

CEC inside your co-op

Published for members of Choctaw Electric Cooperative

JULY 2017

A supplement to Oklahoma Living.

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Stay Informed With Special Alerts From CEC

Choose the type of alerts you'd like to receive and how you'd like to receive them

Wouldn't it be nice to know if a maintenance outage is scheduled for your area before you pop that roast in the oven?

With Choctaw Electric's Smarthub, you can receive messages about planned outages, peak alerts, scheduled maintenance in your area, billing reminders and more. The new feature allows you to choose which messages you'd like to receive and how you would like to receive them— via text or email.

"How we communicate with our members is important to us," said Jia Johnson, CEC director of member services. "This improvement to CEC's Smarthub helps us contact our members in the way that's best for them."

The feature will be especially useful this summer when CEC issues systemwide peak alerts.



Signing up for Smarthub alerts is easy! Just follow the step-by-step guide on page 4, or call your co-op at **800-780-6486**.

While CEC posts notices on Facebook, some members don't participate in social media, Johnson explained. Others prefer email or text messages to stay in touch.

Any member can take advantage of the new alert feature, she added, even members who don't have a computer.

"Members without computer access or those who would like help signing up, should call us. We're happy to help them get set up so they can receive alerts," Johnson said.

Smarthub is easily accessed online at www.choctawelectric.coop, or download the free Smarthub app for smartphones, tablets and iPads.

Cheering Section

Electric co-op employees cheer a special athlete to the finish line at the Oklahoma Special Olympic State Games. Electric co-ops provide a team of volunteers for the annual event, which is held in Stillwater in May. Volunteers assist athletes to their events, provide encouragement, help with event setup, record keeping, timing, and refreshments. CEC employees Bart Tedder and Brad Kendrick volunteered for this year's event. PHOTO/OAEC



A monthly newsletter of
Choctaw Electric Cooperative.

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www.choctawelectric.coop



24 Hour Outage Hotline

800-780-6486

MANAGEMENT PERSPECTIVE

Why Peak Energy Use Matters

Using less energy during peak periods helps CEC control power costs

Believe it or not, when you use electricity can have just as much impact on your electric bill as how much electricity you use.

The reason has to do with Choctaw Electric' systemwide energy use "peak." Usage peaks are important because they are a component of the rate paid by your co-op for wholesale electricity purchased from Western Farmers Electric Cooperative (WFEC), a generation and transmission co-op, for the coming year.

Using less electricity during peak periods helps keep costs affordable for Choctaw Electric Cooperative (CEC).

This year, thanks to improvements in Smarthub, CEC can issue peak alerts to members by text message or email. If you would like to participate in peak alert notifications, a step-by-step guide is on page 4.

The peak timeframe is June 20 through September 9, between the hours of 3 pm and 7 pm. On days when a potential peak is possible, WFEC notifies CEC and other



BY KOONEY DUNCAN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

co-ops so they can issue a peak alert to their members. When you see a peak alert, it tells you the potential exists that day for high systemwide demand for power.

While the weather is a key factor in peak usage, CEC will try to minimize the number of peak alerts during the timeframe mentioned above and never on holidays.

When you see a peak alert, there are some measures you can take to help reduce CEC demand such as minimizing the use of large appliances or adjusting your thermostat up a few degrees.

"When you see a peak alert, it tells you that the potential exists that day for high systemwide demand for power."

In the big picture of energy costs, cutting back your energy use for a few hours on peak days is a small sacrifice that can make a real difference.

Your help is greatly appreciated.



OFFICIAL

MINUTES

Scan this code with your smartphone or tablet to read the monthly minutes of your co-op board meeting. Minutes are also available at any CEC location.

To scan the code, install a Bar Code Scanner app, available at the App Store.



Trustee Candidates Must File Intent To Run

Hurry, the deadline to file is July 25!

Choctaw Electric Cooperative (CEC) members in Districts B, C, or G who plan to run for the CEC board of trustees must file their intent to run. Candidates must also turn in a petition signed by at least 25 CEC members in their district.

The intention to run form and the petition must be turned in at the CEC office in Hugo by no later than 5 pm on July 25.

Trustee candidates should be aware of the qualifications required to serve on the board. For example, the bylaws require a trustee to live in the district he or she represents and be at least a one-year member of the co-op. Trustees cannot be closely related to an incumbent trustee or a CEC employee. They should be at least 21 years of age with a high school diploma or, for those born after 1950, a GED equivalent. Other qualifications apply and should be studied carefully if you plan to run for trustee.

Trustee qualifications are listed in Article IV, Section 4.02 of the CEC bylaws. Copies of the bylaws are available online at www.choctawelectric.coop or pick up a copy at any CEC office.

If more than one candidate is nominated per district, an election will take place at CEC Annual Meeting on Saturday, September 23 at the McCurtain County Fairgrounds. Members may also choose to vote by mail-in ballot. Please watch your newsletter or CEC's Facebook page for more information.

Remember, CEC is your co-op and your participation is important!

■ **Know Your Co-op Leadership.** If you aren't sure who your cooperative trustee is or how to reach them, please visit www.choctawelectric.coop and click on "About Us," and then "Leadership." You'll find contact information for each CEC trustee, as well as key staff members. Tip: If you don't know which district you live in, please refer to your monthly electric bill. Your district numbers is printed in the upper righthand corner of your bill.



IMPORTANT CO-OP DATES.

- **July 25**
CEC Attorney opinion due on proposed amendments to the CEC bylaws.
- **July 25**
Candidates for Trustee in Districts B, C, and G must file their intent to run for office. Filing due by 5 pm at CEC in Hugo.
- **August 9**
Second revision of proposed bylaw amendments due at CEC Hugo.
- **September 23**
CEC Annual Meeting
McCurtain County Fairgrounds, Idabel



Lucky Seven

Choctaw Electric Cooperative honored seven retiring employees for their many years of service to the co-op. From left are Mike Knox, 31 years; Terry Kinslow, 31 years; Jim Malone, 27 years; Marcia Davee, 23 years; George Billingsley, 23 years; Darrell Ward, 27 years; and Keith Reed, 21 years.

The employees were recognized at the Annual CEC Board of Trustees and Employee Fish Fry on May 30.

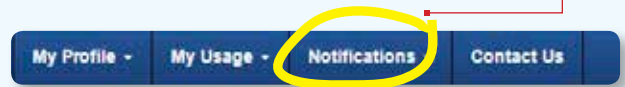
From all of us at CEC, congratulations on your retirement. We will miss you!

Sign Up for Peak Alerts and Other Notices Via CEC's Smarhub

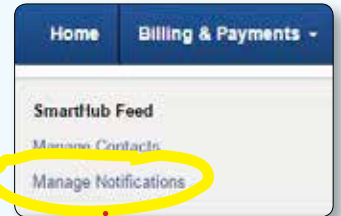
Text or email messages let you know when a peak alert is issued, when your power is out, when power is restored, due date reminders, high usage alerts, and more. **Sign up today or call CEC at 800-780-6486 for assistance.**

1. Sign in to your Smarhub account by going to www.choctawelectric.coop and clicking on Smarhub Online Bill Pay at the bottom of the home page. If you're new to Smarhub, you will need to register by providing your CEC account number and a valid email address.

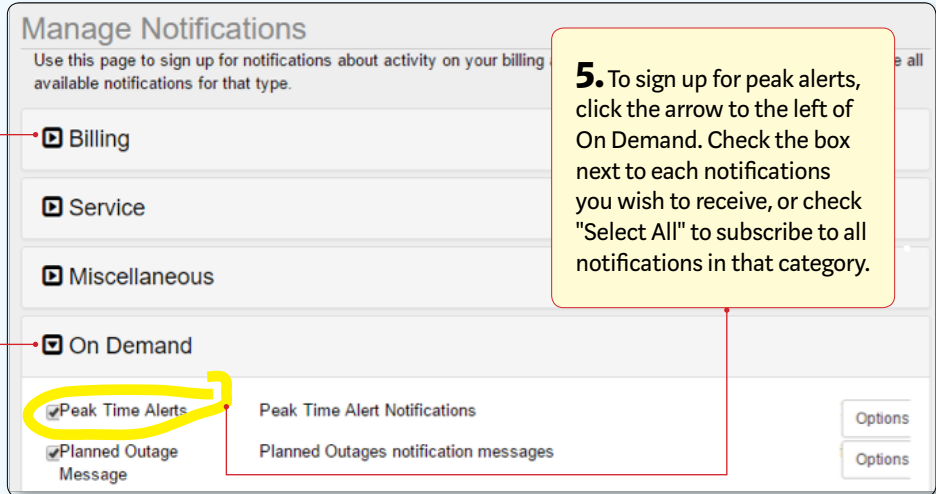
2. From the Smarhub home page, click the "Notifications" tab.



3. Click the "Manage Notifications" link in the far left menu.

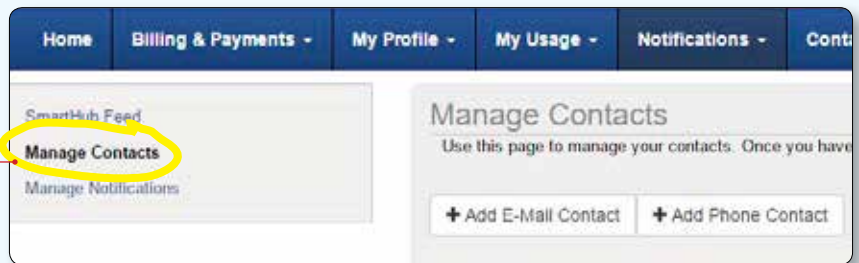


4. On the Manage Notifications page you will see various categories of notifications including Billing, Service, Miscellaneous and On Demand. Click the arrow to the left of each category to view available notifications in each section.



5. To sign up for peak alerts, click the arrow to the left of On Demand. Check the box next to each notifications you wish to receive, or check "Select All" to subscribe to all notifications in that category.

6. Click the Manage Contacts link in the far left menu, which will allow you to choose to receive notifications by email or text. (The Options button will also give you contact options.)



Members Warned About Scams

Don't be the next victim!

Officials at the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives are warning co-op members about recent scam attempts.

A member of Southeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative (SEC) in Durant reported a phone call from a man claiming to be a cooperative employee. The caller told the member about a "rebate" she would receive because of her good payment history. The caller then asked her to provide additional information. She refused and hung up the phone.

Other scam calls appear on caller ID as coming from a legitimate utility. The caller then tells the member they have won a vacation or make some other incredible offer.

Co-op members are reminded that Choctaw Electric never calls members to



request payment or personal information. If you receive a suspicious phone call, hang up immediately and report the call to the Attorney General's Public Protection Unit at 405-521-2029.

You should also report the call to your co-op at 800-780-6486. It is important that you let Choctaw Electric know so we can warn other members.

Thank you for your cooperation!



Community Events

Help us promote your event by sending event details in advance. Please send event information to Jennifer Boling/Inside Your Co-op/ PO Box 758, Hugo, OK 74743; or e-mail info to jboling@choctawelectric.coop. Events and dates are subject to change.

JULY

- 1 Soper Homecoming
- 3 Boom in Valley Fireworks
Choctaw Nation Capitol
Tuskahoma
- 4 Independence Day, CEC
offices closed for the holiday.
- 4 Clayton Homecoming Parade
- 14 Pickin' on the Porch, 6-9 pm
Wildlife Heritage Center
Antlers
- 28 Pickin' on the Porch, 6-9 pm,
Wildlife Heritage Center
Antlers
- 28-29 Valliant Watermelon Festival
- TBA Wright City Rodeo

AUGUST

- 11 Pickin' on the Porch, 6-9 pm
Wildlife Heritage Center
Antlers
- 25 Pickin' on the Porch, 6-9 pm
Wildlife Heritage Center
Antlers

\$ Lucky Account # 31034401 (\$75 Bill Credit). If the account number above belongs to you, contact your co-op by the 10th of the month to claim your \$75 bill credit. Call Jennifer Boling at 800-780-6486, ext. 207, or contact CEC via email or in person.

SAVE YOUR SPOT!

2017 CEC Annual Meeting VENDOR BOOTH RESERVATION FORM

Organization _____

Contact person _____

Daytime Telephone _____

Mailing Address _____

Products to be displayed/sold _____

Do you require electricity? ___Yes ___No

Number of booth spaces required _____

NOTE: Vendors must bring their own tables, chairs and electrical cords, if needed.

Deadline to reserve booth:
September 15, 2017

Please mail booth reservation form to:
Jia Johnson, Choctaw Electric Cooperative
PO Box 758, Hugo, OK 74743

The Choctaw Electric Annual Meeting on September 23 is the perfect place to showcase crafts, artwork and other products, or promote your organization.

To reserve a free booth space, please fill out the vendor booth reservation form and return it to Choctaw Electric by September 15, 2017.

Join the fun—and reach over 1,500 CEC members, family and friends!

HOME FROM CO-OP CAMP

CEC teens enjoy fun-filled four days

The arrival of summer meant a fun-filled, four-day trip to YouthPower Energy Camp in Hinton, Oklahoma for three local eighth graders. The teens, winners of Choctaw Electric's Energy Camp contest, learned about the life of a lineman with a ride in a bucket truck and hands-on pole climbing lessons. Campers also formed their own cooperative, held district meetings, hired a general manager, and elected trustees.

They heard firsthand about "Changing the World, One Light at a Time" from linemen on the Energy Trails team who traveled to Bolivia to electrify two villages. A trip to Celebration Station to swim, ride go-carts and bumper boats, plus a pizza picnic and a dance, rounded out their camp experience.

Choctaw Electric's Energy Campers included Gradie Lucas, Rattan; Emily Farley, Haworth; and Olivia Napier, Moyers.

These students were among 80 eighth graders chosen from across the state to represent Oklahoma's electric cooperatives at camp.

YouthPower Energy Camp is coordinated by the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives and its member cooperatives. For more information on YouthPower Energy Camp, please visit www.oaec.coop. For details on how your child can apply for Energy Camp, please visit www.choctawelectric.coop or call CEC at 800-780-6486.



Brad Kendrick of Choctaw Electric with Gradie Lucas, Emily Farley, and Olivia Napier at YouthPower Energy Camp. The camp is held at Canyon Camp near Hinton, Okla. PHOTO/OAEC.



*Having a
Wonderful Time!*

McKinley Payne, Bailey Woods and Laney Smith, CEC's 2017 Youth Tour winners, pause for a photo in front of the White House. The teens spent June 10-15 in Washington DC touring numerous historic monuments, memorials, museums, government buildings and cultural attractions as participants in the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. For more information on Youth Tour, visit www.oaec.coop. For information on how your teen can participate, please visit www.choctawelectric.coop or call your co-op at 800-780-6486.

CEC Members "Surprised" By Recent Home Energy Assessment

Sometimes a tube of caulking is all you need.

When Choctaw Electric kicked off its Home Energy Efficiency Program, the co-op hoped to help members lower their home energy costs by showing them where and how their home used energy. The program included a careful inspection of their "whole home envelope" and used technology such as the blower door test to reveal problem areas. Once problem areas were pinpointed, the program offered financing and installation services for members who chose to make the suggested improvements.

Andy and Jan Rogers signed up for the program thinking their home, located southwest of Antlers, needed new windows. The older part of the home seemed drafty in the winter months,

Jan said, and the couple simply wanted "to find out what needed to be done."

After a two hour inspection that included a close look at their heating and air system, attic insulation, the blower door test and other checks, the couple sat down with the auditor to hear his report. What he said surprised them.

"We thought we needed a major overhaul, but he said we really didn't," Jan recalls. "For an older home, he said our house was in really good shape."

Instead of an expensive investment in new windows, the auditor told the Rogers they should invest in caulking and weather stripping to seal leaks around their windows and doors.

The auditor provided a list of other recommended improvements, along with the estimated savings each improvement would provide. Their aging heating and air system would need replacing eventually, he said, but for now, sealing leaks would be most effective in increasing the comfort of their home and reducing their electric bill.

"The estimate to have everything fixed wasn't very much," Jan said. "We thought it would be in the thousands."

The Rogers haven't added the caulking and weather stripping yet, but said they plan to do it in the near future. In the meantime, the retired couple are happy to hear that their home, like its occupants, is doing very well for its age.

Choctaw Electric Cooperative's Home Energy Efficiency program was a pilot program that ended on June 31. Depending on member interest, the co-op may offer the program again in the future. For information on rebates, energy efficiency loans, and other energy saving services available from your co-op, please visit www.choctawelectric.coop, or call 800-780-6486.

Paysite kiosks are available at the following locations, or use the online paysite kiosk locator at <http://paysitekiosklocator.com/>.

ATOKA
Choctaw Nation Travel Plaza
OPEN 24 HOURS

ANTLERS
Choctaw Nation Travel Plaza
OPEN 24 HOURS

BROKEN BOW
Choctaw Nation Travel Plaza
OPEN 24 HOURS

IDABEL
Choctaw Nation Travel Plaza
OPEN 24 HOURS

HUGO
Save A Lot Grocery
OPEN SUNDAY, 9 AM- 8 PM
MONDAY-SAT., 7:30 AM-9 PM

july

Best days according to Moon phases.



Best planting days

Above ground crops . . .	1-4, 7-8, 27-31
Root crops	9, 12-13, 17-18, 21-22
Seed beds	2-4, 21-22, 29-31
Kill plant pests	5-6, 10-11, 14-16, 19-20, 23-26

Best fishing days

👉 Best	10-13
😊 Good	2-4, 7-9, 21-22, 29-31
😐 Fair	6, 17-18, 26
☹️ Poor	1, 5, 14-16, 19-20, 23-25, 27-28

Best days to do other stuff

Quit smoking	13, 18
Begin diet to lose weight	13, 18
Begin diet to gain weight	4, 26
Cut hair to encourage growth	1, 28-29
Cut hair to discourage growth	17-18
Go to the dentist	25-26
Start projects	24
End projects	22
Go camping	5, 6
Plant above ground vegetables	3-4, 30-31
Plant below ground vegetables	12-14
Destroy pests and weeds	15-16
Graft or pollinate	21-22
Prune to encourage growth	5-6, 24
Prune to discourage growth	15-16
Harvest above ground vegetables	8, 25-26
Harvest below ground vegetables	17-18
Make sauerkraut, can, or pickle	12-14
Cut Hay	15-16
Begin Logging	7-9
Set Posts or Pour Concrete	7-9
Breed Animals	3-4, 30-31
Wean animals or children	13, 18

—from the *Old Farmer's Almanac*

Good Eats

IN SOUTHEAST OKLAHOMA

Red and Sweet Potato Salad

INGREDIENTS

- 6 red potatoes, diced
- 3 large sweet potatoes, diced
- ¾ cup mayonnaise
- ½ red onion, diced
- 1 tablespoon prepared horseradish
- 1 tablespoon spicy brown mustard
- 1 tablespoon roasted garlic-flavored olive oil
- ¼ pound crumbled cooked bacon
- 1 pinch garlic powder
- 1 pinch sea salt
- 1 pinch ground white pepper
- 1 pinch paprika



DIRECTIONS

Place red potatoes and sweet potatoes into a large pot and cover with salted water; bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium-low and simmer until tender, 15 to 20 minutes; drain.

Transfer potato mixture to a large bowl and refrigerate until cooled, about 30 minutes.

Mix mayonnaise, red onion, horseradish, mustard, olive oil, bacon, garlic powder, sea salt, and white pepper, respectively, into potato mixture; garnish with paprika.

SOURCE: ALLRECIPES.COM

■ swap shop

FREE CLASSIFIED ADS FOR CEC MEMBERS

■ LIVESTOCK & PETS

Ark of McCurtain County offers discount spay/neuter services +mobile spay/neuter services. We also have dogs and cats ready for adoption. 580-236-2275.

HAVN low cost spay and neuter clinic in Fort Towson. To make an appt., please call 580-873-2771. Your call will be returned.

■ MISCELLANEOUS

25 ft. gooseneck trailer, all steel w/ 2 axles. Also, 8 ft. Ford flatbed in good shape. 580-209-2599.

Looking for someone who can sharpen the old fashion hand saws. 580-420-6989.

1952, 33 ft Spartan trailer, \$3,000 OBO or trade. 580-326-3881 or 903-715-2034

■ REAL ESTATE

2,600 sq. ft. brick home on 1 ac, ½ mile from Broken Bow, 3BR, 2BA, den w/fireplace, living room w/large bay window. New flooring, new kitchen w/many cabinets, basement, 2-car garage, and deck. \$155,000. 580-306-0186 or 580-306-0187.

SWAP SHOP ads are free for CEC members. Submit ads online at www.choctawelectric.coop, email to jboling@choctawelectric.coop, or mail ads to CEC *Inside Your Co-op*, PO Box 758, Hugo, OK 74743. Ads must include a telephone number or email address. Please provide your name, mailing address and CEC account number when submitting an ad.