



inside *your* co-op

For members of Choctaw Electric Cooperative | OCTOBER 2025



The inaugural Buddy Ball game took place Sept 14, 2024.

Catch the Fun at Buddy Ball CEC hosts second annual game in October

Grab your glove and meet us on the diamond this fall—Buddy Ball returns October 18, 2025! This free, non-competitive game is designed for children through adults with physical, intellectual, or developmental disabilities, giving everyone a chance to enjoy a day of baseball.

The 2025 event marks the second annual Buddy Ball game in Grant. The inaugural game in September 2024 was a huge success, bringing together participants, families and the community for a day full of smiles, excitement and teamwork.

This year, all attendees—including Choctaw Electric Cooperative members—are invited to watch the fun,

enjoy free food and cheer on the players. Awards will also be presented to participants, making it a memorable day for everyone.

“I think it’s a great way for our community to support a pretty special cause, giving these individuals time to shine and have fun,” CEC CEO Kooney Duncan says.

Buddy ball participation is free. Interested players can complete the online registration form on CEC’s website. For more information, contact Jia Johnson at 800-780-6486, ext. 241.

We hope you come out and join Choctaw Electric Cooperative and the community for Buddy Ball 2025!



Game Day at a Glance

Cheer on local athletes, enjoy free food and be part of a day filled with teamwork, smiles and community spirit!

- October 18, 2025 at 9 a.m.
- Choctaw Nation field, Grant, OK



Scan here
to learn
more or
sign up!

Choctaw Electric Cooperative

Serving members in Choctaw, Pushmataha, Atoka, McCurtain, Bryan and LeFlore counties.

CONNECT WITH US

Monday-Friday | 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

24 Hour Outage Line

(800) 780-6486

Hugo Office

PO Box 758
1033 N. 4250 Rd.
Hugo, OK 74743

Toll free: (800) 780-6486

Local: (580) 326-6486

Fax: (580) 326-2492

Idabel Office

2114 SE Washington
Idabel, OK 74745

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Happy Co-op Month

CEC celebrates 85 years of growth and service

October is National Co-op Month, and Choctaw Electric Cooperative is joining co-ops across the U.S. to celebrate. Co-ops come in all shapes and sizes, but they each have a common goal: to provide goods or services for the members of the co-op.

Electric co-ops like CEC exist to serve their members. Our priority is to provide affordable, reliable energy to our local communities. This October, as we celebrate Co-op Month and our 85th anniversary, we're focusing on the ways co-ops grow for their members.

Co-ops Grow Communities

Co-ops help communities grow by promoting economic empowerment, fostering community engagement and supporting the unique needs of co-op members. "Concern for Community" is one of our core principles—and being community-focused is essential to everything we do.

At CEC, that means being active in the places our members call home. You'll find us at Buddy Ball games, county fairs and "Look Up for Safety" events that equip first responders with life-saving electrical safety knowledge. Our cooperative roots run deep, and we're proud to help keep our communities safe, connected and thriving.

Co-ops Grow Together

Co-ops are all about cooperation, not competition. That's why electric co-ops work together to share strategies and better ways to serve our members. When storms strike, CEC crews don't hesitate to provide mutual aid to other co-ops—and we know they'll do the same for us. Working together makes us stronger and ensures that members across Oklahoma and beyond have power when they need it most.

Co-ops Grow Tomorrow's Leaders

Electric co-ops serve as fertile ground for growing tomorrow's leaders



CEO Kooney Duncan

through a variety of youth engagement programs. From Kilowatt Kids Camp and Megawatt Kids Camp for elementary students, to Energy Camp for 8th graders, and the Youth Tour program for high school juniors, we're investing in opportunities for students to learn, lead and dream big. Our Co-opucation program also teaches students in grades 4–12 valuable

life skills like budgeting and financial management. And through electrical safety demonstrations in local schools, we're equipping kids with knowledge they can carry for a lifetime.

Co-ops Grow for You

At CEC, your satisfaction is our No. 1 goal. It's why we were formed 85 years ago to fulfill a uniquely local purpose. Today, we're proud to be one of the fastest-growing electric cooperatives in Oklahoma. We've come a long way since our founding, and your needs continue to evolve. That's why we'll never stop growing for you.

Happy 75th Birthday, Willie Wiredhand!

He may be three-quarters of a century old, but the electric co-op mascot is still sparking smiles and representing the cooperative spirit.



Notice of Patronage Allocation

This Notice of Patronage Allocation is issued in accordance with the Bylaws of Choctaw Electric Cooperative, Inc.

After reviewing the 2024 year-end financial statements, CEC allocated \$5,743,131.06 in excess margins. Margins are calculated each year by subtracting total operating expenses from total operating revenues. These margins are allocated to members' capital accounts first based on their specific revenue classes gross margin and then on their total kWh of electricity purchased from CEC during 2024. This allocated patronage capital is combined with total patronage capital that has not been retired (paid) and provides working capital for the co-op.

Members can determine their amount of this allocation by selecting their Revenue Class and Rate Class (found on their billing statement) allocation factor shown below and multiplying their designated factor by their kWh purchased from CEC in 2024.

The amount of a specific allocation is available from CEC upon member request. Refund of this amount, in full or in part, at any time, shall be based on the decision of the Board of Trustees that the financial condition of the cooperative shall not be impaired by making such refund.

If you have any questions concerning this allocation, please contact CEC at 800-780-6486.

2024 Patronage Allocation

REVENUE CLASS	RATE CLASS	2024 ALLOCATION FACTOR
General Service	5, 7, 11, 12, 95, 96	0.0165091098
Seasonal	14	0.0206372299
Small Commercial	10, 23, 56	0.0075108152
Large Commercial 1	34, 44	0.0140269865
Large Commercial 2	40, 53	0.0025018712
Industrial	60	0.0001411919

Fun at the Fair

In September, CEC had the opportunity to spend time at the McCurtain, Choctaw and Pushmataha County Fairs. These events are a highlight for us because they give our employees the chance to visit with members face-to-face, hear what's on your mind and share updates about the work happening at your co-op.



Go Paperless!

Sign up for paperless billing via the SmartHub app or call Choctaw Electric Cooperative at 800-780-6486. One lucky member will win two CEC T-shirts and two CEC caps.

Trick-or-Treat

Hey kids! Stop by CEC's Hugo or Idabel office during business hours on Oct. 31 for a treat from your cooperative. We can't wait to see your costumes!

Help Us Preserve Our Legacy

CEC is celebrating 85 years of service! We're marking this milestone with a special project to preserve the co-op's rich history. The project will gather, organize and digitize a collection of photos and memorabilia that tell the story of CEC and the communities we serve. To contribute stories, photos, recipes or other memorabilia, please contact Jia Johnson at 800-780-6486, ext. 241.

Efficiency Tip of the Month

As winter approaches, now is the time to inspect your home for air leaks around windows. Leaks reduce indoor comfort and lead to higher heating costs. If you can see daylight around the edges of a window frame or if a window rattles slightly when touched, air is likely leaking. Caulking and weatherstripping are simple, effective methods for sealing windows. These materials are available in a variety of compounds and forms, each designed for different types of surfaces. Choose the right product and apply it properly to reduce heat loss, improve comfort and lower energy bills.

Lucky Acct #29948801

If this is your account number, please contact CEC at 800-780-6486, ext. 241 by the 5th of the month to claim your \$50 bill credit. Unclaimed bill credits roll over each month by \$25 for a maximum credit of \$100.

Keeping the Lights On: CEC Operations Update

Choctaw Electric Cooperative continues to make significant progress on key projects across our service territory, ensuring reliable power and maintaining a strong focus on safety.

Line Superintendent Mike Mahaffey reports that a three-phase conversion from the Bethel substation to Hochatown is 70% complete. In addition, crews are working on a 62-lot underground development near the Glover River, and the pole change-out project north of Antlers to Clayton is nearly 80% complete. Maintenance efforts are ongoing at the Garvin substation to keep the system running smoothly.

Operations Supervisor Darin Kirkes says right-of-way crews have worked near the Haworth feeder, clearing both

primary and secondary lines. Other ongoing efforts include work at the Garvin and Darwin substations and the completion of herbicide treatments along more than 900 miles of line.

Safety remains a top priority at CEC. Operations Manager and Safety and Loss Control Director Guy Dale notes that the co-op has gone without a lost-time accident since November 2019.

“We’re trying to keep everyone thinking about safety and prevent complacency,” he says.

To maintain this record, crews participate in ongoing training such as forklift operation and stick testing. The Safety Review Committee continues to evaluate policies and procedures

to enhance workplace safety. Recent improvements include replacing AEDs and updating a fire alarm system that had been in service for 45 years.

Looking ahead, Distribution Engineer Jake Johnson notes coordination with ODOT for a road project on Highway 37 southwest of Idabel. CEC is relocating power lines to accommodate new road shoulders. Crews are also conducting a large-scale pole inspection program in the Garvin and Haworth service areas, covering approximately 13,500 poles.

Through these projects, CEC continues to demonstrate our commitment to providing safe, reliable power while supporting the communities we serve.

Cooperative Crumbs

Sweet Potato Cake with Spiced Cream Cheese Icing

Yields 1 Cake | Recipe from the kitchen of Marcia DaVee, Soper, OK

For the cake:

- 2 cups granulated sugar
- 1 cup salted butter
- 3 room-temperature eggs
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
- 2 1/2 cups cooked, mashed sweet potatoes
- 2 1/2 cups White Lily all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 tablespoon ground cinnamon
- 1 tablespoon ground ginger
- 1 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup room-temperature whole buttermilk
- 1 cup pecans, chopped into large pieces

For the frosting:

- 16 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 cup room-temperature salted butter
- 1/2 cup firmly packed light brown sugar
- 1/2 cup powdered sugar
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

Preheat the oven to 350°F. Grease and flour two 9-inch cake pans, then line the bottoms with parchment paper.

In the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, beat the butter and sugar on medium speed for about 5 minutes, until light and creamy. Add the eggs one at a time, mixing well after each addition. Add the vanilla extract and sweet potatoes and mix until fully incorporated.

In a medium bowl, whisk together the flour, baking soda, baking powder, cinnamon, ginger, nutmeg and salt. With the mixer on low speed, add half of the dry mixture to the butter mixture and mix just until combined. Pour in half of the buttermilk and mix again. Repeat with the remaining dry ingredients and buttermilk, mixing only until incorporated. Remove from the mixer and gently fold in the pecans.

Divide the batter evenly between the prepared pans. Bake for 35–40 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Let the cakes cool in the pans for 15 minutes, then carefully remove



and transfer to a wire rack to cool completely.

While the cakes cool, prepare the frosting. In the bowl of a stand mixer, beat the cream cheese and butter together on medium-high speed until light and fluffy. Add the remaining ingredients and mix until smooth. If needed, add milk 1 teaspoon at a time to reach desired consistency.

Once the cake layers are completely cool, use a serrated knife to slice each round in half horizontally. Spread frosting between the layers, stacking them as you go, then frost the top and sides of the cake.

Visit choctawelectric.net to watch a video of the cake's preparation.