

Kilowatt

A supplement to Oklahoma Living

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

POWER OUTAGE HOT LINE
888-832-3362

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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PAYMENT OPTIONS

- Pay online at **www.kiwash.coop**.
- Pay by phone by calling **855-875-7216**. Available 24 hours a day. Visa or Mastercard.
- 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



Youth Tour finalists and winners gathered on March 10 for a special banquet in their honor, hosted by Kiwash Electric Cooperative. From left, are Jami Deevers (winner), Tracie Diggs (winner), Jade Rozell (runner up), Blain Ball (runner up) and Jack Sawatzky, president of the Kiwash Electric board of directors.

Local Teens Bound For Washington

Rural Electric Youth Tour promises new sites and new friends

Kiwash Electric Cooperative hosted a banquet on March 10 honoring its 2015 Youth Tour finalists and their families. The banquet concluded with the final leg of the competition—a brief interview with a panel of judges who judged the teens on knowledge of rural electric cooperatives, speaking ability, poise, personality and appearance.

Shortly afterward, Lisa Willard, Kiwash Electric's director of marketing, announced the co-op's 2015 Youth Tour winners. Winners Jamie Deevers, Weatherford High School, and Tracie Diggs, Burns Flat Dill City High School, will travel to Washington DC June 12-18 as members of Oklahoma's Youth Tour delegation.

Jami is the daughter of Barbie Deevers of Weatherford. Tracie is the daughter of Billy and Roberta Diggs of Foss.

Runners up Blain Ball and Jade Rozell of Sentinel High School each received \$50.

The Rural Electric Youth Tour is designed to broaden teens understanding of rural electric cooperatives, and deepen their insight into US history and government. Each day of the tour includes stops at historic monuments, memorials, museums and cultural sites in and around Washington DC. Teens also get the opportunity to meet congressional members and their staff.

Oklahoma's electric co-ops began sponsoring teens on Youth Tour in 1963. More than 2,900 Oklahoma students have participated in Youth Tour. For more information on Youth Tour in Oklahoma, please visit **www.oeac.coop**. For details on Kiwash Electric's Youth Tour contest, please visit **www.kiwash.coop**.





Building A New Home?

If you're planning to build a new home or

building this spring, there are a few things you should know about your electric service before you begin.

Kiwash Electric will build 500 feet of power line from an existing pole to a new residence at no charge. A connection fee is required, and new members must pay a deposit and \$5 member fee.

Before beginning your building project, be sure to discuss your plans with your co-op. This will help you avoid any surprise expenses. For example, if it's necessary to run power line beyond 500 feet, you may be responsible for the additional construction cost. The cost of the additional line will be calculated by Kiwash Electric according to the terms and conditions of service, and you will be required to pay it before Kiwash begins construction.

You will find Kiwash Electric guidelines and policies on establishing a new service, installing underground service, and other details under the Residential Services tab www.kiwash.coop.



Apply For Scholarships By April 15 Deadline

Teens interested in a \$500 college scholarship from Kiwash Electric Cooperative must turn in a scholarship application by April 15, 2015.

For more details, please visit www.kiwash.coop, or call your cooperative at 888-832-3362.

BY DENNIS KRUEGER

GENERAL MANAGER

Giving Back Via Gross Receipts Tax

Kiwash Electric and Western Farmers Electric Cooperative placed over \$1.1 million into our area schools in 2014 via the gross receipts tax.

Occasionally, Kiwash members ask about the gross receipts tax (GR Tax) on their monthly bill. The question usually comes from tax-exempt farm entities, non-profit organizations or disabled veterans. In response, we explain the validity and purpose of the two percent gross receipts tax, and the issue of exemption, by referring to the state statutes that require electric co-ops to pay it.

According to Oklahoma Statute (O.S.) 1803, cooperatives organized under the provisions of the Rural Electric Cooperative Act must pay a tax of two percent of the gross receipts from the sale and distribution of electricity for the calendar year.

This tax when paid is in lieu of any tax on its property which includes "any and all property, tangible and intangible, real, personal, and/or mixed, used or intended for use in generation, transmission and distribution of electric energy, and for the operation and maintenance of such rural electric cooperative." (O. S. §§ 1803 and 1804)

These taxes are levied pursuant to Section 1803 of Title 68 and collected or received by the Tax Commission are apportioned in accordance with Section 1806 of Title 68, which states:

1. Five percent of the amounts collected are paid to the State Treasurer for placement to the credit of the General Revenue Fund
2. The remaining ninety-five percent of the amounts collected are paid to the school treasurers or school districts of the respective counties in which the remitting cooperative owns property, and operates property according to the proportion in

which the number of miles of electrical distribution lines of such cooperative in such school district bears to the total number of miles of such lines owned and operated by such cooperative within the state.

Revenue distribution to the schools will be based upon the report filed by the Rural Electric Cooperative pursuant to 68 O. S. § 1805.

The two percent gross receipt tax is not imposed directly on the consumer, but instead on the Rural Electric Cooperative (REC), which becomes a pass-through calculation upon each consumer-member monthly bill. There are no statutory provisions exempting REC customers from the gross receipts tax billed by the REC. Therefore, no one is exempt from the two percent gross receipts tax itemized by the REC on each electric bill.

The table on page 3 provides a snap shot of the amount of gross receipts tax that Kiwash Electric Cooperative (KEC) and Western Farmers Electric Cooperative paid to the Oklahoma Tax Commission, which will then be reimbursed to local schools districts based on the number of miles of line in their district.

Gross receipts taxes provide a welcome boost to rural schools who receive less than 50 percent of state ad valorem tax collections. The money collected for gross receipts tax stays right here at home, helping our local schools and our local kids. While I may be unpopular for saying this—especially at tax time—the gross receipts tax is one tax we should feel good about paying.





Money For Schools

Rural electric cooperative gross receipts tax is distributed to schools based on the miles of electric line located in a school district. Kiwash Electric and Western Farmers Electric Cooperative contributed the following amounts to local schools in 2014.

School	GR Tax Received
Arapaho/Butler	\$147,252.72
Leedeey	\$120,854.22
Burns Flat	\$34,555.04
Lone Wolf	\$43,280.97
Canute	\$34,723.17
Mt. View-Gotebo	\$87,993.22
Clinton	\$77,576.49
Sentinel	\$71,783.94
Cordell	\$106,986.23
Snyder	\$7,430.60
Hammon	\$63,310.20
Taloga Oakwood	\$63,038.27
Hobart	\$68,090.08
TFC Unified	\$107,434.45
Weatherford	\$85,321.06
TOTAL TAXES PAID	\$1,114,630.66



Make One Green Change This Year

If you're ready to "go green," you have a lot of choices, from switching to energy-efficient light bulbs to buying a "net zero" home that produces as much energy as it uses.

Making just one change each year can do wonders for your energy bills—and help you do your part to make your home more efficient so it uses fewer natural resources. Here are six ideas:

Start small. Replace your old incandescent light bulbs with LED light fixtures, which use 75 percent less energy. A bonus: Most of them last for around 10 years, so you can stop changing light bulbs.

Buy smart. If your refrigerator, heating and air conditioning systems, or washing machine is 10 years old, it's probably an energy hog. When it's time to replace a home appliance, choose one with the Energy Star label, which means it meets stringent government standards for energy efficiency.

Save water. Some households waste more water than they use. You can remedy that by turning off faucets while brushing your teeth and shaving, and by taking shorter showers. Plus, if you install low-flow faucets and toilets, you'll use less water with every shower and flush.

Think 'green.' Homeowners have lots of opportunities to choose a sustainable or energy-efficient product over one that's less beneficial to the environment. Keep that top of mind as you select cleaning products and items that come with a lot of packaging that will wind up in a landfill. And if you're remodeling, consider using durable products that won't wind up in the trash after a few years, and materials made from renewable sources and grown in sustainable forests.

Take control. There's no reason to heat or cool your house for maximum comfort when nobody's home. Install a programmable thermostat that will automatically adjust the temperature to save energy when everyone leaves the house in the morning and then reset it for comfort just before you get home. New models let you control them using your smartphone, which means if your schedule changes automatically, you can "tell" your house to get ready for your early return.

Rise and shine. One of the quickest ways to lower your home's energy bills is to generate some power yourself. By adding a modest 3-kilowatt solar array to your roof, you can harness enough sunlight to reduce your energy bill by up to half, according to most estimates.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month

Your home works hard for you. Consider giving it an energy checkup. Hire a professional energy auditor to diagnose where your house could be losing energy and where you can start saving money. Auditors check for air leaks, inspect insulation, survey heating and cooling equipment and more. After making efficiency upgrades, you could save 5 to 30 percent on your energy bills.

Source: EnergySavers.gov

Safe Digging Starts By Calling 811

From planting shrubs to building a fence, many outdoor projects require digging. This spring, Kiwash Electric and the Safe Electricity program (www.safeelectricity.org) remind you to call 811 before the shoveling begins. This simple step could prevent serious injury or even save your life.

The 811 “Call Before You Dig” number is a free, national line created to help prevent people from coming into contact with underground utility lines during digging projects. When you call, 811 routes you to your local utility locating service. Make sure to tell the operator where you plan to dig and what type of work you will be doing. From there, it takes a few business days for a professional to mark your public utilities with flags or spray paint.

If you’re in a rush, a few days might seem like a long wait, but remember the small waiting period could spare you an injury that could take years of recovery. Even digging professionals run into trouble with buried power lines.

Even if you previously had utilities located by calling 811, it’s best to call before every digging project. Underground utility lines can shift, and it is important to be certain of where they are.

At Kiwash Electric, we care about our members’ safety and urge you to start all outdoor digging projects the safe way—by calling 811. For more information about 811 and electrical safety, please visit call811.com and SafeElectricity.org.



Recipes

Pistachio Cake

INGREDIENTS

- 1 (18.25 oz) pkg yellow cake mix
- 1 (3.4 oz) pkg instant pistachio pudding mix
- 4 eggs
- 1½ cups water
- ¼ cup vegetable oil
- ½ teaspoon almond extract
- 7 drops green food coloring



DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease and flour a 10 inch tube pan.

In a large bowl mix together cake mix and pudding mix. Make a well in the center and pour in eggs, water, oil, almond extract and green food coloring. Blend ingredients, then beat for 2 minutes at medium speed.

Pour into prepared 10 inch tube pan. Bake in the preheated oven for 50 to 55 minutes, or until cake springs back when lightly pressed. Cool in pan 15 minutes. Turn out onto a wire rack and cool completely.

SOURCE: ALLRECIPES.COM

Missing a recipe? Find back issues of your Kiwash Electric *Kilowatt* online at www.kiwash.coop.

April 13, 2015 is National Lineman Appreciation Day.



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#ThankALineman