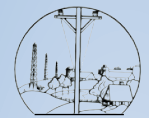


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country living

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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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.

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PS Form 3526-R, July 2014 (Page 2 of 4)



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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In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture

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1400 Independence Avenue, SW
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