



The official
publication
of the members of
Indian Electric
Cooperative



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Sometimes the best way IEC can improve your quality of life is by helping someone else help you. That is what happens when we help the rural and volunteer fire departments in our service territory.

As trustee Mike Spradling pointed out during our annual meeting in October, these fire fighting organizations are comprised of more than 16,000 men and women who give of their time and talents to protect the lives and property of their neighbors.

For nine months in 2006 a burn ban was in effect, still, more than 200 homes across the state were lost to fire and another 250 sustained fire damage. "That number doesn't include other structures such as barns, trucks, equipment, campers and other personal outbuildings," says Spradling.

"About 650,000 acres were lost to fire, but that is less than the 1 million acres lost in 1996 and that is because of the rural fire departments," he says.

"We realize the value of our fire departments and the impact they make," says IEC General Manager Jack Clinkscale. "That's why we try to work with them in accomplishing their mission."

Through Operation Round Up® and the IEC Foundation, more than \$4,000 in grants has been awarded to four area fire departments in just the past two years. With those grants, the fire departments purchased radios and antennae, fire fighting equipment, pagers, a fire rescue ventilation fan and saw, and refurbished a fire truck.

When IEC upgraded some of its computer system recently, one of the used computers was

donated to the Keystone Volunteer Fire Department. The firefighters are using it with weather-monitoring and grant-writing software.

Probably the largest impact has been made in the reduction of area departments' ISO ratings, which is due to major improvements made with assistance from IEC's low-interest revolving loan fund.

With financial assistance from this fund, Keystone, Silver City and Pennisula Fire Departments have been able to construct new department headquarters which house trucks and fire fighting equipment.

After paying off the original loan, Keystone Fire Department chose to renew it and then used the funding to purchase a new tanker pumper truck.

"These improvements and new equipment paid off," says Blackburn. "During our recent ISO testing, our rating dropped from 9 to 5 – that's a significant reduction."

Blackburn explains homeowners in his area could enjoy as much as a \$900 reduction in their homeowners insurance.

"In my opinion, there isn't a more dedicated group of people than the volunteer firefighters of Oklahoma," says Blackburn. "They are able to accomplish a great deal, usually with retired military equipment the government said was no longer usable. But with the help of friends like Indian Electric and the Operation Round Up® program, the volunteer firefighters are able to purchase much needed equipment and to restore the retired trucks and other equipment to use in saving lives and property."



After Christmas Cheer

by Jack Clinkscale, General Manager

As I write this column, the Christmas holidays are right around the corner and everyone is busy preparing for the holiday festivities. A United Nations international summit takes less planning than many family holiday gatherings. Trying to coordinate family arriving from far & near, making sure everyone has a place to stay, enough presents and plenty to eat takes a massive amount of planning.

By the time you read this, Christmas will be over for 2006. As a last fond memory I ran across some interesting Christmas facts you may not be aware of.

According to a Gallup poll, 29% of Americans found the Christmas holidays more stressful than enjoyable. I am really surprised this number wasn't much, much higher.

"Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" was conceived by author Robert May in 1939. Two other names he considered before deciding on Rudolph were Reginald and Rollo. Somehow, "Rollo the Reindeer" just doesn't cut it.

America's official national Christmas tree is located in King's Canyon National Park in California. The tree, a giant sequoia



called the "General Grant Tree" is over 300 feet high. It was made the official Christmas tree in 1925. I wonder who is in charge of putting the star on top of that bad boy?

A kiss under the mistletoe is but one of the holiday plant boons. Druids and ancient Greeks valued its medicinal properties. Though Mistletoe can be toxic, it and its extracts have been used to treat epilepsy,

infertility and arthritis. When you trap some attractive member of the opposite sex under the mistletoe, just remind them your doing it for their health.

I hope you have fond memories of this Christmas and have (or had) a very happy new year. We at Indian Electric Cooperative look forward to serving you in 2007.



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Foster Elected to Directors Association Office

District 5 Trustee Wanda Foster has been elected to the office of secretary for the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives Directors Association.

The association is comprised of the 200 directors and trustees who represent Oklahoma's 28 electric cooperatives. The group meets each December.

"The meeting provides opportunities for the directors to network with their counterparts from other co-ops, and provides topical co-op information and motivational speakers to help them serve their members better," says Jennifer McCall, OAEC director of member services.

"I am honored to be elected by my fellow directors and trustees and I look forward to being able to work for both the members and the cooperatives at this level," she says.

Foster has served the members in district 5 since being elected to IEC's board in 1991. During that time she has held the positions of secretary, vice-president and president, and has chaired numerous committees.



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.

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 "The Mission of Electric Cooperatives." The essays need to be submitted to IEC by noon, Thursday, Feb. 8.

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 8 through Thursday, June 14.

YouthPower Energy Camp

Eighth graders interested in attending the 2007 YouthPower Energy Camp need to write an essay on "How Have Electric Cooperatives Changed America?" The essay needs to be between 100 and 300 words. Deadline for essays to be submitted to IEC is noon, Thursday, Feb. 8.

Two winners will be selected and they will be honored during the Youth Tour banquet in March.

YouthPower Energy Camp will be from Tuesday, May 29 through Friday, June 1 at Camp Canyon near Hinton.

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.

Insulate Your Home and Your Bank Account

Looking for one of the most cost-effective ways to lower your home energy bills year-round? It's insulation.

Insulation keeps warm air inside in the winter but outside in the summer.

Sealing your home's envelope—its outer layer—keeps conditioned air from escaping.

Start with your attic. If you have less

than six or seven inches of insulation, you can save energy and money by adding more. The U.S. Department of Energy offers guidelines for insulation; visit www.energystar.gov/homes sealing to learn what's optimal for your home. You can also add insulation to basements and crawl spaces.

Insulation works best when air doesn't

move around it, so seal leaks and cracks. Add weather stripping to doors and seal windows and cracks around the home's foundation.

Add storm windows to your single-pane windows to keep heat in. Or replace them with double-pane windows, which can cut heat loss by up to 50 percent.

RECIPE



Hot Chicken Salad

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|------------------------|--|
| 4 cups cooked chicken | 1/2 cup sliced almonds (may be
toasted in butter) |
| 2 cups celery, chopped | 1 Tbsp. chopped onion |
| 1/2 tsp. salt | 1 cup grated cheddar cheese |
| 1/4 tsp. pepper | 1 cup crushed potato chips |
| 2 Tbsp. lemon juice | |

Mix all ingredients and turn into a 9-x13-inch baking pan. Top with grated cheese and crushed potato chips. Bake at 350 for 30 minutes.

Snow Ice Cream



- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 egg, beaten | 2 tsp. vanilla extract |
| 3/4 cup sugar | 1 gallon clean, fresh snow |
| 1 cup evaporated milk | |

Combine egg and sugar; stir well with a wire whisk. Add milk and vanilla, stirring well. Place snow in a large bowl. Gradually, add milk mixture to snow, gently stirring with a wooden spoon until blended.
YIELD: about 3 quarts.

Heating Comparison

Unit Type	Unit Cost	Efficiency	Heating per 100,000 BTUs
Electric furnace	8 cents per kWh	100%	\$2.11
Air to air heat pump	8 cents per kWh	190%	\$1.23
Geothermal heat pump	8 cents per kWh	300%	\$0.77
Propane furnaces	\$1.75 a gallon	90%	\$2.13
	\$1.75 a gallon	80%	\$2.39
	\$1.75 a gallon	65%	\$2.94
Natural gas furnaces	\$1.32 a therm	90%	\$1.42
	\$1.32 a therm	80%	\$1.60
	\$1.32 a therm	65%	\$1.97

Computer Efficiency 101

Tips for Buying Energy Efficient Computers

If you have waited until the inventory clearance sales going on now to buy a new computer, you may want to keep these things in mind when you are shopping.

Your desktop computer isn't an energy guzzler, but buying an efficient model and using it without wasting energy can help you manage your energy costs.

Some tips:

Buy a laptop or desktop computer with a low-power "sleep mode," which slips the computer into "standby" after the user has been inactive for more than a few minutes. You can determine how long the computer should be idle before sleep mode kicks in. A suggestion: Set it for 10 minutes so your computer won't go idle while you're working, but it won't remain on for long if you forget to turn it off when you're finished.

Although computers in sleep mode burn a bit of energy, experts say it's better for your computer than constantly turning it on and off.

When you do shut your computer down, unplug it, too, so it won't use any energy at all. If your computers are part of a network that must remain on, turn the monitors off.

Choose a computer that bears the Energy Star label—a government assurance that the unit is energy efficient.

Chart information borrowed from Rural Arkansas.