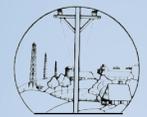


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Five summer survival strategies to help you save. **PAGE 2**

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No late fees, no disconnect fees, what are you waiting for? **PAGE 3**

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Avoid tragedy by moving over for crews working along the road. **PAGE 4**



East Central Electric Cooperative  
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OFFICE HOURS:  
Monday-Friday, 8 am - 4:30 pm.

POWER OUTAGE HOT LINE  
**(918) 756-0833**

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- Pay online at [www.ecoec.com](http://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.
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- 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](http://www.ecoec.com).

# country living

JUNE 2017

PUBLISHED FOR MEMBERS OF EAST CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

## Necessity Is The Paw Paw Of Invention

Born in Checotah, Paw Paw Martin's locking outlet covers put a new twist on safety

**F**our years ago, Bob Martin saw a need for a safer electric outlet cover and his inventor's mind went to work.

His "aha" moment came while visiting his fourteen-month-old great-grandchild at his son's home.

"My grandson would put the child down and that boy would go straight to the electrical plugs. He wouldn't



Bob Martin of Checotah is the creator of Paw Paw Martin's childproof locking outlet covers, an Oklahoma-made product.

Paw Paw Martin's locking outlet safety covers were born.

Since that day four years ago, Bob and wife, Bobbie, have worked together to develop and produce the locking outlet cover.

"It's a team effort," says Bob, a.k.a. "Paw Paw."

The couple is accustomed to working together after being in the wholesale meat business for 47 years and being married for 54 years.

"We worked together for 20 years in the wholesale meat business in Muskogee before starting our own Martin and Sons Meat Market in Checotah in 1983," added Bobbie.

The pair raised two sons, Brad and Brian, and have six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. They've been cooperative members for 51 years and have a special relationship with the lineman for their area, Stacy Bourne.

*Cont'd on page 3*

**2,555**

# of children treated annually for wall outlet shock accidents.

stay away from them. He was constantly pulling out the safety plugs," Martin recalls.

When Martin observed how easily his grandson removed the outlet safety plug, he went home that day and got to work.

### 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](http://www.ecoec.com).

*Figures to date:*

Applications reviewed.....	898
Applications granted.....	596
Applications denied.....	244
Applications tabled.....	16
Scholarships awarded.....	\$190,000
<b>Total Disbursements.....</b>	<b>\$1,474,876.33</b>
Average member contribution.....	44¢



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This institution is an equal opportunity employer, Veteran/Disabled.



SAVE THE DATES!

District meetings coming up

■ Thursday, June 22 • 6:30 pm

ECE District 1, 3 and 6 Meetings  
ECE Headquarters  
2001 S. Wood Drive, Okmulgee

■ Thursday, July 27 • 5:00 pm

East Central Electric Annual Meeting  
Covelle Hall, OSU Institute  
of Technology  
Okmulgee

Check Out The Power  
Of Solar Panels

If you're curious just how much electricity is being generated by ECE's Community Solar project, check out the live solar readings at [www.ecoec.com](http://www.ecoec.com). The site shows live readings from the solar array and includes a summary of output by the day, week and month.

While you're there, be sure to read about the environmental benefits generated by the solar project. View the energy output per panel, carbon reductions, and the barrels of oil conserved. The site also includes information on how solar energy is generated and delivered to the grid.



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."



# Baby, It's HOT Outside!

## Try These Stay Cool Strategies For Summer Savings

Like most things in life, saving money on air-conditioning bills is most likely if you have a plan.

Plan a strategy for keeping your home cool this summer without breaking the bank. Here are six tips:

1. Make sure your central air-conditioning system and/or window unit are operating efficiently by giving them a tune up. Remember to change your filters every month.
2. Set your thermostat to 78 degrees while you're home, and higher before you leave the house for the day.
3. Turn ceiling fans on when you enter a room and off when you leave. There's no benefit to running a fan when nobody is around.
4. Close your drapes or blinds when it's sunny outside to block the heat from entering your home.
5. Avoid cooking in your kitchen on hot, summer days. Instead, grill outdoors, serve cold dishes, order take-out or heat food up in the microwave oven.



Find more summer energy-saving tips, articles, videos at [www.touchstoneenergy.com/together-we-save](http://www.touchstoneenergy.com/together-we-save), or visit [www.ecoec.com](http://www.ecoec.com).

### Got a favorite family recipe to share?



We'd like to publish it in the **80th Anniversary Cookbook** of East Central Electric Cooperative

Please bring your recipe to the ECE Annual Meeting on Thursday, July 27 to be eligible for a special prize drawing for recipe contributors.

*Note: Recipe must include contributor's name and town, list of ingredients, measured amounts of each ingredient, and directions.*



## Paw Paw Martin

Cont'd from page 1

"Everyone around Checotah knows the Martin's. You won't find better folks," said Bourne.

The Martin's sold their beloved market, known for its lunch specials, in 2010 to retire. But retirement hardly slowed them down. Bob is an inventor at heart and has a number of patents pending. He also plays a host of instruments and sings mostly gospel and bluegrass music. Bobbie is the organist for their church, First Baptist of Checotah. They both like to fish and spend time working in their gardens at their home in rural Checotah.

Paw Paw Martin's Locking Outlet Safety Covers are a safe solution to what can be a dangerous problem for many. The covers have a locking cap that must be pushed in and turned to be removed - similar to pill bottles. They come three

to a package and sell for \$7.95 with free shipping. The couple hopes to get the covers in stores, but for now, orders may be placed online at the Paw Paw Martin's Facebook page or website at <http://www.outletsafetycovers.com/>.

"Our slogan is, 'Don't plug it, cap it,'" says Paw Paw Martin.

**100**

#of children who die from electrocution every year.

The hope that the Martin's have for the outlet covers is to prevent not only children but those with developmental disabilities or dementia from an accident that could take their life.

**70%**

of child-related electrical accidents that occur at home under adult supervision.

Paw Paw Martin stated, "It's really not about the money, it's about safety. "

With that goal in mind, the Martin's have donated dozens of the outlet covers to daycares, churches and nursing homes in and around the Checotah area.

Members are encouraged to visit the Paw Paw Martin's booth at the ECE Annual Meeting, Thursday, July 27 at Covelle Hall located on the OSUIT campus in Okmulgee.

For more information on Paw Paw Martin's products, please visit [www.pawpawmartins.com](http://www.pawpawmartins.com).



## Prepaid Puts *You* In Charge!

East Central Electric's prepaid payment option lets you decide how much you want to pay for electricity— and when you want to pay it.

### HOW IT WORKS:

When you sign up for prepaid your usage is calculated daily so you don't receive a paper bill. Because you pay for your usage in advance, you never have to worry about late payments, late fees, disconnect notices or bad credit.

Prepaid members monitor their usage and credit balance by logging on to the co-op's Smarthub, or by calling us at **918-756-0833**.

When your credit balance runs low, East Central Electric will alert you via email, text or phone. You decide the low balance point based on what you're comfortable with.

For more details on our prepaid payment option, please call **918-756-0833** or visit [www.ecoec.com](http://www.ecoec.com).

## Put *the Money* in your Pocket!

East Central Electric offers valuable rebates on select appliances including:

- ◆ **Geothermal Heat Pumps**- \$150 /ton for replacement units. \$750/ton for new installations.
- ◆ **Water Heaters** - \$150 for Marathon water heaters purchased from your electric cooperative.
- ◆ **Window ACs** - \$50 for new Energy Star-rated room ACs.



Find complete details about our rebate program at [www.ecoec.com](http://www.ecoec.com), or contact us at **918-756-0833**.

# Please make room for roadside crews

Moving over will help everyone stay safe.

**W**hen the power goes out, so do East Central Electric's line crews. Co-op lineworkers are the first to respond after an outage occurs, and they work tirelessly to restore power to the communities we serve.

If you're traveling and see one of our crews on the side of the road, we kindly ask that you move over if possible and give them a little extra space to work. We deeply care about the safety of all, and this extra precaution ensures just that.

If you approach a crew while traveling on a two-lane road, moving over to the next lane might not be an option. In this case, we simply ask that you slow down when approaching roadside crews. If you approach a crew while traveling on a four-lane road, and safety and traffic conditions allow, we ask that you move over into the far lane.

Utility crews aren't the only ones who could use the extra space. Emergency responders, such as police officers, firefighters and emergency medical technicians, often find themselves responding to emergency situations near busy roadways.

Oklahoma's Move Over law requires any driver approaching a parked maintenance, law enforcement or emergency vehicle to move over into another lane, if possible. If you are unable to safely change lanes, you should proceed with caution and slow to a safe speed for the existing road, weather, and traffic conditions.

The law requires drivers to move over for:

- Oklahoma Department of Transportation or Oklahoma Turnpike Authority maintenance vehicles;
- Oklahoma Highway Patrol or local law enforcement vehicles; and
- Emergency vehicles (ambulance or wrecker with flashing red/blue lights). Violation of this law may result in a fine from law enforcement.

There's plenty of room for all. Let's work together to keep everyone safe on our local roadways.

East Central Electric Cooperative takes safety seriously. If you spot a downed power line or unsafe electrical situation, please call us immediately at **918-756-0833** or report it by calling 911.

## Recipes

Great tastes for members of East Central Electric Cooperative

### Bacon Ranch Pasta Salad

#### INGREDIENTS

- 1 (12 oz) package uncooked tri-color rotini pasta
- 10 slices bacon
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 3 tablespoons dry ranch salad dressing mix
- ¼ teaspoon garlic powder
- ½ teaspoon garlic pepper
- ½ cup milk, or as needed
- 1 large tomato, chopped
- 1 (4.25 oz) can sliced black olives
- 1 cup shredded sharp Cheddar cheese



#### DIRECTIONS

Bring a large pot of lightly salted water to a boil; cook rotini at a boil until tender yet firm to the bite, about 8 minutes; drain.

Place bacon in a skillet over medium-high heat and cook until evenly brown. Drain and chop.

In a large bowl, mix mayonnaise, ranch dressing mix, garlic powder, and garlic pepper. Stir in milk until smooth.

Place rotini, bacon, tomato, black olives and cheese in bowl and toss to coat with dressing. Cover and chill at least 1 hour in the refrigerator. Add a little milk if the salad seems a little dry.

SOURCE: ALLRECIPES.COM

### MOVING OVER MATTERS

- In 2015, 521 people were injured in 1,130+ collisions in Oklahoma highway work zones.
- 13 people were killed in Oklahoma work zone collisions in 2015.
- Most work zone collisions were caused by driver inattention, traveling at unsafe speeds or following too close.

SOURCE: OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

