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inside *your* co-op

Published for members of Choctaw Electric Cooperative

TOP STORY

New Program For CEC Members Can Lower Home Energy Costs

Sign up for a free home energy audit before summer arrives

Summer is coming, and with it is increased energy use. How serious are you about getting a handle on your home energy costs? Are you serious enough to have a professional take a close look at how your home uses energy?

During the month of May only, Choctaw Electric Cooperative (CEC) is offering members the chance to receive a whole-home energy audit performed by Precision Building Performance. The audit is free for CEC members.

The audit will include the following:

- A thorough inspection of your ducts for possible leaks where you may be losing energy.

- An inspection of your attic to make sure your insulation is installed properly and applied evenly.
- A professional blower door test to detect air leaks in your home. To conduct the test, the auditor closes the windows and doors, and uses a blower door machine to depressurize the home.

According CEC Energy Use Specialist Brad Kendrick, the audit is extremely thorough and will examine your home from top to bottom. Once complete, members receive a detailed list of audit findings, along with suggestions on what they can do to improve their home's energy efficiency. Each suggestion includes an estimation of the potential savings gained. By addressing some of issues located in the audit, CEC members could save from five to 30 percent on home energy costs.

Members must own a traditional built home with a crawl space or concrete foundation to gain the audit's full benefit. To find out if you qualify, or to schedule an energy audit, please call CEC at **800-760-6486**.



Members' Appreciated

CEC Member Appreciation Days welcomed co-op members at CEC locations in Hugo, Antlers and Idabel for an afternoon of free hot dogs, entertainment, visiting, and just plain fun. Members who attended also enjoyed the chance to see an electric car (EV), and learn more about their benefits. Members also received free blood pressure and glucose checks. Be sure to visit CEC's Facebook page for more photos of our events. Thanks to all the members who joined us. We appreciate you!

Holiday Hours

Choctaw Electric Cooperative (CEC) will close on **Monday, May 27, 2019**, in observation of Memorial Day. To report a power outage during this time, please call **800-780-6486**, or report your outage using Smarthub.

From all of us at CEC, please have a safe holiday!

Did You Know?

You could save 5 to 30 percent on your energy bill by making efficiency upgrades identified in your energy audit.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Safety Is Non-Negotiable

At CEC, every month is Electrical Safety Month

May is recognized as National Electrical Safety Month, but when you're in the business of providing electricity, every month is electrical safety month.

At Choctaw Electric, we beat the safety drum for good reason: The electricity we deliver that brings us hot water, lights, TV, comfortable homes and so much more, also has the potential to cause significant injuries and deaths. Electricity is part of our lives almost every moment of every day; it's also an energy force that deserves and demands our respect.

As manager of Choctaw Electric Cooperative (CEC), the safety and well being of co-op employees, members and the general public is extremely serious to me. Your trustees, too, make safety a top priority. Every month, they carefully review CEC's safety report and reiterate the importance of safety at every meeting.

While electric utilities have greatly improved their safety record over the years, we realize there is little margin for error in this business. The necessity of training, rigorous protocol, and improved equipment are non-negotiable. We don't cut corners when it comes to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of our employees, our members, or the general public. To do that would be like putting a price on the value of human life.

Recently, CEC joined the nationwide Commitment to Zero Contacts. Established by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange, this program provides resources to help co-ops reduce injuries and deaths due to contact with electricity. As part of the pledge, CEC commits to work practices such as using life saving rules; wearing proper safety equipment; practicing established safety rules for clearance; slowing down and thinking through each job; and speaking up and refusing to accept any shortcut to safe work.

Yes, all of the above are practices we already emphasize at CEC. Our team also attends monthly meetings at our statewide association that emphasize safety skills. But the pledge gives all of this renewed emphasis. These and scores of other proven safety practices can never grow dull in the minds of those who work with electricity. We will keep hammering the safety message because keeping people alive and well is a never-ending concern.



BY KOONEY DUNCAN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Lucky Acct #31034401

(\$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.

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



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

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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*

MEMBER MATTERS

Annual Meeting Preparation: Remember These Dates

For electric cooperative members, the annual meeting is the “main event.” The meeting, as well as the events leading up to it, give members the opportunity to vote and participate in the business of their co-op. For Choctaw Electric Cooperative members, that big day is Saturday, September 28, 2019.

This year, the CEC Annual Meeting will be held inside the Hugo Agriplex, which is located at the Choctaw County Fairgrounds. The facility offers air conditioning and better acoustics so it will be easier for members to hear speakers.

Vendors who are interested in displaying goods or information at the meeting should reserve a booth by filling out the form (below) and returning it to CEC by September 20, 2019. Last year, 85 vendors reserved spots for the meeting,

▶ **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 28**

CEC Annual Meeting, Hugo Agriplex

If you have questions about the CEC Annual Meeting, booth reservations, or elections, please contact your cooperative at 800-780-6496.



THE HOME

Energy DETECTIVE

By Brad Kendrick, CEC Energy Use Specialist

Spring has sprung, which means it's time to clean your HVAC unit. Often when I visit homes, I find HVAC unit filters are dirty and haven't been replaced in months. Clogged coils and dirty air filters restrict air flow. Have your system serviced and cleaned before summer sets in. It will help with your cooling bills, and your home's comfort level. Remember to change your filters monthly. Also, check to make sure you are getting good airflow at each register and return vent. One final tip: Keep your thermostat fan setting to “Auto” so it is not running continuously. By doing a little, you can save you a lot.

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.

NEWS FLASH:

2019 YOUTH TOUR And The Winners Are...

The following teens will represent Choctaw Electric on the 2019 Youth Tour:

Dillon Bodine, Antlers High School
Mahala Battiast, Wright City High School
Alaura Gilmore, Antlers High School

Please watch your newsletter for photos of our winners in Washington, D.C. *Congratulations!*

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



CEC Kilowatt Kid's Camp

Hugo | June 4

Idabel | June 6

CEC's Kilowatt Kid's Camp offers a fun, educational experience for kids in two age divisions: first through third grade, and fourth through sixth grade. Campers spend the morning making crafts and playing games that teach them valuable lessons about how to stay safe around electricity. Kids also learn why it's important to turn out the lights when they leave a room and practice other energy wise behaviors.

CEC is currently enrolling students for our half-day camps in Hugo and Idabel. The camp is free and includes all snacks and camp activities. To enroll, please fill out the form below and return it CEC by May 31, 2019. For more information, please call Jia Johnson or Brad Kendrick at **800-780-6486**, ext. 241.

2019 KILOWATT KID'S CAMP ENROLLMENT FORM

Student Name (Print): _____

Age: _____ Grade: _____

Parent Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Home Tele: _____ Work Tele: _____

Cell: _____

Allergies: _____

Medications: _____

T-shirt Size (Circle): Youth XS (4-6) | Youth S (6-8) | Youth M (8-10)
Youth L (10-12) | Adult S | Adult M | Adult L

Emergency Contact: _____

Home Tele: _____ Cell: _____

Camp (Please circle):

Hugo Camp | June 4

Idabel Camp | June 6

1st-3rd grade: 8:30 am to 11 am

1st-3rd grade: 8:30 am to 11 am

4th-6th grade: 1 pm -3 pm

4th-6th grade: 1 pm -3 pm

Mail enrollment form by May 31, 2019 to:

Jia Johnson or Brad Kendrick/ CEC/ PO Box 758/Hugo, OK 74743

RECIPES



Asparagus Side Dish

INGREDIENTS

- 1 bunch fresh asparagus, trimmed
- 2/3 cup water
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 10 grape tomatoes, halved

DIRECTIONS

Combine the asparagus and water in a 10 inch skillet and place over medium heat; cover. Allow the asparagus to steam until tender, about 10 minutes; drain. Reduce heat to low and return the skillet to the heat. Drizzle olive oil over the asparagus; sprinkle with Parmesan cheese. Add the grape tomatoes to the skillet and replace the lid. Allow to sit covered until the cheese melts and the tomatoes are slightly steamed, about 2 minutes.

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

