

country living

FOR MEMBERS OF EAST CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



Power Packed Summer

Students learn, lead, and light up their futures

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East Central Electric Cooperative was proud to sponsor an energized group of local students who took part in once-in-a-lifetime experiences designed to spark leadership, learning, and lifelong friendships.

Just after Memorial Day, a group of 8th graders turned up the voltage at Oklahoma Energy Camp. Held at Canyon Camp in Hinton, Oklahoma, Energy Camp gave students a hands-on introduction to how electric cooperatives work. They learned about electrical safety and lineman gear, and even got to climb power poles and ride in bucket trucks.

From Hilldale Schools in Muskogee, Bryette Riley-Johns said, “Energy Camp is awesome because I had the opportunity to make new friends and experience once-in-a-lifetime events. You made it possible for me to have a great start to my summer.”

In June, four high school juniors packed their bags for Washington, D.C., as part of the 2025 Oklahoma Youth Tour. Representing East Central Electric, these standout students joined hundreds of others from across the nation for a whirlwind

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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.

We continue to get accolades for our new CEO. He is making a good impression with the employees and the members as well as members from other Co-ops. Those kinds of truthful comments strengthen the positive attitudes of all of us.

Thank you also for revealing your confidence in our current Board as we had no opposition surface for this past annual meeting. We have a good unified Board that spends our time finding ways to benefit our members.

When I was first on the Board, our right-of-way budget was \$1 million dollars. This year we have budgeted \$4 million and that is still a struggle to keep the trees and limbs trimmed.

My philosophy is, if something is broken, then fix or replace it, whichever is the best. When you rebuild, fix it for the long haul. Remember your CEO and directors are members too so we share the same results you do—good or bad!

You must realize that with 6,600 miles of line to maintain and the type of weather we have had this spring, it has been a daunting task to keep the lights on. Our crews have been diligent and work like it's their line they are repairing.

I received a call from a lady last month about a concern she had but did not leave her name or phone number, and for some reason my phone did not show her number so I could not call her back. If you read this and you are the one, please call again with your number so we can visit regarding your concern.

George was a straight forward, likable rancher near Muskogee. I met George when I was sales rep/ manager of the Kerr-McGee Farm Center in Haskell starting in 1964. He was needing some managerial help so he advertised in several papers of his need for a qualified ranch manager.

Soon he received a call stating an interest in the job being offered,

and a meeting soon occurred. The prospective new manager's wife was with him, and she stated while George and her husband were touring the ranch that she would go into town to check the town out.

After the ranch tour, the new guy told George he would like to take a horse ride around the ranch to get the real feel of the ranch from the back of a horse. George put his best saddle on his best horse, and the guy left to ride around on the ranch.

As darkness was drawing nigh, George drove around the perimeter to see if he could see the guy. He found an open gate, pickup, trailer and horse tracks where they loaded up. George never saw his horse or saddle again or the prospective ranch manager.

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

Look Up and Look Out

To keep lineworkers, yourselves, and your loved ones safe

- Do not post signs on utility poles. Staples and nails can puncture protective gear.



- Be careful when using any equipment that extends to ensure everything is further than 10 feet from overhead lines.
- Never climb or trim trees near power lines.



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week of history, government, and connection. From standing in awe at the Lincoln Memorial to meeting their congressional representatives on Capitol Hill, our delegates got a front-row seat to democracy in action.

Closer to home, East Central Electric's headquarters in Okmulgee welcomed two groups of high school students for behind-the-scenes tours. Participants in Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology's Summer Academy and Upward Bound programs explored our system operations center, got up close with a live-line electrical safety demonstration, and discovered the many career paths that exist within a co-op. Spoiler alert: it's more than just climbing poles! Our team loved answering questions and seeing students' eyes light up as they learned how we keep the power flowing.

We're proud to invest in the bright minds of tomorrow, and we're already looking forward to reaching even more



students in the '25-'26 school year! If you're a student who's curious about electricity, leadership, or just wants a new adventure, we want to hear from you. Applications for next year's Youth Tour and Energy Camp will open this winter, and tours of the co-op are available year-round for school groups.

Want to know more? Call us or visit www.ecoec.com to learn how to plug in.

Changes to High Efficiency Rebate Program

East Central Electric Cooperative members can take advantage of new offering in our high-efficiency rebate program for qualifying newly installed or replacement units. Below is a list of all the rebates currently available to our members. For qualifying details, please visit ecoec.com/rebates or give us a call at 918-756-0833.

- Duel Fuel Air Source Heat Pumps
- Ducted Mini Split Heat Pumps
- Ductless Mini Split Heat Pumps
- Ground Source Heat Pumps
- Energy Star Advanced Programmable Thermostat
- Marathon Electric Water Heaters
- Energy Star Rated Heat Pump Water Heaters
- Level 2 Electric Vehicle Charging Stations
- Home Energy Audit Weatherization

Free Home Energy Audit

We also have a free home energy audit available to all co-op members to better understand how your home uses and loses energy. We work with a third party auditor to give you:

- Insulation testing
- Duct condition testing
- Awareness of hidden draft penetrations
- Blower door testing
- A detailed report highlighting areas in greatest need of attention
- A prioritized list of improvements based on estimated energy savings payback
- And the ability to take advantage of our Home Energy Audit Weatherization rebate.





ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

Make sure your children know the green box padmount transformers are never a safe place to climb and play. Please do not decorate or landscape near the box either. In an emergency, our crews need to be able to easily access the dangerous equipment inside.

SOURCE: SAFELECTRICITY.ORG



Watermelon Cake

INGREDIENTS

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 white cake mix | Icing: |
| 1 1/3 C. cubed, seedless watermelon | 1/4 C. watermelon juice |
| 1 pkg. mixed fruit gelatin | 1/2 C. butter |
| 3 egg whites | 2 C. powdered sugar |
| 1 T. oil | 2- 3oz. pkg. cream cheese, softened |

DIRECTIONS

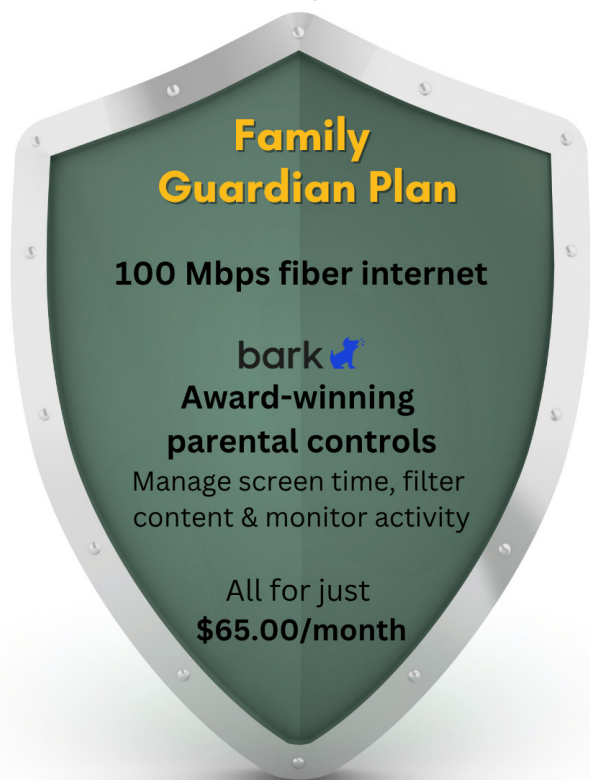
Grease and flour bundt pan. In large bowl, combine dry cake mix, cubed watermelon, gelatin powder, egg whites and oil. Beat until smooth. Pour in prepared pan and bake at 350° for about 35 minutes. Cool on rack.

Icing: Beat cream cheese and butter until fluffy. Add powdered sugar and watermelon juice. Stir until blended.

SOURCE: ECE 85TH ANNIVERSARY COOKBOOK

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