



inside *your* co-op

Published for members of Choctaw Electric Cooperative



Hochatown resident Charles Wilson (left) talks shop with CEC staff. PHOTO/JIA JOHNSON

TOP STORY

Focusing On Hochatown Needs

CEC seeks input from members at recent meeting

Log cabins are popping up like pine trees in Hochatown. Over the past two years, Choctaw Electric Cooperative (CEC) installed services to 500 lots in and around the community. The rapid growth prompted CEC to choose Hochatown to kick off a series of member focus groups that aim to educate members and get them talking about what they need from their electric co-op.

Despite poor attendance, co-op employees forged ahead with their goal. Chuck Wilson, owner of Sundowner Cabins and area developer provided his perspective as a real estate owner. With the increased activity, CEO Kooney Duncan asked what the co-op can do to make things easier for local builders.

Wilson praised CEC's decision to hire contract crews to install underground service. "It's been hectic with all the building going on," he said, adding that CEC field and office staff have

responded in a professional manner when called upon.

As demand increases, Duncan suggested some cabin owners may want to consider installing EV charging stations to appeal to the growing number of EV drivers from Dallas and Oklahoma City. He also recommended builders contact the co-op prior for energy efficiency tips. "The key is building an efficient home to save energy," Duncan said.

Another tool, SmartHub, allows owners of multiple cabins to track daily and hourly usage for their units, which helps pinpoint problems early on. "That's very handy," said Wilson. "Cabin owners can use that as a weekly maintenance tool."

Cabin owners and developers are encouraged to contact CEC to learn about helpful services at **800-780-6486**. More focus groups will be held this spring. Watch your newsletter for details! 📧

MONTHLY GENERATION REPORT

Western Farmers Electric Cooperative (WFEC) is CEC's wholesale power provider. The figures below represent WFEC's generation mix in December 2018, with 43 percent coming from renewables.



34%
wind



5%
natural gas



52%
coal



8%
hydro



1%
solar

SOURCE: WFEC GENERATION DATA

■ **MANAGER'S REPORT**

Your Perspective Matters

Let us hear from you.

One thing we learn in our dealings with others as we get older is there are a lot of sides to every problem. If we take time to listen, very often others can help us see a situation from a different perspective. The ability to consider more sides than our own is particularly crucial if we care about building consensus. It's important for your electric co-op, too.

"..when developing programs or trying to resolve problems, we need to know what the majority of our members think."

Choctaw Electric has roughly 18,000-plus members spread across six counties. Some of our members let us know lickety-split when they think we're veering off track. Others are perfectly content, while some simply don't give the co-op that much thought. The different viewpoints are understandable, given the large number of individuals we serve; however, when developing programs or improving services, we need to know what the majority of our members think. What works for some, may not work for all.

In the coming months you may hear about a CEC focus group taking place in your area. Our goal with these meetings is to encourage members to speak up, tell us what they need, help us target

areas in need of improvement, and share suggestions. Most members know I believe in communicating. My door is always open, I take all calls, and I respond to email, too. Same is true for your co-op staff. The focus group meetings are an extension of this policy, but this time we're coming to you.

We realize that consumers needs evolve and change, and the role of your electric co-op must change along with it. In the beginning, we provided one thing—electricity. Today, co-ops are branching out into a number of other services. Because the co-op business model is meant to serve the needs of its members and communities, a co-op may find itself doing things it never dreamed of when it strung those first wires. It's one of the great things about co-ops, but it begins at the roots, with members.

Seventy-five years ago, Choctaw Electric played a vital role in energizing this area. It continues to do the same today, but we do the job most effectively when we're in tune with local needs. That means we need and appreciate input from our members. Your perspective is important to us. Please share it. 🐾



BY KOONEY DUNCAN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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.

Lucky Acct # 38857379

(\$75) If this account number belongs to you, contact CEC by the 10th of the month to claim your \$75 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.

Choctaw Electric Cooperative

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

HUGO OFFICE

PO Box 758
Hwy 93 North
Hugo, Oklahoma 74743

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

Monday-Friday • 8 am - 5 pm

IDABEL OFFICE

2114 SE Washington
Idabel, Oklahoma 74745

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

Monday-Friday • 8 am - 5 pm

ANTLERS OFFICE

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

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

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On the Web:
www.choctawelectric.coop



24 Hour Outage Hotline

800-780-6486

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■ CO-OP YOUTH

Kilowatt Kid's Camp Adds New Division

Kindergarten through sixth grade can enjoy the fun

Choctaw Electric's popular summer day camp for kids just got better: This summer, Kilowatt Kid's Camp will add a new division for older children from fourth grade to sixth grade. Camp coordinators say the camp's popularity among parents and children prompted them to consider broadening their scope.

"We will offer different activities that appeal to the older age group, but the focus will remain on educating kids about energy and keeping them safe," says Jia Johnson, CEC director of member and public relations.

Kilowatt Kid's Camp invites kids to Choctaw Electric in Idabel and Hugo for a half day of hands-on activities and games, plus snacks and refreshments. The camp is free for all participants.

Camp is scheduled for June 4 in Hugo, and June 6 in Idabel. CEC will offer two camp sessions each day. Kindergarten through



third grade will attend camp from 8:30 am until 11 am; fourth through sixth grade students will attend from 1 pm to 3 pm.

Find enrollment forms and other details on Kilowatt Kid's Camp at www.choctawelectric.coop, or call Jia Johnson or Brad Kendrick at 800-780-6486.



THE HOME

Energy DETECTIVE

By Brad Kendrick, CEC Energy Use Specialist

If you're using a space heater to keep your well pump from freezing, be careful! When the weather warms, it's easy to forget the heater is still operating in your well house—until your electric bill arrives. I've visited several homes with high bills and found a space heater running in the well shed on a 60° day, causing a \$100-plus increase on their bill. Remember when the weather is above freezing unplug those space heaters or consider other heating options.

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.

You're the guest of honor at

CEC Member Appreciation Days

April 10, Hugo | April 11, Antlers | April 12, Idabel

10 am until 2 pm

Three afternoons, three events, in three convenient locations. Join us for one or attend all three! Enjoy free hot dogs, chips, drinks and dessert, plus bill credits and other prize giveaways. Get a free wellness check with blood pressure and glucose monitoring, and don't miss the electric vehicle display. It's our way of saying thanks for your support. You are appreciated!



We hope
to see you
there!

Classified Ads.

Got something you need to sell? We've added a free classified ad section to our website. Ads must be 50 words or less, no commercial or business ads, please. Submit your ad via email to customersupport@choctawelectric.coop, or mail to: CEC/Attn Ads, PO Box 758, Hugo, OK 74743. Find the ad section under the Member Services tab at www.choctawelectric.coop.





Time To Renew Your CPR Certification?

CEC offers free CPR classes for nonprofit groups

For organizations such as fire departments, lifesaving skills are critical to their ability to respond to emergencies. Choctaw Electric offers CPR training for nonprofit organizations, fire departments and other groups that must keep their CPR certification up to date.

If it's time for you to renew your CPR certificate, please contact Guy Dale at Choctaw Electric to schedule a course at **800-760-6486**, ext. 227.

We're working with you to build healthy communities!

RECIPES



Irresistible Irish Soda Bread

INGREDIENTS

- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1/3 cup white sugar
- 1 teaspoon salt 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- 2 cups buttermilk
- 1/4 cup butter, melted

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease a 9x5 inch loaf pan. Combine flour, baking powder, sugar, salt and baking soda. Blend egg and buttermilk together, and add all at once to the flour mixture. Mix just until moistened. Stir in butter. Pour into prepared pan. Bake for 65 to 70 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in the bread comes out clean. Cool on a wire rack. Wrap in foil for several hours, or overnight, for best flavor.

Source: allrecipes.com



Many Ways to Pay

Choose the most convenient method for you!

- Pay online using SmartHub at www.choctawelectric.coop.
- Pay by phone 24 hours a day using a major credit card at **800-780-6486**.
- Pay via smart phone, iPad or tablet using our SmartHub mobile app. Download the free app at www.choctawelectric.coop.
- Pay in person or use CEC's drive-through drop box, available 24/7.

Or use our Pay Site kiosk at one of the following locations:

Save A Lot Grocery, Hugo.

OPEN: MON.-SAT. 7:30 AM - 9 PM;
SUN. 9 AM - 8 PM

Country Market, Clayton.

OPEN: 6 AM - 10 PM, 7 DAYS/WK

**Choctaw Travel Plazas, 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-5:00 PM

Pruett's Food, Atoka

OPEN: MON. - SAT., 7 AM - 9 PM; SUN. 8 AM - 7 PM