

MARCH 2010

# the Kilowatt

published monthly for members of  
Kiwash Electric Cooperative, Inc.



A SUPPLEMENT TO OKLAHOMA LIVING

## Watch for crews

Kiwash Electric crews are working diligently to rebuild lines damaged by the ice storm. For safety sake, please watch for co-op crews working along roads and highways. **Thank you!**



### ENERGY EFFICIENCY

#### Tip of the Month

In 2010 Oklahoma is offering consumers rebates when they replace old appliances with ENERGY-STAR qualified ones. Find out what's available at [www.energysavers.gov/financial/70020.html](http://www.energysavers.gov/financial/70020.html).

—US DEPT. OF ENERGY



*Kiwash Electric power lines buckle under the heavy weight of ice. PHOTO/LISA WILLARD.*

## THE ROAD TO RECOVERY

### January ice storm leaves co-op hurt but healing

A powerful ice storm on January 28 knocked out power to over 132,000 Oklahomans and propelled Kiwash Electric crews and members into disaster recovery mode. While the winter blast failed to match the record breaking ice storm of 2002, it carried a significant and painful punch.

Over 2,000 Kiwash Electric members lost service during the storm, compared to some 5,000 outages during the 2002 event. Advanced storm tracking allowed Kiwash Electric to prepare for its arrival by stocking up on construction materials and making arrangements for contract crews to assist in the recovery effort.

While the brunt of the storm fell on Kiowa County, nearly every portion of the cooperative system was affected. The most recent damage figures estimate a loss of some 2,000 electric poles and hundreds of miles of electric line.

Some members lost service for more than ten days, with intermittent outages reported as ice melted causing lines to bounce back and snap.

By February 14, Kiwash Electric crews aided by 28 support crews from other electric cooperatives and outside contractors had restored power to all residential members of Kiwash Electric.

Co-op officials say it is too soon to estimate the financial impact of the storm, but it will be high. Some of the storm related expenses will be covered by the National Cooperative Finance Corporation. Kiwash Electric is also eligible for assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA).

As recovery and rebuilding efforts continue, Kiwash Electric reminds members to stay away from downed power lines and report any unsafe situations. Members are also advised to be aware of co-op crews and vehicles as they work along the roads and highways. *Your continued patience and cooperation is greatly appreciated.*



*Kiwash Electric cross arms are barely recognizable under the thick, icy crust. PHOTO/LISA WILLARD.*



### BILL PAYMENT LOCATIONS

Kiwash Electric  
120 W. 1st Street  
Cordell, Oklahoma

Pay online  
[www.kiwash.coop](http://www.kiwash.coop)

Custer City Hall  
Custer City, Oklahoma

First National Bank  
Thomas, Oklahoma



A Touchstone Energy  
Cooperative

KIWASH 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.kiwash.coop](http://www.kiwash.coop)

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INSIDE YOUR CO-OP



**By Dennis Krueger**  
GENERAL MANAGER

# Stand up and be counted!

## 2010 Census = federal and state representation

**T**he 2010 Census is a key factor in rural Oklahoma's future and it is the most important thing that each of us need to accomplish this year. Oklahoma lost a congressional seat due to the 2000 Census figures. However, some believe that Oklahomans may not have actively participated in the process, which resulted in an inaccurate count.

■ **Maintain accurate federal representation**

How does the Census affect Oklahoma? The Census shows a count of the state population and determines representation in the U.S. House of Representatives. A U.S. Congressional seat can be gained or lost based on the outcome of the 2010 Census figures. Many Oklahomans would like a stronger Oklahoma representation in Washington, D.C. to assert our opinions on Capitol Hill. An accurate Census report that counts all Oklahomans is the first step in achieving that goal.

■ **Maintain accurate state representation**

The state of Oklahoma assigns House and Senate districts based on the Census data. If rural Oklahoma's population is not accurately and correctly counted, then some of our rural House and Senate representation will be lost to the urban areas, which reduces our voices at the state capitol.

■ **How does the Census affect the nation?**

According to C.N. Le, professor at University of Massachusetts, Amherst, "...an accurate count of the U.S. population forms the basis for many important but often overlooked political, economic, and social decisions that are made that end up affecting our daily lives."

That's why it is so important that you complete the Census form and promptly return it. Census information affects the numbers of seats our state occupies in the U.S. House of Representatives, and the number of seats your region occupies in the state legislature. People from many walks of life benefit from the use of Census data to advocate for causes, rescue disaster victims, prevent diseases, research markets, locate pools of skilled workers, and more.

■ **Infrastructure and Services**

When you do the math, it is easy to see what an accurate count of residents can do for your community. Better infrastructure, more services, and a brighter tomorrow for everyone. In fact, the information the Census collects helps to determine how more than \$400 billion dollars of federal funding each year is spent on infrastructure and services like:

- Hospitals
- Job training centers
- Schools
- Senior centers
- Bridges, tunnels and other-public works projects
- Emergency services

■ **Private information is never published**

The U.S. Census Department depends on your cooperation and trust, and promises to protect the confidentiality of your information. Title 13 of the U.S. Code protects the confidentiality of all your information and violating this law is a crime with severe penalties. In addition, other federal laws, including the Confidential Statistical Efficiency Act and the Privacy Act reinforce these protections.

In March of 2010, Census forms will be delivered to every residence in the United States and Puerto Rico. When you receive yours, just answer the 10 short questions and then mail the form back in the postage-paid envelope provided. If you do not mail the form back, you may receive a visit from a Census taker who will ask you the questions from the form.

■ **We cannot move forward until you return the 2010 Census form**

Participation is not just important—it is mandatory. It is imperative that each Oklahoman participate in the process by either mailing the form back or contacting your Census taker at your local county courthouse if you do not receive the Census forms. Together we can make Oklahoma a better place to live.

## A tax credit worth knowing about

### You could qualify for Earned Income Tax Credit

**Y**ou may qualify to get up to \$5,600 back from IRS and not know it. The agency estimates one in four eligible taxpayers could miss out on the Earned Income Tax Credit – or EITC – simply because they don't claim it.

EITC can be a financial boost for working people hit by hard economic times. Eligibility is based on several factors, including the source and amount of your income, or combined income if married, whether you have qualifying children and how many. Children are not required, but they increase the amount of your credit. Through new legislation, families with three or more children can get even more

money.

If you had less than \$48,000 in income from wages, self-employment or farming in 2009, you may qualify. Use IRS's online EITC Assistant to determine your eligibility and amount of your credit. You must file a tax return, even if you aren't otherwise required, and claim the EITC to get it.

No-cost help is available. Volunteer income tax assistance sites or IRS Taxpayer Assistance Centers will prepare your return at no charge. To locate a site, call the IRS at **800-906-9887**.

*Daylight savings time is March 14!*

## Change the clock, change a light bulb!

**W**e spring forward this year at 2 a.m. on March 14, kicking off months of extra sunlight in the evening. These extra daylight hours save electricity by allowing people to turn the lights on a little later in the evening.

This year, make those energy savings go even further. When you set your clock forward one hour, change a light bulb in your home from an energy-wasting incandescent bulb to a compact fluorescent (CFL) bulb. That single light bulb would pay for itself many times over in lower energy bills by next March, as the bulbs offer a similar quality of light but use significantly less energy.

Daylight Saving Time offers another reminder—to change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Stay safe and efficient while you enjoy the extra hour of sunlight this year.



## Save time with eBill!

**Pay online at [www.kiwash.coop](http://www.kiwash.coop)**

eBill from Kiwash Electric lets you pay your bill, view your account status, monitor your energy usage and more—online, anytime. Visit **[www.kiwash.coop](http://www.kiwash.coop)** for complete details.



## RECIPE BOX

### Green Enchilada Pork Chili

#### INGREDIENTS

4 tablespoons olive oil, divided  
1 pound ground pork  
2 jalapeno peppers, stems removed  
1 tablespoon butter  
1 medium white onion, diced  
1 teaspoon kosher salt  
1/2 teaspoon ground cumin  
1/2 teaspoon sweet paprika  
1/4 teaspoon ground cayenne pepper  
1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper  
3 cloves garlic, minced  
1/2 cup all-purpose flour  
1 (28 oz) can green enchilada sauce  
1 (7 oz) can green salsa  
1 quart water  
1/2 bunch fresh cilantro, chopped  
1/2 lime, juiced

#### DIRECTIONS

In a 4 quart pot, heat 2 tablespoons olive oil over medium heat. Add the jalapenos and saute for 1 minute. Stir in the ground pork and cook until evenly brown. Remove the browned pork and jalapenos from the pot and set aside.

In the same pot used to cook the meat, add the remaining 2 tablespoons olive oil, butter, and onion. Cook for 2 minutes or until the onion starts to soften. Stir in the salt, cumin, paprika, cayenne, and black pepper and cook until the onion is soft. Mix in the garlic and cook for 1 minute.

Reduce the heat to low. Sprinkle the flour over the onion and garlic. Cook, stirring for three minutes. Slowly pour the enchilada sauce into the onion mixture, whisking constantly to prevent lumps from forming. Mix in the green salsa and water.

Return the cooked pork and jalapenos to the pot. Increase the heat to medium and slowly bring the soup to a boil. When the soup boils, reduce the heat and simmer for 30 minutes. Before serving remove from heat and stir in chopped cilantro and lime juice.

**YIELD:** 8 servings.

# Go green in one day

*A few wise choices will save you money all year*

**S**t. Patrick's Day is the one day every year when everything from decorations to clothes to food seems to turn green.

This year, make March 17 the day you start making "greener" choices around your home to save energy, the environment and money.

*A few quick-starters:*

- ❏ Install a programmable thermostat that will moderate the heat and air conditioning when your family is sleeping or away for the day.
- ❏ Replace traditional light bulbs with energy-saving compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs).
- ❏ Air dry dishes instead of using your dishwasher's drying cycle.
- ❏ Turn off your computer and monitor when not in use.
- ❏ Plug home electronics, such as TVs and DVD players, into power strips; turn the power strips off when the equipment is not in use. TVs and DVDs in standby mode still use electricity.



- ❏ Lower the thermostat on your hot water heater to 120°F.
- ❏ Take quick showers instead of baths.
- ❏ Wash only full loads of dishes and clothes.
- ❏ Drive sensibly. Aggressive driving (speeding, rapid acceleration and braking) wastes gasoline.

*Find more energy saving ideas and tips at [www.touchstoneenergysavers.com](http://www.touchstoneenergysavers.com), your cooperative's online energy resource.*

## COMING UP *in Kiwash Country*

### ■ MARCH

- 4-9 SWOSU Theatre presents "Grease," Hilltop Theatre, SWOSU Campus, Weatherford
- 7 Monster Truck Event, 4 pm Old Walmart parking lot, Weatherford
- 14 Daylight Savings Time begins
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 27 SWOSU Tough Enough Run/Walk 9 am, Memorial Student Center Weatherford
- 27-28 Home & Garden Expo, Clinton
- 28 Cordell Rotary Club Smoked Pork Dinner, 11:30 am - 1 pm Cordell High School Cafeteria

### ■ APRIL

- 8-10 SWOSU College Rodeo Don Mitchell Rodeo Arena Weatherford
- 9-11 Southwest Playhouse presents "Leading Ladies", Clinton
- 16-17 Southwest Playhouse presents "Leading Ladies", Clinton
- 18 Weatherford Horse Show, Radar Park Weatherford
- 23-24 Great Plains Antique Tractor Show Hwy 183, Hobart



## STAY CLEAR!

**A downed power line may be energized. It could cause serious injury or death.**

If you spot a downed power line, always assume it is energized and dangerous. **Call 911 immediately** to report a downed line. **Then call Kiwash Electric at 888-832-3362.**

### 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](mailto:lwillard@kiwash.coop). Please send event listings by the 12th of the month prior to publication.