

4 *Understanding Your New Electric Bill*



5 *Time To Watch The Peak*



8 *Zucchini Herb Casserole*

inside *your* co-op

Published for members of Choctaw Electric Cooperative

■ ELECTIONS

Watch For Election Info

Please watch your mailbox for information on candidates for trustee and proposed bylaws

Co-op members should watch their mailbox for the official election packet from Choctaw Electric Cooperative (CEC). The packets will be mailed to members by August 28. When it arrives, please don't toss it! The packet contains instructions for voting, information on candidates running for trustee in districts D, E and F, details on the proposed amendments to the CEC bylaws, and a mail-in ballot. Please read it over carefully.

The information will arrive in an envelope from CoopBallot Election

Processing, an independent company hired to provide third party oversight of all CEC election proceedings. Members who choose to vote by absentee ballot must mail their ballots using the return envelope provided in the packet.

"We want to remind members that ballots delivered to CEC cannot be accepted," said Kooney Duncan, CEO of CEC. "Ballots must be mailed using the return envelope provided, which is addressed to Co-op Ballot. Any other method is not considered valid."



7.22%

of Choctaw Electric's 13,148 members voted in the last co-op election.

Members who miss the mail-in voting date are encouraged to vote at the CEC Annual Meeting on September 22. The meeting will be held in the Larry Brinkley Event Center at the McCurtain County Fairgrounds in Idabel. Watch your newsletter for more details.



The election packet (left) will be mailed to CEC members by the end of August. Ballots must be mailed by September 21 to be considered valid.

■ **MANAGER'S REPORT**

Step Up And Vote

Responsibilities of ownership include voting in your co-op elections

Member-owner participation is one of the advantages of a cooperative, but some members today don't realize how much say they have in their electric co-op. Maybe they moved to co-op territory from another town where they were served by an investor-owned utility. Some member may have grown up on co-op lines, but they don't really understand how their co-op is different from other businesses. Consider this a reminder that co-ops *are* different and individual participation is the best way to take advantage of that difference.

Democratic control by members is one of the seven principles that guide cooperatives. As a member-owned cooperative, you and other Choctaw Electric members get to vote for the people at the helm of your business—the board of trustees. If you meet the qualifications spelled out in your bylaws, you have the right to join the list of candidates vying for open board positions. Don't take these rights lightly.

As we prepare for district meetings and the CEC Annual Meeting, I encourage you to use these events to participate in your co-op in the most meaningful way possible—by voting! This year members will cast ballots for trustees for District D, E, and F. Members will also vote on several important bylaw amendments. As a member-owner, it is your responsibility to learn about each candidate. It is also your responsibility to study the proposed bylaw amendments carefully and without bias. As you read, please ask yourself who benefits from the proposed amendments? Are these changes in the best interests of the cooperative? Will they affect your co-op in a positive or a negative way?

Remember, cooperatives work because the people they serve are able to think in terms of the greater good, rather than strictly for personal gain. They don't call us "cooperative" for nothing.

Finally, I will remind you that Choctaw Electric members can now vote by mail-in ballot. That's a great option for some members, but if you can attend the annual meeting and vote in person, please do so. The annual meeting and district meetings offer the best chance to visit face-to-face with trustees and employees, and ask questions about issues that concern you. Believe me, your participation makes a difference.




BY KOONEY DUNCAN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Choctaw Electric Cooperative

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

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On the Web:

www.choctawelectric.coop



24 Hour Outage Hotline

800-780-6486

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Brent Franks, *President*

Joe M. Silk, *Vice President*

Mike Brewer, *Secretary Treasurer*

Stacy Nichols	Bill Woolsey
George Burns	Norman Ranger
Ken Autry	Becky Franks

MANAGEMENT AND STAFF

Kooney Duncan, *Chief Executive Officer*
Jennifer Boling, *Executive Assistant*
Jia Johnson, *Director of Public Relations*
Tiffany Hempsted, *Chief Financial Officer*

Lucky Acct #38847562 (\$50.00)

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

More Good Reasons To Attend Your CEC Annual Meeting

There's more than business going on at the CEC Annual Meeting. Members who attend the meeting on September 22 at the McCurtain County Fairgrounds will

enjoy arts and crafts booths, free snacks and drinks, bounce houses for kids, and a number of prizes including grand prizes of \$500 and \$250. Don't miss it!



Free Stuff!

Members who register at the Annual Meeting will take home this gift bag of free goodies. Gifts include a 2019 Farmer's Almanac, CEC cap, LED light bulb, rain gauge and more.

August 8

Second revision of proposed bylaw amendments due at CEC Hugo.



August 28

CEC member voting packets with mail-in ballots mailed by this date.

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

Capital Credit Checks In The Mail

Choctaw Electric members are reminded to watch their mailbox for their capital credit check. The Choctaw Electric board of trustees approved a capital credit retirement of \$892,725.34 to members who belonged to Choctaw Electric in 1988 and 1993. These members should expect to receive their check in the mail sometime in August.

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

MEMBER MATTERS

New & Improved Your Electric Bill

Take a close look at your electric bill this month and you'll notice that a few things have changed. Choctaw Electric added certain features to your bill, such as a 12-month usage chart to help you monitor and understand your electricity use.

The new bill also includes a change in the description of the basic service charge. Previously listed as the "meter charge," the fee is now referred to as the "base service charge." This fee of \$19.25 per month covers Choctaw Electric expenses beyond the cost of power — equipment, trucks, poles, labor, mailing and more. It is not a charge for your meter. The change in name aims to clear up confusion over what the fee covered.

Other details on the new bill allow you to view other details that affect your usage, such as the average temperature and the number of days in a billing cycle. And to make it really easy, the back page of the bill contains an explanation of all billing items and fees.

Twelve-month usage chart allows you to quickly compare your current usage to the same month last year, and view your monthly usage for the past 12 months.

If you have questions about your electric bill, please call your co-op at **800-780-6486**, or contact us via email at **info@choctawelectric.coop**.

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CHOCTAW ELECTRIC **CEC**
Cooperative

PO Box 758
Hugo OK 74743-0758

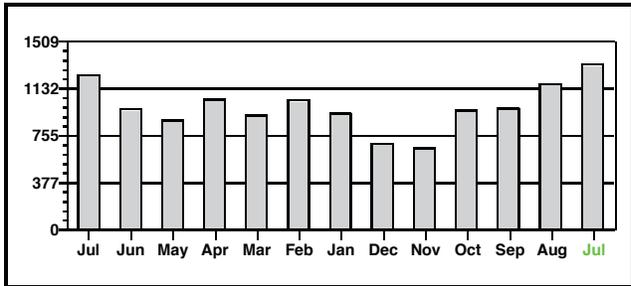


"Powering Rural Life - since 1940"

Base Service Charge of \$19.25 replaces the monthly Meter Charge of the same amount. While the Meter Charge also covered the basic cost of service, many members assumed it was a fee for the use of their meter. Base Service Charge is a more accurate term.

Account Number
Location C010
Statement Date
Previous Balance
Payments Received
Balance Forward
Current Charges
Total Due By
Amount Due

Location C010101	Service Address *	Rate
Meter Reading Details		
	Meter #	20001
Current Reading:	07/01/2018	34825
Previous Reading:	06/01/2018	33588
Total KWH Usage		1237
Days Served	30	
Detail of Charges		
Base Service Charge		
KWH Charge	@ 0.094	30
Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) @		
Gross Receipts Tax		
Total For This Month Service		
Comparisons		
Current Month	Days	kWh
Current Month	30	1,237
Previous Month	31	912
Same Month Last Year	30	1,345
Average C		



Please see reverse side for important messages.

CEC Accepts Visa, Master Card and Bank Drafts Also Available Upon Request.

JOHN SMITH
JANE SMITH
HC 66 BOX 123
MOYERS OK 74557-0000
Phone # (580) 579-0000

Please Return This Stub With Your Payment
Please Do Not Staple, Paperclip, Or Tape

Cycle 01

Account Number
Statement Date
Amount Due 07/
Amount Due Aff
Amount Enclos

Usage comparisons are an important detail on the bill. They show the number of days in a billing cycle and the average temperature for the month. These details help you understand your usage for the past 12 months.

Account Number: 12345678	Board District: I
Address: 101	Board Director: Ken Autry
Effective Date: 07/05/2018	Cycle 01
Billing Summary	
Electricity	136.24
Received - Thank you 06/08/2018	136.24 CR
Interest	0.00
Service	159.19
07/26/2018	159.19
After 07/26/2018	169.54

Page 1 of 1

Account: 011		
		19.25
		117.24
0.015832		19.58
		3.12
		159.19
Wh	Average Temp.	Average kWh/Day
237	81	41
65	75	31
323	78	44
Cost Per Day: \$5.20		

Comparison table provides a snapshot of details that affect your bill including number of days in the billing cycle, average temperature for the month, kilowatt-hour (kwh) for the month and your average daily kwh use. Data are provided for the current month, the same month last year.

Account Number:	12345678
Effective Date:	07/05/2018
07/26/2018	\$159.19
After 07/26/2018	\$169.54
Used	

Watch That Peak!

Please power down from 4 pm to 6 pm to keep your electric rates as low as possible.



What is a peak alert?

Choctaw Electric Cooperative (CEC) issues a peak alert when systemwide electricity use is approaching extremely high levels. Typically, this occurs on days when the temperature outside is very hot or very cold, causing heating and air conditioning systems to work overtime. Peaks also tend to occur during the times of day when people are most active in their homes.

Why does peak usage matter?

High system-wide usage results in higher cost to CEC from our wholesale power provider. System-wide peaks are a determining factor in what you and your cooperative will pay for wholesale power for the next year. When cooperative members work together to lower the peak, the result is lower power costs for everyone.

What can I do to help?

When CEC issues a peak alert, please make an effort to lower your electricity use from 4 pm to 6 pm. Adjusting your thermostat upward a few degrees during this time is very helpful. Also, shifting certain activities such as washing clothes, showering, or cooking dinner to off-peak hours can make a difference.

How will I know when a peak alert is issued?

CEC will post peak alerts on its website, Facebook, and local radio stations. Peak alert notices are also issued via text or email for members who have signed up to receive these notifications through SmartHub.

How can I receive peak alerts via email or text?

1. Sign in to your SmartHub account by going to www.choctawelectric.coop and clicking on SmartHub icon 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. To sign up for peak alerts, click the arrow to the left of "On Demand." Check the box next to each notification you wish to receive.
5. 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.)

If you have questions about peak alerts or need assistance using SmartHub, please give us a call at **800-780-6486**. We are happy to help you.

PLUG IN

Is An EV Right For You?

For some drivers, a plug-in car makes perfect sense

Should your next car be an electric vehicle (EV)? The answer depends on your lifestyle. EVs account for just 1.2 percent of the U.S. vehicle market, but sales are booming, growing 25 percent last year. And they're getting better and cheaper as researchers improve the batteries that power them. The first thing to realize about electric cars is they can drive more than enough miles for you on a single charge, even if you live out in the country.

If you're considering an EV, try keeping track of your actual daily mileage. A typical range for an EV today is over 100 miles, and ranges of 150 to 250 miles are becoming common. According to the Federal Highway Administration, the average American drives 25 miles a day, and for rural areas, that average is 34 miles a day.

Another reason it's worth thinking realistically about your daily mileage comes from the most likely way an electric car would be refueled. Over 90 percent of EV charging is done at home. When an electric car is done driving for the day, you simply plug it in to recharge overnight. Essentially, you're topping off the gas tank while you sleep, giving you a fully-charged battery every morning.

As the EV market grows, more Oklahoma drivers are making the decision to plug in and drive. You can find answers to a wide range of EV questions and concerns by visiting Choose EV Oklahoma at www.chooseev.com/ok. The site helps drivers assess their driving needs, compare costs, learn about charging options, view EV models and prices, and find details on available incentives and rebates. Driving electric offers advantages for many drivers. Find out if you're one of them.

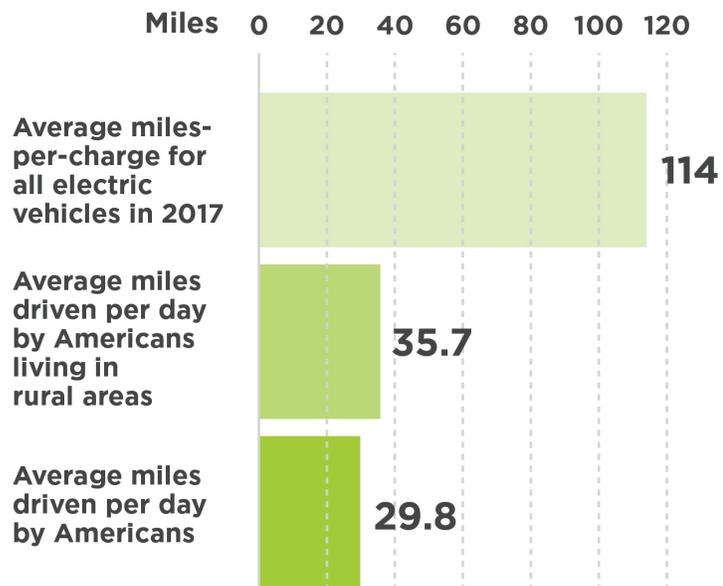
Easing Electric Vehicle Range Anxiety

Range anxiety—fear of the battery running out before you're able to recharge—is a roadblock to wider use of electric vehicles.

But statistics show this fear is overblown, even if you live in a rural area. While extra planning may be needed for vacations or longer trips, nearly everyone's daily driving needs can be met with one charge.



AVERAGE MILE COMPARISON



And when you're done driving your electric vehicle for the day, you can plug it in to recharge overnight, "topping off the tank" while you sleep!

Sources: Dept. of Energy, Energy Information Administration, AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety.

■ PLAY IT SAFE

A Cool Way To Help Others

Donate to the Fan Drive and help senior citizens stay cool this summer

If you have an electric fan that you aren't using, please consider donating it to the 2018 Keep Our Citizens Cool Fan Drive. Sponsored by the Senior Awareness Committee, the Fan Drive aims to provide working fans to local senior citizens to help them stay cool and safe this summer.

Please help by donating a new or used fan at one of the following locations:

- Choctaw Electric Cooperative
Hugo, Idabel, and Antlers
- Encompass Home Health, Hugo, Idabel
- Kindred Health Care, Hugo

Thank you! Your donation makes a difference.



It's Back to School Time!

Schedule a safety demo for your classroom!

With kids heading back to school this month, it's a good time for youth leaders and school teachers to plan activities for their kids.

Choctaw Electric Cooperative offers safety demonstrations for kids that make learning about electrical safety fun. Our instructors use tools, toys, and even hot dogs to demonstrate the amazing-yet-deadly power of electricity.

At the end of the demonstration, kids come away with a greater respect for electricity and its potential dangers.

To schedule a free safety demonstration, please call your co-op at 800-780-6486, or visit our website at www.choctawelectric.coop for more information.



Many Ways to Pay

Choose the most convenient method for you!

- Pay online using SmartHub at www.choctawelectric.coop.
- Pay via smart phone, iPad or tablet using our SmartHub mobile app. Download the free app at www.choctawelectric.coop.
- Pay by phone 24 hours a day using a major credit card at 800-780-6486.
- 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.
- **New!** Country Market, Clayton.
OPEN 6 AM - 10 PM, 7 DAYS/WK
- **New!** CJ's Corner Store, Smithville.
OPEN MON.- FRI. 6 AM - 7 PM;
SAT. 6:30 AM - 7 PM;
SUN. 9 AM - 5:00 PM

GO GEOTHERMAL AND EARN CASH BACK!

Install a energy efficient geothermal heat pump and earn a cash rebate of \$350 to \$1,050 per ton! For complete details, please visit www.choctawelectric.coop, or call your co-op at **800-780-6486**.



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



Zucchini Herb Casserole

INGREDIENTS

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1/3 cup uncooked long grain white rice | 1 1/4 teaspoons garlic salt |
| 2/3 cup water | 1/2 teaspoon basil |
| 2 tablespoons vegetable oil | 1/2 teaspoon sweet paprika |
| 1 1/2 pounds zucchini, cubed | 1/2 teaspoon dried oregano |
| 1 cup sliced green onions | 1 1/2 cups seeded, chopped tomatoes |
| 1 clove garlic, minced | 2 cups shredded sharp Cheddar |

DIRECTIONS

Bring rice and water to a boil in a saucepan. Reduce heat to low, cover, and simmer 20 minutes, until rice is tender. Preheat oven to 350°F. Lightly grease a shallow 1 1/2 quart casserole dish.

Heat oil in a skillet and cook the zucchini, green onions, and garlic 5 minutes, or until tender. Season with garlic salt, basil, paprika, and oregano. Mix in the cooked rice, tomatoes, and 1 cup cheese. Cook until heated through. Transfer to casserole dish. Top with cheese.

Bake uncovered 20 minutes, or until cheese is melted and bubbly.

Is Prepaid Right For You?

Use the chart below to see the difference and decide for yourself. To visit with a CEC service representative about the Prepaid option, please call **800-780-6486** or find details online at www.choctawelectric.coop.



Prepaid Payment

- **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.

Standard Payment

- **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 twice 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 fee is charged if disconnected for nonpayment.