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IEC to Serve as Salvation Army Angel Tree Site for Second Year

For the second year, IEC is teaming up with the Oklahoma Department of Human Services in Pawnee County and the Pawnee County Salvation Army unit to be an Angel Tree site.

The Angel Tree program allows individuals and organizations to personalize a gift for a child in need by adopting an Angel and purchasing toys or clothing items for that child. Each Angel Tag provides the age, gender, clothing sizes and special Christmas requests and wishes of a needy youngster.

According to Clara Eulert, who is coordinating IEC's participation in the project, the Angels are children 14 years old and younger.

"Anyone who would like to make Christmas fun for one of these children is invited to pick out an Angel from the tree in the co-op's lobby," says Eulert.

She adds the gifts need to be brought to the Co-op by Wednesday, Dec. 13.

"The gifts must be in a bag or box and have the Angel Tag on the outside. The gifts should not be gift wrapped," she adds.

Eulert points out members can also help meet the needs of residents throughout the co-op's service territory by making donations to IEC's Operation Round Up® program.

"The IEC Foundation gets so many requests for assistance this time of year, but sadly, the funds go only so far," she explains. "So any person or organization who wants to help can make a donation to Operation Round Up®. They can be assured their donation will help not only children, but also elderly persons and entire families."

Eulert adds any donations to Operation Round Up® are tax deductible.

"Helping with the Angel Tree or Operation Round Up® programs is a great way to share the Christmas spirit," she says.

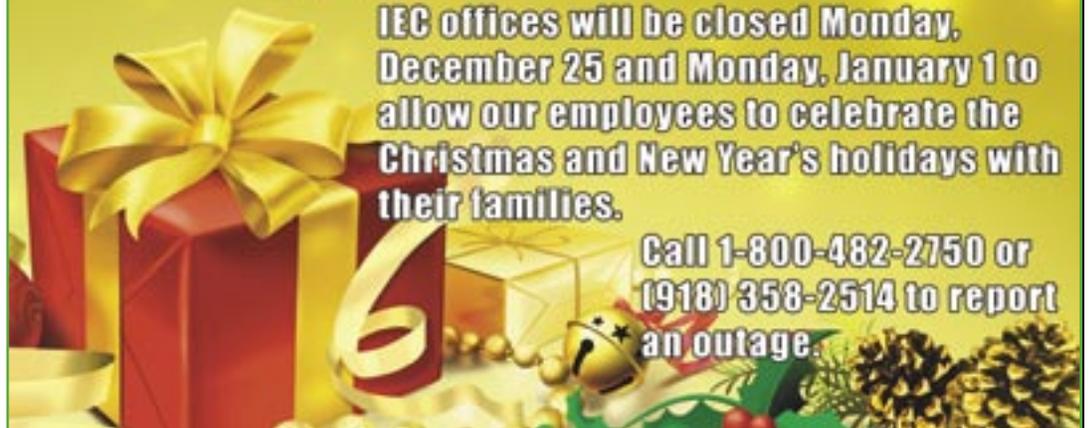
The official
publication
of the members of
Indian Electric
Cooperative



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

IEC offices will be closed Monday, December 25 and Monday, January 1 to allow our employees to celebrate the Christmas and New Year's holidays with their families.

Call 1-800-482-2750 or (918) 358-2514 to report an outage.



Meter Change-Out Time

by Jack Clinkscale, General Manager

IEC is now in the process of installing an Automated Meter Reading (AMR) system throughout our entire service area. This will allow us to remotely read these new meters from the office, while also allowing us to identify system outages and other problems much quicker. Changing out over 18,500 meters is not accomplished overnight and the process will take between two and three years.

As with any project of this magnitude, we tried to anticipate and prevent any problems and insure a smooth transition to the new system. We had meetings between departments since this project will involve all aspects of our operation and we tried to plan for all eventualities. However, in several areas, we fell short of our desired goal and I would like to apologize to any member who might have been inconvenienced during the early stages of the project.

We are using contract personnel to change out the meters. They began in the Hissom area and will be progress-

ing from substation to substation until the project is completed. We did not do a good job of notifying members when the meter installers would be in your area. I apologize if anyone was startled by a stranger on your property. As with all IEC contractors, the contractors and their vehicle are marked with IEC identification. Please note that we have an easement for all IEC line that gives us the right to access our lines for repair, maintenance or replacement of equipment.

We will now notify members by letter in advance of the meter install-

ers planned visit. The process of changing a meter takes between five and fifteen minutes and involves no participation by the member. You will experience a brief interruption of service while the meter is changed but this should result only in having to reset your digital clocks or other electronic equipment.

The remote meter reading will not occur until all meters on a particular substation feeder are installed so if you normally read your own meter, please continue until we notify you that it is no longer needed.

Nothing worthwhile is accomplished easily and the AMR system is no different. Please bear with us as we undertake this project which will benefit IEC members for years to come.



INDIAN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Office Hours
7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (Monday - Friday)
(918) 358-2514
www.iecok.com

To Report an Outage
(918) 358-2514 or 1-800-482-2750

24-hour Service Center
(918) 295-9520

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Winners!

Five lucky members were glad they attended annual meeting as their names were drawn for grand prizes.

Four \$250 grand prizes were given to Elwin Irwin, Shirley Tockey and Mrs. Dale Hymer, all of Cleveland, and Hazel Compton of Mannford.

Bryce Bazzle, Cleveland, was the grand prize winner of a new bicycle at the safety fair.

Over 680 members registered their attendance at the meeting before visiting the numerous booths in the Business and Artisan Spotlight, then enjoying free soft drinks, and the music of the Wiskey Bent Band.

During the business session, members voted to return incumbent trustees Mike Spradling, Wanda Foster and Greg Fielding to the board.



Winners are Bryce Bazzle (on bike) (second row, left to right) trustee Wanda Foster, who is congratulating them with trustee Mike Spradling, Marcy Bazzle, and Spradling, (third row, left to right) Elwin Irwin, Shirley Tockey, Ladale Hymer, Mrs. Dale Hymer and Hazel Compton.

Keep Cozy with Electric Bedding

If you're sure you'll shiver if you turn your thermostat down at night, your bedding might need a boost.

Throw an electric blanket or mattress pad on your bed so you can reap the savings—about 3 percent on your energy bill for each degree you lower the thermostat—without feeling cold.

First, throw away your old electric blanket. Newer models have better warming technology and built-in safety features, and they come in hip fabrics, textures and colors.

Most new electric blankets come with temperature sensors that automatically warm the coldest parts of your body, and they prevent the blanket from overheating. Electric blankets and mattress pads are less bulky than they were in the past, and their wires are hidden.

When buying electric bedding, look for a label from a trusted product safety testing organization. Don't leave the bedding on overnight unless it is specifically designed for it. Instead, turn your blanket or pad on about 20 minutes before bed and turn it off

when you get in.

Electric blankets can burn the sensitive skin of the elderly and infants, so never leave the devices unattended with the heat on. Buy a product with an auto-off feature, and check it for defects or damage before plugging it in. Electric blankets that are more than 10 years old are a fire hazard; do not use them.

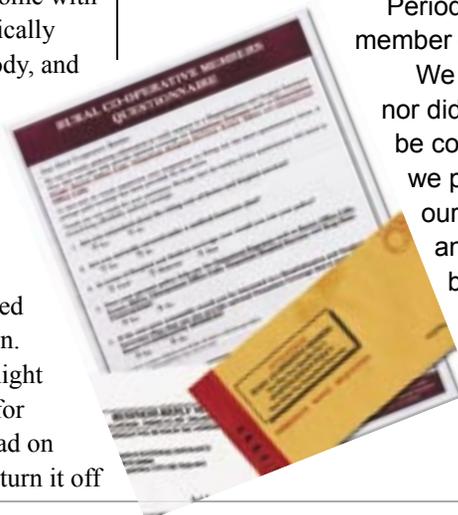


We're Not in the Insurance Business

Periodically, you may receive mail addressed to you as the member of a rural electric cooperative.

We want you to know that survey did not come from us, nor did we give our membership list to anyone so you could be contacted. We are not in the insurance business, and we protect the privacy of our members. We never provide our membership list to anyone, so any time you receive any type of solicitation targeting you as a co-op member, rest assured it did not come from us.

If you are uncertain about any mail you receive and the possibility it might be from us, please call us. We'll be happy to tell you if that piece of mail is from your cooperative or not.



RECIPE



Mocha Truffles

- 2 12-oz. pkgs. semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1 8-oz. pkg. cream cheese, softened
- 3 Tbsp. instant coffee granules
- 2 tsp. water
- 1 lb. dark chocolate confectionery coating
- White confectionery coating (optional)

In a microwave-safe bowl or double boiler, melt chocolate chips. Add cream cheese, coffee and water; mix well. Chill until firm enough to shape. Shape into 1-inch balls and place on a waxed paper-lined cookie sheet. Chill for 1 to 2 hours or until firm. Melt chocolate coating in microwave-safe bowl or double boiler. Dip balls and place on waxed paper to harden. If desired, melt white coating and drizzle over truffles.

NOTE: Truffles can be frozen for several months before dipping in chocolate. Thaw in refrigerator before dipping.

YIELD: About 5 & 1/2 dozen.

Nancy's Jalapeno Pepper Spread

- 2 cups shredded cheese
- 2 cups finely chopped pecans
- 1 cup mayonnaise (not Miracle Whip)
- 1 cup chopped green onions
- 1 8.5-oz. jar hot Jalapeno pepper jelly

Mix all ingredients together in a bowl, then spread about 1/2-inch thick on a 12- to 14-inch serving dish. Leave about 1 inch around edge of dish to place assorted crackers.

Heat jar of Jalapeno jelly and spread over mixture just before serving.

Preserve Age-Old Tradition by Using Holiday Lights Safely

Since their creation, strings of lights have brightened the holidays. Still, holiday lights can start fires and shock people who use them improperly. Keep your home lighted and safe this season. Some tips:

- Take your time to untangle and inspect each string of lights before plugging it in. Look for tears in the wires and socket. If a string appears to be in good condition, plug in the lights and wait for 15 minutes before hanging them on a tree or the house to make sure the wires will not melt or smoke.
 - Use lights outdoors only if they are rated for outdoor use. All lights—indoor and outdoor—should carry an Underwriters Laboratories label.
 - Avoid plugging too many lights into sockets in the same room. Spread your decorations all over the home so you don't overburden wall sockets.
 - Attach lights to timers so they will automatically turn off when you go to bed. Unplug them before you leave the house.
 - Keep the Christmas tree fresh by watering it regularly and locating it away from heating registers. Dry, brittle needles paired with hot lights are a fire hazard.
 - Separate the lights from heavy decorations when you pack them away until next year. If you stack your decorations for storage, place the lights on top to avoid damaging them.

What's That Smell? Check the Electricity

That foul smell coming from the laundry room might not be your child's stinky gym clothes. Unpleasant odors could be a warning sign your home's electrical wiring needs attention.

The American Society of Home Inspectors says improper wiring is the second most common problem in home inspections and a leading cause of fires. Inspectors blame inadequate overload protection and amateur-installed wiring.

If you smell burning metal or plastic, it could be time to replace your electrical system. Other symptoms of a sick system are:

Shocks. Good modern systems are grounded so you will be protected from shocks and injuries.

Flickering or dimming lights. These are often caused by connections that are coming loose.

Wobbly plugs. The prongs on today's appliances slip out of outdated outlets.

Replace the outlets.

Hot or discolored receptacles, switch plates, cords or plugs. If they're too hot to touch for more than five seconds, they're probably overloaded or malfunctioning.

TV or computer screens waver when you turn on a large appliance. This either means your house needs more electrical capacity or one circuit is overloaded.