

■ **Scholarships for Teens**

Operation Roundup awards \$20,000 to local students. **PAGE 2**

■ **Youth Tour Winners**

ECE selects winners of the 2016 Rural Electric Youth Tour. **PAGE 2**

■ **Luther Serves Dist. 7**

Trustee Dwight Luther serves members in District 7. **PAGE 3**



countryliving

MAY 2016

PUBLISHED FOR MEMBERS OF EAST CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

ECE Lineman Selected for Bolivia Project

Bourne joins cooperative effort to bring light to remote Bolivian villages

A lineman from East Central Electric (ECE) will lend his skills to a special project that will bring electricity to remote villages in Bolivia. The Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives (OAEC) selected Lineman Stacy Bourne and six other linemen from various Oklahoma co-ops to serve on the Energy Trails Electrification Project that will take place later this year.

The OAEC International Committee, comprised of trustees from the statewide association board, received 39 applications from linemen, electricians and engineers representing 17 out of 27 distribution systems in the state.

“We were very excited with the number of applications we received for this first project. Each candidate was excellent,” Jimmy Taylor, International Committee chairman, said. “Due to the tremendous response, we will

continue to seek opportunities to serve on international projects through the NRECA International Foundation.”

The Energy Trails project marks the first electrification project sponsored by Oklahoma’s electric cooperatives. OAEC is joining forces with the Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives (AMEC) to electrify two remote villages in northern Bolivia. Seven volunteers, plus one safety director will represent Oklahoma in the project that is slated for the period of August 1 to August 17, 2016.

“Rural electric cooperatives are known for bringing power to areas that would not otherwise have electricity,” Chris Meyers, OAEC general manager, said. “It’s rewarding to know we will play a part in making a difference in the lives of families who are striving to have a better quality of life.”

The project is possible through the coordination



ECE Lineman Stacy Bourne will travel to Bolivia in August to participate in a cooperative project to electrify two remote villages.

and leadership of NRECA International Foundation, the philanthropic arm for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association based in Arlington, Va.

East Central Electric Cooperative
PO Box 1178 • 2001 S. Wood Drive
Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447-1178
(918) 756-0833
www.ecoec.com

OFFICE HOURS:
Monday-Friday, 8 am - 4:30 pm.

POWER OUTAGE HOT LINE
(918) 756-0833

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- Lowell Hobbs, *President*
- Larry Harvey, *Vice President*
- Dwight Luther, *Secretary Treasurer*
- Max Shoemake, *Asst. Sec. Treasurer*
- Ed Kloeckler
- Michael Vernnon
- Jim Hall
- Tim Smith, *General Manager*

PAYMENT OPTIONS

- Pay online at www.ecoec.com using SmartHub, or download the app.
- Pay by phone using VISA, Mastercard or Discover at **866-999-4584**. Available 24 hours a day. Convenience fee associated with payments.
- Pay with cash or credit/debit card at participating Moneygram or Pay Site locations. Convenience fee associated with payments.
- 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 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.....	796
Applications granted.....	556
Applications denied.....	224
Applications tabled.....	16
Scholarships awarded.....	\$169,000

Total Disbursements.....\$1,305,940.61
Average member contribution.....44¢





Change in Meeting Notice Affects Registration

ECE members will notice a change in the ECE District and Annual Meeting Notice they receive in the mail. The notice will include a perforated registration form along the bottom. Members who plan to attend the ECE District or Annual Meeting should bring this form with them to register. Bringing the form makes for registering easier and faster.

The notice will be enclosed in an envelope that is clearly marked "District Meeting Notice" or "Annual Meeting Notice."

Questions? Please call **918-756-0833**.

Sign Up For Solar!

Support the many benefits of solar energy by joining ECE's Community Solar project.



ECE continues to enroll members in the project, but more subscribers are needed. As more members subscribe to solar panels, ECE's system is better able to reduce its reliance on wholesale power from power plants.

Wholesale power costs account for 68 percent of your monthly electric bill. Controlling the cost of wholesale power is the best way for co-ops to avoid the necessity to raise rates.

Members participate in the solar project by subscribing to one or more solar panels. Solar subscribers will receive a small credit on their electric bill based on the kilowatt-hour output of their panels.

For more details on ECE Community Solar, please call **918-756-0833**.



Teens Win College Scholarships

The Operation Roundup board of trustees awarded \$20,000 in scholarships to students from 20 local high schools.



Operation Roundup offers a \$1,000 scholarship to one student from each of the schools in and around East Central Electric service territory.

Scholarship recipients are selected based on scholastic achievement, community and school activities, awards and honors, educational goals and financial need.

Congratulations to our 2016 scholars!

- Dakota Markes – Beggs High School
- Cole Henderson – Bixby High School
- Alexis Kahn – Bristow High School
- Katelyn Rose – Checotah High School
- Jacob VanOrsdol – Depew High School
- Jonathan McCaslin – Haskell High School
- Addison Ellis – Henryetta High School
- Brooke Qualls – Hilldale High School

thanks to you more local teens are able to afford to attend college. Thank you for your participation in ECE Operation Roundup!

- Paige Pulliam – Kellyville High School
- Jordyn Grant – Kiefer High School
- Asher Flippin – Liberty High School
- Cassidy Shannon – Mason High School
- Dylan Melton – Morris High School
- Kenzie Bean – Okemah High School
- Brent Keys – Oktaha High School
- Ashlee Basquez – Preston High School
- Branson Harris – Sapulpa High School
- Lane Ellerd – Stroud High School
- Chance Hawkins – Weleetka High School
- James Dowd - Homeschool

For more information on Operation Roundup scholarships, please visit www.ecoec.com, or contact your co-op at **918-756-0833**.

Congratulations, ECE 2016 Youth Tour Winners



East Central Electric announces the winners of two co-op competitions for teens.

ECE Rural Electric Youth Tour competition

invites high school juniors to compete for an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington DC. The trip will take place June 10-16.

ECE's 2016 Youth Tour delegates are:

- Tylar Murry, Beggs High School
- Logan Baker, Haskell High School
- Jacob Rippy, Eufaula High School
- Cassidy Johnson, Depew High School
- Taber Hicks, Dewar High School
- Kaitlynn Childress, Bristow High School



Congratulations, Youth Tour winners! Have a fun and memorable trip.

More information on the Rural Electric Youth Tour is available at www.ecoec.com, or call your co-op at **918-756-0833**.



Luther Urges Member Participation

More voices are needed to keep electricity reliable and affordable

In his twelfth year as East Central Electric Cooperative (ECE) District 7 trustee, Dwight Luther admits that his impression of his co-op has changed. "Initially, I thought co-ops might be a bit behind the times because they are smaller and more rural," he said.

He quickly changed his mind. Luther said he soon realized that electric co-ops support and promote some of the most cutting edge advancements in utility technology. "In many ways, we are more advanced than investor-owned utilities," he said.

From smart meters to outage management, co-ops such as ECE understand that staying abreast of technology is key to controlling operating costs, improving service reliability, and communicating effectively with members.

For trustees, this requires learning, education and reading. Staying informed on issues, Luther says, is the most challenging aspect of his position. "Keeping up with the business of the co-op, whether that be political issues, regulations, or renewable energy, is constant," he said. "It is a continual learning process."

When he isn't serving his co-op, Luther works as game warden for the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife. He also serves on the board of the Soil Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, and the Farm Bureau of Creek County. For years



Dwight Luther, ECE District 7 trustee, and ECE member Doris Turnbull at the ECE Annual Meeting.

he served on the board of Bristow Social Services. He's also a volunteer firefighter.

Luther estimates he devotes roughly 40 hours a month to serving his community. His involvement keeps him in touch with those he represents.

"The majority of people in my district make \$35,000 a year or less," Luther explained. "That's why it's so important that we do everything we can to keep our rates affordable."

He wishes more members would

get involved in their co-op and issues, such as EPA regulations, that could affect their rates. "Whatever it takes to get our members more engaged and keep them informed, we need to do it," he said. "With more voices speaking out on these issues, maybe we could get more done."

Luther and his wife, Patricia, live east of Bristow.

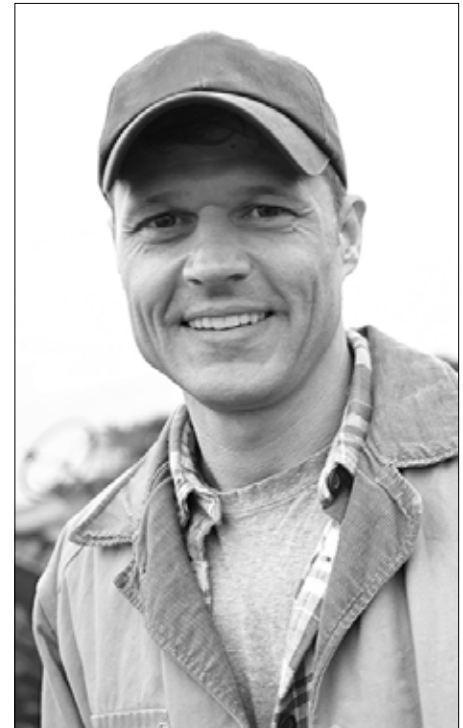
Please Save These Dates!

June 20, 2016
ECE District 7 Meeting
6:30 pm, Bristow Housing Authority

June 23, 2016
ECE District 4 Meeting
6:30 pm, Muskogee Armed Forces Reserve Center



Connect with East Central Electric Cooperative 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." *Thank you for your support!*



**I AM A
CO-OP
VOTER**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

CO-OPS VOTE
A PROGRAM OF AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES
WWW.VOTE.COOP



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Avoid placing lamps or TV sets near your room air-conditioning thermostat. The thermostat senses heat from these appliances, which can cause the air conditioner to run longer than necessary.

Safety Month and Safety Programs Create Awareness That Saves Lives

May is National Electrical Safety Month and East Central Electric is teaming up with the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) to raise awareness of potential home electrical hazards and the importance of electrical safety.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) estimates 47,700 home structure fires reported to U.S. fire departments each year involve some type of electrical failure or malfunction as a factor contributing to ignition. These fires result in 418 civilian deaths, 1,570 civilian injuries and \$1.4 billion in property damage. Awareness and education help reduce the incidence of electrical fires and accidents

East Central Electric encourages electrical safety awareness by making free electrical safety programs available to classrooms and other organizations. For children or adults, the program is an important reminder of the power of electricity. ECE also offers free electrical safety coloring books for children, or take your kid to the online Kids Zone at <http://kidsenergyzone.com> for fun games and activities that teach safety and energy awareness.

For more information about electrical safety, visit www.esfi.org. To schedule a free electrical safety program, call 918-756-0833.

Recipes

Great tastes for members of East Central Electric Cooperative

Key Lime Pie

INGREDIENTS

- 1 (9 inch) prepared graham cracker crust
- 3 cups sweetened condensed milk
- ½ cup sour cream
- ¾ cup key lime juice
- 1 tablespoon grated lime zest



DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350°F.

In a medium bowl, combine condensed milk, sour cream, lime juice, and lime rind. Mix well and pour into graham cracker crust.

Bake in preheated oven for 5 to 8 minutes, until tiny pinhole bubbles burst on the surface of pie. Do not brown! Chill pie thoroughly before serving. Garnish with lime slices and whipped cream if desired. Yield: 8 servings.

SOURCE: ALLRECIPES.COM



FREE BOOTHS at ECE Annual Meeting

If you'd like to market your crafts, tools, quilts, artwork, jewelry or other products, set up a booth at the East Central Electric Annual Meeting! The meeting on Thursday, July 28, 2016 at OSU-IT's Covelle Hall in Okmulgee draws a large crowd—and booth space is free.

Business owners, home-based businesses or non-profit organizations that wish to set up a booth must reserve a space using the form below. Reservation deadline is July 1, 2016.

If you have questions about vendor booths, please contact Katherine Russell at 918-756-0833.

2016 ECE Annual Meeting Booth Reservation

Thursday, July 28, 2016 • OSU-IT, Covelle Hall

___ Food Space

___ Arts & Crafts Space

(Food vendors are required to submit a food handler's permit per OSU-IT)

Organization _____

Contact Name _____

Daytime Phone _____ Email _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Products to be sold _____

Send reservation form to: East Central Electric Cooperative

Attn: Katherine Russell

PO Box 1178

Okmulgee, OK 74447

Or send via email to: krussell@ecoec.com