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Rebeca Roberson and Desirae Sarver win Kiwash Electric Youth Tour Contest

Hard work has paid off for two high school juniors as they make plans to tour the nation's capital this summer. Rebeca Roberson of Corn Bible Academy and Desirae Sarver of Sentinel High School took top honors in the Kiwash Electric Cooperative Youth Tour Contest. Each of these winners will receive an all-expense paid trip to Washington D.C.



Left to right: Jessica Holman, Rebeca Roberson, Board of Director President, Ralph Cunningham, Desirae Sarver and Zach Zahniser

Rebeca is the daughter of Mark and Carol Roberson

of Miami, Texas. Desirae is the daughter of Richard and Pam Sarver of Sentinel. Rebeca and Desirae have an exciting fun filled week ahead of them during June 9-16. The two juniors will have an opportunity to become acquainted with other prominent young people from all across Oklahoma, as well as those from other states. Not only will they learn about rural electric cooperatives, they will have a better insight of American history and government. The students will meet Congressmen and Senators and tour historical sights in and around Washington D.C.

Runners-up in the contest were Jessica Holman from Washita Heights High School and Zach Zahniser of Hobart High School. Jessica is the daughter of Raleigh and Rhonda Holman. Zach is the grandson of Kenneth and Carol Laufer.

In order to reach the finals, the contestants had to be one of the three highest scores on a written test that had been given to approximately 50 juniors that attend a school within Kiwash Electric's service territory. The contest concluded with a banquet at the Washita County Activity Center in Cordell, honoring the top four contestants and their families. Following the banquet, a panel of three judges conducted interviews. The contestants were scored on knowledge of the subject, speaking ability, poise and personality, and appearance.

The Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives has been an active sponsor of the Youth Tour since 1963. More than 2,000 students have been sponsored on trips to the nation's capital in the last thirty-seven years. Kiwash Electric Cooperative has been offering the Youth Tour Program for the past 23 years.

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Manager's Monologue
By Dennis Krueger



Plotting Trees for a Purpose

Kiwash Electric Cooperative Board of Directors and employees are constantly trying to keep clean, reliable electric service flowing to your home and business to serve your ever increasing energy needs. To keep you well-connected, we must reduce outages and the potential causes of outages. We have adopted a two part long term program that includes (1) adopting a plan to improve the system and (2) informing the membership of ways to make an energy difference.

Kiwash has adopted a multiple year approach through a multi-faceted long-range plan, which simply stated says:

- A. Replacing approximately 75 miles of wire (conductor) per year including necessary poles, insulators, etc. that has limited life because of normal wear-n-tear,
- B. Trim or remove trees in a manner that will reduce outages and blinks,
- C. Increase or convert voltages on trunk distribution power lines in an effort to reduce line loss; thus reducing the company's overhead costs,
- D. Upgrade the system through technology to better serve our members, and
- E. Communicate with the membership on issues of concern and energy conservation.

In Oklahoma, Mother Nature is the key factor for many of our electrical outages and blinks, including, but not limited to, high winds, tornados, and lightning. Electric outages cost us, you and me, a great deal of time and money in repair bills. Fallen trees or branches rank high on the list of electric outage causes and are caused by those nasty storms or winds.

You can help us keep the lights on and the cost down. Every year someone plants a tree or allows a seedling to grow too close to the power lines. We simple ask you to consider these factors before planting trees near power lines:

- **Rate of Growth.** Plant trees or other vegetation that is slow growing so it requires less grooming and is easier to maintain in the vicinity of the power line.
- **Mature Size of Trees.** Small immature trees planted today can grow in the future. Always consider the ultimate mature size of a tree when planning your landscape design.
- **Canopy Size.** Large trees not only grow up they grow out. Please plant large canopy trees away from the power lines to prevent branches from interfering with electric service.
- **Rule of Thumb.** When thinking about adding new trees to the landscape also think about the power lines locations. A simple rule to follow is if the mature height of the tree is 20 feet tall than the tree should be planted a minimum of 20 feet from the closest power line. If the mature height of the tree is 30 feet tall than the tree should be planted 30 feet from the closest power line and so on.
- **Air Flow.** Transformers and other power equipment located at ground level need ventilation to operate properly. Do not plant trees or shrubs that will grow over the transformers or otherwise obstruct the natural airflow around the power equipment.

We are asking each member-owner to consider plotting a tree before planting a tree. Plotting a tree means you have considered its planting location based on shade value, mature tree size and overall appeal with utilities in mind.

Trees are beautiful additions to any landscape; yet, a tree planted to close to the power line decreases electric quality and is a hazard for any tree-climbing child. Plant a tree for the future with purpose, and plant in a location free of obstructions where it can be fully appreciated by all!

LANDRY HOWELL AND SLADE NIGHTENGALE

ATTENDED TOUCHSTONE ENERGY

LEADERSHIP SUMMMIT



Howell



Nightengale

Kiwash Electric Cooperative selected Landry Howell and Slade Nightengale of Cordell to attend the Touchstone Energy Leadership Summit that was held in Oklahoma City on Apr. 11. Howell and Nightengale were selected along with 36 other high school students from across Oklahoma to represent the state's rural electric cooperatives during the annual training.

A Cordell high school senior, Howell is the son of Lynn Dale Howell. He is active in football, basketball, and soccer. He is currently the FFA Vice President. He has also been named Senior boy of the nine weeks, Rotarian student of the month and named on the Superintendent's honor roll. Howell's post high school plans are to attend Southwestern Oklahoma State University at Sayre.

Nightengale is also a senior at Cordell high school. He is the son of Kevin and Sherry Nightengale. Nightengale is active in basketball, baseball, football, FCA and FFA. He is currently the FFA President. He has been named Rotarian student of the month, basketball conference MVP 2005 and 2006, District Star Farmer, Principal's Honor Roll and All State Basketball 2006. Nightengale's post high school plans include attending Southwestern Oklahoma State University for two years and then transferring to Oklahoma State University to pursue a degree in agricultural.

Designed to excite and motivate high school students to become leaders of their communities, the Touchstone Energy Leadership Summit will feature energetic and motivating guests including Rhett Laubach, owner of Edmond-based YourNextSpeaker!; Ryan Underwood, co-author of *The Extra Step* and *GO MAD: Make a Difference*; and Kelly Barnes, former State FFA President and current Oklahoma State University Student Government Association Vice-President.

Now in its 6th year, the Touchstone Energy Leadership Summit is sponsored by Oklahoma's Touchstone Energy rural electric cooperatives. To learn more information about your electric co-op, visit www.kiwash.coop.

About Touchstone Energy

Touchstone Energy is a national alliance of local, consumer-owned electric cooperatives committed to providing high standards of service to customers large and small. More than 600 Touchstone Energy cooperatives in 44 states deliver energy and energy solutions to more than 17 million customers every day. Touchstone Energy cooperatives serve their members with integrity, accountability, innovation and a longstanding commitment to communities.

Waldrop will Retire



Linda Waldrop will retire on June 30, 2006 after 37 years of employment at Kiwash Electric Cooperative. Linda began her career with Kiwash on October 16, 1969. Her first official job title was Work Order Clerk. Her duties included setting up billing records for new consumer accounts, recording change of addresses, typing stencils for the address-o-graph, addressing meter reading cards, bill cards as well as the Kilowatt each month. With the assistance of four other women, Linda also calculated each consumer's bill by hand.

Linda has helped convert to seven different billing systems during the past 37 years. The most challenging conversion took place in 1978 when the manual system was converted to a computerized system. Many hours were spent preparing the data that was entered as well as adjusting to new terminology.

In the early years, Linda's most important job was making banana splits for the Board Members at their monthly board meeting, which was held on Saturday.

In 1997, Linda was promoted to Billing Clerk, which is her official title today. P.E. Dunkleburger, Paul Lenaburg and Dennis Krueger are the three general manager's that Linda has worked with since she began her career in 1969.

Linda will be missed greatly after she retires. Her knowledge, her smile and her laughter will be missed by all at Kiwash. We won't be able to ask her what someone's account number is or the history of the account. And there are things that Linda will miss as well - the 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. breaks as well as her weekly Monday morning phone call.

Linda and her husband Don will keep busy keeping up with grand children and all of their activities. All of us at Kiwash will miss her, but we wish her the best as she enjoys a retirement that is well deserved.

Marinated Veggie Salad

1 pint cherry tomatoes, halved
1 medium zucchini, cubed
1 medium yellow summer squash, cubed
1 medium cucumber, cubed
1 *each* medium sweet yellow, red and green pepper, cut into 1-inch pieces
1 can (6 ounces) pitted ripe olives, drained
1 small red onion, chopped
1/2 to 3/4 cup Italian salad dressing

In a serving bowl, combine all ingredients.
Cover and refrigerate overnight. **Yield:** 12 servings.



Kiwash Electric Cooperative Awards Four \$500.00 Scholarships



Nightengale



Finch

Congratulations to Whitney Finch, Kyle Harper, Slade Nightengale, and Kellin Sheets. They are the winners of this year's essay contest that is sponsored through Kiwash Electric Cooperative's Youth Program. The theme of this year's essay contest was "Adding value to our members and communities." The four winners will each receive a \$500 scholarship to be used toward 2006-2007 college tuition.

Whitney is a senior at Cordell High School and the son of Carroll and Jenny Finch of Cordell. Kyle, the son of Jackie and Trecia Harper is also a senior at Cordell High School. Slade, a senior at Cordell High School is the son of Kevin and Sherry Nightengale of Cordell. A senior at Burns Flat Dill City, Kellin is the son of Calvin and Sandra Sheets.

Kiwash Electric has been offering the scholarship program for the past 21 years. The scholarship program is offered to all Kiwash Electric Cooperative members' children who will be a high school graduate from a school within KEC's service area. Essays are judged on the student's understanding and knowledge of the subject, originality, creativity, composition, neatness and grammar.



Harper



Sheets

BULLETIN BOARD

What's Happening In Your Community

June 2-10 – Southwest Playhouse production of Honky Tonk Laundry

June 10 – Cordell Chamber Arts and Crafts Show at Lee Park

June 16-17 – 17th Annual Heartland Car Cruise Show. Join us on the 16th on Main Street in Weatherford and at Rader Park in Weatherford on the 17th.

KILOWATT

To report the events in your community, or for more information, call Kiwash Electric Cooperative.
1-888-832-3362