



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

Got a suggestion
for a story in a
future issue of
Kilowatt?

Call Lisa at
1-888-832-3362

**Kiwash Electric
Cooperative's
Office
will be closed
Monday,
September 4th**

KILOWATT

Published Monthly for the members of
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Kiwash Electric Cooperative's 5th Annual Touchstone Energy Football Bash

At the

Cordell

vs.

**Carnegie
Football Game**

**When: September 29 - Bash begins at 6:30 p.m.
Game Time – 7:30 p.m.**

**Look for the Touchstone Energy tents and a
group of folks having a lot of fun!**

Pictures with the Cheerleaders!

Free Goodies for the Kids!

Prize Drawings for the Adults!

**Bring the kids and get their picture
taken with the Cheerleaders!**

Come on Blue Devil Fans ...

Let's make this year's Bash one to remember!

Come Early and Enjoy the Bash!



Manager Monologue



Because There Are Electric Cooperatives

We all have concerns that weigh heavy on our minds that either wakes us in the middle of the night or prevents us from sleeping peacefully. The things I contemplate are keeping the lights on for our hard-working and loyal membership. I also contemplate how to keep the electric rates reasonably steady while watching the global society bicker over natural resources. **I contemplate ways to keep the economics of this cooperative positive.** I'm also concerned for the safety of our employees as they handle 7,200 to 14,400 volts of electricity in order to keep the lights on. Some of our employees work within inches of this extreme hazard.

Cost of poles, wire, transformers, meters, and other materials just keeps rising. Power poles are almost 50% higher than during the ice storm of 2002. Transformer costs are up 23% in this same time frame. **The fuel bill for our fleet of trucks has nearly doubled over the last three years with no major increase in vehicular mileage.**

Kiwash Electric Cooperative has over 2,800 miles of electric lines with more than 5,800 meters serving homes, farms, businesses and industry in a six county region. It is earth shaking that replacement poles are almost 50% higher than 4 years ago, especially when the Kiwash system has approximately 50,000 poles within those 2,800 miles of lines. **If one pole is knocked down today, the average cost of replacing that pole including hardware, cross-arms, tools, trucks, labor, and associated items cost between \$1,800 and \$2,500 depending on the type of pole.**

Electric rates are complex and your electric bill includes more than just the cost of a kilowatt hour. **The majority of your electric bill is the actual cost of generating electricity (kilowatt hour) and shipping it to you via the transmission grid system.** Other rate components include building and maintaining the distribution lines, meter installation and maintenance, transformer restoration, service wire performance, billing, dispatching, accounting for the entire system, and other incidental costs.

I'm thankful that the membership believes in the electric cooperative business concept which are all locally owned and operated. **Because there are electric cooperatives...**

- Small and large industries can locate in rural areas providing jobs for the people there.
- Americans eat fresh foods of a quality that defies comparisons of just a generation ago.
- The American farmer has been able to increase their productivity, which in turn makes it easier to feed our nation and to help feed the world.
- Kiwash Electric member-owners, employees and board of directors can work together for the good of the region and openly discuss the future electric rates.
- Rural Oklahoma is still the land of opportunity.

A more energy-efficient home can turn up the heat on your savings!

The month of August was so hot that you could have fried an egg and a slice of bacon on the side walk or possibly popped popcorn on the hood of your car. While the heat will abate eventually, rising energy bills may continue.

For the long term, consider making your home more energy-efficient. You'll permanently reduce your energy bill and you may also qualify for some short tax breaks.

The energy bill signed into law last year included several tax credits for energy saving home improvements. The credits are limited to eligible improvements made between Dec. 31, 2005, and Jan. 1, 2008. Tax credits are more valuable than deductions because they represent a dollar for dollar reduction in your tax bill.

The following is what is available:

Energy-efficient improvements. This credit covers a lot of improvements such as replacing your leaky windows. The credit is for 10% of the cost of eligible improvements, up to a lifetime maximum of \$500. Congress included caps on specific kinds of improvements (see chart below). For example, the maximum you can claim for new windows is \$200.

Maximum savings

Amount of tax credits for energy-efficient home improvements. The maximum lifetime credit for all eligible improvements is \$500.

Improvement	Max. Credit
Central air or heat pump	\$300
Furnace or boiler	\$150
Windows	\$200
Insulation and sealing	\$500

Energy-efficient property

This tax credit will primarily benefit homeowners interested in using solar energy to heat and cool their homes. These credits have annual instead of lifetime caps. Keep in mind, though, that unless Congress extends the credit, you won't be able to claim the credits after 2007.

Homeowners who install a photovoltaic system to generate electricity can claim a credit for up to 30% of the cost, up to \$2,000 a year. A separate credit for up to \$2,000 a year is available for homeowners who install solar-powered hot water systems, as long as they're not used to heat a swimming pool or hot tub.

Eligible improvements

To qualify for the tax credit, your home improvements and purchases must meet energy-saving definitions outlined in the energy bill. Fortunately, the IRS says you can rely on the manufacturer to determine whether a product meets the federal standards.

When you purchase windows, storm doors or a new air conditioner, ask for certification that they're eligible for the credit. Make sure you file the certification, along with receipts for your purchases, with your tax documents.

To check out Oklahoma's tax incentives, click on the Database of State Incentives for Renewable Energy, www.dsireusa.org.

Source: USA Today

Grilled Salmon

TIP: Spreadable cheese makes a tasty sauce for grilled fish. It comes in several flavors and can be found in the specialty cheese section of your grocery store. Grilled Salmon with Cheese Sauce, developed by our home economists, uses just five ingredients. The creamy sauce complements the delicate flavor of the salmon, and the tomatoes make a colorful, nutritious side.

- 2 cups cherry tomatoes
- 4 teaspoons Greek seasoning
- 4 salmon fillets (6 ounces each)
- 1 carton (6-1/2 ounces) garden vegetable cheese spread
- 2 tablespoons milk

Coat grill rack with nonstick cooking spray before starting the grill.
Thread the cherry tomatoes onto metal or soaked wooden skewers; set aside.
Sprinkle Greek seasoning over salmon. Place on grill rack.
Grill, covered, over medium heat for 5 minutes.
Turn and grill 7-9 minutes longer or until fish flakes easily with a fork.
Meanwhile, grill tomatoes for 5-8 minutes, turning frequently.
In a microwave-safe dish, combine cheese spread and milk.
Cook, uncovered, on high for 1 minute; stir until blended.
Serve with salmon and tomatoes.

Yield: 4 servings.



Kiwash welcomes Kimberly McCurdy



Kiwash welcomes Kimberly McCurdy as our new Administrative Specialist. Kimberly began her career at Kiwash in May of this year.

After graduating from Burns Flat –Dill City, Kimberly attended the University of Central Oklahoma, where she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Corporate Communication. While attending UCO, she was a member of the Delta Zeta Sorority, Treasurer for the Association for Women in Communication, and on the Dean's Honor Roll.

With college days behind her and motherhood in full swing, her main focus is not only her daughter, but being the best mother that anyone could ask for.

Kiwash is excited to have Kimberly as part of the KEC family. Be sure to stop by the office and say hello to her.

BULLETIN BOARD

What's Happening In Your Community

- September 6-9 – Custer County Free Fair
- September 7-10 – Kiowa County Free Fair
- September 9 – 33rd Annual Southwest Festival of the Arts in Weatherford
- September 24 – Fall Festival's Kiowa County Heritage Days Indian Pow Wow
- September 30 – SWOSU Parent's Day

KILOWATT

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