

country living

FOR MEMBERS OF EAST CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

The map displays seven districts of the East Central Electric Cooperative, each with a representative member. The districts are numbered 1 through 7. District 1 is in the center, District 2 is to the northeast, District 3 is in the east, District 4 is in the southeast, District 5 is in the south, District 6 is in the southwest, and District 7 is in the northwest. Each district is represented by a circular portrait of its representative, with their name, title, and district number listed below the portrait.

- District 1:** Larry Harvey, Vice President, Beggs
- District 2:** Lowell Hobbs, President, Haskell
- District 3:** Max Shoemake, Morris
- District 4:** Michael Vernon, Muskogee
- District 5:** Jay Emerson, Checotah
- District 6:** Jim Hall, Asst. Sec. Treasurer, Nuyaka
- District 7:** Dwight Luther, Sec. Treasurer, Bristow

Districts 1, 3 & 6 Meeting June 22

As an electric cooperative, East Central is led by the members we serve.

East Central Electric Members in Districts 1, 3 and 6 are invited to participate in their electric cooperative district meeting, June 22.

This is an important meeting for co-op members in your area, and a great opportunity to learn how your cooperative has come full circle in our 85-year history.

We hope you plan to attend.

When:

Thursday, June 22 - 6:30 p.m.

Where:

East Central Electric Cooperative
New Multipurpose Center
2001 S. Wood Drive, Okmulgee

District Prizes:

The first 50 members who register

in person for each district will automatically receive a \$10 bill credit. Every member in attendance will also be entered into a drawing with members from their district for:

- 1 - \$100 Bill Credit
- 1 - Three free months of 1GB ecoLINK
- 2 - Gifts valued at \$50
- 3 - One free month of 1GB ecoLINK

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

Reasons to Lean On a Trusted Advisor

We just completed a thorough and productive strategic planning two-day session conducted by Cooperative Finance Corporation. We had much discussion on solar power and electric vehicles.

Nuclear, coal, gas, solar, wind, and water are all important sources to produce power. As more electric vehicles are used on our system, the more demand we will have. We need to know where they are so we can increase our available power to those areas. We also have established a favorable rate for E.V. chargers if you charge at off-peak hours.

Communicate with us. We are listening and are here to help you navigate this system.

As battery technology increases, solar will be a bigger factor. We have a company coming to our May board meeting to share with us much like Conexon has with ecoLINK.

We have learned of several companies offering solar systems that have gone out of business leaving their customers in a lurch. East Central Electric Co-op has been here for over 85 years and we plan to be here to eternity. We want to be your energy advisor—lean on us—we are listening.

Districts 1, 3, and 6 are all scheduled to meet at our new multi-purpose building on June 22. I hope to see you there.

My brother-in-law Jimmy and his friend Jerry had both taken an early retirement from their jobs. They now had some personal time they were not accustomed to.

Jerry lived west of Coweta and had additional property near Wagoner that needed the weeds mowed. Jerry loaded his manual transmission tractor and brushhog mower on his trailer behind his 4x4 pickup that had a manual 4 speed transmission and he went to Wagoner. He did not get finished before time to go home so decided to leave his tractor and mower there rather than haul it back home. He removed the tractor battery to lessen the chance someone could steal his tractor.

“We want to be your energy advisor—lean on us—we are listening.”

- LOWELL HOBBS

A few days later he returned to finish mowing, and as he went through the gate he remembered he had removed the battery and forgot to bring it with him. He pondered his dilemma but thought he could do a 2 man job by himself. He had a long chain, backed up to the tractor and hooked it up. He put the tractor in neutral and with his pickup in low gear, low range 4 wheel drive began to pull the tractor.

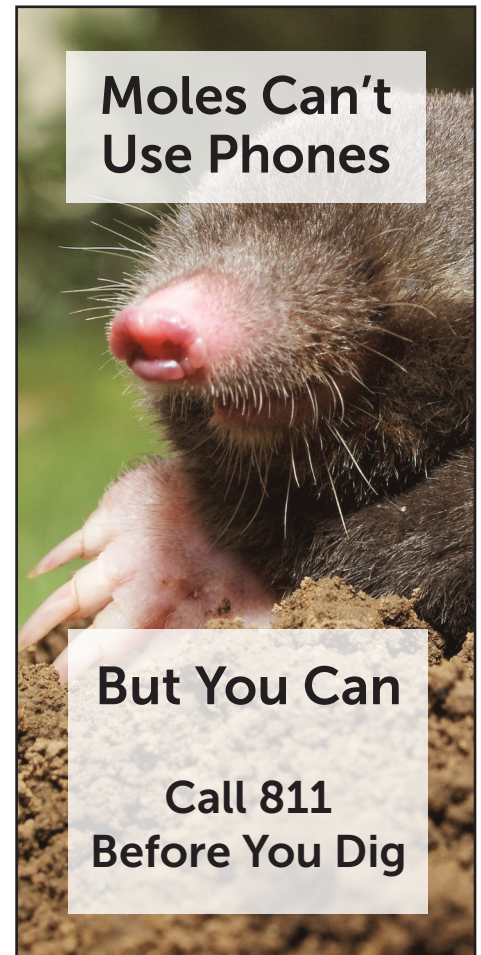
As it began to roll he jumped out of the pickup, got on the tractor, put it in 7th gear, pulled the throttle about 2/3 open, and let out on the clutch. It immediately killed the pickup. He got off the tractor, reentered the pickup and started pulling the tractor again, forgetting the tractor was still in gear.

Before he could hardly react, the tractor started and here it came. He barely got the pickup door shut before the tractor went by and he realized he was fixing to be jerked around. He accelerated wide open, getting ahead of the tractor, but not knowing what to do.

Afraid he would blow the motor at this rate or miss a gear by trying to shift, he discovered he could kinda ‘lead’ the tractor. He is in panic mode as he negotiated the obstacles and headed for the pond. He realized he might drown the tractor, pickup, and himself so he headed it toward a large pecan tree. The impact stopped the tractor, and it was the only casualty.

I said, “Now, Jerry, we need to reenact this and get it on America’s Funniest Home Videos.” Jerry said, “We ain’t reenacting anything! I wish I hadn’t even told you about it!”

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



Moles Can't Use Phones

But You Can

Call 811 Before You Dig

Members to Receive Credit on June Bills

\$2 Million to be Returned

East Central Electric Members may notice a credit on their June electric bills, next to the line item Consumer Cost Adjustment (CCA).

ECE General Manager Tim Smith said, “Our board has looked at the year end revenue from 2022 and determined they want to give back \$2 million to the members in 2023.”

The \$2 million will be allocated to members based on their usage and credits will be visible on members’ electric bills until the full \$2 million has been disbursed.

“Our goal in giving back this revenue, is to help our co-op members adjust to the rising costs of power and the rising costs of living,” Smith said.



2023 Operation Roundup Scholarship

Each year the East Central Electric Cooperative Foundation offers a competitive \$1,000 college scholarship to a student from each school district in East Central’s service territory. The following students distinguished themselves by their rigorous academic accomplishments and community service. The class of 2023 scholarship recipients will be recognized at the ECE Annual Meeting July 27.



Beggs – Jillian Remington

Bixby – Karsen Rampey

Bristow – Lauren Morris



Checotah – Jayda Vandiver

Coweta – Jonathon Mills



Depew – Kadence Rodman

Glenpool – Madelyn Kragel



Haskell – Jacey Wentworth

Henryetta – Bradley Dodson



Hilldale – Addesen Glass

Kellyville – Maggie Pogany



Kiefer – Ali Skelton

Mason – Brien Dodson



Midway – Nathan Duvall

Morris – Madison Nixon



Mounds – Kayleah Hurst

Okemah – Colton Parish



Oktaha – Abigail Ashwood

Porum – Gracie Tiger



Preston – Linley Miller

Stroud – Jenisen Cooper



Wilson – Marah Shanks

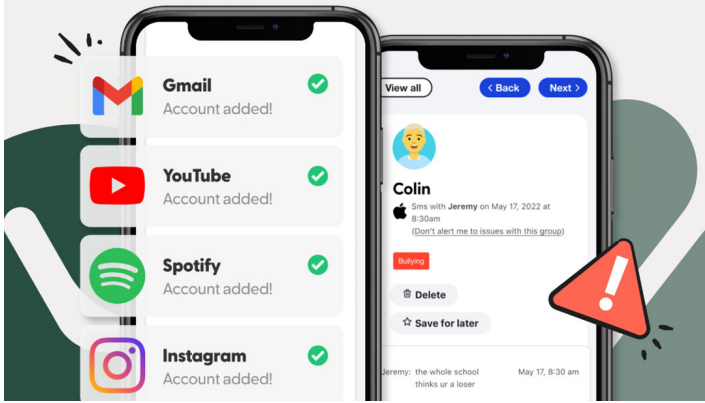


Milligan Home School – Maggie Milligan



We've partnered with Bark to offer award-winning parental controls for \$12/month.

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Strawberry Ice Cream

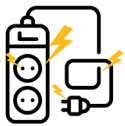
INGREDIENTS

- 20 oz. frozen strawberries, thawed (use juice also)
- 1 (8 oz.) Cool Whip
- 1 (2 liter) strawberry pop
- 2 can Eagle Brand milk

DIRECTIONS

Mix all together, except for pop. Pour into freezer can. Finish filling to fill line by adding pop. Makes one gallon.

SOURCE: ECE 85TH ANNIVERSARY COOKBOOK
PICK YOURS UP AT ANNUAL MEETING JULY 27.



ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

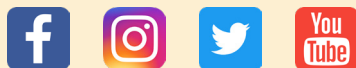
Severe weather can strike at any time, causing destruction and power outages. Have an emergency kit on hand and an evacuation plan in place to keep your family safe.

SOURCE: SAFELECTRICITY.ORG



East Central ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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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

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Vice President

Dwight Luther, District 7
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Jim Hall, District 6
Asst. Sec. / Treasurer

Max Shoemake, District 3

Michael Vernnon, District 4

Jay Emerson, District 5

Tim Smith
General Manager

PAYMENT OPTIONS

Pay online using SmartHub.

Pay by phone using VISA, Mastercard or Discover at 866-999-4584. Available 24/7. 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-thru window Monday - Friday from 8 am to 4:45 pm.

Pay via automatic draft of your checking or savings account. Sign up online or download the ebill form at www.ecoec.com, or set up online payments through your bank. No convenience fee.