

the Kilowatt

FEBRUARY 2014



published monthly for members of
Kiwash Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A SUPPLEMENT TO OKLAHOMA LIVING

New Look for Kilowatt

Next month the *Kilowatt* will sport a brand new look. With a refreshed layout and new fonts, we hope you'll enjoy the change. Watch your mailbox for the "new *Kilowatt*," and please keep reading.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Tip of the Month

When you're checking your home for air leaks, remember to inspect the exterior of your home, too. Air leaks are often found where two types of building materials meet, including exterior corners, outdoor faucets, where siding and chimneys meet, and the areas where the foundation and the exterior walls meet.

—US Dept. of Energy



BILL PAYMENT LOCATIONS

Pay online:

www.kiwash.coop

Pay by phone:

855-875-7216

Kiwash Electric
120 W. 1st Street
Cordell, Oklahoma

Custer City Hall
Custer City, Oklahoma

First National Bank
Thomas, Oklahoma

New Payment Option Offers Around the Clock Account Info

If you've ever found yourself scrambling to pay a bill at the last minute or even paying on the go as you travel, you'll appreciate the latest payment option from Kiwash Electric Cooperative.

With CallCapture, Kiwash Electric's new, interactive phone system, co-op members can stay in touch with their co-op at their convenience. CallCapture allows you to retrieve information about your electric bill account using an automated phone menu. The system also features a pay-by-phone option, so you can pay your electric bill with the touch of a button.

CallCapture payments are automatically posted to your account. VISA, Master Card or electronic check with proper routing and pin numbers are accepted.

"The automated phone system is really just another tool we can use to improve our customer service,"



- Pay via phone using VISA, Mastercard or e-check.
- No waiting or busy signals
- Payments recorded that day
- Convenient, 24/7 access

To use CallCapture, please call
(toll free) 855-875-7216

says Dennis Krueger, Kiwash Electric general manager. "We know our members are busy. If they need information about their electric bill or want to make a payment without the assistance of office staff, CallCapture operates day and night.

"We believe the CallCapture system will allow for efficiencies, and based on members needs, additional customer service features may be added to the system in the future," Krueger added.

To use CallCapture, you will need to provide your current phone as listed with Kiwash Electric or your Kiwash account number. If you have not provided Kiwash Electric with a current phone number, please contact the co-op at **888-832-3362** at your earliest convenience.

To use CallCapture to pay your bill or check your account balance, please call the toll-free number, **855-875-7216**.

ATTENTION TEENS:

Kick Off Summer At Energy Camp

A trip to camp is the perfect way for kids to kick off the summer. Eight grade students in Kiwash Electric territory, can jump on this opportunity by entering KEC's YouthPower Energy Camp contest

Energy Camp will be held May 27-30 at Canyon Camp in Red Rock Canyon. The co-op sponsored camp introduces teens to co-op principles and encourages leadership via fun games and activities.

Kiwash will select two teens to attend camp. To enter, students must submit a short essay or video on the seven cooperative principles. Entry deadline is April 15, 2014.

Contest details and entry forms are available online at www.kiwash.coop, or contact Lisa Willard at **888-832-3362**.



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

 Find us
on Facebook

STAFF

Dennis Krueger
MANAGER

Wendy Putman
DIRECTOR OF
FINANCE

Lisa Willard
DIRECTOR OF
COMMUNICATIONS

Roy Dewees
DIRECTOR OF
OPERATIONS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

OFFICERS

Jack Sawatzky
PRESIDENT

Robert Travis
VICE PRESIDENT

John Schaufele
SEC.-TREASURER

Rex Eagan
ASST. SEC.-TREASURER

DIRECTORS

Virginia Walker
Ralph Cunningham
Jevon West

INSIDE YOUR CO-OP



By Dennis Krueger
GENERAL MANAGER

Copper Crime Is On The Rise

Thieves steal meter loops from private property in rural areas

The following is an excerpt from the letter we mailed to Custer County Sheriff Bruce Peoples and Washita County Sheriff Roger Reeves in December regarding our local problem:

"We are experiencing copper theft in a new and unusual way. The thieves are hooking up to the meter-loop with mast on the poles and pulling them down with a truck. They are probably selling the copper and aluminum wire inside these meter loops. The replacement value is around \$600+ per meter loop, and they are owned by the property owners and not Kiwash Electric. So far, thieves are targeting meter loops that are not in service and located in remote fields.

The thefts are happening in both Custer and Washita counties. To date, three have been reported to us. As farmers and ranchers request power service to operate

cattle water wells or fence chargers, the number of stolen meter loops may soon rise.

Kiwash Electric is alerting you on this matter because I'm sure some of these landowners will file a report for insurance purposes. More importantly, your officers might want to visit scrap metal dealers and make sure short pieces of copper and aluminum are not being purchased or sold without knowing their origins. A typical rural meter loop is 10 to 18 feet in length with three to four insulated wires, mostly #4 or 2/0 wire, inside either a 1½ to 2 inch unusually threaded steel pipe conduit of similar length.

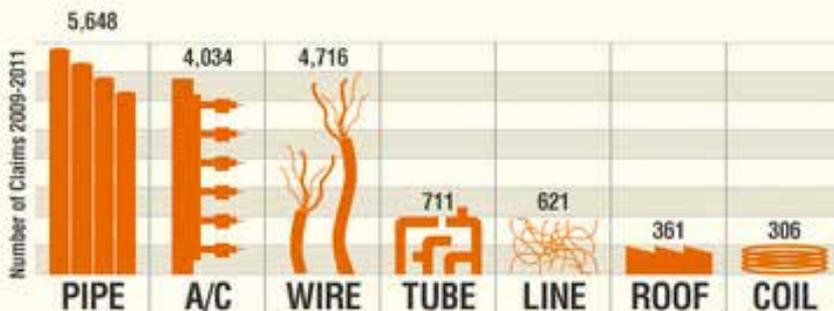
This is strictly an alert from Kiwash Electric Cooperative for consideration by your departments. While it is difficult to catch copper thieves in action, a visit to the scrap yards might be the key to stopping these thieves."

If you notice missing meter loops on your property or anywhere in your area, I encourage you to report it to the county sheriff's office immediately so they can begin to understand this rising problem. The number of thefts has definitely increased since this December letter was written.

Kiwash members should also report anyone selling used breaker boxes, steel conduit or copper and aluminum wire in short pieces. You may be aware of someone burning insulation off of wire; if so, please contact the local sheriff's office immediately.

Meter loops with masts are the property of the individual homeowner. That means you pay for it if it is stolen. Don't let copper thieves dip into your pocket: Now is the time to step forward and bring all pertinent information to the attention of your county sheriff. By working together, we can stop these thieves!

WHAT IS BEING STOLEN?



FIGHT BACK

- Report damaged meters or electrical equipment to the county sheriff immediately.
- If you notice suspicious vehicles or activity along electric lines or near substations, call 911.

ENERGY MATTERS

Plunging Temps Cause High Bills

Cold December results in higher usage—and more calls to Kiwash Electric



Oklahoma Mesonet ranked the 2013 month as the 17th coolest December on record. Mesonet recorded December's statewide average temperature at 35.2°F. That's no match for 1983's record cold of 25.8°F, but is far cooler than 2012's 42.1°F.

Responding with understandable concern, Kiwash members picked up their phones. Dwayne Hurliman, consumer accounts representative, said the co-op received numerous calls from members who had just opened their bill. "A lot of people said they didn't understand it because they never touched their thermostat," Hurliman said. "They may not have done anything different, but the weather sure did."

Frigid temperatures force heating units to cycle "on" more frequently—even if the thermostat is set at 68°F. To take the chill off, some members rely on space heaters. "Space heaters can rack up a lot of kilowatts in a short period of time," Hurliman noted. "When we see high usage, that's one of the

first things we ask about."

Another culprit, he said, are heat pumps with emergency heat strips. "A lot of the time the heat strips get stuck in the "on" position, which uses a lot of energy," he explained.

With single digit temperatures kicking off the month of January, Hurliman worries that members could see another round of high bills.

To help control winter costs, he encourages members to check their heating unit, change filters, caulk around windows and doors, and seal leaks around plumbing pipes, outlets, and other drafty areas. Opening blinds to allow the sun to warm your home is another smart move.

Members who are struggling to pay their bill are urged to contact Kiwash Electric before their bill is overdue.

For details on Kiwash Electric bill payment plans or to visit with a customer service representative, please call **888-832-3362**.

Temperatures in December put the freeze on Oklahoma, causing home heating units to work overtime to keep homes warm. Meanwhile, families rang in the holidays with blinking lights, nonstop cooking, and kids on vacation in front of the TV. The result: Higher than normal electric bills.

At Kiwash Electric, system-wide usage spiked at 4.6 million kilowatt-hours (*kwh*)—over one million kilowatts higher than December 2012. The average residential bill climbed from \$154 in December 2012 to \$190 in December 2013.



A FEW THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

Scholarship Deadline Coming Up.

High school seniors in Kiwash Electric territory could win a \$500 scholarship, which may be used at the two- or four-year college, university or career/technical school of their choice. Scholarship applicants must belong to the co-op or be the child of a Kiwash Electric Cooperative member. To be

Recipe Box

Heart-Healthy ♥

Balsamic Pork Tenderloin



INGREDIENTS

1 (1lb) pork tenderloin
1/4 cup balsamic vinegar
2 tablespoons olive oil
1 tablespoon snipped fresh rosemary
2 cloves garlic, minced
3/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
1/8 teaspoon salt

Balsamic Glaze

1/2 cup balsamic vinegar

DIRECTIONS

Place tenderloin in large resealable plastic bag set in a shallow dish. In a small bowl, combine balsamic vinegar, oil, rosemary, garlic, pepper, and salt. Pour over tenderloin. Seal bag; turn to coat tenderloin. Marinate in the refrigerator for 1 hour.

Remove tenderloin from marinade, discarding marinade. Prepare grill for indirect grilling. Test for medium heat above drip pan. Place tenderloin on grill rack over drip pan. Cover and grill about 40 minutes or until an instant-read thermometer inserted into the center of the tenderloin registers 155°F.

Brush tenderloin on all sides with Balsamic Glaze. Grill for 1 minute more. Remove from grill. Cover with foil and let stand for 15 minutes (the meat's temperature will rise 5°F. during standing time). Slice to serve. Makes 6 (2 oz)servings.

Balsamic Glaze

In a small saucepan, bring balsamic vinegar to boiling. Reduce heat; boil gently for 5 minutes. Makes about 1/4 cup.

considered, applicants must submit a written essay or a short video on the topic, "The Seven Cooperative Principles." Scholarship applications and consent forms are available at www.kiwash.coop, or contact Lisa Willard at **888-832-3362**. Essays and video uploads must be received by no later than 5 pm on April 15, 2014.



Checking blood pressure on a regular basis offers early warning signs of heart disease.

Take Heart: You're the Cure

Mark American Heart Month with prevention tips

Before you finish reading this article (about 40 seconds), an American will have a stroke. One in four Americans will die from heart disease. Don't be a statistic. Be the cure.

Heart disease, including stroke, is the leading cause of death for men and women in the United States. Oklahoma ranks second in deaths due to cardiovascular disease.

The good news? Heart disease can often be prevented when people

make healthy choices and manage their health conditions.

To prevent heart disease and increase awareness of its effects, Kiwash Electric Cooperative is joining the nation to mark American Heart Month in February.

It all begins with you. By making healthy changes, you can to lower your risk of developing heart disease. If you already have heart disease, remember that controlling or preventing risk factors remains important.

To lower your risk:

- Watch your weight.
- Quit smoking and stay away from secondhand smoke.
- Control your cholesterol and blood pressure.
- If you drink alcohol, drink in moderation.
- Get active and eat healthy.

Learn more at yourethecure.org or www.heart.org.



in *Kiwash Country*

■ FEBRUARY

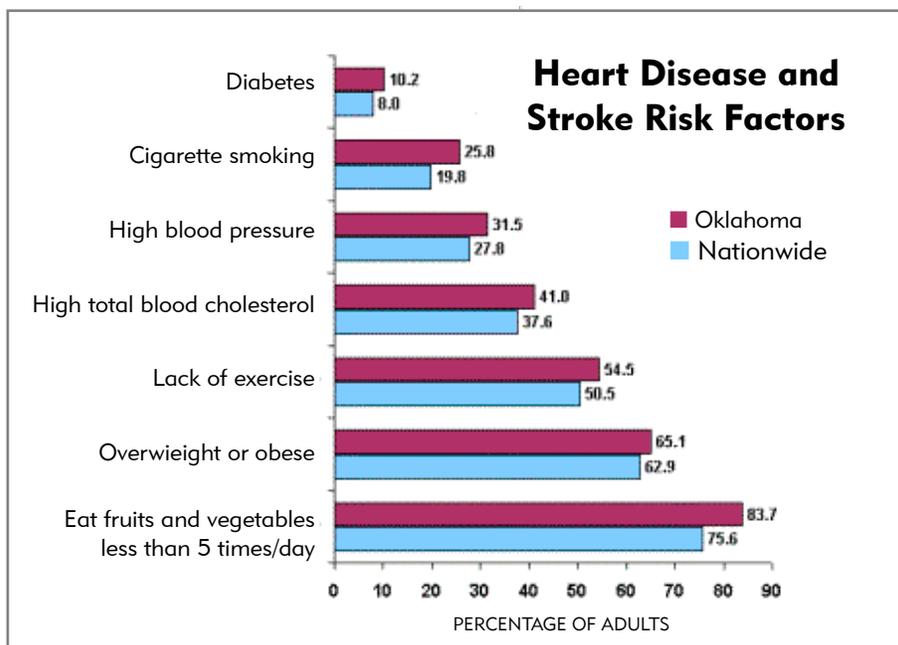
- 1 German Feast and Auction
208 E. Reimer, Corn Oklahoma
580-343-2262
- 1-2 In Search of Eagle, Quartz Mountain Nature Park Group Camp, Lone Wolf
580-563-2238 or 405-319-8380
- 6 SWOSU Jazz Festival Concert, 7 pm,
100 Campus Drive, Weatherford
580-772-6611
- 6 Blood Drive, 4 pm
Caddo-Kiowa Technology Center
Bldg 400. 400, Fort Cobb

■ MARCH

- 17 St. Patrick's Day

■ APRIL

- 5 Southwest Farm & Home Expo
Convention Center, Elk City



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.