

Kilowatt

A supplement to Oklahoma Living

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Kiwash Electric Cooperative
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Cordell, Oklahoma
tele: **(888) 832-3362**
www.kiwash.coop

OFFICE HOURS:
Monday-Friday, 7:30 am - 5:30 pm.

POWER OUTAGE HOT LINE
888-832-3362

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Jevon West
Dennis Krueger, *General Manager*

PAYMENT OPTIONS

- Pay online at **www.kiwash.coop**.
- Pay by phone by calling **855-875-7216**. Available 24 hours a day. Visa, Mastercard or Discover.
- Pay in person at 120 West 1st St., Cordell, Monday - Friday, 7:30 am to 5:30 pm.
- Pay via automatic draft of your checking or savings account. To sign up, please visit **www.kiwash.coop** or call **888-832-3362**.
- Pay at one of our authorized payment locations:

Custer City Hall
Custer City, Oklahoma

First National Bank
Thomas, Oklahoma



Kiwash Members Stand Up to EPA

Small-but-mighty membership voices climate change concerns

Kiwash Electric may be the third smallest electric co-op in Oklahoma, but that didn't stop members from taking action against the EPA's move to eliminate coal as a generating fuel.

Over 150 Kiwash Electric members issued email comments to congressional representatives and EPA officials that spelled out concerns over power plant emission standards. The standards could eliminate coal as a generating fuel and leave consumers more vulnerable to price hikes. Electric co-ops rely on coal, natural gas,

Share your concerns about EPA with friends and family across social media, or direct them to **action.coop** where they can learn more and send their own messages.

hydro and wind to generate electricity for their members. "Having a balanced mix of fuels is important to keeping rates affordable for our members," says Dennis Krueger, Kiwash Electric Cooperative general manager. "When we have more options to choose from to generate electricity,

A NOTE TO MEMBERS

I want to thank you for playing a big role in our effort to tell the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that we need a sensible, balanced approach to America's energy needs and environmental concerns - instead of forcing top-down regulations onto hard-working Americans.

Over 100,000 real people have joined this nationwide effort. I expect that number to increase in 2014 as more consumers realize these plans will raise their power costs.

We need to keep the pressure on the EPA! Please watch for updates on this issue in your newsletter, and on Facebook, throughout the year.

Thank you so much for being a part of this effort.

Sincerely,
Dennis Krueger, General Manager
Kiwash Electric Cooperative

we are less vulnerable to price swings in the energy market."

Electric co-ops across the nation appealed to members to get involved in the debate by pointing them to the Cooperative Action Network at **www.action.coop**. The site explains the issue in detail and provides a prepared email that members may use "as is" or add

comments based on their own experiences.

To date, over 100,000 co-op members nationwide have used the site to email their concerns to federal officials. Among Oklahoma electric co-ops, Kiwash Electric Cooperative members have issued the most emails on the issue thus far.

Utility Bills Increase Due to Cold



February may be the month of flaming hearts and red hot lovers, but for Oklahoma consumers

there was nothing warm about it. Utility customers statewide will be reminded of February's frigid temperature when bills begin arriving in March. Kiwash Electric members should also brace for higher than normal bills. "Even the most energy conscious members will see higher bills this month due to the cold weather in February," said Dwayne Hurliman, consumer accounts representative.

When temperatures hover in the single digits, heating units must work overtime to keep homes warm. The result is increased usage and energy bills.

Members who are struggling to pay their bill should contact Kiwash Electric at **888-832-3362** before their bill is overdue. Your co-op is happy to work with you to establish a payment schedule that will help you avoid disconnects and late fees.

Scholarship Deadline



Teens looking for financial help to further their education are reminded to apply for a Kiwash Electric scholarship by

April 15. Scholarship guidelines and applications are available online at www.kiwash.coop, or contact Lisa Willard at **888-832-3362**.

Apply for Energy Camp

Kiwash Electric will choose two eighth graders to attend YouthPower Energy Camp on May 27-30 at Canyon Camp near Hinton. Contest details are available online at www.kiwash.coop, or contact Lisa Willard at **888-832-3362**. Entry deadline is April 15.

BY DENNIS KRUEGER

GENERAL MANAGER



Understanding Rights-of-Way

As your electric power supplier, we take responsibility for maintaining the 3,000 miles of power lines that bring electricity to your home or business. This means we must periodically use our right-of-way to repair the lines that cross your property.

Some of you may be uncertain as to what "right-of-way" really means. It is a legal agreement that allows your electric co-op to access to the property directly beneath—and to either side—of an electric power line. Also called an easement, the right-of-way allows co-op crews to enter the property at any time to perform maintenance or repair our equipment. We may also need to remove trees and brush that would obstruct our activities in the right-of-way.

Even though this easement allows us a right of entry, we try not to disrupt existing activities on the property. We do our best to inform property owners prior to entering; however, sometimes time will not allow us to do so. Reasonable care will be used to minimize damage as we work, but some disruptions such as tire ruts from heavy equipment are inevitable.

The landowner, on the other hand, must also comply with the rules of the right-of-way. There must be no activity, building, or other type of structure located within the

right-of-way that restricts our ability to work on the lines. This is less of a problem on open farmland, but can be troublesome in more populated residential areas.

We ask that you not place storage buildings, fences, swing sets, or other types of structures beneath a power line—and this includes hay bales. It is unfair to other members if these items restrict Kiwash Electric crews from maintaining or repairing the lines after a storm. In addition, if a storm brings the power line down onto a structure located beneath it, there's a strong possibility a fire could destroy the building and its contents. This results in a loss for the property owner.

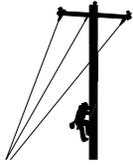
We want all members served by Kiwash Electric Cooperatives to understand the rights and responsibilities of the right-of-way. As your power supplier, we will do our part to maintain electric

service if you will help us in this way.

By working together, we can benefit all the other member-owners who rely on electricity to improve their daily lives. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to manage your Touchstone Energy Cooperative.



"We ask that you not place storage buildings, fences, swing sets or other structures beneath a power line—and this includes hay bales."



New Leadership

Jevon West offers youthful perspective on co-op issues

He may be the rookie on the Kiwash Electric Cooperative (KEC) board of directors, but Jevon West is no stranger to southwest Oklahoma. In 1898, his great-great-grandfather arrived from Texas to claim a homestead west of Leedey. His family has farmed the land since, slowly expanding the acreage that today grows wheat, canola, cotton and alfalfa.

Raised in Leedey, West follows the generations of footsteps that came before him, farming the family land, as well as leased acreage near Hammon. He stays busy raising crops—and a family. Today, he lives in Hammond with his wife, Crystal, and their two daughters, Baylor and Henley.

Typical of a modern young farm family, the Wests are busy folks. When approached by neighbors about filling the term of retired KEC District 6 trustee Leslie Hinds, West was hesitant. “I’m so busy. To be honest, I was afraid I wouldn’t have time,” he admits.



Jevon West and his family, daughter Baylor, age 2; wife Crystal West; and daughter Henley, age 7.

What caught his attention however, was the co-op’s battle with the EPA over power plant regulations. To West, this is a pocketbook issue that could affect him and other co-op members. It is one of many issues that flow down the electric lines. “When you think about it,” West said. “Electricity touches all our lives.”

As he thought about the position, he liked the idea of serving as “a voice to other members in the issue of

government involvement.” He accepted the appointment and has attended his first three board meetings. He admits it has been a learning experience.

For instance, he was not aware that KEC made rural development loans to small businesses in the area, or that nearly 40 percent of power used by his co-op is generated with coal. The infrastructure required to deliver power to KEC members, and the dollars required to do it, also surprised him.

But there is one point the tenderfoot board member understands quite well. “Co-ops talk about the number of members per mile,” West said. “Out here it’s the number of miles per member.”

This fact makes efficient operations and affordable power more than a goal for KEC and its leadership. It is an absolute necessity —and a long-term commitment.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Tip of the Month

Programmable thermostats can save up to \$160 a year in energy costs. Match thermostat settings to your schedule: cold when you’re away and warm when you’re at home. In winter, set the thermostat to 68 degrees during the day (lower at night when you’re snug in bed). By turning your thermostat down 10 to 15 degrees for at least eight hours, you can shave 5 to 15 percent from your heating costs.

Source: TogetherWeSave.com, U.S. Department of Energy

Irish Cream Coffee Bars

INGREDIENTS

Bars

1 pouch (1 lb 1.5 oz) sugar cookie mix
 ½ cup chopped pecans
 ½ cup cold butter
 1 egg
 1 can (14 oz) sweetened condensed milk (not evaporated)
 2 T.s Irish cream liqueur
 1 tsp instant coffee granules



Topping

1 cup whipping cream
 3 T.s packed brown sugar
 1 T. Irish cream liqueur
 1 tsp vanilla
 ⅛ tsp ground cinnamon
 25 cinnamon sticks (2 inch)

DIRECTIONS

Heat oven to 350°F. Spray bottom and sides of 8-inch square pan with cooking spray. In large bowl, place cookie mix and pecans. Cut in butter, using pastry blender or fork, until mixture looks like coarse crumbs. With fork, stir in egg. Press half of cookie mixture in bottom of pan. Bake 15 to 18 minutes or until golden brown. Reserve remaining cookie mixture.

Meanwhile, in small bowl, stir milk, 2 tablespoons liqueur and the coffee granules until well blended. Pour evenly over warm crust. Sprinkle reserved cookie mixture over top. Bake 25 to 30 minutes longer or until golden brown. Cool 30 minutes at room temperature. Refrigerate 1 hour to cool completely. Let stand 10 minutes before cutting into bars (5 rows by 5 rows). Store bars covered at room temperature.

Just before serving, in small bowl, beat whipping cream, brown sugar, 1 tablespoon liqueur and the vanilla with electric mixer on high speed until soft peaks form. Top each bar with dollop of whipped cream; sprinkle with ground cinnamon. Insert cinnamon stick into each dollop of whipped cream.



A digital quick-response thermometer can be one of the most useful tools you can wield in your battle to preserve food. The gadget checks the internal temperature of food, to make sure they're cold enough to eat safely.

Dining in the DARK

Food safety tips during an outage

If you've lost power and have a refrigerator full of food, you need to make sure time and temperatures are on your side.

The following food safety tips can help you minimize food loss and reduce the risk of food-borne illness:

■ REFRIGERATED FOOD

- Keep refrigerator doors closed as much as possible. An unopened refrigerator keeps food cold for about four hours.
- If food (especially meat, poultry, fish, eggs, and leftovers) has been exposed to temperatures above 40 °F. for two or more hours, or has an unusual odor, texture, or color, get rid of it. Remember the food safety rule: "When in doubt, throw it out."
- Never taste food to determine its safety or rely on appearance or odor.

- Use perishable foods first, then frozen food.
- To keep perishable food cold, place them in a refrigerator or cooler and cover with ice.

■ FROZEN FOOD

- A full freezer stays colder longer. Keep a few containers of frozen water in yours to help keep food cold. If your water supply runs out, melting ice can supply drinking water.
- If you keep the door closed, a full freezer keeps the temperature for approximately 48 hours (24 hours if it is half full).
- If food in the freezer is colder than 40°F., is partially thawed, and has ice crystals on it, you can safely refreeze it.

Find more tips at www.FoodSafety.gov.

Do Your Own Energy Audit



If you'd like to make your home more energy efficient but aren't sure where to begin, first grab your mouse. Available online at TogetherWeSave.com, the Home Energy Audit Tool helps homeowners develop a customized, prioritized list of projects that can save energy and money. Download information sheets for

each project that provide guidance, tips, and lists of materials needed to complete the job. Each project is ranked based on savings potential, cost, and ease of implementation. Users can create an online profile making it easy to complete the work in stages and return to the site for more recommendations.