

the Kilowatt

FEBRUARY 2008

published monthly for members of
Kiwash Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A SUPPLEMENT TO OKLAHOMA LIVING

SAVE MONEY—
use your Co-op Connections!

- TIME TO TRIM TREES
- BUDGET BILLING
- AVOID A RIP-OFF

READ ABOUT IT—
INSIDE THIS ISSUE!



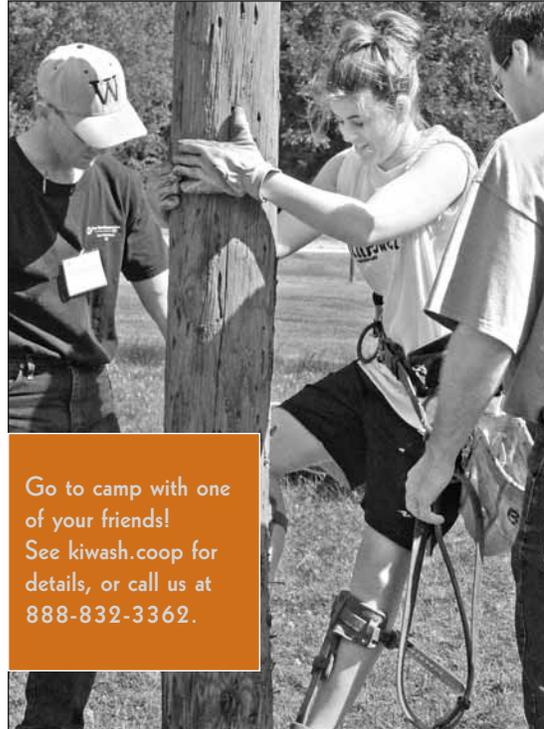
■ *An opportunity for teens*

Energy Camp for eighth graders

If your teenager craves summer fun, Kiwash Electric Cooperative (KEC) offers the perfect adventure. This year, KEC will select two eighth grade students to attend Oklahoma's YouthPower Energy Camp. The four-day camp for kids will take place May 27th - 30th in the scenic Red Rock Canyon near Hinton.

To be eligible, students will be asked to form a two-person team with a classmate. Each team will write a short essay on a cooperative topic. The team with the best essay wins the trip to Energy Camp— all-expenses paid.

Sponsored by the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives (OAEC), Energy Camp helps teens understand how cooperatives work. Campers form their own co-op, elect board members, hire a general manager and vote on bylaws. A tour of a nearby electric generating plant teaches teens how power is delivered to their homes, and a pole climbing demonstration reveals the more labor



Go to camp with one of your friends!
See kiwash.coop for details, or call us at 888-832-3362.

intensive side of the utility business. Of course, there's plenty of time for swimming, hiking, volleyball, and other fun games and activities.

You'll find more information on Energy Camp at kiwash.coop, oaec.coop, or call Lisa Willard, KEC director of communications, at 888-832-3362.



**ENERGY
EFFICIENCY**

*Tip of
the Month*

Water heating uses about 85 percent of the energy consumed by your washing machine. Save money on water heating by using the smallest amount of water and washing your clothes on the coolest temperature recommended for each load.



**BILL PAYMENT
LOCATIONS**

Kiwash Electric
120 W. 1st Street
Cordell, Oklahoma

Custer City Hall
Custer City, Oklahoma

First National Bank
Thomas, Oklahoma

New Year, New Look

From time to time, every publication could use a makeover—and this includes your monthly co-op newsletter. After many years of publishing, Kiwash Electric is pleased to introduce the 'new' *Kilowatt*.

You'll notice the change in nameplate, layout, typeface and color, plus we've added a few more graphics and photos.

The *Kilowatt* will continue to bring you information on co-op issues, member services, energy saving tips and other topics you find useful. We hope the new design will keep you informed—and keep you reading!



A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

KIASH ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Office Location

PO Box 100
120 W. 1st Street
Cordell, Oklahoma
(888) 832-3362
www.kiash.coop

STAFF

Dennis Krueger
MANAGER

Gene Smith
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

Lisa Willard
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Roy Dewees
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

OFFICERS

Stan Funkhouser
PRESIDENT

Jack Sawatzky
VICE PRESIDENT

Virginia Walker
SECRETARY-TREASURER

Robert Travis
ASST. SEC.-TREASURER

DIRECTORS

Ralph Cunningham

Jonathan Bartel

Leslie Hinds

Louis Fariss



INSIDE YOUR CO-OP

Trees are great—until they grow into power lines.

Wonderful poets like E.E. Cummings, Kathleen Lohr, and Robert Frost wrote elegant poems about stately and majestic trees. As thought provoking as these dreamy poems are to read, the reality is trees can be both helpful and hazardous.

Tall deciduous or leaf shedding trees planted on the south and west sides of your home will shade your house in the summer, while allowing the sun to shine in windows during the winter. Properly placed trees not only enhance the comfort of your home, according to the Department of Energy, they can reduce energy consumption by 25 percent.



By Dennis Krueger
GENERAL MANAGER

When planting a tree, remember to locate it at least 25 feet from overhead power lines. This allows room for future growth and full development of foliage. Trees located near or under power lines are a safety hazard that could halt the flow of electricity to you and your neighbors.

During a wind or ice storm, trees limbs tend to fall across electric lines and cause outages by breaking lines or shorting circuits. Ice-laden trees caused major outages along the Kiwash Electric system in 2001 and 2002. They also contributed to the severity of the

December 2007 ice storm in central and eastern Oklahoma, and played a role in at least one near fatal accident.

According to television news reports, an Oklahoma City resident suffered severe shock as he trimmed ice covered limbs near downed lines while standing in soggy soil. Luckily, he lived to tell about it, but his doctors could not believe he survived.

To lessen the impact of severe storms and ensure safety for our members and employees, Kiwash must maintain its right of way. In February, Kiwash Electric and Wolf Tree Expert Company crews will begin the process of trimming and removing trees that interfere with electric lines. This includes trimming limbs on trees located outside of the right of way; limbs that could pose a problem to your electric service.

As work proceeds throughout 2008, we plan to work closely with landowners and tenants. If you have questions or concerns about the process, please give the Kiwash operations department a call at 888-832-3362.

Remember, maintaining the right of way is absolutely necessary to protect the public and ensure reliable electric service. Your cooperation and indulgence are appreciated.



If you plan on planting trees this spring...

Be sure dig your hole at least 25 feet from all power lines. Remember, the small seedling you plant today could grow into a giant! If you must plant near lines, consider planting smaller types of trees and shrubs. Before you purchase a tree, it's a good idea to read the planting instructions to determine the tree's mature height and width.

SUPER SERVICES

Use your Co-op Connections



■ *Save on pharmaceuticals, tires, pizza and more!*

Why pay more for goods and services? Your Kiwash

Electric Co-op Connections™ card offers many ways for you to save money—and support your local southwest Oklahoma merchants.

Kiwash Electric Co-op Connections cards provide discounts of 10, 15, 25 percent and more off the

retail price for tires, lodging, clothing, medicine—even pizza at Starvin Marvin's in Cordell!

To receive your co-op discount, simply show your Co-op Connections card to participating businesses when you check out. You'll find a list of local and national participants on the Kiwash Electric Web site at kiwash.coop. Be sure to check the site often because the list of participating businesses is growing rapidly. You'll be amazed at the number of ways you can save!

Iron out high bills!

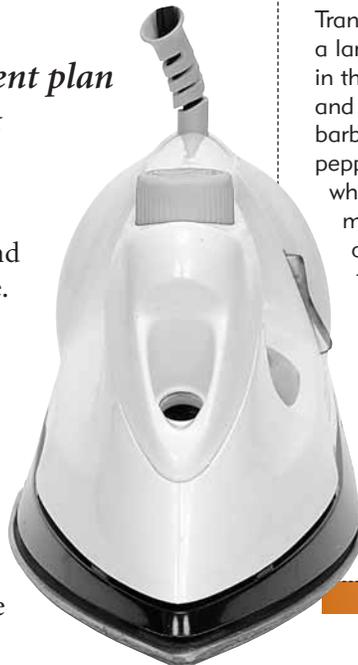
■ *Kiwash Electric's average monthly payment plan helps balance your budget by smoothing out seasonal high bills.*

It's a fact that electric bills increase in the summer and winter when temperatures are at their most extreme.

To help you level out seasonal high bills, Kiwash Electric offers budget billing for members through an average monthly payment plan.

When you sign up for budget billing, your electric bill is averaged over the past eleven months. Instead of seasonal high bills, you'll enjoy an electric bill that's easier on your monthly budget.

For more details, please give your Kiwash representative a call at 888-832-3362, or visit kiwash.coop.



RECIPE BOX

Get a Husband Beef Stew

INGREDIENTS

1 tablespoon olive oil
1 cup chopped onions
2 stalks celery, chopped
1 ½ lbs. ground pork
1 ½ lbs. ground beef
1 (3 lb.) whole cooked chicken, deboned and shredded
3 (14.5 oz.) cans whole peeled tomatoes w/liquid, chopped
1 cup ketchup
½ cup hickory barbeque sauce
salt and pepper to taste
hot sauce to taste (optional)
1 green bell pepper
3 (14.75 oz.) cans cream-style corn

DIRECTIONS

Heat the olive oil in a large skillet, and saute the onions and celery until soft. Mix in the pork and beef, and cook until evenly browned. Do not drain.

Transfer the pork and beef mixture to a large stock pot over low heat. Stir in the shredded chicken, tomatoes and their liquid, ketchup, and barbeque sauce. Season with salt, pepper, and hot sauce. Place the whole green pepper into the mixture. Cook, stirring occasionally for 2 hours, or until thickened.

Stir the cream-style corn into the stew mixture. Continue cooking 1 hour, or to desired consistency. Remove the green pepper; chop and return to the stew or discard.

Yield: 16 servings.

MORE CONVENIENT WAYS TO PAY: Sign up for Kiwash Electric's automatic payment plan and your bill is paid on time every month via automatic bank draft. No more check writing, searching for stamps or worrying if your bill is overdue! Call 888-832-3362, or visit kiwash.coop for more details.

Make sure you're buying

THE REAL McCOY



■ *Counterfeit electric products can be hazardous to your health!*

A fake purse or watch may make you angry, but they don't carry the risk of injury or death. On the other hand, counterfeit electrical products are dangerous and potentially deadly.

Every year, the Consumer Product Safety Commission recalls thousands of counterfeit electrical products: circuit breakers that don't trip when overloaded, cell phone batteries without the safety device that prevents overcharging, and a long list of items such as lamps, batteries, and extension cords that we use almost every day. **Be warned:** Phony products can cause fires, explosions, shocks and electrocutions.

HOW TO SPOT A RIP OFF

- Scrutinize the product, packaging and labeling. Look for certification marks from the manufacturer and an independent testing laboratory—such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL) or the Canadian Standards Association (CSA). Trademarked logos that look different than usual may signal a counterfeit.
- If the price is “too good to be true,” it could be because the product is inferior and unsafe.
- Be careful when buying from an unknown source, such as a street vendor. Use established stores who purchase their goods from legitimate distributors and genuine manufacturers.
- Check the warning label. It should be free of grammatical errors and not conflict with information elsewhere on the package.
- Avoid no-name products.
- Look for the name and contact information of the manufacturer. If you find the information missing, consider purchasing electrical products elsewhere.

For more electrical safety tips, please visit our Web site at www.kiwash.coop.

COMING UP

in Kiwash Country

■ FEBRUARY

- 7-8 SWOSU Jazz Festival
Southwest Oklahoma State University, Weatherford
- 15-23 Southwest Playhouse presents “My Fair Lady”
Clinton, 580-323-4448
- 22 Clinton Job Fair
580-323-2222

■ MARCH

- 3 Pancake Supper
Bessie Fire Department
- 29-30 Home & Garden Expo
Frisco Conference Center
Clinton, 580-323-2222

SUBMISSION DETAILS:

As your Touchstone Energy Cooperative, Kiwash Electric believes in supporting southwest Oklahoma's communities. One way we can help is by promoting local festivals, rodeos, fairs and other events in our monthly newsletter, the *Kilowatt*. Listings are free and it's easy to submit your information.



Simply send details to: Lisa Willard, Kiwash Electric, PO Box 120, Cordell, OK 73732, or send e-mail to: lwillard@kiwash.coop.

IMPORTANT: Please include the complete name of the event, the correct date (or dates), the name of a primary contact person or organization, and a telephone number to call for more information. Please send your events by the 10th of the month for publication in the next month's issue.

TALK TO US

about our special member services! Kiwash Electric offers bill payment plans, heat pump and water heater rebates, long distance telephone service, security lights, economic development loans for small businesses and towns, youth programs, energy saving advice and more. Give us a call.

888-832-3362

www.kiwash.coop

