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# inside *your* co-op

Published for members of Choctaw Electric Cooperative



## Passing The Energy Stick

Campers at Kilowatt Kids Camp in Hugo learn how energy is transferred by passing Energy Sticks. The Energy Stick looks like a toy, but is extra sensitive so it can detect the small amount of electricity passing over each camper's skin. The Energy Stick is one of several nifty hands-on science tools used at Kilowatt Kids Camp to teach kids about electricity.

PHOTO/JIA JOHNSON, CEC.

**TOP STORY**

## Kid's Camp Grows In Popularity

Summer 2019 enjoys highest student enrollment in camp history

The rainy weather did not dampen the enthusiasm for Choctaw Electric's (CEC) Kilowatt Kid's Camp. The half-day camp took place at Choctaw Electric locations in Hugo and Idabel in June. Organizers say the camp this summer enjoyed the highest enrollment since its inaugural year in 2010.

"The maximum number of campers we can accommodate per session is 30,"

says Jia Johnson, camp coordinator. "We were disappointed that we had to turn some campers away this year, but we had a limited supply of classroom materials and snacks."

The wet weather may have played a role in the spike in 2019 camp applications.

"Kids need something fun to do when they can't get outside and play," Johnson added. "We also expanded

our enrollment this year to include an afternoon session for older kids."

Kilowatt Kid's Camp now offers a session for fourth through sixth grade students, in addition to its usual half-day camp for kindergarten through third graders. The camp uses hands-on activities and games to teach kids about electricity, and stresses good energy use habits and electrical safety. ☺

For more details on CEC Kilowatt Kid's Camp and how your child can participate, please visit [www.choctawelectric.coop](http://www.choctawelectric.coop), or call your cooperative at 800-780-6486.

 **MANAGER'S REPORT**

# A Good Year By A Margin

## CEC board approves capital credit return to members

**A**fter a damp and gloomy spring, I'm happy to pass along some positive news: Choctaw Electric closed out 2018 in the green. By that I mean we were able to provide safe and reliable service to our members, take care of expected and unexpected expenses, and still have money left over.

Because of our profit margin and overall improved financial health, the Choctaw Electric board of trustees approved a capital credit retirement of \$913,218.20 to members belonging to the co-op in 1989. If that's you, you should expect to receive your refund sometime in September. The amount of your refund is determined by your electricity use during the 1989 year.

### Living By Our Principles

Electric co-op's honor seven important cooperative principles. No. 3 is **Member Economic Participation**. Members contribute to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital remains the common property of the cooperative. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative; setting up reserves; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative (capital credits); and supporting other activities approved by the membership. These decisions are typically made by the co-op trustees, who are elected by the members.

**Lucky Acct #38857327 (\$50)** If this account number belongs to you, contact CEC by the 10th of the month to claim your \$50 bill credit. Unclaimed bill credits will roll over each month by \$25 for a maximum credit of \$100. To claim your credit, please call 800-780-6486, ext. 207.



**BY KOONEY DUNCAN**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Over the past three years, Choctaw Electric has retired nearly \$3 million in capital credits and estate capital credits to co-op members. Because an electric co-op's annual margins fund nearly everything we do in the business of delivering electricity—not to mention serving as an important rainy day fund—the decision to retire these margins isn't made willy nilly. Your trustees must carefully evaluate the co-op's financial condition while weighing all the "what ifs" that may or may not occur in the future. Their approval to release these funds is a vote of confidence in Choctaw Electric's financial and operational stability. I think that's something we should all feel proud of.

For the past several years, Choctaw Electric has made enormous strides by shaving costs and paying down debt. At the same time, we've invested a great deal of time, labor, and money into system upgrades and maintenance to improve the safety and reliability of our service. Delivering electricity to rural areas isn't easy or inexpensive, but we're doing it and we're doing it well. The proof is the financial capital we share with you. Thank you for your support. ☺

### 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](http://www.choctawelectric.coop).

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



## Choctaw Electric Cooperative

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

Monday-Friday • 8 am - 5 pm

### HUGO OFFICE

PO Box 758  
Hwy 93 North  
Hugo, Oklahoma 74743

Toll Free: (800) 780-6486  
Local: (580) 326-6486  
FAX (580) 326-2492

### IDABEL OFFICE

2114 SE Washington  
Idabel, Oklahoma 74745

Toll Free: (800) 780-6486  
Local: (580) 286-7155

### ANTLERS OFFICE

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

Toll Free: (800) 780-6486  
Local: (580) 298-3201

*On the Web:*

[www.choctawelectric.coop](http://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      Debbie Cody

Ken Autry      Perry Thompson Jr.

### MANAGEMENT AND STAFF

Kooney Duncan, *Chief Executive Officer*

Jennifer Boling, *Executive Assistant*

Jia Johnson, *Director of Public Relations*

Tiffany Hempsted, *Chief Financial Officer*

**IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR CEC MEMBERS**

**Please Update Your Service Address**

During a power outage, members appreciate updates on how the work is progressing. For accurate information during outages, please provide your physical 911 service address (not a PO Box or route number), and a working telephone number.



**ADDRESS TIP:**  
To locate your official 911 address, please call your local 911 coordinator on their non-emergency line. Do not call 911.

To update your information:

- Log on to SmartHub and click on “Contact Us.”
- Email [customerservice@choctawelectric.coop](mailto:customerservice@choctawelectric.coop), or call **800-780-6486**.

**Holiday Hours**

Choctaw Electric will close on Thursday, **July 4, 2019**, for Independence Day. To report a power outage during this time, please call **800-780-6486**, or report your outage using Smarthub.

Have a safe and happy Fourth of July!



THE HOME

**Energy**  
DETECTIVE

By Brad Kendrick, CEC Energy Use Specialist

At CEC we have the ability to view hourly usage, which helps us better evaluate a home when the usage seems too high or too low. Last month, a member called to say their central heat and air was off, and they used window units, but their bill seemed high. By checking their hourly usage, I could tell something else was running. When I got to the home, I found the fan to the HVAC unit was on and blowing warm air. This caused the window AC units, which are thermostat controlled, to run more often. When we shut off the HVAC fan, the usage dropped drastically. If your HVAC or window AC seems to be running longer than normal, or sounds differently, be sure to have it serviced as soon as possible. If not, you could end up paying for electricity you never intended to use.

Do you have questions for CEC’s energy sleuth? Please call Brad Kendrick, CEC energy use specialist, at **800-780-6486**, or email questions to: [bakendrick@choctawelectric.coop](mailto:bakendrick@choctawelectric.coop).

**COUNT DOWN TO ANNUAL MEETING:**

**Save These Dates!**

▶ **July 30**

Candidate filing for Dist. A, H, and I due by 5 pm at CEC in Hugo. Trustee candidates must submit a petition containing at least 25 member signatures from the district in which they reside. Nomination packets with detailed instructions are available at CEC offices in Hugo, Antlers and Idabel.

▶ **August 14**

Second revision of proposed bylaw amendments due at CEC Hugo.

▶ **August 29 - September 3**

CEC voter packets and mail-in ballots mailed to members.

▶ **September 27**

Mail-in ballots must be received by 5 pm on this date to be considered valid.

▶ **September 28**

CEC Annual Meeting, Hugo Agriplex

**2019 CEC Annual Meeting  
Vendor Booth Reservation Form**

CEC Annual Meeting  
Saturday, September 28 • Hugo Agriplex



Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Contact person \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Products to be displayed/sold \_\_\_\_\_

Number of booth spaces \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: Booth spaces are available first come, first serve. Vendors must bring their own tables, chairs and electrical cords.*

**Deadline to reserve booth: September 20, 2019**

*Please send booth reservation form to:*

Jia Johnson, Choctaw Electric Cooperative PO Box 758, Hugo, OK 74743

**Get Your Credit**

Sometimes CEC members die before receiving their share of CEC capital credits. A family member or qualified estate representative may apply for these funds by filling out an estate capital credit form. The form is available at **www.choctawelectric.coop**, click on “More” and choose “Capital Credits.”



**FIND IT ONLINE**



### Putting Around

Local students Daryn Marriman of Rattan, and Bradley Resendiz of Soper, take a break from miniature golf, one of the many fun activities for teens attending YouthPower Energy Camp. Energy Camp helps students understand the cooperative business model through a variety of activities and games. Students are selected based on their scores in the Choctaw Electric Energy Camp essay contest. The three-day camp is held at Canyon Camp near Hinton, Okla. For more details, please visit [www.choctawelectric.coop](http://www.choctawelectric.coop), or call 800-780-6486.

## FIREWORKS SAFETY TIPS

Fireworks and July 4th go hand-in-hand, and we want you to have a safe, fun-filled celebration! About two-thirds of all fireworks-related injuries occur between June 16 and July 16, so keep these safety tips in mind:

- ★ Leave professional-grade fireworks to the pro's. They aren't safe for consumer use.
- ★ Keep small children a safe distance from fireworks, including sparklers that can burn at temperatures in excess of 2,000 degrees.
- ★ Never reignite or handle malfunctioning fireworks. Keep a bucket of water nearby to soak the duds before throwing them away.
- ★ More pets go missing over July 4th than any other time. Keep your pets indoors and away from fireworks to avoid contact injuries or bad reactions to noise.



## RECIPES



### Summer Cucumber Pasta Salad

#### INGREDIENTS

- |                                 |                           |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 (8 oz) pkg. bow tie pasta     | 1 cup white sugar         |
| 1 large cucumber, thinly sliced | 1 cup water               |
| 1 large onion, thinly sliced    | 1 T vegetable oil         |
| 1 ½ teaspoons dried dill        | 1 T prepared mustard      |
| ¾ cup white vinegar             | ½ tsp salt                |
|                                 | ½ tsp ground black pepper |

#### DIRECTIONS

Bring a large pot of lightly salted water to a boil.

Cook the bow tie pasta at a boil, stirring occasionally, until cooked through yet firm to the bite, about 12 minutes. Drain and rinse several times with cold water until the pasta is cool.

Stir pasta, cucumber, onion, and dill in a salad bowl. Whisk vinegar, sugar, water, vegetable oil, mustard, salt, and black pepper in a separate bowl until sugar and salt dissolve. Pour dressing over the pasta mixture and toss lightly to coat. Let chill for 2 hours before serving.

Source: allrecipes.com

## Pay Your Electric Bill Using A PaySite Kiosk Near You



PaySite kiosks are ready to accept your electric bill payment at the following locations; or use the kiosk locator at <http://paysitekiosklocator.com/> to locate a kiosk near you.

#### Save A Lot Grocery, Hugo.

OPEN SUNDAY, 9 AM - 8 PM.  
MON-SAT, 7:30 AM - 9 PM

#### Country Market, Clayton.

OPEN 6 AM - 10 PM, 7 DAYS/ WK

#### Choctaw Travel Plazas in Atoka, Antlers, Broken Bow, and Idabel.

OPEN 24 HRS.

#### CJ's Corner Store, Smithville

OPEN MON - FRI, 6 AM - 7 PM;  
SAT, 6:30 AM - 7 PM; SUN, 9 AM - 5 PM