



the Kilowatt

MAY 2009

published monthly for members of
Kiwash Electric Cooperative, Inc.



A SUPPLEMENT TO OKLAHOMA LIVING

MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE

Kiwash Electric Cooperative will close on May 25 for Memorial Day. Please have a safe holiday!



ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Tip of the Month

When washing clothes, use less water by running full loads. Approximately 80 percent of the energy used by washing machines heats water. By using cold water and cold-water detergents you can cut a load's energy use in half.

—US DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY



BILL PAYMENT LOCATIONS

Kiwash Electric
120 W. 1st Street
Cordell, Oklahoma

Pay online:
www.kiwash.coop

Custer City Hall
Custer City, Oklahoma

First National Bank
Thomas, Oklahoma

Kiwash names Youth Tour winners

Washington D.C. trip teaches teens about history, government

Hard work has paid off for two high school juniors as they make plans to tour the nation's capital this summer.

Carson Elwell, Cordell High School, and Tyler Gorshing, Weatherford High School, took top honors in the Kiwash Electric Cooperative Youth Tour Contest. The pair will receive an all-expenses paid trip to Washington D.C. on June 13-18.

Emily Bartel, Corn Bible Academy, and Blake Hooper, Hobart High School, runners-up in the Youth Tour contest, each received \$50 cash.

Carson is the son Lynn and Becky Klaassen, Cordell, and Steve Elwell, Fairview. Tyler is the son of Gary Gorshing, Weatherford. Emily's parents are Howard and Cynthia Bartel,



At a special banquet for Youth Tour finalists, Kiwash Electric announced contest results. From left, Blake Hooper (runner up); Emily Bartel (runner up); Tyler Gorshing (winner); Jack Sawatsky, president of the Kiwash Electric board of trustees; and Carson Elwell (winner).

Weatherford, and Blake is the son of Steven and Belinda Hooper, Mountain View.

As Youth Tour delegates, Carson and Tyler will travel with other teen winners from across Oklahoma. They will also meet and mingle with winners from other states.

Youth Tour teaches teens about rural electric cooperatives while providing participants with a deeper insight of American history and government. The students will meet congressmen and senators and tour historical sights in and around Washington D.C.

Oklahoma's electric cooperatives began sponsoring Youth Tour in 1963. Since that time, more than 3,000 students have traveled to the nation's capital.

For details on Youth Tour, please visit www.kiwash.coop, or call **888-832-3362**.

KEC's adopts federal identity theft policy

The Kiwash Electric Cooperative board of directors have agreed to adopt Policy 538 Identity Theft Prevention in order to comply with the Federal Trade Commission's identity theft "red flag" rule.

Kiwash Electric Cooperative will take all reasonable steps to identify, detect, and prevent the theft of members' personal information.

Kiwash Electric adopted this policy to identify and detect events and circumstances that may be indicators of identity theft, to respond to these events and circumstances, and actively prevent and mitigate identity theft.

Please notify Kiwash Electric at **888-832-3362** if you are a victim of identity theft or if someone is misusing your personal account information.



A Touchstone Energy
Cooperative

**KIASH ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE, INC.**

*Providing the service
that lights up your life.*

Office Location

PO Box 100
120 W. 1st Street
Cordell, Oklahoma

(888) 832-3362
www.kiash.coop

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Misak is financial "Champion of the Year"

When it comes to helping small businesses in southwest Oklahoma, Doug Misak is truly a champion.

Misak, director of the Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) Small Business Development Center (SBDC) in Weatherford, was recently named financial services "Champion of the Year" by the state.

The award recognizes individuals who support business growth through responsible lending. Among Misak's achievements, he is known for his tenacity and dedication to the cause of capital access for entrepreneurs of all walks of life, particularly the undeserved. As SBDC director, Misak helps aspiring small business borrowers through the lending process—from their first inquiries to providing the necessary on-going technical assistance that allows them to prosper.

Misak's promotion of the SBA Express Lenders Program resulted in increased participation by local banks. The program allows small businesses to get funding from banks they know and trust.

The result is a growth in the local economy and more jobs. During the past two years alone, Misak and the



Doug Misak serves the southwest Oklahoma business community through his office at the SWOSU Small Business Development Center in Weatherford.

SBDC generated several loans valued at over \$7 million. These loans generated 231 jobs in southwest Oklahoma.

Kiash Electric congratulates Misak on his achievements. People like Doug Misak are building southwest Oklahoma's communities!

Helping southwest Oklahoma grow *Loans, counseling and more*

If you aren't familiar with the Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) Small Business Development Center (SBDC), perhaps you should be. For small business owners, entrepreneurs, minorities and veterans, the Center provides a wealth of services and information.

The Center serves the 15 counties of southwest Oklahoma through offices in Weatherford and Lawton. The center offers programs that promote the development of entrepreneurs, assists with business and regional development strategies, promotes local employment opportunities, and provides in-depth research on the southwest Oklahoma business climate that includes demographic studies, market analysis and more.

For their efforts, the Center received the SBD Service and Excellence and Innovation Center of the Year award

For more details on the Center and its programs please call **580-774-7095** (Weatherford office) or **580-248-4946** (Lawton office), or visit www.swosu.edu/cebdc/osbdc.htm.

SBDC Highlights:

✧ In 2007, SWOSU-SBDC exceeded its goal of business startups by 132 percent and surpassed its capital formation goal by 468 percent by contributing more than \$16 million in small business capital to the economy.

✧ Successfully recruited local lenders to participate in the SBA Community Express lending program. The Center also works closely with the Army Career and Alumni Program at Ft. Sill to provide small business training and education to veterans and their families.

✧ Clients served by the Center include nineteen percent veterans and at least 45 percent minorities.

✧ The Center is promoting the emerging nanotechnology industry by working with a start-up company that has signed agreements with Korea and Mexico for its products.

✧ SWOSU-SBDC counselors are active in community development and work closely with area chambers of commerce, legislative officials and local, regional and statewide economic development organizations.

Dial in greater savings

KEC's Energy Makeover winner didn't need thermostat control, but you do.

If you've been following the Home Makeover articles in the *Kiwash Kilowatt*, you'll know that Charlene Slatton, winner of the Energy Makeover contest, is already a conservative consumer of electricity.

In fact, when KEC contractors evaluated Slatton's heating and air costs to determine her energy needs, they could find little to review. Slatton doesn't run her central heating and air unit, so energy saving measures such as thermostat control would do her little good.

For the rest of us, however, these gadgets can save a bundle in energy costs, and they are one of the easiest energy improvements you can make. Just install the device, program it correctly, and it will lower your costs automatically.

How much will you save? Consider these facts from Energy Star: The average homeowner spends more than \$2,000 a year on energy bills, nearly half of which goes to heating and cooling. Homeowners can save about \$180 a year by properly setting their thermostat control devices and maintaining those settings.

The pre-programmed settings that come with ENERGY STAR qualified programmable thermostats are intended to deliver



savings without sacrificing comfort. Depending on your family's schedule,

you can see significant savings by sticking with those settings, or adjust them to suit your family. The key is to establish a program that automatically reduces heating and cooling in your home when you don't need as much.

There are three types of programmable thermostats available to fit your schedule. Be sure you purchase an Energy Star qualified brand, *and* install it properly. For more information, please visit www.energystar.gov.

RECIPE BOX

Chicken and Sour Cream Enchiladas

INGREDIENTS

2 cups chopped cooked chicken
1 cup reduced fat sour cream
1 1/2 cups 2%, shredded Colby and Monterey Jack cheese, divided
1 cup salsa, divided
2 tablespoons chopped cilantro
1 teaspoon ground cumin
10 flour tortillas
1 cup shredded lettuce
1 medium tomatoes, chopped

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350° F. Mix chicken, sour cream, 1 cup of the cheese, 1/4 cup of the salsa, cilantro and cumin until well blended.

Spoon about 1/4 cup of the chicken mixture down center of each tortilla; roll up. Place seam sides down, in 13x9-inch baking dish. Top with remaining 3/4 cup salsa; cover.

Bake 30 minutes. Sprinkle with remaining 1/2 cup cheese. Bake an additional five minutes or until cheese is melted. Top with lettuce and tomato just before serving.

Yield: 10 servings.

Tax credits cover energy efficient home improvements



Even though money is tight, this might be a good time to make some home improvements. You could qualify for up to \$1,500 in federal tax credits if you trade your old windows, furnace, roof or water heater for an energy-efficient model.

The tax credits are part of President Obama's economic stimulus bill and are good for energy-efficient improvements you make in 2009 and 2010.

You could get a tax credit for 30 percent of the cost of the improvement—up to \$1,500, on windows and doors, insulation, metal and asphalt roofs, heating and air conditioning systems, non-solar water heaters (but not tankless or electric storage water heaters) and biomass stoves. For these items, the credit does not include installation.

Another 30 percent is available—with no upper limit through 2016—for geothermal heat pumps, solar panels, solar water heaters, small wind energy systems and fuel cells. For these items, the credit includes installation.

Before you buy any of these products, please make sure they qualify for the tax credit. To claim your credit, you will need certification from the manufacturer that the product qualifies. You usually can find that on the manufacturer's Web site.

You can claim the tax credit by filling out IRS Tax Form 5695 (2009 version) when you file your 2009 taxes next year.

For more information about the energy-efficiency tax credit, visit www.energystar.gov. Click on "Tax Credits for Energy Efficiency."

It's Electrical Safety Month

COUNTERFEIT PRODUCTS POSE GRAVE RISKS

Electrical safety is an ongoing concern for Kiwash Electric Cooperative, especially in May, which is National Electrical Safety Month.



This month the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) is highlighting a dangerous trend. Counterfeit electrical products are finding their way into our homes and businesses. These products pose a grave safety crisis for cooperative members and communities.

Counterfeit electrical products can be difficult to spot. Often they are knock-off versions of brand name products that bear an unauthorized certification marking. In order to save money, they may be made without key components or compliance to relevant safety standards. Even more alarming, recent statistics estimate that 64 percent of counterfeit electrical products in the United States are purchased from legitimate shops and retailers.

The ESFI offers the following tips to protect you from dangerous and defective counterfeit electrical products:

- ◆ Look for the CSA, UL or ETL-SEMKO certification marks. If you question the validity of these marks, contact the certifier.
- ◆ Beware of bargains that seem too good to be true. Often products are cheap because they are counterfeit or defective.
- ◆ Use established vendors who purchase their goods from legitimate distributors and genuine manufacturers.
- ◆ Check the warning label. It should be free of grammatical errors and should not conflict with information found elsewhere on the package.
- ◆ Look for the name and contact information of the manufacturer. If this information is missing, purchase the products elsewhere.
- ◆ Avoid no-name products that lack brand affiliation.

To learn more about the 2009 National Electrical Safety Month Buyer Beware Anti-Counterfeiting Campaign, visit www.electrical-safety.org. For more safety tips, visit www.kiwsh.coop.

COMING UP in Kiwash Country

■ MAY

- 2 Saturday Night Cruise, Weatherford
- 5 Cinco de Mayo Celebration, Clinton
- 9 Perfect Catch Fish Off, Foss Lake
- 10 Mother's Day
- 23 Arts on the Square, Hobart
- 23 Celebration of Freedom, Hobart
- 25 Memorial Day (Kiwash Electric offices closed for the holiday.)

■ JUNE

- 5-7 Southwest Playhouse presents "Clue-The Musical," Clinton.
- 6 Race to Health 5K Run, Clinton
- 6 Saturday Night Cruise, Weatherford
- 6 Art in the Park, Clinton
- 14 Flag Day
- 19-20 Heartland Car Show and Cruise Weatherford
- 21 Father's Day
- 26-27 Route 66 Festival "Hot Dogs & Hot Rods on 66," Clinton

SUBMISSION DETAILS:

Kiwash Electric Cooperative promotes local festivals, rodeos, fairs and other events in our monthly newsletter, *the Kilowatt*. Calendar listings are free.



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.



PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!

August 20, 2009 • Cordell High School Auditorium
Kiwash Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting



MAKE MOM SMILE.

Use your "Connections" to save on Mother's Day gifts at local stores!

Your mother always told you to spend your money wisely. When you use your Co-op Connections card to save on a Mother's Day gift, she'll have more than one reason to smile!

The Co-op Connections savings card is good for discounts at the following local businesses, and at national retailers, too. From keepsake gifts to flowers and bedding plants, you'll find just the right thing. (Be sure to show your card at checkout to receive your discount.)

For more details on Co-op Connections, please visit www.kiwash.coop, or call **888-832-3362**.



- ✿ **Dean's Greenhouse**, Cordell, Weatherford and Elk City: Save 10 percent off all plant purchases.
- ✿ **Jack's Flowers and Gifts**, Cordell: 10 percent off silk floral arrangements, wall pictures and lamps.
- ✿ **Kathy's Kottage**, Thomas: 10 percent off all regular priced items.
- ✿ **Mozelle's Gift Gallery**, Burns Flat: 20 percent off any \$20 or more purchase, regular priced items only.
- ✿ **The Country Store**, Weatherford: 10 percent discount on regular priced items.
- ✿ **The Small Gift Shop**, Clinton: 10 percent discount.
- ✿ **Tautfest Furniture and Appliance**, Weatherford: 20 percent off regular priced furniture accessories.

