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inside *your* co-op

Published for members of Choctaw Electric Cooperative

■ YOUR COMMUNITY

Linemen In Training

Safety lessons for local students

The morning of May 1 was a busy one for students from across McCurtain County. The sixth graders cleaned up a local state park, learned lifesaving lessons about electrical safety and got a small taste of the life of a co-op lineman. It was all part of the Beavers Bend Trash Off, a campaign to keep Beavers Bend State Park beautiful.

The students picked up trash until 9 am and then gathered for a lively outdoor safety class presented by Choctaw Electric Cooperative (CEC) member services representatives and co-op linemen.

The kids learned tips for staying safe around electricity in the home and outdoors. Afterward, CEC linemen Scotty Littles and Allen Billingsley spoke to them about their duties and responsibilities and offered a close-up look at a bucket truck in operation. They also gave students an opportunity to strap on lineman gear—hard hat, tool belt, gloves and more—and learn about the equipment that helps them do their jobs safely.

To schedule a safety program, please call CEC at **800-780-6486**.



■ **MANAGER'S REPORT**

Time of Use Affect Your Rates

Help CEC control costs by using less electricity during peak periods

We spend a lot of time helping members find ways to lower their bill, but your monthly usage is just one part of the equation. When you use electricity also determines how much you pay for it.

Every month, Choctaw Electric pays an electric bill to Western Farmers Electric Cooperative (WFEC) for the power they generate and transmit to us. A big part of our wholesale power bill is determined by our "peak usage." Peaks occur when everyone is using power from the grid at the same time.

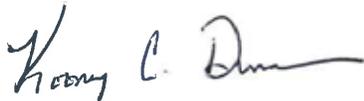
The Choctaw Electric system usually peaks from 4 pm to 7 pm during the summer and fall. If you think about it, this is when most people get home from work or school, turn on the AC and begin making dinner or using other large appliances. Our system can also peak during the winter and spring months. This tends to happen between 6 am and 9 am when we wake up, crank up the heat and begin getting ready for work.

Peak usage determines what your co-op pays for wholesale power for the rest of the year. For that reason, keeping the peak as low as possible can make a big difference for every member. If we know when peaks are most likely to occur, we can all try to conserve energy during these time frames.

During periods of extreme temperatures when a high peak is likely, Choctaw Electric will issue a peak alert to remind you to watch your usage. Peak alerts will be posted on our Facebook page. You can also get them using SmartHub. Please make sure that 1) you are registered on SmartHub; and 2) you have signed up for SmartHub special alerts. The step-by-step guide found on page 4 will help you set special alerts, or call us and we will happily walk you through the process.

I also encourage you to clip out the peak chart on the facing page and post it on your fridge. There are plenty of ways to lower your usage during peak periods without sacrificing comfort. Little tasks such as running the dishwasher, doing laundry or showering during off-peak hours can make a difference. You'll find others tips on lowering the peak on page 5.

Remember, any savings on wholesale power costs flows to you as a decrease in the power cost adjustment on your bill. That's a good reason to work together and lower that peak.



BY KOONEY DUNCAN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Choctaw Electric Cooperative

Serving members in Choctaw, Pushmataha, Atoka, and McCurtain counties

HUGO OFFICE

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Hugo, Oklahoma 74743

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Local: **(580) 326-6486**

FAX (580) 326-2492

Monday-Friday • 8 am - 5 pm

IDABEL OFFICE

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Idabel, Oklahoma 74745

Toll Free: **(800) 780-6486**

Local: **(580) 286-7155**

Monday-Friday • 8 am - 5 pm

ANTLERS OFFICE

HC 67 Box 62
Antlers, Oklahoma 74523
(One mile east of Antlers)

Toll Free: **(800) 780-6486**

Local: **(580) 298-3201**

Monday-Friday • 8 am - 5 pm

On the Web:

www.choctawelectric.coop



24 Hour Outage Hotline

800-780-6486

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Lucky Acct #28960003

If this account number belongs to you, contact CEC by the 10th of the month to claim your \$25 bill credit. Unclaimed bill credits will roll over each month by \$25 for a maximum credit of \$100. To claim your credit by phone, please call **800-780-6486**, ext. 207.

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF YOUR CEC BOARD MEETING

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 and online at **www.choctawelectric.coop**.

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



■ GOOD TO KNOW

Count Down To CEC Annual Meeting!

Save these important dates

If you want to make changes to the CEC bylaws or run for co-op trustee for District D, E or F, please note these important dates.

Proposed amendments to the CEC bylaws must be submitted by June 25, 2018. Suggested changes to the bylaws will be voted on by co-op members at the CEC Annual Meeting on Saturday, September 22. The meeting will be held at the McCurtain County Fairgrounds in Idabel.

If you live in District D, E or F and wish to run for a seat on the CEC board of trustees, you must turn in a petition signed by at least 25 CEC members by July 24, 2018. You can pick up a candidate packet at any CEC office.

Members who plan to vote via mail-in ballot should be aware of the absentee ballot deadline. Mail-in ballots must be submitted to E-Ballots by September 21, 2018. Watch your mailbox for a voter packet with a special return envelope for your ballot.

June 25
Bylaw revisions due at CEC Hugo. Attorney opinion due 30 days upon receipt of the proposed amendment.



July 24
Candidate filing date for Dist. D, E, and F. Petition due by 5 pm at CEC in Hugo.

August 8
Second revision of proposed bylaw amendments due at CEC Hugo.

September 21
Deadline for submitting mail-in ballots to E-Ballots. Do not submit ballots to CEC.

September 22
CEC Annual Meeting
Larry Brinkley Event Center
Fairgrounds, Idabel

CEC Closed July 4

Choctaw Electric will close on Wednesday, July 4th for Independence Day. If you experience a power outage during this time, please report it using the SmartHub app or calling CEC at 800-780-6486.

Tracking Right Of Way Crews

Members are reminded to watch for right of way crews working in the following areas:

- Contract crews are currently working west of Rattan and moving toward Antlers.
- CEC right of way crews are working west of Valliant and moving toward Ft. Towson.

Your cooperation is appreciated.

Track outages. When the lights go out, it's helpful to know how many homes are affected and the estimated time until power is restored. Use CEC's online outage map to keep you informed. Visit www.choctawelectric.coop.



Help Your Co-op **BUST** that **PEAK!**

Help CEC control rising power costs by conserving energy every day during the following hours:

Find tips on how you can beat the peak on page 4. ➡



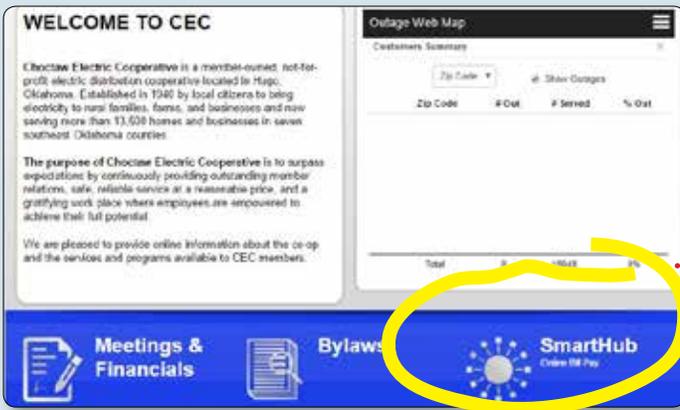
June.....	4:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Dec.....	6:00 am - 9:00 am
July.....	4:00 pm - 7:00 pm	January.....	6:00 am - 9:00 am
August.....	4:00 pm - 7:00 pm	February.....	6:00 am - 9:00 am
September....	4:00 pm - 7:00 pm	March.....	6:00 am - 9:00 am
October.....	4:00 pm - 7:00 pm	April.....	6:00 am - 9:00 am
Nov.....	6:00 am - 9:00 am	6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
		May.....	4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

SMART USAGE

Sign Up for Peak Alerts and Other Notices Using CEC's SmartHub

SmartHub text or email message alert is issued, if your power is out, your bill due date reminders, high usage alerts, etc. today or call CEC at **800-7**

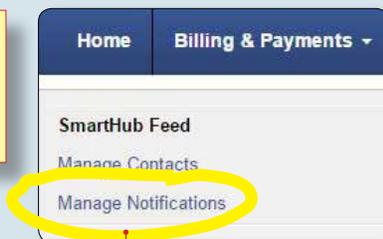
1. Sign in to your SmartHub account by going to **www.choctawelectric.coop** and clicking on SmartHub Online Bill Pay in the middle of the home page. If you're new to SmartHub, you will need to register by providing your CEC account number and a valid email address.



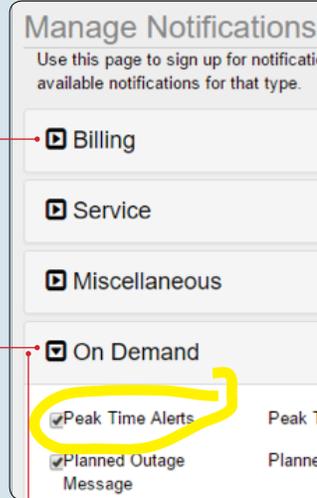
2. From the SmartHub home page, click the "Notifications" tab.



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



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



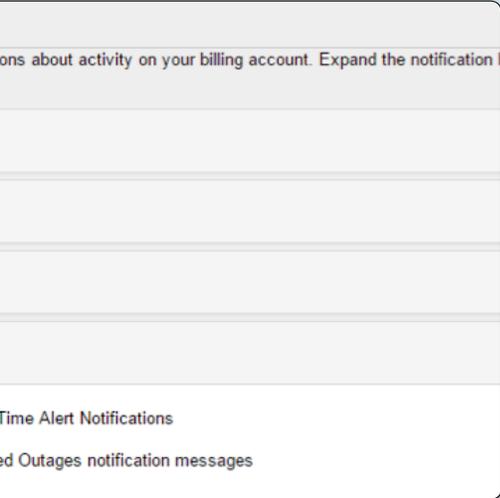
5. To sign up for peak alerts, click the arrow to the left of each notifications you wish to receive.

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 contacts.)

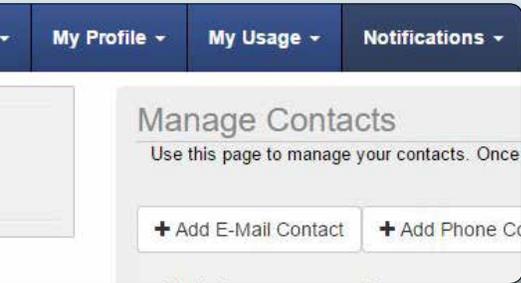


Thank you for using SmartHub, the useful tool for managing your CEC account, your energy use, and much more.

Messages let you know when a peak is out, when power is restored, outage alerts, and more. Sign up 80-6486 for assistance.



of "On Demand." Check the box next to



the most convenient and C account, reviewing

Change Habits to BEAT THE PEAK

You can beat the peak (and save money!) by decreasing your power use when energy demand and prices are at their highest. Here are a few tips to help you get started:

Laundry for Less:

Full loads mean fewer cycles, and washers and dryers run in the late evenings add less heat and humidity to the home. Energy can cost less outside of peak hours.



Cool Off/Calm Down:

Turn off unnecessary lighting and electronics that generate heat, resist the urge to turn down the thermostat and remember, lower fan settings use less energy.



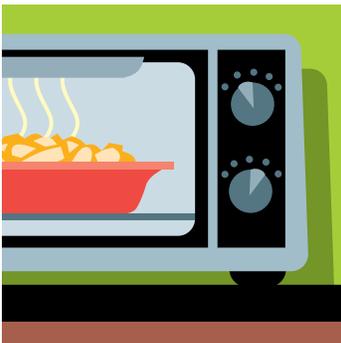
Intramural Competition:

Online gaming with each active player using their own computer, display, gaming console and internet connection gets pricey. Play each other at home on one screen and save.



Countertop Convenience:

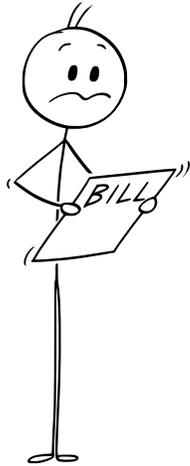
Range or oven cooking can really warm up a kitchen. Microwaves, convection ovens, induction cooktops, Crock-Pot® and toaster ovens put more cooking heat where you need it.



■ **MEMBER MATTERS**

Why Is My Bill So High?

If your bill seems higher than usual, take a closer look.



■ **Check your history.** First, make sure your bill actually is higher. Use CEC's SmartHub to check your bills for the past year or call your co-op and ask for help. Remember, electricity use fluctuates depending on the season, and bills are often higher in the summer.

■ **Check your non-electrical activity.** Does your high bill reflect a past-due amount or any one-time service fees, like deposits, disconnection fees or returned check fees?

■ **Check the weather.** Fluctuations in outdoor temperatures can cause your family to turn the AC a little lower on hot days. Most people with air conditioning use more electricity

during the hottest summer months than at other times of the year.

■ **Check how many days are in the billing cycle.** Depending on the number of days in the month and whether the bill comes due on a weekend or holiday, it could cover a couple of extra days some months. That would make the bill slightly higher.

■ **Check what's plugged in.** If you thought your bill would be lower because your family was gone on vacation, you might be surprised to realize that your appliances still use electricity when the house is empty. For instance, your refrigerator and your well pump keep running while you're gone unless you unplug them. In fact, any appliance that is plugged in will use a small amount of electricity, even though nobody is home to use them.

■ **Check your equipment.** As appliances like refrigerators and water heaters age, they become more inefficient. If your heating and cooling system or another large appliance is more than 15 years old, consider replacing it with a more energy-efficient model.

■ **Check your lifestyle.** If your kids are home for the summer or grandkids come for a visit, your electric bill will probably go up. And if you've added a major appliance such as an oversized TV, it will affect your electric bill.

■ **Don't check with the neighbors.** No two families use electricity the same way. If you believe your bill is too high because your neighbor's is lower, you're not making an even comparison. The better comparison is between your electricity use now compared with the same time last year.

If you still think your bill is higher than it should be, please contact your co-op at **800-780-6486** for help in figuring it out. CEC offers free energy audits and other services that can help you save energy.

Send your kid to camp—free!

CEC Kilowatt Kid's Camp



Idabel | June 19

Hugo | June 21

CEC's Kilowatt's Kids Camp offers a fun, educational experience for younger kids, first through third grade. Campers spend the morning making crafts and playing games that teach them valuable lessons about how to stay safe around electricity. Kids also learn why it's important to turn out the lights when they leave a room and practice other energy wise behaviors.

CEC is currently enrolling students for our half-day camps in Hugo and Idabel. The camp is free and includes all snacks and camp activities. To enroll, please fill out the form below and return it CEC by June 8. For more information on Kilowatt Kid's Camp, please call Jia Johnson or Brad Kendrick at **800-780-6486**, ext. 241.

2018 KILOWATT KID'S CAMP ENROLLMENT FORM

Student Name (Print): _____

Age: _____ Grade: _____

Parent Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Home Tele: _____ Work Tele: _____

Cell: _____

Allergies: _____

Medications: _____

T-Shirt Size (Circle): Youth XS (4-6) Youth S (6-8)

Youth M (8-10) Youth L (10-12)

Adult S Adult M Adult L

Emergency Contact Name: _____

HomeTele: _____ Cell: _____

Camp (Circle): Idabel Camp/June 19 Hugo Camp/June 21

Mail enrollment form to:

Jia Johnson or Brad Kendrick/ CEC/ PO Box 758/Hugo, OK 74743

■ YOUR ELECTRIC BILL

Is Prepaid Right For You?



Do the math. For many co-op members, Prepaid is a smart choice. Use the chart below to compare the differences and decide for yourself. To visit with a CEC service representative about Prepaid and other convenient payment options, please call 800-780-6486 or find details online at www.choctawelectric.coop.

Prepaid Payment	Standard Payment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fees: \$125 to begin service. (This includes \$10 deposit, \$5 membership, \$25 connect fee and \$85 prepaid credit. Credit Check, Late Fees, Due Dates Not required. Reconnect Fee: If your service is disconnected for non-payment when enrolled in Prepaid, no reconnect fee is required. Eliminates debt. Prepaid members avoid the debt cycle that comes with unpaid bills and added fees. With Prepaid, your bill updates daily so you never accrue large unpaid bills. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fees: \$5 membership fee + \$25 connect fee to begin service Deposit: A deposit may be required based upon your credit score. Deposits required could be 2 x the amount of the average bill for the past 12 months at the new service location. Due Date: Payment is due in full within 30 days of due date printed on your bill. Late Fee: A late fee of 6.5 percent the amount of your bill is charged on any bill paid after the due date. Reconnect Fee: \$50 reconnect fee is charged if disconnected for nonpayment.

There's Still Time To Sign Up!

Reserve a booth space at the CEC Annual Meeting



Annual Meeting Vendor Booth Reservation Form

Saturday, September 22 • McCurtain County Fairgrounds, Idabel

Organization _____
 Contact person _____
 Daytime Telephone _____
 Mailing Address _____
 Products to be displayed/sold _____
 Number of booth spaces _____

A limited number of spaces are available. Spaces will be assigned on a first come, first serve basis. Vendors must provide their own tables, chairs, and electrical cords.

Reservation deadline: September 14, 2018

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

Storms and Outages = High Call Volume.

Summer storms can cause major power outages. When that happens, your electric co-op is receiving a large number of calls and some members may be placed on hold. To avoid the wait, report your problem using SmartHub. There are two ways to access SmartHub:

1. Download the app from the App Store or at www.smarthubapp.com. You will be asked to register with an email address, password, and your CEC account number. Once registered, use SmartHub to report outages on any smart device.
2. Visit www.choctawelectric.coop and click "Report An Outage" at the upper right of the homepage.

PLEASE DO NOT REPORT OUTAGES ON FACEBOOK.

swap shop

CEC Swap Shop ads reach 13,062 homes and businesses. Swap Shops ads are free for CEC members. Please submit your classified ad online at classifieds@choctawelectric.coop or email your ad to: jboling@choctawelectric.coop.

RECIPES



Chicken Salad With Bacon, Lettuce & Tomato

INGREDIENTS

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 5 slices bacon | 1 teaspoon lemon juice |
| 3 cups diced cooked chicken | 1 dash Worcestershire sauce |
| 1 cup chopped fresh tomato | salt and ground black pepper to taste |
| 2 stalks celery, thinly sliced | 12 leaves romaine lettuce |
| ¾ cup mayonnaise | 1 large avocado, sliced |
| 2 T. minced green onions | |
| 1 T. chopped parsley | |

DIRECTIONS

Place bacon in a large skillet and cook over medium-high heat, turning occasionally, until evenly browned, about 10 minutes. Drain bacon slices on paper towels; crumble. Stir chicken, bacon, tomato, and celery together in a bowl. Whisk mayonnaise, parsley, green onions, lemon juice, Worcestershire sauce, salt, and black pepper together in a bowl until dressing is smooth. Pour dressing over chicken mixture; toss to coat. Refrigerate until chilled, at least 30 minutes. Stir chicken mixture and serve over romaine lettuce leaves; garnish with avocado slices.



Many Ways to Pay

Choose the most convenient method for you!

- Pay online using SmartHub at www.choctawelectric.coop.
- Pay by phone 24 hours a day using a major credit card at **800-780-6486**.
- Pay via smart phone, iPad or tablet using our SmartHub mobile app. Download the free app at www.choctawelectric.coop.
- Pay in person or use CEC's drive-through drop box, available 24/7.

Or use our Paysite kiosk at one of the following locations:

- **Save A Lot Grocery, Hugo.**
OPEN SUNDAY, 9 AM - 8 PM.
MON.-SAT. 7:30 AM - 9 PM
- **Choctaw Travel Plazas at Atoka, Antlers, Broken Bow, and Idabel.**
OPEN 24 HRS.
- **Country Market, Clayton.**
OPEN 6 AM - 10 PM, 7 DAYS/WK.
- **CJ's Corner Store, Smithville**
OPEN MON.- FRI. 6 AM - 7 PM;
SAT. 6:30 AM - 7 PM; SUN. 9 AM - 5:00 PM