

THE LAMP

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Indian Electric
Cooperative



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Youth Tour, Energy Camp Make Summer Memorable

During the cold temperatures of January, the warmth of summer can seem far away. But January is not too early to begin making this summer a memorable one.

Students currently in the 8th and 11th grades attending schools in IEC's service territory can participate in IEC's YouthPower Energy Camp or Youth Tour programs.

These programs are designed to teach young people about electric cooperatives, leadership skills, and government.

YouthPower Energy Camp

Eighth graders interested in attending the 2006 YouthPower Energy Camp need to write an essay on "How is Indian Electric Cooperative Different from Other Electric Utilities?" The essay needs to be between 100 and 300 words. Deadline for essays to be submitted to IEC is Noon, Thursday, Feb. 9.

Two winners will be selected and they will be honored during the Youth Tour banquet Thursday, March 9.

YouthPower Energy Camp will be from Tuesday, May 30 through Friday, June 2 at Camp Canyon near Hinton.

Youth Tour

Two juniors will kick off their final summer in high school by spending a week touring famous sites in the nation's capitol with all expenses paid. That's the Washington Youth Tour.

Interested students are asked to write an essay of between 500 and 1,000 words on "Indian Electric Cooperative – The Co-op Connection." The essays need to be submitted to IEC by Noon, Thursday, Feb. 9.

A panel of judges will select four finalists who will give oral presentations of their essays at a banquet in their honor, Thursday, March 9. At that time, two finalists will be selected to represent IEC on Youth Tour and the two runners-up will receive U. S. Savings Bonds.

Youth Tour is Friday, June 9 through Thursday, June 15.

For more information on these two programs, you can visit IEC's Web site at www.iecok.com, or call IEC's youth programs coordinator Clara Eulert at (918) 295-9558.



The Postman Always Rings Once, or Maybe Not at All

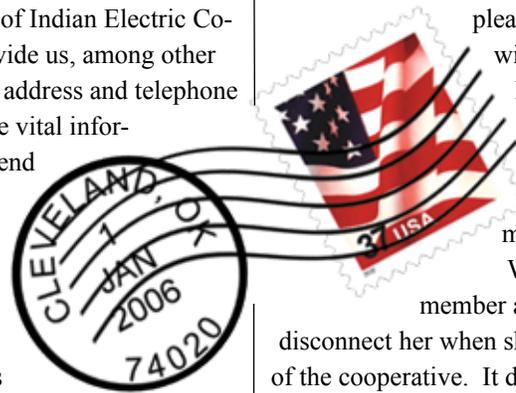
by Jack Clinkscale, General Manager

We recently heard from an upset customer who had his service disconnected for non-payment. He said he had not received his bill, his delinquent notice, his disconnect notice or his courtesy phone call. Unfortunately, this is not the first time we have heard this. When you become a member of Indian Electric Cooperative, you provide us, among other things, your name, address and telephone number. This is the vital information we use to send your monthly bill to you. We try to be as accurate as possible but sometimes mistakes are made. Now, this is understandable for a new customer, but it is puzzling how a bill can suddenly not come to a consumer after he or she has been receiving it regularly for a long period of time.

I would never cast suspicion on the U.S. Postal system, but we faithfully

deliver your bill to the post office every month. Once it enters the postal system, we cannot guarantee where it goes from there. Depending upon which billing cycle you fall under, your bill should arrive at about the same time every month. If you do not receive it when you think you should,

please let us know. We will be more than happy to send you another bill. Don't assume we decided not to bill you that month.



We also had a member ask how we could disconnect her when she was an owner of the cooperative. It doesn't really seem fair your service could be disconnected when you own a piece of the company, but unfortunately it does happen. IEC is a non-profit cooperative that is owned by our members. All revenues over and above what is needed to operate the system are returned to members in the form of capital

credits. IEC borrows money from the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), a branch of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, to finance system construction and upgrade projects. RUS requires that we operate the cooperative efficiently and keep IEC in good financial condition so that we meet our obligation to provide reliable power to our members and to repay our loans to the federal government. In the history of IEC, we have never missed a loan payment to the government. This is a record we are very proud of and we will strive to keep this perfect record.

It is always difficult to write a column that will not be published for several weeks. At the time I am writing this, it is a balmy 10 degrees outside. I hope it will be a little warmer when you read this and that we have received some much needed moisture. My place is so dusty, I expect to see camels migrating across it any day.



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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Co-op Employees are Santa's Helpers

Fairfax employee Patricia Daley and her 7-year-old granddaughter Kate Swinford of Ponca City wave to the crowd from a gaily decorated IEC bucket truck during the Fairfax Christmas parade.

The Christmas spirit was obvious among the Fairfax employees who helped with both the co-op float and truck.

Protect Pets in Cold Weather

You're not the only one who needs to bundle up against winter's frosty temperatures. Even with their heavy fur coats, Fido and Fluffy need help keeping warm and safe in the winter, too.

Indoors, cats and dogs love to snuggle up to space heaters. But keep an eye on them when they do: your pet could chew the cord, burn itself on the heater or knock it over and start a fire.

Buy a heated pet bed. Plug-in models emit slight amounts of heat under the pet, but don't get hot enough to burn.

Keep a screen around the fireplace or wood-burning stove.

Consider buying a self-warming water dish. A metal dish can freeze, and your pet's tongue can get stuck to it.

Dry your dog's paws after walking it outdoors.

Never leave a cat to sleep outside in cold weather.

Feed outdoor dogs more food in the winter. Elevate outdoor dog houses and keep them dry. Place a flap over the opening.

A Sincere

Thank You

"We want to say 'thank you' to the many people who adopted Angels during the Christmas season," says IEC spokesperson Clara Eulert. "The Salva-

tion Army gave us 50 Angels to put on our tree and all were adopted. The generosity displayed by the entire IEC membership was tremendous."

January is National 'Get Organized' Month

Experts in the organizing industry agree: there are no "cookie cutter" solutions for getting organized. There are many different personality types, work styles and environmental influences, so each person must find the system that works best for him or her. There are an ever-increasing number of products and services designed to help you get organized. First, determine the areas in which you want to improve. These might be filing, clutter control, time management, maximization of storage space or juggling projects and priorities. Then sift through the product and educational options and develop your solutions, even if you use trial and error.

Why do you need to get organized?

Organized people save time and money, make more money, and have lower stress and frustration levels. There is no

one right or wrong way to get organized, and you need to change only what you're doing if you're not happy with how you manage your time, paper, information, and space.

Getting organized at home will help bring calm and control to home and family life. You'll save money by organizing bills, shopping, and clothing and get more done in less time. Remember—if you put the house in order, you'll find what you need, and need what you find!

Tips for the Home:

- Take children with you when you go to donate unused items. This helps them learn to part with things.
- Look up to identify storage

spaces in a room; bare walls and above the cabinets are often underutilized. Also, don't forget behind the door.

- Evaluate whether you want to continue receiving magazines you're not reading, or consider rotating subscriptions.
- Group items together according to how you use them. For instance, keep all ingredients together needed for baking.



RECIPE



Hot Caramel Apple Cider

- 1 qt. fresh apple cider
- 2 Tbsp. firmly packed dark brown sugar
- 3 Tbsp. caramel ice cream topping
- 1 squirt can whipped topping

Pour apple cider into a saucepan. Stir in dark brown sugar and caramel ice cream topping; simmer until hot and well blended. Pour into mugs and top each with a generous squirt of whipped cream.

YIELD: 1 quart.

Spicy Hot Tomato Sipper

- 1 & 1/4 tsp. ground cumin
- 1 46-oz. can tomato juice
- 1/3 cup lime juice
- 1/4 tsp. ground black pepper
- 1/8 tsp. ground red pepper
- Fresh cilantro sprigs (optional)
- Lime peel curls (optional)

Heat a large saucepan over low heat for 1 to 2 minutes or until hot. Place cumin in saucepan. Cook and stir over low heat for 30 seconds. Carefully add tomato juice, lime juice, black and red pepper. Bring mixture to boiling, stirring occasionally; remove from heat. Serve immediately. (Or, cool; cover and store in the refrigerator for up to 3 days. To reheat, place mixture in a large saucepan. Heat over high heat until hot, stirring occasionally.)

To serve, ladle into mugs. If desired, top each with cilantro spring and lime peel curl.

YIELD: 16 (6-oz.) servings.

Make-Ahead tip: Up to 3 days ahead, prepare the sipper; cover and chill. To serve, reheat as directed.

Co-op Web Site Now New, Improved

Keeping you informed about your co-operative is a high priority for us. That is why we send you *The Lamp* each month, print messages on your bills and have a Web site you can visit any time.

To keep that Web site informative and easy for you to use, we have made some changes we feel you're going to like.

The design continues to be attractive, but we've made it easier to pay your bill on-line, sign up for Operation Round-Up® and navigate to specific



areas of the Web site that are of interest to you.

You can still learn about the many programs and services we offer, check the most current issue of *The Lamp* along with visiting archived issues, and get pertinent information such as office hours, addresses, locations and phone numbers.

www.iecok.com

Prepare Now for Winter Storms

It's hard to predict the weather, but it's easy to prepare for it. Here's how to plan ahead for unavoidable power outages that can accompany winter storms.

- Listen to weather forecasts every day so you'll know when high winds or heavy snows or ice are on the way. That kind of winter weather is most likely to affect power lines.
- Prepare an outage kit that contains: a battery-powered radio, fresh batteries, a flashlight, candles, matches, a wind-up clock, bottled water, paper plates and plastic utensils.
- Keep a stock of canned food in your cupboard, along with a manual can opener. Consider buying a camp stove and fuel that you can use (outdoors only, please) if you can't cook on your electric stove.

- Tape IEC's outage report phone number on your refrigerator so it will be handy if you must report an outage: (918-358-5085, 1-800-482-2750).
- Pile a few extra blankets and sweaters together so you can find them easily if the heat goes off. Dress in layers to stay warm.
- Teach children to stay away from fallen or sagging power lines. They could be energized and dangerous, even if the power is out.

"Our hope is that the weather will spare us and we won't have any outages this winter. If we do, however, we'll work to restore service as quickly as possible," says Jack Clinkscale, IEC general manager. "Just in case, though, it's better to be prepared than to sit in the dark."