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Storms result in few outages

The powerful thunderstorm that blew across the Cotton Electric Service territory during the first weekend of June resulted in only minor outages for the members of the cooperative.

Winds with gusts in excess of 60 miles an hour whipped through the area on June 4 and a tornado was spotted in the Central High area. There also was a significant amount of cloud-to-ground lighting in the Loco area. The following evening high winds hit the western part of the co-op's service territory in the Devol and Grandfield area.

Through all the storms Cotton Electric's electrical distribution grid sustained only minor damage which resulted in a few scattered outages across the eight-county service territory.

The co-op had to replace about 40 poles which were snapped as a result of the damaging winds.

Cotton Electric's vice president, Steve Lyons, credited the co-op's pole replacement program for so few outages being reported over the weekend.

"We have a very aggressive pole change out program or else we might have had more broken poles due to the thunderstorms," Lyons said.

As Oklahomans can attest, thunderstorms plague the United States more often than any other nation, especially between April and July.

Lightning can reach temperatures of 50,000 degrees Fahrenheit. By comparison, the sun's surface is about 11,000 degrees. Thunderstorms kill about 200 Americans and injure another 700 every year. In 2003, lightning killed 43.

With the right equipment, it's possible to "hear" lightning on the radio. Lightning creates powerful radio waves that can be detected across the planet. After about 3 any morning, listen at 3 MHz to hear static dispersions of lightning as they bounce across the earth's atmosphere.

Lightning can carry between 100 million and 1 billion volts and is typically the same diameter as a quarter. Lightning paths are usually between two and 10 miles long.



Cotton Electric's Larry Crowell holds the pad mount transformer steady as Bob Anderson guides it into place. Cotton Electric crews spent the first weekend in June restoring power to members who experienced outages as a result of the powerful thunderstorms that blew into the area.

Shelter seeking donations

Statistics show that the number of domestic violence incidents increases as the weather gets warmer.

With the dog days of summer quickly approaching, that doesn't bode well for women in abusive relationships in southern Oklahoma.

And as much we might like to think that the number of domestic violence incidents in this area are miniscule, that couldn't be further from the truth.

Teresa Biffle, the executive director of Women's Haven in Duncan, said her organization received more than 700 calls last year from victims of domestic violence. Women's Haven serves Stephens and Jefferson counties.

The United Way agency is more than just a refuge; Women's Haven is a crisis intervention center that not only provides emergency temporary shelter, but it also holds support groups of victims on a weekly basis and social groups of the children involved.

But it takes capital to provide these services.

Biffle said Women's Haven has a source that provides housing assistance, but often the only belongings the victim has is the clothes she is wearing. So Women's Haven is always in need of household items.

"And our storage building is empty right now," Biffle said.

A lot of needs could be met thanks to a grant Women's Haven received recently.

"We received a challenge grant," Biffle said. "We have to raise \$19,000 through December 2005."

Biffle said the only stipulation is that the money to meet the challenge has to come from new sources.

In an effort to meet the goal, Women's Haven is planning a garage sale and is establishing an eBay account to auction off some artwork.

To donate items or for more information about the online auction call Women's Haven at 580-252-5324.

Youths attend Energy Camp

For most youngsters, learning and studying new things ends with the arrival of the summer break. However, for a dozen students from the Cotton Electric Cooperative service territory this is not so.

They had the opportunity to spend four exciting days learning, meeting new people, and enjoying fun-filled activities during the 2005 YouthPower Energy Camp.

This year's camp, which is coordinated by the Okla-

homa Association of Electric Cooperatives and Cotton Electric Cooperative, took place at Canyon Camp near Red Rock Canyon in Hinton, from May 31-June 3.

The goal of the camp is to help students develop leadership skills while simultaneously learning about rural electrification industries. Students competed to attend the camp and submitted a short essay on "Why I would like to attend YouthPower Energy Camp." Twelve fi

See Camp, Page 2



The 12 students from across the Cotton Electric service territory who attended the YouthPower Energy Camp in Hinton included Chandler Stringer, Tyler Smith, Jarred Jones, Temple; Chazitty Martin, Britney Bryan, Shayne McDonald, Chattanooga; Alycia Workman, Antonio Vigil, Geronimo; Laura Tomah, Kacie Scherler, Walters; Samantha Scarfone, Cache; Clint Martin, Central High.

Department sets date for fundraiser

The Bethel Road Volunteer Fire Department will hold its annual fundraiser on June 25 at the Bethel United Methodist Church from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

There will be hamburgers and hot dogs with all the trimmings plus chicken, baked beans, potato salad and desserts. A cake auction is also planned.

There is no fee for the meal but the department is accepting donations, spokesperson Kenneth Klein said.

For more information contact Klein at 580-351-7612.

Power Cost Adjustment Calculated

The power cost adjustment now being applied to bills mailed after June 1 2005, is \$.01973 per kWh.

The adjustment for June calculates to an additional \$19.73 per 1,000 kWh used by the consumer.

May 2005 Temperature Extremes

| DAY | HIGH | LOW | DAY | HIGH | LOW |
|-----|------|-----|-----|------|-----|
| 1 | 72 | 39 | 16 | 82 | 56 |
| 2 | 51 | 44 | 17 | 85 | 59 |
| 3 | 55 | 47 | 18 | 87 | 66 |
| 4 | 54 | 46 | 19 | 92 | 64 |
| 5 | 70 | 54 | 20 | 96 | 66 |
| 6 | 83 | 53 | 21 | 99 | 64 |
| 7 | 73 | 61 | 22 | 99 | 63 |
| 8 | 86 | 59 | 23 | 93 | 63 |
| 9 | 84 | 54 | 24 | 97 | 68 |
| 10 | 91 | 63 | 25 | 86 | 66 |
| 11 | 86 | 69 | 26 | 76 | 58 |
| 12 | 78 | 68 | 27 | 72 | 59 |
| 13 | 84 | 60 | 28 | 73 | 58 |
| 14 | 79 | 59 | 29 | 78 | 65 |
| 15 | 68 | 56 | 30 | 81 | 66 |
| | | | 31 | 82 | 64 |

Average high xxx
Average low xxx

Contact Us

Do you have an item to sell or a news tip? If so contact the Cotton Electric Current.

We can be contacted in a variety of ways.

We can be reached by phone at 580-875-3351 or by facsimile at 580-875-3101.

We are on the World Wide Web at

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What's Inside

Page 2..... column
Page 3..... news
Page 4..... news
Page 5..... recipes
Page 6..... news
Page 7..... news
Page 8..... op stats
Page 9..... crossword
Page 11-20 classifieds



will be closed July 4 for Independence Day.