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Kiwash Electric Cooperative

Kilowatt

A supplement to Oklahoma Living

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Kiwash Electric Cooperative
PO Box 100 • 120 West 1st Street
Cordell, Oklahoma 73632

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

Jack Sawatzky, *President*

Robert Travis, *Vice President*

John Schaufele, *Secretary Treasurer*

Rex Eagan, *Asst. Secretary Treasurer*

Jevon West

Marvin Hankins

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 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



NEW YEAR, NEW COOPERATIVE!

Kiwash Electric takes on new identity as CKenergy Cooperative on Jan. 1

Kiwash Electric Cooperative's 75 year history brought electric lights and progress to southwest Oklahoma. On January 1, 2016 the co-op carries its progressive reputation one step forward by uniting with Caddo Electric Cooperative to create the first consolidated electric cooperative in Oklahoma.

On that day, the co-ops will become CKenergy Cooperative. With a new logo, general manager, website, services and an expanded territory, Kiwash members can expect a few changes. The principles that guide all cooperatives—principles such as democratic governance and concern for the community— will remain the same.

Under the leadership of CEO Clint Pack, CKenergy will offer members the opportunity to participate in programs that embody those co-op principles. Operation RoundUp, a program supported by hundreds of electric cooperatives across the nation, encourages members to round up their electric bill to the next whole dollar. The remaining pennies go to fund local charities, community projects, youth organizations, volunteer fire departments and more. (*Find more details on CKenergy's Operation Roundup program on page 4.*)

The Kiwash Electric Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (REDL&G) program is another pro-community service that will continue under the CKenergy name. REDL&G loans money to local businesses for expansion and development in order to create more jobs for southwest Oklahoma. (*For more details on this program, please see page 3.*)

CKenergy also offers a special geothermal program that reduces geothermal installation costs by as much as 50 percent, making the option more affordable for co-op members. You will find information on the geothermal program at www.caddoelectric.com, or contact Dwayne Hurliman at **888-832-3362**.

As Kiwash Electric and Caddo Electric continue to assimilate into CKenergy, members will notice new signs appearing on co-op buildings and co-op vehicles. Electric bills will soon carry the CKenergy logo and, beginning in January, member will

find the CKenergy newsletter, inside their copy of *Oklahoma Living* instead of the *Kiwash Kilowatt*.

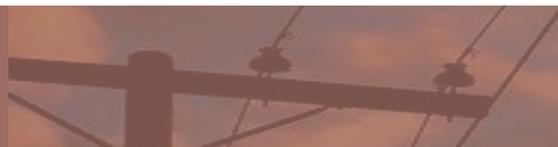
The Kiwash Electric office will continue to operate as a branch office of CKenergy, open Monday through Friday from 8 am to 5 pm. The telephone number to report power outages or speak with co-op representatives remains the same, **888-832-3362**.

"The name will change, but our members can still go to their familiar co-op office to pay their bill or ask a question. They will dial the same the telephone numbers for assistance and will see the same friendly faces in their co-op office," said Dennis Krueger, Kiwash Electric general manager.

He added that Kiwash Electric is gone in name only. "Our principles remain the same, our values will not change, and the heartbeat of this co-op will continue to beat stronger than ever as the new CKenergy Cooperative," he said.

CKenergy
Electric Cooperative, Inc

The new CKenergy Electric Cooperative logo will eventually appear on all co-op vehicles and buildings as the official brand of the state's first consolidated electric co-op.



Holiday Hours

Kiwash Electric Cooperative will close at noon on December 24 and remain closed through December 25. It will close at 2 pm on December 31 and remain closed through January 1.

Generator Program for CKenergy Members

Kiwash Electric members are asking plenty of questions about the new generator program that will be available to them as members of CKenergy Electric Cooperative.

A service of Caddo Electric that will continue under the banner of CKenergy, the generator program provides a discounted electric rate to members who allow the co-op to switch on their standby generator during peak usage periods. To qualify for the program, a standby generator must be wired into your home's electrical system so it comes on automatically when power is interrupted.

Members who participate enjoy a discounted rate, but there's another good reason to participate: By allowing CKenergy to switch on your generator during periods of extreme system-wide electricity use, you are helping your co-op curb its own electricity bill from its wholesale energy supplier. That translates to lower costs for every member of the co-op.

CKenergy will also have Generac Guardian Elite generators available for purchase. The Generac brand is not required to participate, but it comes with everything necessary to comply with the rules of the program. In addition, CKenergy will offer financing to qualified borrowers, and installation if the customer wishes.

Contact your co-op after January 1 for more details.

BY DENNIS KRUEGER

GENERAL MANAGER

Farewell, Kiwash Electric!

As general manager of Kiwash Electric, I've written approximately 220 articles for the *Kilowatt*.

In this column, I shared stories about my family, my short sports career, and my favorite dog. I also shared co-op industry news, book recommendations, and even a story about marbles. I will officially retire as your general manager on January 1, so this is my last column. I've probably put more thought into this article than any of the previous 220!

My definition of retirement is when you give so much of yourself to your company that you have nothing left to give. To put it plainly, my skills are exhausted. It is time for me to move on and allow CKenergy Electric Cooperative to blossom. As I soar into retirement, I would like to acknowledge several individuals.

Farewell to the Kiwash employees. I mean this from the bottom of my heart: I love and respect every employee that has made my 18 year journey with Kiwash so memorable. I am inspired by your daily work routine and your willingness to go above and beyond when storms rumble through the region or new technology upends your normal routine. I appreciate your work ethic and fortitude to complete the task, even when words of praise from members are limited. Thank you for making my job easier.

Farewell to the Kiwash trustees. I've had the pleasure of working with many accomplished individuals on the Kiwash board of directors, past and present. As the elected officials of over 3,600 Kiwash members, you have always kept the members' best interests in mind. Over the past 18 years, as the issues grew more complex and difficult to embrace, you somehow managed to work together for the betterment of all. Together, we learned the true meaning of "cooperation" and I am a better person due to your leadership.

Thank you for allowing me to be a part of your life and Kiwash Electric Cooperative.

Farewell to the Kiwash membership.

Thank you for 18-plus years of wonderful memories. No doubt, we experienced some rough times with ice storms, tornadoes, copper thieves, meter tampering and delinquent bills, to name a few. Together, we overcame the problems and improved your electric service. This is *your* organization and you have chosen excellent board leadership to care for your co-op. I encourage you to remember this fundamental principle: Democracy works properly only when members, like you, participate. Stay involved in your co-op by attending your district meeting and annual meeting.

The New Challenge. Please support your new co-op leadership and your new CKenergy Electric Cooperative in the same manner that you supported Kiwash Electric Cooperative. Co-op employees, trustees, and members must stay focused on the tasks at hand without wavering or distraction. The main purpose in consolidation is to reduce costs and ensure reasonable and affordable electric rates for all member-owners. Federal regulations will increase the costs to provide quality electrical service, and yes, there will be bumps in the road. Do not let these issues deter you from the ultimate goal, which is to minimize future rate increases by reducing overhead costs. The future of your electric co-op will be more secure when the cooperative direction is fully embraced and adopted by all.

I wish you all a peaceful and prosperous Christmas and New Year, and may God continue to bless you. It has been my pleasure to serve as your Kiwash Electric general manager. I will miss all of you.



Revolving Loan Fund To Continue Under CKenergy

Co-op sponsored REDL&G program helps western Oklahoma create more jobs—and keep them.

Whether its CKenergy Cooperative or Kiwash Electric, electric co-ops have an obligation to their members that goes beyond simply selling electricity. Beginning with its founding fathers in late 1930s, Kiwash Electric fostered a strong sense of community that is carried on today through programs such as the Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (REDL&G) program. This program will continue as part of CKenergy services.

Created in 1997, the Kiwash Electric REDL&G program makes loans available to startup businesses and existing businesses in order to create new jobs for western Oklahoma. Working with municipalities, industries, and business leaders, the Kiwash REDL&G program has created over 120 jobs in the six-county region. “These loans diversified our job base and improved the overall economy of west-central Oklahoma,” said Dennis Krueger, Kiwash

general manager. “Projects funded by this revolving loan fund built vital infrastructure, improved factories, helped new businesses to open, and renovated several existing businesses.”

The program works via a revolving loan fund created by the co-op for the purpose of economic development. Local funds are then matched by federal grant funds from USDA Rural Development to create the unique re-lending program known REDL&G.

CKenergy Cooperative will continue to lend to existing or start-up businesses and industries in western Oklahoma. New jobs or job retention will continue to determine loan eligibility. Krueger explained that mortgage rights for land, building and/or permanent equipment must be incorporated within the loan application. Interest rates



Kiwash Electric's revolving loan fund helped build the community swimming pool and recreation center in Burns Flat. PHOTO/TOM SPENCE.

provide a competitive advantage for local companies,” Krueger said. “We work together with local bankers and business leaders to find the best financing solution. This revolving loan fund is just one of the ways we keep our communities sustainable and it will remain active under the CKenergy banner.”

are based on New York prime lending rates and loan terms are determined by collateral.

“This program was established to complement the lending abilities of local banks and

Additional information and loan applications are found at www.kiwash.coop under the Economic Development section.



Sugar Coated Pecans

INGREDIENTS

- 1 egg white
- 1 tablespoon water
- 1 pound pecan halves
- 1 cup white sugar
- ¾ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon



DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 250°F. Grease one baking sheet.

In a mixing bowl, whip together the egg white and water until frothy. In a separate bowl, mix together sugar, salt, and cinnamon.

Add pecans to egg whites, stir to coat the nuts evenly. Remove the nuts, and toss them in the sugar mixture until coated. Spread the nuts out on the prepared baking sheet.

Bake at 250° F. for 1 hour. Stir every 15 minutes.

SOURCE: ALLRECIPES.COM



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Remember to close your fireplace damper (unless a fire is burning). Keeping the damper open is like leaving a window wide open during the winter, allowing warm air to escape through the chimney.

Source: Energy.gov

Giving Back Through Operation Roundup

As a member of CKenergy Cooperative, your pennies will make a big difference here at home!

Giving to those in need is a great way to tap into the holiday spirit, and thousands of Oklahoma's electric co-op members do just that by donating funds year-round through Operation RoundUp.



As a member of CKenergy Electric Cooperative, beginning January 1 you will have the opportunity to participate in your co-op's Operation Roundup program. The program works by allowing co-op members to round up their monthly electric bills to the nearest dollar amount. The spare change is transferred to CKenergy's Operation RoundUp fund and dispersed to local charitable causes.

For example, let's say you have a monthly electric bill of \$84.62. The bill is rounded up to a flat \$85, with the additional 38 cents

going into the Operation RoundUp Fund. On average, a co-op member donates roughly \$6 each year. Seems like a small amount, right? It is, but when multiplied by thousands of other CKenergy members, Operation Roundup raises thousands of dollars for local causes.

Operation Roundup is a program of Caddo Electric that will continue under the banner of CKenergy Electric Cooperative. If you do not wish to participate in Operation Roundup, please call **888-832-3362** before January 20.

Operation Roundup funds are used to address important local needs.

Local charities, youth groups, schools, fire departments, senior citizen's centers and food banks are just a few of the beneficiaries of Roundup funds. Funds are also used to help needy individuals and families pay for medical equipment and other needs.

Like Kiwash Electric, Caddo Electric and other electric co-ops across the nation, CKenergy's guiding principles will make it passionate about the communities it serves. Together, electric co-ops with Operation Roundup programs in place have raised more than \$100 million since 1989.

We hope you will participate in CKenergy's Operation RoundUp. Your small change will change lives, and together, we will make a big difference right here in western Oklahoma!

LOOK UP & LIVE!

Before you climb that ladder to string outdoor lights, check for overhead power lines nearby. Make sure tree limbs are not growing among power lines, since they can also become energized. **Remember to keep at least 10 feet away from overhead lines at all times.**

Have a safe and happy holiday season!



America's Electric Cooperatives