

## Peak Matters

Heed summer peak alerts and save yourself some money,

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## Energy Camper Named CEO

CEC Energy Camp winner takes on leadership role.

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## Linemen Honored

Co-op linemen recognized by state lawmakers.

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For members of **Choctaw Electric Cooperative**

JULY 2023

# CEC *inside your* co-op



*NRECA Youth Leadership Council delegates play an active role in the NRECA Annual Meeting, including the presentation of flags during the opening ceremony. PHOTO/NRECA.*

## Rising Stars

### CEC Youth Tour winners named semifinalists for prestigious Youth Leadership Council

In a proud moment for Choctaw Electric Cooperative and Southeast Oklahoma, two Choctaw Electric Youth Tour winners were selected as semifinalists for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Youth Leadership Council (YLC).

Out of 64 students widely considered the best of Oklahoma rural teens, judges selected Cale Bible of Broken Bow and Kate Clifton of Soper to advance to the YLC finals.

“Talk about putting Choctaw Electric on map! In years past, we’ve had students selected for the YLC, but we’ve never had two finalists chosen in the same year. We are so proud,” said Jia Johnson, CEC director of member and public relations.

Every year, one Youth Tour student from each state is selected for the YLC. These “leaders among leaders” represent their state and its electric co-ops at the national level. YLC delegates return to Washington, DC in July for an intense workshop that builds leadership and public speaking skills, and enhances

students’ knowledge of the energy industry and cooperatives. YLC teens are also involved with virtually every facet of the NRECA Annual Meeting, including the resolutions process and helping co-ops communicate with their legislators.

Oklahoma’s Youth Tour winners apply for the YLC by filling out a lengthy application. Judges look closely at students’ academic achievements, GPA, community service projects, and other activities. Students also submit a written essay.

Students who clear that step advance to the next stage in the selection process—an interview with a panel of judges. Johnson, who has served as a YLC judge in the past, said judges look at students’ speaking ability, level of confidence, eye contact, knowledge of cooperatives and understanding of cooperative principles.

“The student who is selected to represent Oklahoma must be ready to hit the ground running,” Johnson said.

A tough judge in her time, Johnson is using her experience to prepare CEC winners for the interview process.

“We go over everything from the moment they walk into the room to what they are wearing and their knowledge of the subject matter,” she said. During the practice interviews, Johnson critiques students and offers helpful suggestions.

“I tell them I support them, but they have to work at it to want it and I want them to win,” she said.

Following the interview stage, five teens will give a brief speech and answer questions from the Youth Tour student delegation and chaperones. Oklahoma’s YLC delegate is announced during the 2023 Youth Tour Reflection Party in Washington, DC. ☺

For more information on the Youth Leadership Council, please visit [www.electric.coop/our-organization/youth-programs/youth-leadership-council](http://www.electric.coop/our-organization/youth-programs/youth-leadership-council), or call Jia Johnson at 800-780-6486, ext. 241.

MANAGER'S REPORT



# Peak Matters

Help control future electricity costs

BY KOONEY DUNCAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**A**t Choctaw Electric we offer free services and advice on what you can do to reduce your electricity use and your monthly bill. But your monthly kilowatt-hour use is only part of your electricity bill. When you use electricity also determines how much you pay for it.

Choctaw Electric Cooperative (CEC) pays a monthly 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, also called peak demand.

A peak in electricity demand typically happens during very hot or very cold weather when a lot of people are using power from the grid at the same time. Peaks tend to happen from June through September. During warm weather, CEC peaks typically occur from 3 pm until 7 pm when people return home from work, turn down the AC, and turn on big appliances. CEC also peaks in the winter. During the cold weather months, our peaks happen in the morning from 6 am and 9 am. That's when most people wake up, turn up the thermostat, and begin using hot water and other big energy users.

Peaks matter because they determine what we pay for wholesale power in the coming year. If we can keep the peak as low as possible, it will make a big difference for every CEC member.

That's why we urge you to pay attention when we issue a peak alert on Smarthub or Facebook. When you see it, you know it's time

to lower your usage during peak hours.

Simple steps such as raising your AC thermostat a few degrees can make a surprising difference. Not only will you be doing your part to reduce future electricity costs, your reduced kwh usage will mean you could see a more immediate difference on your next bill. For instance, you could save six to eight percent on cooling costs for every degree you raise your thermostat over a period of months.

**“Demand charges are not completely beyond our control, but it will take all of us to make a difference.”**

To give you an idea of what CEC could save if we all make an effort to reduce our peak usage, consider this: If 5,000 CEC members hold off on washing and drying their clothes during peak hours, we could save nearly \$57,500/month. If 10,000 members did this, we would save roughly \$115,000/

month!

You will find some of the most effective ways for lowering the peak on page 4 of this issue. Please take a moment to read them. Whether you try one or none of the suggestions mentioned is up to you, but I think you'll find they are relatively painless.

Demand charges are not completely beyond our control, but it will take all of us to make a difference. Your cooperation is appreciated. ☺

## Choctaw Electric Cooperative

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

Monday-Friday • 8 am - 5 pm

HUGO OFFICE

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Hugo, Oklahoma 74743  
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IDABEL OFFICE

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Idabel, Oklahoma 74745  
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ANTLERS OFFICE

HC 67 Box 62  
Antlers, Oklahoma 74523  
(One mile east of Antlers)  
Toll Free: (800) 780-6486  
Local: (580) 298-3201

and  
On the Web:

[www.choctawelectric.net](http://www.choctawelectric.net)



24 Hour Outage Hotline  
**800-780-6486**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Brent Franks, *President*

Jarred Campbell, *Vice President*

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Jana Burris	Ken Autry
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MANAGEMENT AND STAFF

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



Choctaw Electric Energy Camp winners Tayen McDaniel; Emerson McElroy; and Eliza Bryant. PHOTO/BRAD KENDRICK.

## CEC Winners Excel At Energy Camp

Choctaw Electric's Energy Camp coordinator had plenty to say about the co-op's Energy Camp winners this year.

"They did a phenomenal job. We've never had all three run for the camp CEO position and have the winner, too! We are more than proud," said Brad Kendrick.

CEC's campers Tayen McDaniel, Emerson McElroy and Eliza Bryant were each selected by their peers to be interviewed for the position of camp CEO.

Following the process used by cooperatives when hiring a CEO, each candidate is interviewed by camp "trustees" who have been selected by their fellow campers.

"I think the interview process is so important," Kendrick said. "Those board members don't cut them any slack. They

ask hard questions and the candidates have to be ready."

Following the interview process, CEC's Emerson McElroy was selected as CEO.

Kendrick, who served as camp chaperon this year, said he noted that the campers as a whole were especially outstanding this year.

"They were so encouraging to one another, which was really nice to see," he said.

Many students who arrive at camp are shy and unaccustomed to speaking before a group.

"By the end of camp, there wasn't a one of them that wasn't comfortable answering questions or speaking," he added.

For information on Energy Camp, please visit [www.choctawelectric.net](http://www.choctawelectric.net) or call Jia Johnson at **800-780-6486**.

## Win a **\$100 Bill Credit!**

Enroll in CEC's paperless billing.

Enroll in paperless billing and your name will be entered in our monthly drawing for new paperless accounts. Enroll using Smarthub's payment options, or sign up by phone at **800-780-6486**.



Congratulations to **Brandon Warren** of Broken Bow, our \$100 bill credit winner for the month of May. We appreciate your participation.



### SAVE THE DATE!

■ **JULY 25**

Trustee candidate filing date for CEC Districts B, C, and G.

■ **AUGUST 9**

Revisions due to proposed bylaw amendments.

■ **AUGUST 24-29**

Mail-in ballots delivered to members.

■ **SEPTEMBER 23**

CEC Annual Meeting  
Choctaw County Agriplex  
Hugo, Oklahoma

## 2023 Annual Meeting Vendor Booth Reservation Form

Saturday, September 23, 2023  
Choctaw County Agriplex

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

- Booth spaces are available first come, first serve.
- Vendors will set up outside the Agriplex.
- Vendors must bring their own tables, chairs, electrical cords and tent.
- **Deadline to reserve booth: September 16, 2023.**

Please mail booth reservation form to:

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



### CHOCTAW ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE 2023 Board Meetings

The Choctaw Electric Cooperative (CEC) board of trustees meets at 9 am on the last Tuesday of every month at co-op headquarters in Hugo. Meetings are open to the public. Meeting minutes are available at [www.choctawelectric.net](http://www.choctawelectric.net) or at any CEC location. To read the minutes on your smartphone or tablet, please scan the bar code to the right.



- |             |                |               |
|-------------|----------------|---------------|
| ■ July 25   | ■ September 26 | ■ November 28 |
| ■ August 29 | ■ October 31   | ■ December 21 |



## Special Olympics Volunteers

Choctaw Electric employees Brad Kendrick, Chrystal Winship, CEC Trustee Jana Burris, and Bart Tedder at the 2023 Oklahoma Special Olympic Games held in May in Stillwater. Oklahoma's electric co-ops have provided volunteer support for Special Olympics for more than 30 years. Co-op volunteers help with all aspects of the event including assisting athletes to the field, timing events, organizing supplies, serving water and other refreshments, and providing an all-important cheering section for athletes as they compete.

Choctaw Electric is proud to support the Oklahoma Special Olympics and grateful to our employee-volunteers who help make this event so inspiring. Thank you!



## Linemen Honored at State Capitol

In celebration of five completed international electrification projects, Oklahoma lawmakers recognized the electric cooperative linemen involved in the projects on the floor and gallery at the State House of Representatives and the State Senate. For their work in electrifying remote villages in Bolivia and Guatemala, the linemen, including Choctaw Electric's Darren Frazier, received a citation signed by Governor Kevin Stitt and lawmakers at the State Capitol.

Congratulations, Darren Frazier, for your recent honors. Your work is changing lives and we are proud of you!



A little effort goes a long way.

# HELP CEC OFFSET PEAK ENERGY DEMAND

Help conserve energy and reduce your electric bill by lowering your energy use during peak usage periods from 3 pm until 7 pm. Making small changes can help your electric co-op even out peaks in energy use that affect your rates.

Making small changes can help you save on your electric bills, decrease chances of future rate increases, and ease the strain on the power grid.

You can help by making these energy use adjustments during the summer:



FROM 3:00 p.m. - 7 p.m.

- Turn up thermostat and use fans to cool the air.
- Use countertop appliances or a microwave instead of the oven.
- Run the washing machine and dishwasher during off-peak hours.
- Hold off on showering until after 7 pm.
- Turn off all non-essential pumps and motors.
- Turn off and disconnect electronics not in use.
- Turn off lights.