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## Co-opCast Brings School, Weather and IEC Info to Your Desktop

Communication. From the Internet to cell phones, we all have a desire 'to know' and to stay in touch.

Sometimes that desire is simply based on convenience. Other times being in the know is more serious.

Both convenience and knowledge are two of the reasons IEC is choosing to be a part of a pilot program called Co-opCast.

IEC Information Technology Administrator Don Lawrence says "Co-opCast is a unique computer desktop application that provides instant weather information, including interactive radar that pinpoints and tracks storm movement.

"While the Co-opCast program provides real-time weather conditions and updates similar to applications provided by local television stations and weather Web sites, there is a communications module that makes Co-opCast unique and, we feel, more valuable."

Lawrence explains IEC has made Co-opCast available to school systems in IEC's service territory to use to send school-related information to the home computers of families in their districts.

"School administrators can deliver individualized school-related updates, such as weather-related school closings, and reminders for events such as parent-teacher conferences or athletic events to its staff and parents' computer desktops," he says.

Much like televised weather alerts, the Co-opCast messages will appear on a blue bar and crawl across the bottom of the computer monitor. Three audible beeps will precede each message.

The message scrolls across the screen

twice and then disappears. Messages will be repeated at the top of every hour, and the latest message can be activated by clicking on the logo box and selecting "latest crawl."

The Touchstone Energy logo box can reside at the bottom right corner of the monitor screen, or can become an icon in the bottom task bar.

To download Co-opCast, simply visit IEC's Web site at [www.IECOK.com/co-opcast/](http://www.IECOK.com/co-opcast/) and complete the registration form.

You will need to select IEC and your particular school from the drop-down menus.

There is no cost to the schools nor to persons downloading Co-opCast.

"Also, IEC maintains control of the information and are not renting or selling that information to another party," explains Lawrence.

"We are excited to be asked to participate in this program," says Lawrence. "We were approached by Western Farmers Electric Co-op, who provides power to two-thirds of Oklahoma's co-ops, because of our visionary use of technology. We immediately saw a value in providing this type of service to our members, and giving our school administrators an opportunity to bring immediate communication to their families in a useful manner."



The official  
publication  
of the members of  
Indian Electric  
Cooperative



# Lest We Forget

by Jack Clinkscale, General Manager

*The weather is nice and you're enjoying the day. Spring looks like it is ready to arrive, the sun is shining and memories of the recent harsh winter are disappearing faster than Aunt Jennie's potato salad at a family picnic. You arrive at your mailbox eager to see what the postman has delivered. Nothing could spoil a day as glorious as this!*

*What's this? A bill from Indian Electric. What a nice bunch of folks. They kept our power on during the bad weather while people in the neighboring areas were out of power for hours, days and even weeks. Our rates are reasonable and they're installing that cool new meter so I don't even have to read my meter any more. What a nice company!*

*WHAT THE....! There is no way my bill could be this high!!! The heater or air conditioner hasn't run for a week and they say I used how much? No way; this must be a mistake. That new fangled meter has to be wrong. I'll call and give them a piece of my mind and get this mess straightened up in no time. That manager is always crowing about how the cooperative belongs to the members so I'll show them who the boss really is!*

Although I write this tongue in cheek, it happens quite often after an extended period of harsh weather. At IEC, electricity is a commodity that is paid for after it is consumed. If you're like me, you forget that until you receive your monthly bill. Depending upon which billing cycle you fall under, the

The cold weather of January and February, along with the installation of new meters, has many members questioning their bills. The new AMR meters being installed are brand new and tested at the factory before they are ever installed. While you can never say never, these meters have a microscopically small chance of reading incorrectly. Although we readily check out high bill complaints, almost all wind up being the result of extreme temperatures, and estimated bills due to meters not being read and submitted in a timely manner.

As I stated, we will check out all high bill complaints. That is our job. But please bear in mind our employees are just doing their jobs. They didn't intentionally set out to ruin your day. They pay electric bills just like you.

They have had high bills just like you and they don't like it any better than you do. But they do understand why. So if you get a high bill, take a deep breath, consider what the weather was like for the period in which the kilowatt hours were used, then give us a call. Like highway employees, give IEC employees a brake!



kiloWatt hours you are being billed for were actually used weeks ago. The weather may be nice now, but what was is like a month ago? Did the heater run constantly? Were the kids home from school for snow days? Were space heaters or other cold weather items running non-stop?

## THE LAMP

### 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

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# New Employees Bring Talent, Enthusiasm to Their Jobs

Three talented women have joined the co-op family recently, and each one brings commitment and enthusiasm to her job.

JoAnna Ward and Luana Alexander are cashiers working in the front office. They greet members as they come in to pay bills, or direct them to our customer service representatives to have electric service connected or disconnected. They also take payments at the drive-thru window.

JoAnna went to school in Mannford and Oilton. She and her husband Patrick are the parents of PJ, Chance and Gabrielle. JoAnna began her new job on January 29.

Luana graduated from Cleveland High School. She and her husband Gary have two children – Gary and Dorinda. She came to work at IEC on February 1.

Brenda Ward started as accountant on Feb. 19. She works with the co-op's accounts payable, general ledger, cash receipts and is learning to utilize the co-op's computer software.

Brenda and her husband Danny have three children – Chad, Beth and Jake. She is a graduate of Prue High School.



New employees (left to right) Luana Alexander, JoAnna Ward and Brenda Ward.

## *A Heartfelt Thank You...*

We know they're special. The consumers and employees of other co-ops know they're special. Now we want them to know they're special. That is why we recently recognized those employees who selflessly gave of their time to help rebuild the damaged systems of fellow co-ops hit hard by the ice storm and

to help restore electric service to their members as quickly and as safely as possible.

During a recent employee safety meeting, Member Services Representative Clara Eulert presented the 36 Operations personnel with

T-shirts bearing "A Prayer for Those Who Work Outside" on the back.

A framed copy of the prayer now hangs in the linemen's area of both the Cleveland and Fairfax offices.

### Our Special Employees include:

Rick Harvel	Robert Bradley
Mark Tilley	Jeff Guthrie
Steve Cable	Jason King
Jasen King	Kyle Welch
Flynn McGee	Jeff Rose
James Willcox	John Donnelly
Bob Peterson	Bob Cox
Bubba Braden	Jason Callahan
Jeremey Turner	Jamie Garrison
Jack Casebolt	Heath Collins
Adam Cheek	Hadley Bahling
Tony Gordon	Jim Morgan
Carlton Walker	Damon Lester
Troy Aldridge	Bryan Ward
Colt Higgins	Jim Swiggart
Rick Davis	Travis Burch



Member Services Rep Clara Eulert presents a T-shirt to lineman Rick Harvel.

# RECIPE



## Chicken & Grape Salad

- 4 cups cooked chicken (breast meat)
- 4 cups chopped hard-boiled eggs
- 4 Tbsp. lemon juice
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 2 cups chopped celery
- 1 cup grapes

Mix chicken, lemon juice and mayonnaise in a large bowl and let sit while chopping the other ingredients.

Add everything else and mix well to coat.

Refrigerate until cold. Can be served on a bed of lettuce or on bread.

## Survey Shows Most Leave Thermostat Control Up to Her

In the tug-of-war over how warm or cool the house should be, the woman almost always wins.

That's the finding of a survey by ServiceMagic, a company that matches homeowners with maids, handymen and other service professionals.

Of the 1,500 people who responded to the survey, 55 percent said women control the thermostat, while 5 percent said their pets or children get the final say. (Sorry, Dad!)

Looking to resolve the thermostat war? Unless you're among the 15 percent who said they "pretend not to hear" their spouses' complaints, consider installing a programmable thermostat.

A programmable thermostat lets you program temperature settings throughout the day so the house uses less energy when the family is away or sleeping. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says using an automatic thermostat can save a household up to 18 percent a year on energy bills.

Even if a programmable thermostat doesn't end the argument, the energy savings

could be enough to stop your spouse from griping that it's too hot or cold inside!

## Clean Out a Rotten Refrigerator

If you've got leftovers from last Tuesday lurking in your refrigerator it's time to pull on your latex kitchen gloves and clean it out.

You could be putting your family at risk for food poisoning should somebody decide to snack on the smelly scraps.

It's true a refrigerator operates more efficiently when it's fully stocked. But if it's full of the rank remains of once-healthy, usable food, you need to remedy the wrong.

Try these tips to clean out and organize your refrigerator. You may find out you have more room than you thought—enough to unplug the extra refrigerator or freezer that might be eating up electricity in the basement.

- Gather the kids for a total fridge clean-up. Arm them with large trash bags, and have them throw away old leftovers. Make sure they check the expiration dates on rarely used

If a new AMR meter has been installed at your location, we need you to continue to read it and send in that read. We will notify you by letter when we are ready to begin reading your meter electronically.

## Read Your Meter