

the Kilowatt

MAY 2013



published monthly for members of
Kiwash Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A SUPPLEMENT TO OKLAHOMA LIVING

Closed Memorial Day

Kiwash Electric Cooperative will close on Monday, May 27 in observance of Memorial Day. To report a service problem during this time, please call **888-832-3362**.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Tip of the Month

Properly installed shades save energy. Lower shades during summer days; in winter, raise them during the day and lower them at night on south-facing windows. Dual shades with reflective coating on one side and heat-absorbing color on the other, can be reversed with the seasons to save even more energy.

—US DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY



A Sparkling Spring

A winter storm on April 10 left the first green grass of spring dripping with ice. While pretty, the sparkly stuff caused widespread power outages across western Oklahoma. For more on the storm, please see page 2.



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



KEC Annual Meeting, 1950

Co-op employees pose for a photo at the 1950 Kiwash Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting in Cordell City Park. (Front row) Harvey Abercombie, Custer City lineman supervisor; Charles Fleming, construction lineman; and J.L. Jennings, Hobart lineman. Looking on are Lineman Valgene Easley and wife; Betty Lenaburg and Julia "Toots" Raff.



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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STAFF

Dennis Krueger
MANAGER

Wendy Putman
DIRECTOR OF
FINANCE

Lisa Willard
DIRECTOR OF
COMMUNICATIONS

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INSIDE YOUR CO-OP



By Dennis Krueger
GENERAL MANAGER

Round Two

Second ice storm in two months hits Kiwash Electric

Ice and 40 mph winds don't make life easy for lineman and electric companies. In western Oklahoma, particularly, rural electric lines and poles have little protection from the elements. This leaves our system more vulnerable to ice, sustained winds, and wind gusts, which is exactly what happened on April 10, 2013.

Your Kiwash Electric system includes three thousand miles of lines and poles that span a broad five-county area. During the April storm, the majority of these lines danced in the winds like a jump rope. You can imagine the damage: Electric lines on brand new poles broke from slapping together; and some of our newest cross-arms snapped as the lines smacked into them.

The April storm came on the heels of another icy snow storm that hit in late February. We were still in the process of repairing system damage caused by the first storm when we were hit with another. The storm damages were similar; broken poles and lines wrapped together or burnt down from clanging together.

These problems are not the result of the aging electric system; we've spent the past eight years upgrading it. While we wisely spend your dollars to improve system reliability, Mother Nature can still humble us with her wrath, and turn a lovely day into an ugly storm.

During the April storm, our crews reported from a quarter inch of



ice on top of the lines to near three quarters of inch on top. These are not circumference figures, but ice accumulations from the top of the line to the top of the ice. Below the lines the ice accumulation was even thicker.

For members who have not lived on Kiwash lines very long, and older members, too, we know these storm situations can be frustrating. They are equally trying for our crews and contractors who are out there fighting the elements to restore power as quickly as possible.

It's important to explain that during a major outage, the problem that affects your line may not be visible from your home. Instead, the damage causing your power outage might be located miles away.

Repairing that damage is a tedious process, and even more so when weather and working conditions are miserable. Electric utilities must work from the substation out to the end of the line to complete the repair mission. For an electric co-op, that substation might be located as far as 25 miles away.

While inspecting this distance requires more work, trust me, you will not gain power to your house any faster if we repair your broken line before the main feeders lines are energized.

During the recent storm, six of our 10 substations were off due to damaged transmission lines running from Western Farmers Electric Cooperative generation facilities in Mooreland and Anadarko. These problems slowed repair efforts despite the unwavering commitment of co-op crews who somehow kept slogging through it all until power was completely restored.

If you called to report an outage during the recent storm, your call was likely received by a call center employee. Kiwash Electric hired a call center to assist us due to the high call volume. They were able to answer the phone 10 times faster, freeing our employees to handle other responsibilities. We hope this decision allowed you to report your problem more expediently and with fewer busy signals.

Seventy five years ago our competitors chose not to serve rural areas because it was not profitable to their investors, but your electric co-op found a way. Unfortunately, the problems that arise from serving isolated rural areas can become even more apparent during a major storm. After seventy-five years of service, we still strive for perfection. We appreciate your cooperation and your understanding.



A FEW THINGS YOU
SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

Go Go Geo Scholarship winners. Five finalists have been named in the Go Go Geo Scholarship Video Challenge, sponsored by Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, ClimateMaster, Bosch and WaterFurnace. The contest encouraged students to showcase their creativity and video producing skills while competing for almost \$60,000 in scholarship dollars and grants.

Finalists include Austin Branch, Norman High School North; Kailey Kelley, Hinton High School; Casee Cole, Pond Creek-Hunter School; Ean Bonjour, Stillwater High School; and Haley Madden, Portales, NM High School.

Second and third place winners for the Southwest Region include Ashton Lierle, Fort Cobb-Broxton High School; and Baylee Williams, Chickasha High School.

In the regional round, first, second and third place winners were awarded scholarships of \$3,000, \$2,000 and \$1,000, respectively. The first place winner will advance to the state competition.

View winning videos at www.gogogeochallenge.com.

Recipe Box

Banana Trifle

INGREDIENTS

- 2 (3.5 oz) pkgs. instant banana pudding
- 1 quart cold milk
- 2 bananas, chopped
- 4 cups heavy cream
- 4 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 (12 oz) pkg. prepared pound cake, cubed
- 1/2 (12 oz) box vanilla wafers, crushed



DIRECTIONS

Whisk pudding mix with milk until smooth. Stir in chopped bananas; set aside.

In a large bowl, whip cream until stiff peaks are just about to form. Beat in vanilla and sugar until peaks form. Make sure not to over-beat, or cream will become lumpy and butter-like.

Layer half the pound cake cubes, half the pudding, half the whipped cream, and half the crushed vanilla wafers in a trifle bowl. Repeat with the remaining cake, pudding, and whipped cream, and top with the remaining crushed wafers. Chill in the refrigerator until ready to serve.

Yield: 12 cups.

Summer vacation can be a recipe for high electric bills if kids are home all day. Try these tips to keep costs down when the temperature rises.

Avoid 'phantom' load

Get your family in the habit of turning electronics on and off via power strips. As electronics and appliances become more technologically savvy, they often draw power even while turned off. A good indicator of this—called "phantom load"—is to check the device for a light that stays on all the time.

Phantom load will add a few watt-hours to energy consumption, but a few watt-hours on each of your many electronic devices adds up. To avoid this silent power draw, unplug the device or invest in a "smart" power strip, which allows certain electronics—like a cable box, which takes time to reboot after it's been unplugged—to continue using electricity while others can be completely shut down.

BEAT the HEAT

Tips to help you lower summer energy costs



Help out your AC unit

Summer means more people in your house will be opening the door to go outside. When it's hot that means your air-conditioning unit has to work harder to keep the house cool. Be sure to adjust settings to maximize efficiency, such as using the "auto" function instead of keeping the fan running all the time.

Regular maintenance to keep your air conditioner or heat pump in good working order is a good idea; also check and change the air filter every few months or if it's dirty.

Set your thermostat as high as you can while maintaining your comfort level—the smaller the difference between indoor air and the great outdoors, the lower your cooling costs will be. And make sure to rearrange your furniture so that appliances that put out a lot of heat aren't near the thermostat.

As you work this summer to stop energy drains, be sure to visit TogetherWeSave.com to find out how little measures around the house can add up to big energy savings.



Elderly more prone to fires

Safety measures for senior citizens save lives

During Electrical Safety Month in May, your electric co-op is joining the Electrical Safety Foundation (ESFI) to highlight the importance of electrical safety for senior citizens.

While electrical hazards can affect anyone, the ESFI reports that adults over the age of 65 are more than twice as likely to die from a house fire as the general population. Many of these fires originate in the kitchen.

If you are caring for an elderly person or are a senior citizen yourself, certain safety precautions can help you avoid a serious accident.

- Don't cook if you are sleepy, have been drinking alcohol, or have taken medications that make you drowsy.
- Turn off the stove if you leave the kitchen, even for a short period of time.
- Use a timer to regularly remind you that you're cooking.
- Turn handles of pots and pans to the side so you don't accidentally bump them and spill the contents.
- Wear short, close-fitting, or tightly rolled sleeves when cooking.
- Make sure the oven burners and other appliances are turned off when you are finished cooking.
- Keep the stovetop and oven clean, and clean the exhaust hood and duct over the stove regularly.
- Keep towels, dish cloths, and other

flammable items away from the stove and other hot surfaces.

- Plug countertop appliances into ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI)-protected outlets.
- Never use an oven or stove for heating your home.

Around the home, make sure there are smoke alarms installed on every floor of your home. Place alarms inside each bedroom and outside each sleeping area. Test them once a month, change the batteries at least once a year, and replace the alarm itself every ten years. For the hearing impaired, consider installing alarms that emit flashing lights. (These alarms are available through most major home/hardware stores.)

These vital tips are featured in ESFI's newly launched "Home Fire Safety for Older Adults Safety Awareness Program," which provides tools to educate older adults and their families about fire hazards related to cooking, heating, and electrical equipment. A full range of resources for older adults, including detailed fact and tip sheets as well as public service announcements, can be found by visiting www.esfi.org/safetyeducators.

Kiwash Electric Cooperative is serious about safety. To report an unsafe electrical situation, or visit with your co-op about any safety matter, please call 888-832-3362.



in Kiwash Country

■ MAY

- 4 Weatherford Youth Horse Show
Don Mitchell Arena, Weatherford
580-772-7744
- 24-25 Clinton Route 66 Festival
Downtown & McClain Rodgers Park
Clinton, 580-323-2222
- 24-25 Cordell Roundup Club Open Rodeo
Rodeo Grounds, Cordell, 580-832-3781
- 24-27 Celebration of Freedom, Hobart
580-726-5900
- 27 Memorial Day. Kiwash Electric Cooperative closed for the holiday.

■ JUNE

- 14-15 Heartland Cruise and Car Show
Radar Park and Main Street
Weatherford, 580-772-7744 or
580-772-0470
- 24-25 Clinton Route 66 Festival
Downtown & McClain Rodgers Park
580-323-2222

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.