



Cowboy  
Hats &  
Hard Hats

2 Co-ops Low on  
Subsidy List



4  
Two Bound for  
Energy Camp

## Exceptional Students are Youth Tour's Final Four

College basketball isn't the only one to lay claim to the excitement of having the best and brightest in the final stage of competition.

Our Youth Tour contest is very similar as four outstanding, highly accomplished students competed for the prize of an all-expense paid week site-seeing in Washington, D. C.

Youth Tour is open to any junior attending high school in IEC's service territory.

The four finalists this year were Kendall Fowler, Pawhuska High School; Megan Durham, Cleveland High School; and Katy Ellington and Amanda Dietz, Pawnee High School.

At a banquet in their honor on April 8 in Cleveland, the four finalists gave oral presentations of their essays. They were judged on their presentation, knowledge of subject and poise.

Although scoring was close, Dietz and Durham had won the trip to Washington and Ellington and Fowler won U.S. Savings Bonds. As alternates, Ellington or Fowler will replace Dietz or Durham if one of them should be unable to go on the trip.

Dietz is the daughter of David and Rhonda Dietz of Pawnee, and Durham is the daughter of Frank and Carol Durham, of Sand Springs.

Ellington is the daughter of Glen and Claudia Ellington of Pawnee and Fowler's parents are Gail and Janet Fowler of Burbank.

Dietz and Ellington are students of Myra McCurry; Durham is the student of her mother, Carol Durham, and Fowler is a student of Carla McKenzie.

■  
*The official  
publication  
of the members of  
Indian Electric  
Cooperative*



IEC General Manager Jack Clinkscale and IEC Board President Wanda Foster (far right) congratulate Youth Tour finalists (left to right) Megan Durham, Kendall Fowler, Katy Ellington, and Amanda Dietz.

# I Will Always Listen

by Jack Clinkscale, General Manager

I received an interesting letter after the announcement of our planned June 1 rate increase. It read:

*"Dear Sirs:*

*We are now in the middle of a depression; people are out of work and most are having a hard time getting by; Social Security is low for all older senior citizens and also we are satisfied with the present service we are getting.*

*So we do not need any raises in our electric rates. Hope you listen to this.*

*(Signed) A Customer"*

I try to respond to most letters I receive but this one had no return name or address, however, it raised some interesting issues and I feel this column is a place to respond since we do indeed listen to our members.

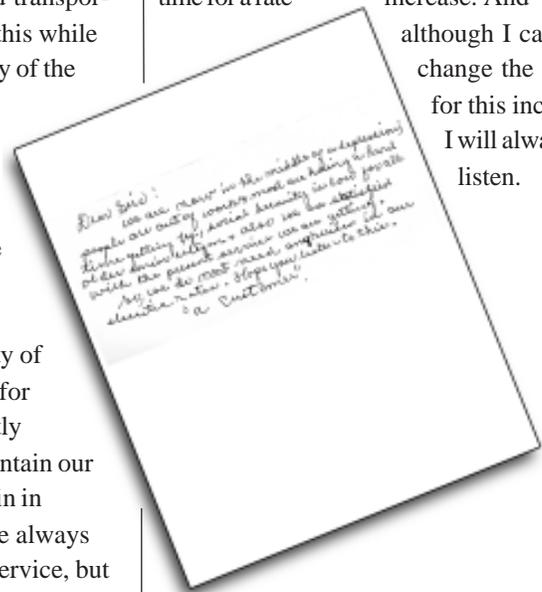
I realize times are hard for a lot of folks and it is difficult indeed to survive on a fixed income. Although we have been going through an economic downturn, I believe we are far from a depression and we will rebound. We have a simple test for every expenditure this cooperative makes. "Can we justify this

expense to the members of Indian Electric Cooperative?" If we can't, then we shouldn't make it. We strive to be fiscally responsible while maintaining the best service to our members that we can. This means maintaining an electric distribution system that covers a very large geographic area. This means keeping a well-trained, qualified, professional work force. This means providing our employees with dependable tools, equipment and transportation. And this means doing all this while maintaining the financial integrity of the system and meeting the mortgage requirements of our lenders.

I was glad to see that "A Customer" was satisfied with the service he/she is receiving. However, the point of this rate increase is to maintain this quality of service. This rate increase is not for any specific item which will greatly improve your service. It is to maintain our current level of service and remain in sound financial condition. We are always striving to improve our level of service, but

that is not what is driving this increase. This increase is driven by increasing costs due to normal inflation. Our last rate increase was in 1996 and the cost of running our business has risen just as costs for goods that you purchase have also risen.

"A Customer," I am sorry we have to raise your electric rates. Even though times may be hard, there is never a good time for a rate increase. And although I cannot change the need for this increase, I will always listen.



## THE LAMP

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# Study Shows Federal Subsidies Greater for IOUs and Municipal Systems than for Co-ops

The federal government provides far more in support to investor-owned utilities (IOUs) and municipal systems than to cooperatives, according to a National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) study based on a variety of congressional and Department of Energy reports.

The annual study, released in March by the NRECA strategic analysis unit, showed that co-op loans and government assistance amounted to about \$8 per consumer-member in 2002, compared to \$57 per customer for municipals and \$35 for IOUs.

The NRECA strategic analysis unit has compiled this data for several years to accurately inform lawmakers on the subsidy issue.

Using the Department of Agriculture's 2002 Statistical Report, "Rural Electric Borrowers," federal subsidies were calculated for 675 co-ops serving more than 11 million consumer-members.

They received about \$83 million in Rural Utilities Service (RUS) loans during 2002. After adjusting for federal and RUS

interest charges, it resulted in about \$8 per consumer-member, according to NRECA's analysis. Another 235 co-ops have repaid their RUS loans in full.

The differences for each type of utility become even sharper after considering that while IOUs average 34 customers per mile, and municipal systems average 44 per mile, co-ops, which serve sparsely populated rural areas, average only 6.6 consumer-members per mile.

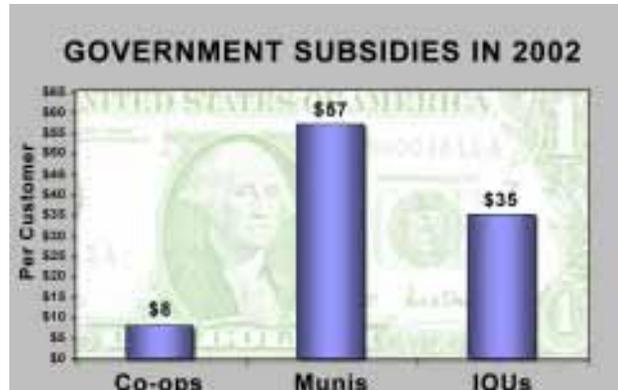
Municipals receive subsidies of about \$937 million, based on a calculation of federal revenue lost because of the issue of municipal bonds. The calculation was taken from a Department of Energy study of 516 municipal systems.

IOUs charge rates that also include amounts for presumed federal tax liabilities, but thanks to various tax breaks – such as investment tax credits and accelerated depreciation – they are permitted to retain most of what they

collect for federal taxes.

The tax credits amounted to about \$3.3 billion in 2002, bringing the subsidy to IOUs to about \$35 per customer.

"The assistance to the investor-owned and city-owned utilities continues at high levels," says Dena Stoner, NRECA vice president of government relations. "For co-ops, the appropriation to finance RUS electric loans continues at a very modest level."



## Memorial Day

*IEC offices will be closed Monday, May 31 in observance of the Memorial Day holiday.*

Please call (918) 358-2514 or 1-800-482-2750 if you experience an interruption in your electric service.

## Two Yale 8th Graders Bound for YouthPower Energy Camp

Yale 8th grade students Cody Low and Jake Minney are winners of the 2004 IEC YouthPower Energy Camp competition. Low is the son of Tom and Cynde Low and Minney is the son of Ted and Jami Minney. Both are students of Karen Page.

YouthPower Energy Camp is held each year at Camp Canyon near Hinton, and is designed to teach 8th grade students leadership skills by allowing them to form their own cooperative.

During the four day camp, students will elect a board of trustees, who in turn will hire a manager for their cooperative. Employees from nearby electric co-ops visit the camp to present safety demonstrations, let the young people view the camp from high atop a bucket truck, and let them strap on linemen's hooks and attempt to climb a utility pole. Over 60 students will attend Energy Camp this year.

Western Farmers Electric Cooperative, a generation and transmission co-op headquartered in Anadarko, hosts the campers one day to help them learn how electricity is generated and distributed throughout the power system.

The campers also get to spend some time at Celebration Station in Oklahoma City.

IEC's YouthPower Energy Camp competition is open to anyone attending the 8th grade in a school in the cooperative's service territory. Their parents do not need to be members of IEC. Participants are asked to write a 100 to 300-word essay on a specific cooperative-related topic. This year's topic was "How Indian Electric Cooperative Benefits the Communities it Serves."

"This year we let the students partner with a fellow classmate to write the essays," explains Clara Eulert, program coordinator for IEC. "The students were excited about partnering with their friends, and we received many good essays."

# RECIPE



## Strawberry Pinwheel Shortcake

4 cups sliced fresh strawberries  
2 to 3 Tbsps. sugar  
1 & 1/2 cups all-purpose flour  
1 & 1/2 tps. baking powder  
1/2 tsp. salt  
1/2 cup shortening

1/3 to 1/2 cup milk  
1 Tbsp. butter or margarine,  
melted  
1/3 cup firmly packed brown sugar  
Whipped cream  
Strawberry leaves (optional)

Combine sliced strawberries and 2 to 3 tablespoons sugar; stir gently, and chill 1 to 2 hours. Combine flour, baking powder and salt; cut in shortening with a pastry blender until mixture resembles coarse meal. Gradually add enough milk to form a soft dough, stirring just until dry ingredients are moistened. Turn dough out onto a lightly floured surface, knead 4 or 5 times; roll dough to an 11- x 8-inch rectangle on a lightly floured surface. Combine butter and brown sugar; spread evenly over dough. Roll up jellyroll fashion, starting at narrow edge. Pinch seams together; cut into 1-inch slices. Place on a lightly greased baking sheet. Bake at 425° for 18 minutes or until lightly browned. Serve with sliced strawberries and whipped cream. Garnish with strawberry leaves, if desired.

YIELD: 8 servings.



Winners of IEC's 2004 YouthPower Energy Camp competition are Yale 8th graders (second from left) Cody Low, and Jake Minney. Also pictured are their teachers, Karen Page and Liz Thomas (far right). Energy Camp is June 1-4 at Camp Canyon near Hinton.