



the Kilowatt

MARCH 2011



Visit Kiwash Electric's Facebook page for updates on co-op services, energy saving, tips, outage information and more.

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Kiwash-Electric-Cooperative/>

published monthly for members of
Kiwash Electric Cooperative, Inc.



A SUPPLEMENT TO OKLAHOMA LIVING



ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Tip of the Month

By replacing your five most-used lightbulbs with ENERGY STAR-qualified bulbs, you could save \$70 a year.

—US ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Teenagers in Kiwash Electric Cooperative territory should apply now for two special opportunities available through their co-op.

For eighth graders, YouthPower Energy Camp promotes teen leadership and cooperation through a variety of fun games and activities over a four day period. For graduating seniors, Kiwash Electric offers scholarships that may be used at any college, tech school or university.



Deadlines to apply for these opportunities are approaching fast. Please read below for more details.

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS ESSAY DEADLINE IS APRIL 1

Kiwash Electric awards four \$500 scholarships to seniors graduating from high school in Kiwash Electric service territory. Funds may be used to cover tuition expenses at any two or four year university, or two year technical school. Scholarship recipients will be selected on the basis of a 500-word essay that addresses the question, "What are the biggest energy issues that your generation will face?" **The essay deadline is April 1, 2011.**

Time is running out!

Essay deadlines for Kiwash Electric's college scholarships and YouthPower Energy Camp are approaching fast.

YOUTHPOWER ENERGY CAMP ESSAY DEADLINE IS APRIL 15

The Red Rock Canyon in Hinton is the backdrop for this four day camp for eighth graders, May 31 - June 3, 2011. Energy Camp weaves leadership skills and cooperative values into fun games and activities that kids love. Eighth graders in Kiwash Electric territory are encouraged to team up with a friend and write a brief essay of 100 words or more on the topic, "What I would miss most without electricity and why." Kiwash will select one team (two teens) to attend Energy Camp.

Entry forms and details are found online www.kiwash.coop, or contact your co-op at **888-832-3362**. **The deadline to apply is April 15, 2011.**



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



ARE BILLS PILING UP?

Enroll in Kiwash Electric's automatic bill payment plan, and your bill is paid automatically from your checking or savings account every month. With automated payments, your bill is paid on time every time, and you're spared the doldrums of writing checks.

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



A Touchstone Energy
Cooperative

KIWASH ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE, INC.

*Providing the service
that lights up your life.*

Office Location

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Cordell, Oklahoma

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www.kiwash.coop

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INSIDE YOUR CO-OP



By Dennis Krueger
GENERAL MANAGER

Five important lessons

None of the stories below are mine, but they are timeless tales with valuable lessons that are worth repeating.

Please enjoy the following lessons, which are reprinted from various sources.

1. The Cleaning Lady

During my second month of college, our professor gave us a pop quiz. I was a conscientious student and had breezed through the questions until I read the last one: "What is the first name of the woman who cleans the school?" Surely this was some kind of joke. I had seen the cleaning woman several times. She was tall, dark-haired and in her 50s, but how would I know her name? I handed in my paper, leaving the last question blank. Just before class ended, one student asked if the last question would count toward our quiz grade. "Absolutely," said the professor. "In your careers, you will meet many people. All are significant and they deserve your attention and care, even if all you do is smile and say "hello." I've never forgotten that lesson. I also learned her name was Dorothy.

2. Pickup in the Rain

One night an older African American woman was standing on the side of an Alabama highway in a lashing rain storm. Her car had broken down and she desperately needed a ride. Soaking wet, she decided to flag down the next car. A young white man stopped to help her, generally unheard of in those conflict-filled 1960s. The man took her to safety, helped her get assistance and put her into a taxicab. She seemed to be in a big hurry, but wrote down his address and thanked him. Seven days went by and a knock came on the man's door. To his surprise, a giant console color TV was delivered to his home. A special note was attached. It read: "Thank you so

much for assisting me on the highway the other night. The rain drenched not only my clothes, but also my spirits. Then you came along. Because of you, I was able to make it to my dying husband's bedside just before he passed away. God bless you for helping me and unselfishly serving others." Sincerely, Mrs. Nat King Cole.

3. Remember those who serve

In the days when an ice cream sundae cost much less, a 10-year-old boy entered a coffee shop and sat at a table. A waitress put a glass of water in front of him.

"How much is an ice cream sundae?" he asked.

"Fifty cents," replied the waitress.

The little boy pulled his hand out of his pocket and studied the coins in it. "Well, how much is a plain dish of ice cream?" he inquired. By now more people were waiting for a table and the waitress was growing impatient. "Thirty-five cents," she brusquely replied. The little boy again counted his coins. "I'll have the plain ice cream," he said.

The waitress brought the ice cream, put the bill on the table and walked away. The boy finished the ice cream, paid the cashier and left. When the waitress came back, she began to cry as she wiped down the table. There, placed neatly beside the empty dish, were two nickels and five pennies. You see, he couldn't have the sundae, because he had to have enough left to leave her a tip.

4. The Obstacle in Our Path

In ancient times, a King had a boulder placed on a roadway. He hid and watched to see if anyone would remove the huge rock. Some of the King's wealthiest merchants came by and simply walked around it. Others blamed the King for not keeping the

roads clear, but did nothing.

Then a peasant came along carrying a load of vegetables. Upon approaching the boulder, the peasant laid down his burden and tried to move the stone to the side of the road. After much pushing and straining, he finally succeeded. After the peasant picked up his load of vegetables, he noticed a purse where the boulder had been. The purse contained many gold coins and a note from the King indicating the gold was for the person who removed the boulder from the roadway. The peasant learned what many of us never understand: Every obstacle presents an opportunity to improve our condition.

5. Giving When it Counts

A volunteer at a hospital got to know a little girl who was suffering from a rare and serious disease. Her only chance of recovery appeared to be a blood transfusion from her five-year old brother, who had survived the same disease and had developed the antibodies needed to combat the illness. The doctor explained the situation to her little brother, and asked the boy if he would be willing to give his blood to his sister. My friend saw him hesitate for a moment before taking a deep breath and saying, "Yes I'll do it if it will save her." As the transfusion progressed, he lay in bed next to his sister and smiled, seeing the color returning to her cheek. Then his smile faded. He looked up at the doctor and asked with a trembling voice, "Will I start to die right away?" Being young, the boy had misunderstood the doctor; he thought he was going to have to give his sister all of his blood in order to save her.

If you recall similar stories from your own life, please write them down for future generations to share. The gift of wisdom is always appreciated.

Tax credits extended in 2011

Benefit reverts to \$500 cap for upgrades

Since 2005, Congress has enacted a series of tax breaks for consumers who take steps to make their homes more energy efficient. In December, Congress decided to extend some of the efficiency tax credits through Dec. 31, 2011, but at reduced levels.

For instance, the total lifetime credit that can be claimed on energy improvements made between 2006 and 2011 has decreased from \$1,500 to \$500. The percentage of efficiency upgrade costs consumers can recover decreased from 30 percent to 10 percent.

There are also maximum allowances for different upgrades. For installing more efficient windows, the tax credit is limited to \$200, and there's a \$300 cap for "any item of energy-efficient building property." Other restrictions include:

- ◆ **Furnaces (\$150):** Must have at least 95 percent annual fuel utilization efficiency.
- ◆ **Advanced main air circulating fan (\$50):** Must utilize less than 2 percent of a furnace's total energy consumption.
- ◆ **Central air conditioner (\$300):** Must have a seasonal energy efficiency ratio (SEER) of at least 16 and an energy efficiency rating (EER) of at least 13.

◆ **Air source heat pump (\$300):**

Must have at least a heating seasonal performance factor (HSPF) of 9, SEER of 16, and EER of 13.

- ◆ **Biomass fuel stove (\$300):** Must have a thermal efficiency rating of 75 percent or more.

The bill also reinstates a credit of up to \$2,000 for builders of energy-efficient residences that use no more than half the energy of a 2003 national model energy code home.

Claiming Tax Credits

To claim your credit, be sure to keep your receipts and your Manufacturer's Certification Statement (a statement from the manufacturer certifying the product qualifies for the tax credit). Claim the credit on your taxes using IRS Form 5695.

More value

If you're considering a new heating and cooling system, remember Kiwash Electric offers heat pump rebates on new ground source or air source heat pumps. Earn a rebate of \$125/ton on units with a 13 to 16 SEER rating, or \$175/ton on units with a SEER rating of 17 or higher. Kiwash Electric also offers rebates on electric water heaters. For details, please visit www.kiwash.coop, or call 888-832-3362.

RECIPE BOX

Irish Beef Stew

INGREDIENTS

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 2 lbs beef chuck, cut into 1.5-inch cubes
- 1 pound carrots, peeled and sliced thick
- 6 potatoes, peeled, cut into large chunks
- 1 white onion, cut into large chunks
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 cups beef broth
- 1 (6 oz) can tomato paste
- 1 (12 oz.) can or bottle Irish stout beer
- 1 tablespoon cold water
- 1 tablespoon cornstarch

DIRECTIONS

Heat the oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Toss beef cubes with flour to coat, then fry in the hot oil until browned. Place the carrots, potatoes, onion and garlic in a large slow cooker. Place the meat on top of the vegetables. Mix together the beef broth and tomato paste and pour into the slow cooker along with the beer.

Cover and cook on High for 6 hours or Low for 8 hours. During the last hour before serving, dissolve cornstarch in cold water and stir into the broth. Simmer on the high setting for a few minutes to thicken.

YIELD: 8 servings

SPRING INTO SAVINGS!



Show your Co-op Connections card for discounts at the following local businesses, or take advantage of hundreds of additional savings offers from state and national retailers. Save on gifts, clothing, food, auto repairs and more. To view all the offers, please visit

www.kiwash.coop, and click on the Co-op Connections icon.

■ **A1 Heating and Air, Cordell.** Save 15 percent on parts. 405-485-2254

■ **B&K Bait House, Foss.** 10 percent off all fishing and tackle supplies. 580-592-4518

■ **Bank of Western Oklahoma, Cordell.** Receive a free in-house bank appraisal at loan closing or receive their first box of checks free when opening a checking account. 580-832-3322.

■ **Hilltop Lanes, Cordell.** Bowl two games, get one free. 580-832-2619.

■ **Fletcher's Auto, Cordell.** 10 percent off on in shop labor, cash accounts only. 580-832-5540

■ **Jack's Flowers and Gifts, Cordell.** 10 percent off silk floral arrangements, wall pictures and lamps. 580-832-3366

■ **Kathy's Kottage, Thomas.** 10 percent off regular priced items. 580-661-2223

■ **Total Expressions, Cordell.** 5 percent off membership. 580-660-1998

■ **Starvin Marvin's Pizza, Cordell** \$3off any order of \$15 or more, or \$5 off any order of \$25 or more. 580-832-5553.

■ **Dean's Greenhouse, Cordell.** 10 percent off all plant purchases. 580-225-6627

■ **The Bank Lofts, Cordell.** 10 percent off a one or two nights stay or 15 percent off of three nights or more.

■ **The Small Gift Shop, Clinton.** 10 percent discounts available.

■ **Lindley Farm Equipment, Cordell.** 10 percent off on oil, engine oil and fuel filters. 580-832-3379

■ **Mozelle's Gift Gallery, Burns Flat.** 20% off any \$20 or more purchase. 580-562-3205

■ **Oklahoma Route 66 Museum, Clinton.** 2 for 1 admission. 580-323-7866

■ **Tautfest Furniture and Appliance, Weatherford.** 20 percent off regular price furniture accessories. 580-772-5581



PLAY IT SAFE:

Electricity theft not worth it

Stealing power poses danger to everyone

Every year, electric cooperatives across the country cope with thieves—folks who deliberately tamper with their electric meter to steal power. Not only is this practice extremely dangerous, it's a serious crime that can result in hefty fines and jail time.

Most cases of power theft involve consumers who interfere with the operation of a meter or jump power to elsewhere to lower or avoid paying electric bills.

Some people resort to using knives, forks, magnets, jumper cables, and any number of other objects to get around paying for the power they use. Not only are these persons stealing from their fellow co-op members they're also risking their lives and those of cooperative workers.

According to the Cooperative Research Network, a division of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, power surging through a compromised meter can cause an electrical catastrophe. A short circuit could produce an arc flash bright enough to cause blindness and powerful enough to launch fragments of shrapnel-like, red-hot debris. Serious injury or death from electrocution, explosion, or fire often results from meter tampering.

In addition, electricity theft is not a victimless crime. Your electric cooperative



loses revenue and expends resources to investigate tampering. These costs are then passed on to the entire membership. While national estimates vary, *The Washington Post* cited revenue protection officials who claim between \$1 billion and \$10 billion worth of electricity is stolen from utilities annually.

Since everyone pays for lost power, please let your co-op know if you suspect meter tampering. Call Kiwash Electric Cooperative at **888-832-3362** to report possible theft of service. All information can be given anonymously.



Remember to SPRING FORWARD!

Set your clocks ahead one hour on March 13, the official start of Daylight Savings time.

COMING UP

in Kiwash Country

■ MARCH

- 1 Custer County Livestock Show, Fairgrounds, Clinton
- 3 Aron Ralston, 7:30 - 9 pm
SWOSU Fine Arts Center, Weatherford
- 11 Southern Gospel Concert "THE PERRYS," 7:30 pm, Clinton Middle School Auditorium
580-323-8670 or spreadingtheword@sbcglobal.net
- 13 Daylight Savigs Time begins
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 18 Legislative Luncheon sponsored by the Hobart Chamber of Commerce, China King, 11:30 am
- 31 SWOSU Theatre production "Urinetown: The Musical," 7:30 - 9 pm, Hilltop Theater, SWOSU Campus, Weatherford

■ APRIL

- 1 April Fool's Day
- 1-4 SWOSU Theatre production "Urinetown: The Musical," 7:30 - 9 pm, Hilltop Theater, Weatherford
- 7 Chamber of Commerce Banquet, 6 pm, Western Technology Center, Hobart
- 7-9 SWOSU College Rodeo, Rodeo Arena, Rader Park, Weatherford
- 15 Relay for Life, SWOSU Wellness Center, Weatherford
- 15 Legislative Luncheon sponsored by the Hobart Chamber of Commerce, 11:30 am, China King

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.

If you have questions about submitting an event, or need to speak with a Kiwash representative about other matters, please call **888-832-3362**, or visit **www.kiwash.coop**.