

JUNE 2010

the Kilowatt

published monthly for members of
Kiwash Electric Cooperative, Inc.



A SUPPLEMENT TO OKLAHOMA LIVING

Smokin' deals...

Electric grills and smokers make great gifts for Father's Day. Kiwash Electric is liquidating its stock of grills and smokers, but we still have a few remaining models on hand at discount prices. Hurry, supplies are dwindling! Call **888-832-3362** or drop by our office for more details.



**ENERGY
EFFICIENCY**

Tip of the Month

Heat from sunlight coming through windows and hitting the roof can increase air conditioner use significantly. Use shade trees and shrubs in landscaping design to reduce cooling costs. Block heat in the summer—but let it through in the winter—with deciduous trees, which will lose their leaves in the winter.

—US DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Local scholarship winners announced

Four teens receive \$500 each to pursue education goals

Kiwash Electric Cooperative (KEC) is pleased to announce the recipients of four \$500 scholarships. Congratulations to Tayler Baca, Clinton High School; Tiffany Harper, Weatherford High School; Jake Krieger, Hobart High School; and Nic Leppke, Cordell High School.



Jake Krieger



Nic Leppke



Tiffany Harper



Taylor Baca

The students submitted winning essays in the annual contest sponsored through Kiwash Electric Cooperative's youth program. This year's essay subject was "Meeting climate change goals and keeping electricity reliable and affordable."

Electric service territory, and whose parents are members of the cooperative. KEC scholarship funds may be used for college or technical school.

KEC began its scholarship program in 1986. The program is open to any graduating senior who attends high school in Kiwash

Parents of the 2010 scholarship winners are Bryan and Leadell Baca (Tayler) and John and Christine Harper (Tiffany), Justin and Brenda Krieger (Jake), and Larry and Alayna Leppke (Nic).



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



New tool helps you prepare for storms

Get daily forecast alerts via
mobile phone or email. Visit
www.kiwash.coop to sign up!

Just in time for tornado season, Kiwash Electric is introducing a unique weather alerting service free to all members. The service provides weather forecasts and severe weather alerts for your specific area, delivered right to your email in-box or cell phone.

The free iMapAlert service features include daily seven-day forecast emails that are delivered before dawn. You'll also receive emergency weather alerts from the National Weather Service via e-mail or text message for your specific area, 24-hours a day, when severe weather is in the area. This tool also allows Kiwash Electric to send emergency and pertinent information to members if necessary.

To receive this weather alerting service, visit our Web site at www.kiwash.coop and click on the iMapAlert icon. You'll be asked to fill out your name, address, email or cell phone, and the co-op you are

affiliated with – that's it. It's quick, easy and FREE!

iMapAlert also offers a premium package for only \$5.95 per month. This option is perfect if you or your family members travel frequently. With this premium package, you receive all the benefits in the free package plus up to three e-mail addresses, or three cell phones. You also receive six-mile lightning proximity alerts. You can customize the type of alerts you would like to receive to include tornado, severe thunderstorm, flash flooding, winter storms, high winds, hurricanes, dense fog, frost, freeze, wind chill, excessive heat and fire dangers.

You also receive access to a Web page portal where you can move your location to anywhere in the United States quickly and easily. That way you will be notified of severe weather, no matter where you are!



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

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INSIDE YOUR CO-OP



By Dennis Krueger
GENERAL MANAGER

Storm forces tough choices

Kiwash must implement a surcharge to reduce debt

Long after the last member's power is restored, the board of directors and management began the complicated process of evaluating the cooperative's financial position. After all is said and done, the impact of the 2010 ice storm took a financial toll on the cooperative. While the brunt of the storm fell on Kiowa County, nearly every portion of the cooperative's system was affected.

During the 2010 ice storm we lost 1,486 poles. The total storm cost came in at \$5.6 million. The Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) should reimburse 75 percent or \$4.2 million of this cost. The state should reimburse 12.5 percent or \$700,000 once they deals with its own fiscal woes. This leaves the cooperative responsible for 12.5 percent, or \$700,000.

We could simply do nothing to recover the \$700,000 in costs (which are not reimbursed by FEMA or the state) and incur \$690,000 of additional interest over the 35 year loan period. It would have cost the cooperative \$1.39 million over the life of the loan for the actual cost of \$700,000, plus interest. This cost would then be passed down to the next generation of members.

We took this approach when we had the 2002 ice storm, and we are still paying for that storm today. The total cost of the 2002 damage was \$10.8 million and KEC's non-reimbursed portion was \$1.35 million. This was financed through a series of long term notes which will

end up costing the cooperative an additional \$1.3 million in interest over a 35 year period. This will bring the total non-reimbursed storm cost to \$2.65 million.

We have learned from experience that a different approach should be taken. This time around, the board of director's has decided to implement an ice storm surcharge.

The surcharge is a very common practice among the electric utility industry. While passing costs onto the next generation should be scrutinized carefully, you can rest assured that our board of director's time have devoted a great deal of time on this issue.

Finances are now at a level that we must begin to request our current membership to reduce the storm deficit and shore up KEC on a short term basis. By charging only \$3.66

surcharge per meter each month for a short 36 months, we will save the cooperative an additional \$690,000 of interest over the 35 year loan period. This fee will be used to directly offset the \$700,000 in non reimbursed expenses incurred during the ice storm. This surcharge will begin on your July 1st bill and will be charged on each meter.

The board of directors and management realize this fee could create a burden on many of our members; however, it is necessary for the cooperative to remain in good financial standing with our borrowers. We appreciate your patience and understanding.

\$5.6 million
TOTAL COST OF DAMAGES TO KIWASH ELECTRIC 2010 ICE STORM



How can we help you?

Kiwash Electric Cooperative is proud to provide a broad range of convenient services.

- SMALL BUSINESS & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT LOANS • BILL PAYMENT PLANS • ONLINE BILL PAYMENTS
- WEATHER UPDATES • LONG DISTANCE CALLING PLANS • CO-OP CONNECTIONS SAVINGS CARDS
- SECURITY LIGHTS • COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS • YOUTH PROGRAMS • HEAT PUMP & WATER HEATER REBATES

Please contact Kiwash Electric today for more details at **888-832-3362** or visit www.kiwash.coop.

CO-OP VALUE

TAKE A SUMMER 'STAY-CATION'

Save on entertainment close to home

Whether traveling to visit relatives or entertaining their own clan right here at home, summertime means families are looking for ways to have a little fun. Whatever you fancy, be sure to take advantage of your Co-op Connections savings card. Your card offers discounts on recreation, golfing, shopping, lodging, museums, ball parks, restaurants and more — here in Oklahoma, and out of state, too.



Before making plans for a summer fun, be sure to check out the Co-op Connections savings opportunities. We've highlighted a few here, but you'll find a complete list by clicking on the Co-op Connections icon at www.kiwash.coop, or visit www.connections.coop.

- Two for one admission or \$2 off price of one ticket, National Cowboy Hall of Fame, Oklahoma City.
- Two for one admission, Route 66 Museum, Clinton.
- 10 percent off all bait and tackle, B&K Bait House, Foss.
- 10 percent off any purchase, Medicine Park Ice Cream Shop.
- \$2 off admission prices for up to four people, Oklahoma Aquarium, Jenks.
- \$1 off admission, Little River Zoo, Norman.
- Two for one admission Sunday through Thursday, Oklahoma City RedHawks Baseball.
- 15 percent off all services, Elysium Spa, Oklahoma City.
- Bowl two games get one free, Hilltop Lanes, Cordell.
- \$5 discount on 15 minute kart ride rentals, Oklahoma Motorsports Complex, Norman.
- 10 percent off all purchases, Andy's Alligator Fun Park, Norman.
- Save on lodging, Fairfield Inn or Holiday Inn Express, Oklahoma City.
- 15 percent off the standard room rate plus free breakfast at Best Western of Chickasha.
- Get a free dessert when ordering two entrees at the Buffalo Bistro in Medicine Park.
- 10 percent off on all food and drink items at Charlie Bean Coffee Company, Mustang.
- 10 percent off green fees at Crimson Creek Golf Club in El Reno, or Cobblestone Creek Golf Club, Norman.
- 10 percent off, Kathy's Kottage, Thomas.

For dads, it's all about gadgets

Grab an electronic gift for Father's Day!

Put down the chainsaw, pass by the fishing rod, and don't even think about buying that electric razor. A national survey of dads says more than half of them want electronic gifts for Father's Day—not clothes, golf clubs or trips.

This year, reward Dad for all he does while satisfying his gadget craving.

To the man who loves sports, give a high-definition television that will let him see the game as clearly as if he were there

himself. Many cable services broadcast sports games in high definition. For the music lover, offer a portable mp3 player that will let him take his music on the road, or a satellite radio service that gives him access at home or in the car to hundreds of commercial-free music channels.

A book-loving dad will appreciate a digital book reader, which lets him store and read hundreds of digital books in a palm-sized device.

RECIPE BOX

Chicken and Bacon Shish Kabobs

INGREDIENTS

- 1/4 cup soy sauce
- 1/4 cup cider vinegar
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 2 tablespoons Canola oil
- 10 large mushrooms, cut in half
- 2 green onions, minced
- 3 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves, cut into chunks
- 1/2 lb sliced thick cut bacon, cut in half
- 1 (8 oz) can pineapple chunks, drained skewers

DIRECTIONS

In a large bowl, mix the soy sauce, cider vinegar, honey, Canola oil, and green onions. Place the mushrooms and chicken into the mixture, and stir to coat. Cover, and marinate in the refrigerator at least 1 hour.

Preheat grill for high heat.

Wrap the chicken chunks with bacon, and thread onto skewers so that the bacon is secured. Alternate with mushroom halves and pineapple chunks.

Lightly oil the grill grate. Arrange skewers on the prepared grill. Cook 15 to 20 minutes, brushing occasionally with remaining soy sauce mixture, until bacon is crisp and chicken juices run clear.

Yield: 6 servings.



Energy Star rates some small electronics so you can buy the most energy-efficient models. Energy Star-rated devices use less power while operating and while in standby mode.

Know what's below: Call 811 before you dig

Whether it's a dreamed up deck addition or a landscaping masterpiece, summer weather is a great time for outdoor improvement plans to actually take place.

But if your planned projects include digging, like planting a tree or bringing in a backhoe for trench work, you'll have to wait a few more days so the job can be done safely. Underground utilities, such as buried gas, water, and electric lines, can be a shovel thrust away from turning a summer project into a disaster.

To find out where utility lines run on your property, dial 811 from anywhere in the country a few days prior to digging. Your call will be routed to a local "one call" center. Tell the operator where you're planning to dig and what type of work you will be doing, and affected local utilities will be notified.

In a few days, a locator will arrive to designate the approximate location of any underground lines, pipes, and cables with flags or marking paint so you'll know what's below. Then the safe digging can begin.

Although many homeowners tackling do-it-yourself digging projects are aware of "Call Before You Dig" services, the majority don't take advantage of the service. A national survey showed that only 33 percent



of homeowners called to have their lines marked before starting digging projects, according to the Common Ground Alliance, a federally mandated group of underground utility and damage prevention industry professionals.

Although light gardening typically doesn't call for deep digging, other seemingly simple tasks like planting shrubs or installing a new mailbox post can damage utility lines. A severed line can disrupt service to an entire neighborhood, harm diggers, and potentially result in fines and repair costs.

Never assume the location or depth of underground utility lines. There's no need: the 811 service is free, prevents the inconvenience of having utilities interrupted, and can help you avoid serious injury. For more information about local services, visit www.call811.com.

Farmers, take heed:

Check fields for downed lines or poles before harvesting



Winter storms laid wire, poles, insulators, and other items on the ground in and around local wheat fields. Kiwash Electric has attempted to remove all of these items; but we may have inadvertently missed something.

Please check your fields carefully along the pole lines *before* you harvest. To report wires, poles, or other material still in your field or along the road, please call Kiwash Electric at **888.832.3362**. Be safe—check those fields!

COMING UP in Kiwash Country

■ JUNE

- 1-4 Oklahoma YouthPower Energy Camp Canyon Camp, Hinton
- 1-4 Air and Space Camp for 6th - 8th graders, Stafford Air and Space Museum, Weatherford
- 4 Southwest Playhouse presents "The Melody Lingers On" Clinton
- 5 Art in the Park, Acme Brick Park
- (5, 12, 19 & 26) Farmer's Market, Means Park Weatherford, 8 am- 12:30 pm
- 7-10 Air and Space Camp for 3rd & 4th graders, Stafford Air and Space Museum, Weatherford
- (8, 15, 22 & 29) Farmer's Market, Means Park Weatherford, 4 pm - 8 pm
- 11 Southwest Playhouse presents "The Melody Lingers On" Clinton
- 11-17 2010 Rural Electric Youth Tour
- 14-17 Air and Space Camp for 5th & 6th graders, Stafford Air and Space Museum, Weatherford
- 18-19 Heartland Cruise Car Show Weatherford 580-772-7744
- 25-26 Route 66 Festival - Hot Dogs & Hot Rods on Route 66, Friday: 5 -10 pm, Saturday, 8 am - 7 pm Downtown Clinton 580-323-2222

■ JULY

- 8-10 Okie Dust Devil Aerobatic Competition Thomas P. Stafford Airport Weatherford
- 9 Word Ministry presents Gold City in concert, Clinton Middle School
- 24-Aug 1 Quartz Mountain Music Festival Quartz Mountain State Park Lone Wolf, 580-649-7596

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 12th of the month prior to publication.