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- Pay online at **www.kiwash.coop**.
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- 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  
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## Members Vote Yes For Consolidation

### Kiwash and Caddo make history as state's first consolidated cooperative

Member owners of Caddo Electric Cooperative of Binger, Okla. and Kiwash Electric Cooperative of Cordell, Okla., made history last month as they successfully voted to join forces to create one new cooperative. CKenergy Electric Cooperative, Inc., will become effective January 1, 2016, as the state's first consolidated electric cooperative. Caddo members overwhelmingly approved the proposition for consolidation with 89.3 percent voting in favor. At the Kiwash Annual Meeting later on Monday, August 10, Kiwash members passed the proposition by 84.9 percent.

Headquarters for CKenergy Electric Cooperative will be in Binger, the location of the original Caddo Electric Cooperative. The Cordell office of Kiwash Electric will remain a regional hub for the new entity.

Representatives from both co-ops cite cost reductions as the primary reason for consolidating. "Keeping electric rates affordable is a challenge in an era of rising costs for infrastructure, environmental and other government regulations," said Dennis Krueger, retiring CEO of Kiwash Electric. "CKenergy Electric Cooperative will achieve an estimated \$20 million dollar savings over the next ten years through employee attrition and other savings opportunities that will positively affect the future electric rate structure of the new utility."

An electric cooperative is a consumer-owned, not-for-profit private organization in which any profits (margins) achieved over and above the operational expenses are allocated back to the local owners through patronage capital. Currently, 28 electric cooperatives serve in rural Oklahoma. "On January 1, there will be 27, thanks to the foresight of the trustees and the members of these two electric utilities," Krueger added.



A Kiwash Electric member casts his ballot on the consolidation question. The election took place at the Kiwash Annual Meeting on August 10.

Clint Pack, current CEO of Caddo and future CEO of CKenergy Electric Cooperative said the consolidation took a concerted effort by representatives of both co-ops. "CKenergy will continue to be a service oriented organization and will strive to improve its service even more," he said. "Construction of key interconnects between substations will ultimately enable better service to all our members."

"Caddo/Kiwash Together" has been the slogan used to educate the consumers of the new CKenergy. "It was a bold decision by the utility members, employees and trustees, Pack said. "But the vote was very positive and CKenergy Electric Cooperative will carry the proud banner forward."





The WFEC coal-fired plant in Hugo, one of three facilities in Oklahoma expected to close due to EPA regulations.

## EPA Issues Final Ruling

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued its final ruling on emissions from existing power plants on August 15. The long-awaited ruling held few surprises for electric co-ops, who began rallying against the regulations over a year ago.

While electric co-ops support efforts to protect the environment, they frown on the EPA's lack of concern for the more immediate consequences of compliance—namely, higher electricity costs. Co-op leaders say forcing power plants to meet emission goals by 2020 does not provide enough time to make necessary plant upgrades. Furthermore, financial plans must be adjusted to incorporate these billion dollar tune ups in a responsible manner.

Electric co-op across the country urged their members to protest the proposed regulations by emailing legislators and EPA officials. Over one million co-op members responded by logging on to [www.action.coop](http://www.action.coop), learning about the issue, and joining the campaign.

Specifically, co-op pressured the EPA to extend its deadline for meeting the emissions requirements. With the agency's final ruling on August 15, hopes for an extension were dashed. The EPA deadline stands firm: Plants must comply by 2020.

For more details on this issue, please visit [www.action.coop](http://www.action.coop).

BY DENNIS KRUEGER

GENERAL MANAGER

## Upping The Game

We just finished an “epic” annual meeting. I appreciate all the members who attended, participated, and voted on the issue of consolidation.

The Kiwash Electric membership overwhelmingly voted to approve the consolidation of the two cooperatives by an 84.95 percent majority. The Caddo Electric membership approved the issue with an 89.3 percent vote. Both cooperatives surpassed the two-thirds majority required by law to pass the consolidation proclamation. As we begin a new year, CKenergy Electric Cooperative, Inc. will become your electric service provider.



**“Overnight we quadrupled the number of meters we serve and increased the diversity of our accounts. In my opinion, both are positive factors.”**

We have a few short months to complete the final year of Kiwash Electric Cooperative, a company that has been a beacon of economic activities in five rural counties since 1938. Soon we will begin the paperwork and legal aspects of blending the two cooperatives into CKenergy Electric Cooperative.

Most members weren't here in the late 1930s or early 1940s when investor-owned utilities refused to serve rural areas because it wasn't profitable. During those early years, a section of land held four or fewer rural homes. It was Kiwash Electric that brought electricity to these rural farms. Back then, the available electricity

meant labor saving devices could be incorporated into barns and homes. This resulted in greater rural prosperity—and probably longer work days—all thanks to electricity.



Rural life changed dramatically over the last 77 years. With the increase in large family farming and corporate ranching operations, many of the early rural homes disappeared. Today, more city dwellers are moving to the country, and many rural communities are experiencing growth.

Over time, this growth can change the farm landscape by expanding city limits. In the Kiwash Electric service area, profitable oil and gas production has led to job growth and positive economic change. On the horizon, the expanse of wind turbines is generating even more economic benefits for our rural areas. As these winds of change blow over our rural landscape, it's only fitting that your electric cooperative also change with the times.

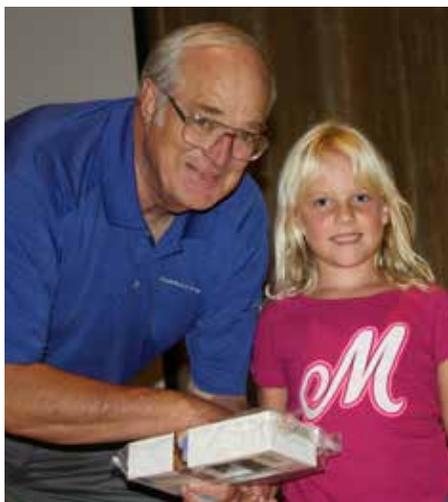
By consolidating with Caddo Electric and changing our name, we are upping the game to better serve you, our member-owners. Overnight we quadrupled the number of meters we serve and increased the diversity of our accounts. In my opinion, both are positive factors. Kiwash Electric serves over 6,400 active meters today. On January 1, under the management of CKenergy Electric Cooperative, Inc., we will grow to over 25,000 meters.

By working together as one cooperative entity, Caddo and Kiwash will continue to make a positive difference for our members and our rural communities.

Thanks again for allowing us to serve you!



With facts that point to more efficient operations, Dennis Krueger, Kiwash Electric general manager, makes the case for CKenergy Cooperative at the Kiwash Electric Annual Meeting. The new entity, created by consolidating Kiwash Electric and Caddo Electric, will begin operating on January 1, 2016. PHOTO/LISA WILLARD.



Maci Thain of Cordell, winner of a Go Pro Hero at the Kiwash Annual Meeting. Presenting the prize is Dennis Krueger, Kiwash Electric general manager.



Danny Wedel, Cordell, winner of the \$750 cash prize.



Sarah Wedel of Cordell, winner of a Go Pro Hero.

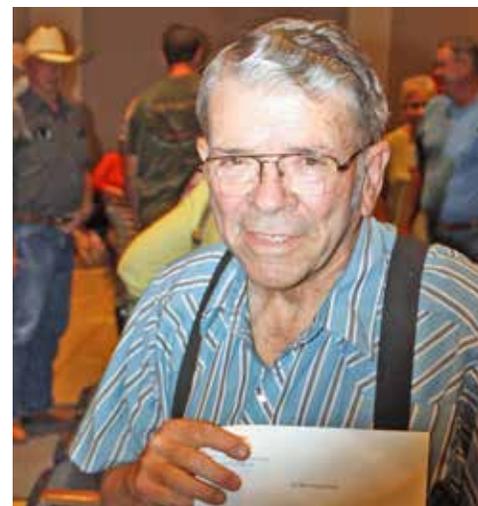


Ema Adams of Clinton, winner of a Water Zoo gift card.



Voting on consolidation at the Kiwash Annual Meeting.

Putnam resident Donald Kinkaid, winner of the \$1,000 grand prize.





## Fridge In Your Garage? Take Care.

It's convenient to have an extra refrigerator for overflow food storage during holidays and parties. But the garage isn't necessarily the best place to put it.

Unless your garage is air conditioned or insulated, it gets awfully hot in there during the summer, and that can force the refrigerator to work overtime to keep the food cold. You'll see the cost of that hard work on your electric bill.

If you must put a 'fridge in the garage, keep a few things in mind:

- It's not just the heat that stresses out a garage-based refrigerator: Manufacturers don't recommend placing one in a space whose temperature dips below 55 degrees in the winter. In an unheated garage, the 'fridge can actually warm up frozen food if the room temperature dips below freezing.
- Have an electrician upgrade the electrical circuits in your garage before you plug in a refrigerator. If the appliance overtaxes the circuit, you could wind up with a lot of smelly, spoiled food.

- Plug your refrigerator only into a grounded wall outlet.
- Avoid plugging the appliance into an outlet that's controlled by a switch. Someone could accidentally turn the switch off and cut power to the 'fridge.
- Clean a garage-based refrigerator more often than the one in the kitchen. The garage gets a lot dirtier than the house does.
- Don't stack items around the refrigerator or lean anything against it. Like any appliance, it needs room to "breathe" or it won't operate efficiently.

- If your garage refrigerator used to be your kitchen refrigerator, it's probably pretty old and very inefficient. You're better off buying a small, new refrigerator and recycling the old one so you won't waste energy and unnecessarily run up your electric bill.

Kiwash Electric Cooperative partners with Touchstone Energy to put safety as our number one concern. For a checklist to assess safety hazards around your home or to take a quick safety quiz, go to <http://www.togetherwesave.com/power-of-community/safety>.

## Save a Tree.



### Pay Your Bill Online

Kiwash Electric's online bill payment service makes paying your bill easy on you—and the environment. Save paper, save time, and gain access to all your account information including account status, current balance, payment due date, receipt of payment, billing history and more. Visit [www.kiwash.coop](http://www.kiwash.coop) to get started.

### Recipes

## Burrito Pie

### INGREDIENTS

- 2 lbs. ground beef
- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 teaspoons minced garlic
- 1 (2 oz) can black olives, sliced
- 1 (4 oz) can diced green chili peppers
- 1 (10 oz) can diced tomatoes with green Chile peppers
- 1 (16 oz) jar taco sauce
- 2 (16 oz) cans refried beans
- 12 (8 inch) flour tortillas
- 9 ounces shredded Colby cheese



### DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350°F.

In a large skillet over medium heat, sauté the ground beef for 5 minutes. Add the onion and garlic, and sauté for 5 more minutes. Drain any excess fat, if desired. Mix in the olives, green chile peppers, tomatoes with green Chile peppers, taco sauce and refried beans. Stir mixture thoroughly, reduce heat to low, and let simmer for 15 to 20 minutes.

Spread a thin layer of the meat mixture in the bottom of a 4 quart casserole dish. Cover with a layer of tortillas followed by more meat mixture, then a layer of cheese. Repeat tortilla, meat, cheese pattern until all the tortillas are used, topping off with a layer of meat mixture and cheese.

Bake for 20 to 30 minutes in the preheated oven, or until cheese is slightly brown and bubbly.

SOURCE: ALLRECIPES.COM