



**2** Improving Reliability



**3** Mind The Peak



**4** Cucumber Pasta Salad

# inside *your* co-op

Published for members of Choctaw Electric Cooperative



## Future Lineman

A McCurtain County sixth grader gets a feel for life on the line during the COPS/McCurtain County Career Day at Beaver's Bend State Park. CEC linemen and other staff helped with the event on May 2 by presenting programs on electrical safety and chatting with students about careers with their local co-op. CEC linemen explained the dangers involved in their job and allowed students to strap on some of the gear they wear on a daily basis. PHOTO/JIA JOHNSON,CEC.

■ TOP STORY

## New Home or Building in Your Future?

Please Check With CEC *Before* You Begin.

**A**re you planning to build a new home or locate a new barn or building on your property? If so, it's important that you visit with your Choctaw Electric team before you begin.

The National Electric Safety Code sets minimum clearance distances between power lines and obstructions such as storage buildings, barns, sheds, and swimming pools. Choctaw Electric will schedule an on-site visit before you begin to ensure your building is located at a safe distance from power lines and electrical equipment. Buildings that are not located properly may have to be moved, adding expense and delays to your project.

If you're planning a major building renovation or add-on, the added power requirements may require a larger transformer than what is currently serving your property. Choctaw Electric is happy to install the equipment you need so that you and your neighbors can avoid blown transformers and service interruptions.

Be sure to notify the co-op at least 30 days before you plan to begin. Remember, a new barn, home or building must be properly sited to ensure safety for you, your family, and co-op crews who may need to work on the lines on your property.

Visiting with Choctaw Electric beforehand prevents frustration and last minute problems. Your cooperation is appreciated. 📞

To discuss your project, please call the Choctaw Electric engineering department at **800-780-6486**. Remember to call at least 30 days prior to the construction date.



### The Code For Safety

The National Electrical Safety Code requires buildings and other structures to be located a specific distance from power lines. An unsafe situation due to purposeful violation of the code could prevent CEC crews from repairing lines on your property. Stay safe: Check with CEC before you begin to build.

MANAGER'S REPORT

# Improving Reliability

Members can help by reporting sagging lines or other problems

Electric utilities would love to promise a future without power outages. While the advance of technology has drastically lowered the number and duration of power outages, a world without lightning, wind, ice, falling trees and squirrels bouncing across the lines is unlikely.

At Choctaw Electric Cooperative (CEC), reliability—and the efforts to improve it—remain a top priority. CEC employees and staff are working hard to improve our reliability and reduce our outage time. Doing that requires extensive and ongoing right-of-way clearing and equipment inspections.

Still, outages can and do occur. With 3,615 miles of line to maintain and thousands of electronic and mechanical devices that can fail, outage-free service isn't something CEC, or any other electric utility, can guarantee.

What we do promise is preventing and minimizing outages will remain a top priority. As a co-op member, you can help us in this effort by reporting sagging lines, limbs in the line, arcing, sparking, or anything else that seems off. A member who called us recently to report a problem helped us avoid a major power outage at one of our large commercial accounts. Your eyes in the field make a difference.

If you spot something, call CEC at (800) 780-6486, or submit your report on SmartHub. If possible, please provide the six digit number on the

pole, a home address, or the best possible description of the area where the problem is located. Our linemen may need to call you for more details, so a call back number is also helpful.

When the power goes out, CEC crews immediately begin trying to locate the cause of the problem. Information provided by our members helps us narrow down the possibilities. Without power flowing around the line or through our devices, it can be difficult to identify the cause of the problem because our equipment may appear to be in normal working order. That's why you may notice your power coming on for a short period of time, only to shut off again. That means the linemen are working to isolate the source of the problem.

A final word on outages: Please don't rely on your neighbor to report the outage. It's important that every member reports the problem, whether by phone or SmartHub, so we can assess the size and scope of the outage. <sup>tn</sup>



BY KOONEY DUNCAN  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**Lucky Acct #38855662**

**(\$25)** 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, 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](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*

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ENERGY WISE

## Watch The Peak

Summer's arrival means AC's will be working overtime. As a result, you will use more kilowatts, which will cause your electric bill to go up.



When usage spikes occur system-wide, the added electricity use causes an increase in demand, which can result in a higher wholesale power bill for CEC.

In Oklahoma, peak energy use typically occurs on hot days when co-op members get home from work, flip on the AC, and use a lot of electricity at once.

When a critical peak is called by Choctaw Electric's power supplier, the co-op will issue a peak alert to remind you to reduce your electricity use. Watch for our peak alerts on Facebook or sign up for alerts via SmartHub.

In the meantime, remember to mind your usage from 4 pm-7 pm daily. It makes a difference.

### COUNT DOWN TO ANNUAL MEETING:

## Remember These Dates!

- ▶ **July 1**  
Bylaw revisions due at CEC Hugo. Attorney opinion due 30 days upon receipt of the proposed amendment.
- ▶ **July 30**  
Candidate filing for Dist. A, H, and I due by 5 pm at CEC in Hugo.
- ▶ **August 14**  
Second revision of proposed bylaw amendments due at CEC Hugo.
- ▶ **August 29**  
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



## THE HOME

# Energy DETECTIVE

By Brad Kendrick, CEC Energy Use Specialist

Often, I visit cabins where electrical usage has been high. On arrival, I find the fan setting on the thermostat is set to "ON." That causes it to run continuously and add to your electric bill. Leave the thermostat on AUTO so the fan cycles on and off as needed.

Sometimes a unit runs continually even when turned off. When that happens, call a heat and air technician as soon as possible or pay the consequences when your bill arrives. Prevent needless usage from adding up by downloading the CEC SmartHub app. The app allows you to monitor your usage daily and notice when it is unusually high.

Installing wi-fi thermostats also helps control usage while you're away. One last tip: Before we enter the heart of summer, have your unit serviced and change all filters to ensure the most efficient operation.

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.

### Storm Center

CEC's online storm center explains how power is restored, provides links for reporting an outage, and offers a live outage map so you can track the restoration process in action.



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

## 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



## \$1.3 Million For Schools

### ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE GROSS RECEIPTS TAX

In Oklahoma, electric co-ops pay gross receipts taxes in lieu of ad valorem taxes. Ninety-five percent of funds collected are distributed to rural schools based on the miles of co-op line within a school district. The remaining five percent

is retained by the Oklahoma Tax Commission. The table below shows the distributions of taxes collected in 2018 by Choctaw Electric Cooperative (CEC) and Western Farmers Electric Cooperative (WFEC).

SCHOOL	CEC	WFEC	TOTAL
Lane	\$29,351.44	\$42,704.28	\$72,055.72
Bennington	\$1,889.03	\$23,025.50	\$24,914.53
Swink	\$4,594.41	\$20,133.93	\$24,728.34
Boswell	\$20,321.80	\$30,656.05	\$50,977.85
Ft. Towson	\$43,773.29	\$76,921.25	\$120,694.54
Soper	\$32,356.83	\$22,730.99	\$55,087.82
Hugo	\$79,909.52	\$50,736.43	\$130,645.95
Whitesboro	\$2,230.38		\$2,230.38
Forest Grove	\$15,714.75	\$21,044.24	\$36,758.99
Lukfata	\$15,602.74	\$10,334.70	\$25,937.44
Glover	\$13,198.89		\$13,198.89
Denison	\$11,609.93	\$19,491.36	\$31,101.29
Holly Creek	\$13,846.18	\$10,789.86	\$24,636.04
Idabel	\$34,000.06	\$12,985.31	\$46,985.37
Haworth	\$63,453.01	\$2,088.36	\$65,541.37
Valliant	\$48,898.77	\$59,250.51	\$108,149.28
Eagletown	\$20,502.22	\$562.25	\$21,064.47
Smithville	\$44,615.51		\$44,615.51
Wright City	\$22,582.17		\$22,582.17
Battiest	\$51,707.28	\$9,558.26	\$61,265.54
Broken Bow	\$64,168.03	\$62,624.02	\$126,792.05
Nahsoba	\$17,540.74		\$17,540.74
Rattan	\$66,272.51	\$24,471.29	\$90,743.80
Clayton	\$13,333.47		\$13,333.47
Antlers	\$84,876.70	\$47,255.83	\$132,132.53
Moyers	\$27,398.39		\$27,398.39
Hodgen		\$3,748.34	\$3,748.34
Nashoba		\$214.19	\$214.19
Tuskahoma		\$321.29	\$321.29
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$843,748.05</b>	<b>\$551,648.24</b>	<b>\$1,395,396.29</b>

## 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