

country living

FOR MEMBERS OF EAST CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Serving Up Safety & Savings

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The holiday season is just around the corner and soon, festive music will flood the airwaves, sparkling lights will adorn our homes, and good tidings will abound.

The holidays also bring a frenzy of decorating, cooking and family gatherings. Amid the hectic hustle and bustle, what often gets neglected are the simple precautions that keep our families safe, and the low-cost solutions that lower our electric bills.

As a mission-fueled organization, East Central Electric Cooperative is always looking for ways we can serve our members and communities.

In this edition of the Country Living, we are providing a checklist of simple winter safety and savings solutions that you can use to ensure this coming holiday season is merry and bright.





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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.

It was only a little while ago that natural gas and coal were equal in sharing production of electric power. I wrote (a few articles before this one) that coal was our best source of reliable electric power. We have been warned to not retire coal production until it can be replaced with the same reliability; however, the most recent report for the first quarter of 2023 shows natural gas now makes up 38% share of total generation with coal making up only 16% share. It is predicted that natural gas is forecasted to make up 41% of generation for electric power this year, with coal forecasted to make up only 15% with renewable making up the balance. If we have another polar vortex we may be in trouble.

Another alarming fact is new record set by credit card debt which surpasses \$1 trillion for the first time, and credit card delinquencies set new records. US banks recorded loan losses of \$19 billion in the

second quarter, the highest level in more than 3 years. Half of these losses came from credit card loans.

East Central Electric is committed to serving our members with reliable and affordable electric power. We are postured to provide that to our members.

ECE uses our credit card to buy those large ticket items especially during our broadband build out and were recognized for receiving the largest credit card rebate 2 or 3 times... a fascinating sum. Your board of directors is committed to be good stewards of your Co-op. It is truly a pleasure to serve with all the board being of one accord—that of doing what is good for our members!

The Barefoot Ranch recently hosted the Okmulgee County Cattlemen’s annual picnic, and it was a perfect evening with maybe 150 attending. Watson Catering out of Council Hill

won the contract to serve us BBQ brisket and was it delicious!

I want to urge you, as I have before, to acknowledge your family and friends for being a good part of your life. Happy people make for good times and good memories. Don’t wait to do it... do it today!

A contented bull was grazing lush clover in full bloom. A big bumble bee was pollinating blooms of the clover seemingly unaware of the grazing bull. All of a sudden the bull grazed the bee’s flower and swallowed him. It made the bee mad, and he decided to sting the bull as much as he could. Thinking about it, the bee decided to rest a while and store up a lot of energy so he could sting the bull all the more from the inside. The bee then took a long nap preparing for the obvious. When he woke up, the bull was gone!

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

East Central ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
powered by ecOLINK

What You Heard
MOOOOO

What He Actually Said
MAKE SURE YOU UPDATE THE CO-OP WITH YOUR

- New Phone Number
- Active Email Address
- Current Mailing Address

Safety & Savings Checklist



Easy Energy Cost Savers

- Seal gaps in walls, floors, and ceilings with caulk or foam sealant. Look for cracks around windows, wires and pipes.
- Unplug electronics while you're on vacation so they don't pull electricity while in rest mode. You can check out your "Always On" energy usage under "Energy Detail" in the SmartHub app.
- Wash clothes in cold water. Use hot water only for very dirty loads.

Kitchen Efficiencies

- Turn off kitchen and other exhaust fans within 20 minutes after you are done cooking.
- Clean refrigerator coils annually.
- The most efficient refrigerator temperature settings are between 34° - 37°. Ideal freezer temperature is between 0° - 5°.
- Slow-cooker meals are one of the most energy-efficient ways to prepare food.

Decorations & Lights

- Inspect Christmas lights before use and discard any strands that are damaged or worn out.
- Keep decorations at least three feet away from heat sources, especially those with an open flame.
- Running cords under furniture or rugs and stapling cords to walls present serious fire hazards.
- Extension cords are not designed for long-term use. If you have a long-term need, consider having a qualified electrician install more outlets in your home.

Outdoor Energy & Safety

- Turn off pool pumps and heaters when not in use.
- Verify livestock water tank heaters are off when not needed.
- Keep generators at least 20 feet away from your home and never operate in an enclosed space.
- The safest way to operate a generator for home use during an outage is to use a transfer switch. Call the co-op if you are interested in having a Generlink Transfer Switch installed on your electric meter at-cost.

Heating Equipment

- Have your heating system inspected annually by a licensed, qualified professional.
- Clean or replace filters on furnaces once a month or as recommended.
- An electric space heater can cost more than \$100 per month to operate. Minimize their use, except for temporary spot heating. Turn them off when leaving the room.
- Set your water heater to the lowest point, about 120°.

Fire Safety

- Test your smoke alarms monthly and make sure your house is protected by an adequate number of working alarms.
- Share your fire escape plan with your overnight guests. Everyone should know at least two ways out of each room in your home.
- Consider having guests with mobility issues sleep on the ground floor of your house.



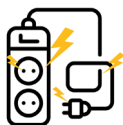
We're thrilled to announce that ecoLINK has reached an incredible milestone of 15,000 subscriber installations. As a token of our gratitude, we're hosting a special drawing exclusively for our active subscribers on the Cooperative's 85th Anniversary.

One lucky subscriber will have the chance to win an amazing Smart TV, perfect for enhancing your gaming and entertainment experience!



How to Participate:

1. Ensure You're an Active Subscriber: To be eligible for the drawing, make sure you're an active ecoLINK subscriber as of 11/15/23. **To place your order CALL (918) 756-0833.**
2. Stay Tuned: Keep an eye on our website, eNewsletter and social media channels for updates and the official announcement of the winner.



**ELECTRICAL SAFETY
TIP OF THE MONTH**

Space heaters are a frequent cause of home fires. Use them safely, by keeping them at least 3 feet from anything that can burn and unplugging them when you leave the room or go to sleep.

SOURCE: SAFELECTRICITY.ORG



Moma Locatelli Stuffing

INGREDIENTS

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 2 lbs ground beef | 2 T. poultry seasoning |
| 1 lrg onion, chopped | 3/4 tsp. cloves |
| 1 1/2 tsp. salt | 1 tsp. cinnamon |
| pepper to taste | 2-4 cups of bread chunks |

DIRECTIONS

Brown ground beef. Add chopped onions, salt and pepper. Cover with water and simmer for 1 hour. Then add poultry seasoning, cloves, cinnamon, and bread chunks, until desired thickness is reached. Place in baking pan and bake 20-30 minutes at 350°. Top should be lightly brown and crusty. Serves 12-16 people. NOTE: In Honor of Martha Alma Locatelli.

SOURCE: ECE 85TH ANNIVERSARY COOKBOOK



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