

the Kilowatt

SEPTEMBER 2008

published monthly for members of
Kiwash Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A SUPPLEMENT TO OKLAHOMA LIVING

INSIDE

Pay online with e-Bill!

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ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Tip of the Month

Choosing an Energy Star-qualified clothes washer over a standard model can lower your utility bills and save energy and water without sacrificing performance.

SOURCE:
U.S. DEPT. OF ENERGY



BILL PAYMENT LOCATIONS

Kiwash Electric
120 W. 1st Street
Cordell, Oklahoma

Custer City Hall
Custer City, Oklahoma

First National Bank
Thomas, Oklahoma

Electric co-ops support local schools

Gross receipts tax provides much needed dollars for rural school

When it comes to supporting local schools, electric cooperatives earn an A+. Every year Oklahoma co-ops pump millions in tax revenues into cash-strapped rural schools via the electric cooperative gross receipts tax.

Electric co-ops pay gross receipts taxes to the Oklahoma Tax Commission. The Tax Commission then distributes 95 percent of these funds to schools based on the number of miles of cooperative line in each school district. It's worth noting that investor-owned utilities pay ad valorem taxes, but only 50 to 60 percent of these funds go to schools.

In 2007, Kiwash Electric and Western Farmers Electric Cooperative combined paid \$742,585.77 in gross receipts taxes. These funds benefit 17 schools in Kiwash Electric Cooperative service territory.

The chart (right) shows the allocation of school funds in the Kiwash area. Tax distributions vary from school to school because some school districts hold more miles of cooperative line.

Because rural schools benefit directly from these taxes, Kiwash Electric and

Tax allocations to local schools

Kiwash Electric Cooperative and
Western Farmer's Electric Cooperative

SCHOOL	\$\$ ALLOCATED
Arapaho	\$53,909.39
Burns Flat	\$22,065.10
Butler	\$52,110.35
Canute	\$21,190.10
Clinton	\$52,501.79
Cordell	\$59,386.78
Hammon	\$46,647.26
Hobart	\$46,606.15
Leedey	\$70,117.23
Lone Wolf	\$33,962.42
Mt. View-Gotebo	\$55,196.66
Sentinel	\$42,391.48
Snyder	\$ 7,782.80
Talaga Oakwood	\$44,033.11
Thomas-Fay-Custer	\$71,351.04
Weatherford	\$58,131.24
Washita Heights	\$ 5,202.87
Total Paid to Schools	\$742,585.77

other Oklahoma electric cooperatives staunchly support this program. Over the years, various proposals to change the tax structure would have diverted funds away from rural schools. These plans met with opposition from rural school leaders and electric cooperative officials.





A Touchstone Energy
Cooperative

**KIWASH ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE, INC.**

*Providing the service that
lights up your life.*

Office Location

PO Box 100
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www.kiwash.coop

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Keith Schneberger says he always knew he wanted to come home after college. He just wasn't sure what he would do once he got there.

Raised on a farm four miles west of Burns Flat, Schneberger attended Oklahoma State University with the notion he would study something ag-related. Four years later, with a degree in animal science and work experience at the OSU Food and Ag Products Center, Schneberger found the career that would allow him to return to his hometown, open his own business, and beef up the local economy along the way.

As owner of Keith's Butcher Shop, Schneberger carved out a unique vocational niche for himself and six full time employees.

"You don't find many butchers in small towns anymore," Schneberger admits. While he's not sure why, his farming background told him there was a need for the service.

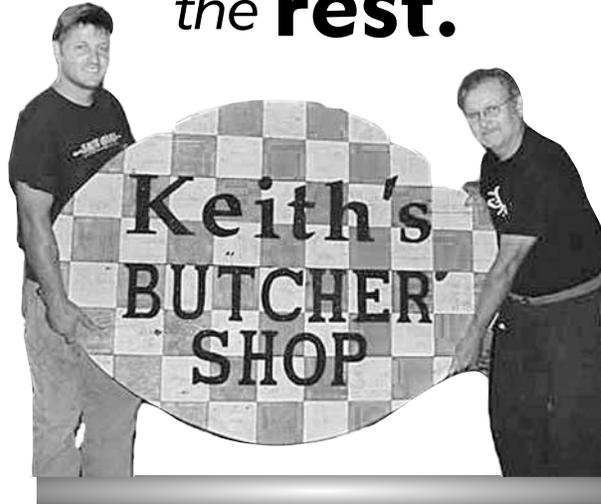
"Growing up, we always slaughtered our own animals. I noticed the meat plants at Altus and Weatherford were always running six weeks behind. That told me there was business to be had," he says.

By the time he graduated in December 2006, Schneberger had purchased the necessary equipment for his shop. What he lacked was a building and the land to put it on.

Through friends and family he heard about the Kiwash Electric revolving loan program. The program provides economic development loans and grants to southwest Oklahoma businesses and communities. After reviewing Schneberger's business plan, KEC approved Keith's Butcher Shop for a \$250,000 low interest loan.

KIWASH SPOTLIGHT

**A cut above
the rest.**



Above: Keith Schneberger and his father Chris Schneberger.
Below: Keith's Butcher Shop in Burns Flat.



The fact that the shop isn't served by the co-op hardly matters. "To us, diversified jobs are a lot more important than who serves the load," KEC General Manager Dennis Krueger pointed out.

Support from the City of Burns Flat also played a role. Originally Schneberger looked at Elk City, but land prices there were too high. "I talked to Burns Flat and their price was more affordable, plus they wanted me and it's home," he said.

Since opening doors on July 7th, Keith's Butcher Shop has enjoyed steady business. Services include slaughtering and custom processing for beef, buffalo, hogs, sheep, goats and wild game. A retail area sells beef and pork in a variety of cuts including aged,

premium choice rib eyes and t-bone steaks. They also sell jalapeno and cheddar cheese sausage, breakfast sausage and bratwurst.

Quick to attribute his success to those who have helped him, the humble Schneberger is a lot less bashful about his beef. "I guarantee my meat is twice as good as what you find at the grocery store. We carry higher quality and better cuts than you can find anywhere else around," he said.

Co-op members who wish to sample Keith's quality meats will find the 5,000 square foot facility just south of Burns Flat on Hwy 44. For more details, please visit www.keithsbutchershop.com or call 580-562-3220.

Kiwash Electric offers low interest loans and grants for communities and businesses. For details, please visit www.kiwash.coop, or contact Dennis Krueger, KEC general manager at 888-832-3362.

CO-OP VALUES • BENEFITS • SERVICES

e-Bill is here!

Pay your bill online at
www.kiwash.coop



If your monthly bill paying routine has you shuffling papers, searching for postage stamps and massaging cramped fingers from writing checks, you'll appreciate the latest service from Kiwash Electric Cooperative.

The Kiwash Electric e-Bill program allows you to pay your bill the paper-less way. When you pay your bill online using e-Bill, you have the option to pay via electric check, Visa and Mastercard, or debit card. You can manually log on and do it yourself—at your convenience, 24 hours a day.

HOW IT WORKS: Log on to www.kiwash.coop and follow the "Pay with e-Bill" link found on our home page. The link will carry you to e-Bill's

secure online bill payment site. You'll be guided through an easy sign up process, so be sure to have your Kiwash Electric account number, bank account and credit card information handy.

e-Bill provides you with plenty of other useful information, too. Use it to check the status of your account, current balance due, payment due date, receipt of payment or to review your billing history. You can also view an image of your paper bill and view your capital credit refund history.

For questions on e-Bill, please call KEC at **888-832-3362**.

The savings is in your hands

Pay less for prescriptions with Co-op Connections card

Kiwash Electric members received their new Co-op Connections cards in the mail in August. With your new card in hand, how you use it is up to you: Save on lodging, auto repairs and more at participating businesses locally and nationwide. You'll be missing out, however, if you don't take advantage of the 20 to 60 percent Co-op Connections pharmaceutical discount.

Here are a few tips to help you maximize the pharmacy benefits:

- Find a pharmacy near you by calling member services at **800-800-7616**, Monday-Friday, 7 am to 7 pm, and Saturday, 8 am to 5 pm, or visit www.locateproviders.com. Type 22203 into the Group field and click *log in* to start searching.



Sample Rx Savings

available with Co-op Connections

Common Rx	Qty	Avg. Retail Price	You Pay
Vicodin	5-500mg/40 qty	\$17.52	\$11.01
HCTZ	25mg/30 qty	\$ 8.51	\$ 6.53
Amoxicillin	500mg/21 qty	\$14.00	\$10.24
Glucophage	500mg/60 qty	\$23.76	\$13.32
Bactrim DS	800-160mg/20 qty	\$14.08	\$11.72
Darvocet	100-650mg/45 qty	\$23.31	\$14.15
Zestril	20mg/30 qty	\$17.18	\$11.49

RECIPE BOX

Chicken Enchiladas

INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups cooked chopped chicken or turkey meat
- 1 4-oz can chopped, mild green chilies
- 1 7-oz can green chile salsa
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 2 cups heavy cream
- 12 corn tortillas
- 1 ½ cups grated Monterrey Jack cheese

DIRECTIONS

Combine chicken, green chilies and green chile salsa and mix well. Mix salt and heavy cream in a medium-sized bowl. Heat about ½ inch oil in small skillet. Dip each tortilla into hot oil for about 5 seconds, just to soften. Drain on paper towels. Dip each fried tortilla into bowl containing cream and salt, coating each side. Fill each tortilla with chicken mixture. Roll and place in ungreased flat baking dish. Pour remaining cream over enchiladas and sprinkle with cheese. Bake uncovered at 350°F. for 20 to 25 minutes.

Yield: 6 servings.

- To look up drug prices by location visit www.rxpricequotes.com. Here you'll find frequently asked questions, savings examples, and a *Drug Pricing Lookup* tool. This tool allows you to find the cost of medications before you visit the pharmacy. *Please do not call the pharmacy for price quotes.* Prices may change from day to day and they cannot be given over the telephone.

- Present your membership card along with your prescriptions to the pharmacist. The pharmacy computer system will compare the Co-op Connections discount price with the pharmacy's retail price. You pay the lower of the two prices.

- If you experience any difficulties, please call or ask your pharmacist to call **800-800-7616**.

To view all the discounts available with your Connections card, please visit www.kiwash.coop. Co-op Connections is just one more way your cooperative membership pays off!

Close contact between cars and power lines? Stay calm.

If your car comes in contact with a power line, a state of panic may set in. Try to stay calm and follow these tips:

■ *Remain inside your vehicle.* If you are in your car, you are not part of electricity's path, which always looks for the shortest way to the ground. Honk your horn to alert passersby.

■ *If someone stops to help, roll down the window and warn them not to touch the car or the power line.* Ask them to phone 911 and contact the local electric utility immediately.

■ *Wait in your car until qualified electrical workers turn the power off and tell you it's safe to leave the car.*

■ *If you have to leave the car because of fire or other danger, open the door and jump away from the vehicle so no part of your body touches the vehicle and the ground at the same*



time. Make sure to jump with both feet together so that your feet land on the ground at the same time.

■ *After you land with both feet together, shuffle away, keeping both feet in contact with the ground constantly.*

■ *Do not try to help someone from the vehicle. If you do, you may become a path for electricity and be injured or killed.*

Kiwash Electric encourages you to contact the co-op at 888-832-3362 if you spot an unsafe electrical situations. In the meantime, stay safe!

Help the environment

Drop used CFL bulbs at KEC

Compact fluorescent (CFL) bulbs use up to 75 percent less energy than incandescent light bulbs, and they last up to 10 times longer. The downside is CFL bulbs contain traces of mercury and should be disposed of properly when they break or burn out.

Kiwash Electric offers a CFL disposal box at our office at 120 W. 1st Street in Cordell. Please protect the environment by dropping off your old CFLs at KEC, or at a hazardous waste collection point near you. Thank you!



COMING UP

in Kiwash Country

SEPTEMBER

- 1 Labor Day
- 2& 9 Farmer's Market, Means Park, Weatherford 4 pm - 7 pm
- 5-6 Jefferson County Free Fair, Waurika
- 6 Saturday Night Cruise, Weatherford
- 6 Mangum Ranch Rodeo
- 6-7 Smoke on the Water Drag Boat Races Fort Cobb Lake
- 6&13 Farmers Market, Means Park, Weatherford 8 am - 12:30 pm
- 13 Southwest Festival of the Arts, Weatherford
- 13 SWOSU vs. Angelo, TX State University
- 16&23 Farmer's Market, Means Park, Weatherford 4 pm - 7 pm
- 20&27 Farmer's Market, Means Park, Weatherford 8 am - 12:30 pm
- 20 Flying Aces Fly-in, Elk City
- 20-21 Fall Festival, Elk City
- 19-21 Southwest Playhouse presents "Goodbye Charlie," Clinton
- 25-27 Carnegie Free Fair, Carnegie
- 27 Carnegie Canna Festival
- 30 Farmer's Market, Means Park, Weatherford 4 pm - 7 pm

OCTOBER

- 4 Pumpkin Palooza and Powwow, Hobart
- 4 Gooberfest, Colony
- 4 Farmer's Market, Means Park, Weatherford
- 11 Pumpkin Festival, Cordell
- 11 Autumn Festival, Anadarko

SUBMISSION DETAILS:

Kiwash Electric Cooperative promotes local festivals, rodeos, fairs and other events in our monthly newsletter, the *Kilowatt*. Calendar listings are free and it's easy to submit your information.



Please send details to: Lisa Willard, Kiwash Electric, PO Box 100, Cordell, OK 73632, or send e-mail to: lwillard@kiwash.coop. Please send event listings by the 10th of the month prior to publication.

TALK TO US

about our special member services and programs. Kiwash Electric offers heat pump and water heater rebates, long distance telephone service, security lights, Co-op Connections savings cards, economic development loans for small businesses and towns, youth programs, college scholarships and more.

888-832-3362 • www.kiwash.coop

