 (include sample copies, requests over 3 years old, requests induced by a premium, bulk sales and requests including association requests, names obtained from business directories, lists, and other sources)	0	0
d. Non-requested Distribution (By mail and outside the mail)		
(2) In-County Nonrequested Copies Stated on PS Form 3541 (include sample copies, requests over 3 years old, requests induced by a premium, bulk sales and requests including association requests, names obtained from business directories, lists, and other sources)	0	0
(3) Nonrequested Copies Distributed Through the USPS by Other Classes of Mail (e.g., First-Class Mail, registered copies mailed in excess of 10¢ limit mailed at Standard Mail® or Package Services rates)	0	0
(4) Nonrequested Copies Distributed Outside the Mail (include pickup stands, trade shows, showrooms, and other sources)	0	0
e. Total Nonrequested Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4))	0	0
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and e)	24,230	23,450
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4, (page #3))	150	150
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)	24,530	23,750
i. Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation (15c divided by 15f times 100)	100%	100%

* If you are claiming electronic copies, go to line 16 on page 3. If you are not claiming electronic copies, skip to line 17 on page 3.

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Pokemon—NO!

Players should stay away from power equipment

If you haven't noticed, the world is crazy about Pokemon Go. While your electric co-op has nothing against players enjoying themselves, when it comes to hunting virtual Pokemon on or near real power lines, substations or other co-op property, Pokemon Go quickly becomes Pokemon NO!

Pokemon is a smartphone-based augmented reality game that sends players to real world places to "capture" Pokemon. Pokemon can turn up anywhere from the grocery store to your front yard. Lately, they are appearing at electric substations, drawing players into dangerous situations.

Game manufacturer Niantic determines where Pokemon will appear. While their user agreement forbids players from trespassing on private property, private locations still seem to appear. Niantic asks players to report inappropriate locations online, but how quickly these issues are resolved is unknown.

If Pokemon are hiding around electric co-op property, players are advised to keep a safe distance. Any game or activity that distracts you from possible dangers nearby or brings you in close proximity to power lines is a major concern.

If you spot suspicious activity near co-op substations or power lines, please call ECE immediately at **918-756-0833**.

Great tastes for members of East Central Electric Cooperative

Easy Butterfingers Candy

INGREDIENTS

- 1 pound candy corn
- 1 (18 oz) jar crunchy peanut butter
- 1 (6 oz) bag semisweet chocolate chips
- 1 tablespoon vegetable shortening, or more if needed



DIRECTIONS

Line a 9x13-inch pan with parchment paper.

Place candy corn in a microwave-safe bowl (not plastic) and heat in several 30-second intervals, stirring after each interval, until candy corn is warm, melted, and smooth.

Stir peanut butter into melted candy corn until thoroughly combined; transfer candy to the prepared pan, pressing and smoothing the candy into the corners of the pan.

Place chocolate chips and vegetable shortening into the top of a double boiler set over simmering water. Heat the chocolate, stirring constantly, until just warm, melted, and smooth. Spread warm chocolate over the peanut candy. Chill in refrigerator until candy is set, at least 30 minutes, before cutting into squares.

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The person responsible for coordinating this organization's non-discriminating compliance efforts is Eric Armstrong, Manager of Human Resources.

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1400 Independence Avenue, SW
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