

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MARCH 2016

- 4-6**—America's Largest Antique and Collectible Show, Expo Center, Portland
- 5**—Columbia Center for the Arts Anniversary Kick-Off Party, 1 to 5 p.m., Hood River, OR
- 6**—Jam Session at the American Legion, 1 to 4 p.m., Goldendale
- 8**—Klickitat PUD Commission meeting, 2 p.m., Goldendale
- 9-13**—Portland Metro RV Dealers presents the Spring RV Show of Shows, Expo Center, Portland
- 11**—In Concert: TobyMac, Moda Center, Portland
- 11-12**—Monster Truck – Checkered Flag Productions, TRAC Center, Pasco
- 11-12**—Tri-Cities Antique & Collectibles Show, Southridge Events Center, Kennewick
- 12**—Cultivate Columbia Gala Event, Skyline Hospital, 6 p.m.
- 12**—Second Saturday at Western Antique Aeroplane & Automobile Museum, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Hood River
- 13**—Daylight Saving Time begins
- 13**—Pirate Carnival, Klickitat School, 2 to 5 p.m.
- 17**—St. Patrick's Day
- 17-19**—OSAA Dance & Drill State Championships, Veterans Memorial Coliseum, Portland
- 18-20**—Custer's 17th Annual Spring Arts & Craft Show, TRAC Center, Pasco
- 18-20**—60th Annual Roadster Show, Expo Center, Portland
- 19**—Washington State Parks Free Day, no Discover Pass required at Washington state parks
- 19**—Challenge of the Champions Bull Riding, TRAC Center, Pasco
- 19-20**—Rose City Gun & Knife Show, Expo Center, Portland
- 3/19-4/10**—Columbia Gorge Discovery Center's Spring Break, Free Admission for Kids, The Dalles
- 22**—Jordan World Circus, TRAC Center, Pasco
- 22**—In Concert: Bruce Springsteen & The E Street Band, Moda Center, Portland
- 22**—Klickitat PUD Commission meeting, 2 p.m., Goldendale
- 26**—Washington State Parks Free Day, no Discover Pass required at Washington state parks
- 26**—World Series Team Roping Qualifier, TRAC Center, Pasco
- Annual Easter Egg Hunt in Water, date TBD, Goldendale Swimming Pool
- 27**—Easter

APRIL 2016

- 1**—Bickleton Carousel Museum's seasonal opening, Bickleton
- 1-3**—Sandcup Barrel Racing, TRAC Center, Pasco
- 1-3**—52nd annual Portland Swap Meeting, Expo Center, Portland
- 1-10**—Columbia Gorge Discovery Center's Spring Break, free admission for kids, The Dalles
- 2**—PNW Offroad Racing Series, 100 Mile UTV Challenge, Goldendale, www.pnwoffroad.com

High Bills Explained

Avoid the shock of high bills by understanding your use

The January billing cycle brought with it many customer questions that Klickitat PUD would like to address. Let's look at some of the factors that drive your KPUD bill:

- The major variable component to the bill is customer use. As the outside temperature drops during the winter, the kilowatt-hours required to heat a home to the desired temperature increases. Furnaces, heat pumps or any heating unit will run more frequently to maintain the desired internal temperature, directly increasing the use of kWh. December traditionally is the highest-use month, which makes January bills the highest.

- The colder it gets, the faster heat use increases. Heat loss might be 10 percent more when the temperature decreases from 40 F to 30 F, but it might increase 20 percent going from 30 F to 20 F. This happens because heat lost through insulation, doors or windows is not proportionate and increases faster at lower temperatures.

- Heat pumps use electric heating elements that turn on at a specific temperature, which significantly increases kWh use for the heat pump. This happens around 37 F when many heat pumps reach what is called the balance point. At or near this temperature, the heat pump needs to run constantly to produce enough heat to maintain a comfortable indoor temperature. Visit KPUD's website and click "Conservation" for more heat pump and conservation information.

- Another factor that affects use is the number of days in a billing cycle. For example, one billing cycle may be 28 days and the next cycle 35 days.

This difference could increase the bill by 25 percent. Ideally, we would keep this consistent, but it may fluctuate due to weather and resource scheduling.

- If you have a self-read meter—most rural customers do—we recommend you record and report your meter read on the same day each month to avoid these fluctuations.

- Lastly, customer bills are affected by the kWh rate. Bills issued after January 1, 2016, reflect the combined effect of recent rate increases of 9 percent effective June 1, 2015, and 3 percent effective January 1, 2016. Current rate schedules can be found on the KPUD website under "Rates and Policies."

Did you know you can view and graph your account's historical use? If you are interested in seeing a visual relationship between average temperature and your use, visit www.klickitatpud.com, sign in to your account and follow the instructions

If you ever have any questions or concerns about your bill, please give us a call at (509) 773-5891 or (509) 493-2255 during regular business hours. ■

