



inside your co-op

For members of Choctaw Electric Cooperative | JUNE 2025

Electrification Changed Everything

Phillip Julian recalls the impact of electricity on his family's farm

For Phillip Julian, the arrival of electricity on his family's farm in 1952 changed everything.

Born in 1947, Phillip grew up northwest of Valliant, in a house his father and uncle built by hand using timber they cut and dried themselves. Their home was one of the first in the area to receive power from Choctaw Electric Cooperative.

"I was five when the lights came on," Phillip says. "It changed our lives."

He recalls his uncle, a handyman, wiring a simple light socket with two twisted wires and a button switch. One of the first post-electricity upgrades was a pump that drew water from the backyard well. Soon after, the family installed indoor plumbing and added a bathroom.

Another early addition was a GE upright deep freezer. "Momma kept it

packed full of vegetables and fruits," he says. "It never did go out, but when it was 32 years old, they were afraid it might—so they bought a new one."

By the mid-1950s, the family had a black-and-white TV, and by the early '60s, air conditioning. Before A/C, he remembers sitting on the big concrete front porch, shelling peas and beans while neighbors dropped by to visit. "When it was hot, you just toughed it out."

Perhaps electrification's biggest impact was on the farm. In 1955, the Julians expanded from growing peanuts into the dairy business. Phillip helped as they milked more than 100 Holsteins every day—at 4 a.m. and 4 p.m. His family depended on electricity for their milking machines, vacuum pumps, and for run-



Phillip Julian

ning water to clean the barn and equipment. Phillip remembers one stormy day when the power went out before the evening milking. "The cows were very uncomfortable by the time the electricity came back on around midnight," he says.

The family sold the dairy in 1965, but the old barn still stands—as does the original home where the lights first came on. Today, Phillip lives just down the road, a firsthand witness to the way rural electrification reshaped farm life and transformed communities.



The original dairy barn still stands on the former Julian family farm.

Choctaw Electric Cooperative

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

CONNECT WITH US

Monday-Friday | 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

24 Hour Outage Line

(800) 780-6486

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Hugo, OK 74743

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Cooperatives Build a Better World

The United Nations has declared 2025 the International Year of Cooperatives under the theme “Cooperatives Build a Better World.” It’s a fitting message as we at Choctaw Electric Cooperative mark 85 years of service—because building a better world has always been at the heart of what electric cooperatives do.

When CEC was founded in 1940, it was to meet a need others wouldn’t—bringing electricity to rural farms and homes. What began as a hopeful dream has grown into a powerful driver of local development, economic resilience and community connection. Our members didn’t just gain access to electricity—they gained opportunity.

Eighty-five years later, electricity is more essential than ever. From powering homes and businesses to supporting growing technologies like artificial intelligence, the demand continues to rise. Reliable electricity is central to everything. Choctaw Electric Cooperative—and other electric cooperatives—have risen to the occasion, expanding our system, improving reliability and adapting to meet the needs of a rapid-

ly changing world.

The co-op model remains as relevant today as it was eight decades ago. As a not-for-profit, member-owned utility, the revenue we generate doesn’t go to distant investors. It stays here. We support local jobs, partner with local contractors and reinvest in the communities we serve. Not only do we power homes and businesses, we help sustain the livelihoods of the people who live here.



CEO Kooney Duncan

Looking back, it’s hard not to feel proud of what we’ve built together. Our founding members couldn’t have predicted today’s complexities, but we believe they’d be proud, too. We’ve honored their vision, weathered challenges and continued to improve the systems that keep our communities running.

As we celebrate the International Year of Cooperatives and our 85th anniversary, we remain committed to what’s always set us apart—serving with purpose, staying rooted in community and building a better world for the generations to come.



International Year of Cooperatives



CHOCTAW
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Cooperatives Build a Better World

Annual Meeting 2025

September 27 | 8 a.m.

Pushmataha County Fairgrounds, Antlers

Other Notable Dates

June 27

Proposed bylaw amendments due at CEC by 5 p.m.

July 29

Trustee candidate filing for CEC Districts A, H, & I due at CEC by 5 p.m.

August 13

Revisions due to proposed amendments

August 28-September 2

Mail-in ballots delivered to members

2025 Annual Meeting Vendor Booth Reservation Form

Saturday, September 27, 2025 | Pushmataha County Fairgrounds

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 must bring their own tables, chairs and electrical cords. **Deadline to reserve booth: September 19, 2025**

Send booth reservation form to: Jia Johnson

Choctaw Electric Cooperative | PO Box 758, Hugo, OK 74743

Office Closure

Choctaw Electric Cooperative's offices will be closed Friday, July 4, in celebration of Independence Day. In case of an outage, please call our 24-hour outage line.

Go Paperless!

Sign up for paperless billing via the SmartHub app or call Choctaw Electric Cooperative at 800-780-6486. One lucky member will win two CEC T-shirts and two CEC caps.

Help Us Preserve Our Legacy

This year, Choctaw Electric Cooperative is celebrating 85 years of service. We're marking this milestone with a special project to preserve the co-op's rich history. The project will gather, organize and digitize a collection of photos and memorabilia that tell the story of CEC and the communities we serve. To contribute stories, photos, recipes or other memorabilia, please contact Jia Johnson at 800-780-6486, ext. 241.

Grill Out for Summer Savings

Take advantage of the warmer weather to reduce home energy use. Avoid using your oven and use a grill instead. Not only will cooking outdoors eliminate the electricity used to power the stove, but it will also avoid raising the temperature inside your home, reducing the need for additional air conditioning. You can also avoid using the oven with tasty no-bake recipes. Get creative in the kitchen and explore new ways to save energy! *Source: energy.gov*

Lucky Acct #25753700

If this is your account number, please contact CEC at 800-780-6486, ext. 241 by the 5th of the month to claim your \$25 bill credit. Unclaimed bill credits roll over each month by \$25 for a maximum credit of \$100.

you *th* *Tour* bound!



Choctaw Electric Cooperative Youth Tour delegates are headed to Washington, D.C. this month! Ella Herron (left), Chloe Farley (center) and Brooke Burrage (right) will represent CEC, June 13–19. Safe travels, students!



Buddy Ball is Back

Grab your glove and meet us on the diamond this fall—Buddy Ball returns October 18, 2025!

This free, non-competitive game is designed for children through adults with physical, intellectual or developmental disabilities. It's all about fun, friendship and the joy of the game. Athletes build confidence, learn teamwork and make lasting connections—all while playing ball in a safe, supportive environment.

Contact Jia Johnson or Brad Kendrick at 800-780-6486, ext. 241, for more information or to volunteer. Let's play ball!

Independence Day No-Bake Delight

Ingredients

- 2 boxes instant vanilla pudding
- 3 cups whole milk
- 2 tablespoons vanilla extract
- 8 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 16 ounces cool whip
- 1 box graham crackers, crushed
- 1/4 cup of brown sugar
- 3 tablespoons butter, softened
- Pinch of salt
- Strawberries, blueberries and blackberries

Instructions: For the pudding layer, combine pudding mix, milk and 1

tablespoon of vanilla in a medium bowl; chill. For the cream cheese layer, combine cream cheese, 1 tablespoon vanilla and powdered sugar in a large bowl and beat with an electric mixer until combined. Fold in half of the cool whip. For the crust, combine finely crushed graham crackers, brown sugar, butter and salt and press into the bottom of a 9-by-13-inch pan. Layer the cream cheese on top of the crust, followed by the pudding. Top with the remaining cool whip. Garnish with berries. Chill and serve.

- CEC Member Kallie Clifton



Watch the preparation!

Visit choctawelectric.net, starting July 1, to watch Kallie prepare the recipe.

