

# “Hotlines”

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June is bustin' out all over...

June, 2013

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## Area News Briefs

Wheat harvest  
for those who  
have one...



Flag Day -  
Friday, June 14



Father's Day-  
Sun. June 16.

Does Dad really need  
another new tie?

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To place brief announcements  
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# Avard Industrial Park picking up speed

A sleepy little town in northwest Oklahoma is waking up to the clang of a railroad crossing. Avard, Oklahoma (population- SPARSE) has a unique position on the map.

Old timers remember that it once housed the biggest skating rink in this part of the state. Now it happens to host a meeting of east, west, north and south where the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad intersects.

Smiling little Avard (10 miles southwest of Alva) is also a link to the Port of Catoosa, connecting the area to ports all over the world. It is enough to make an Economic Development Director salivate.

Sonja Williams Director of Woods County Economic Development claims it was nine years ago that the first rumblings about the railroad tracks were heard. She gives her husband, Neal, credit for first having vision in this project.

After the Woods County Commissioners, Woods County Industrial Board, the Woods County Economic



*Avard, Oklahoma is the cross-roads of America where the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad converges from the north, south, east and west.*

Development Committee and the Center for Economic Development got on track, the engines were pushing forward.

Max Ott, former General Manager of Alfalfa Electric Cooperative and Terry Ryel, current Director of Market and Technical Services had a major part in locating funds for an Industrial Park.

Together with Share Trust and the Woods County banks, AEC helped to

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## ALTERNATING CURRENTS...

### Get Your Energy Flowing!

By Ron Shafer

About the time you receive this newsletter, along with your electric bill in the mail, we will be sending 4 students to the 2013 OAEC Energy Camp. Two students, Joe Wagner and Haven Davis, are from Cherokee School, Anthony Wiens is from Timberlake School and Bayli Hyde is from Burlington School. This is the first year that AEC has sent 4 representatives, 2 girls and 2 boys. These students were all selected through an essay writing contest.

The camp is held every year, usually beginning on the Tuesday right after Memorial Day. This year we expect around 80 campers representing nearly every electric cooperative in Oklahoma. These students have just completed the 8th grade and will be entering high school next fall. The camp is 4 days long and it is held near Hinton, OK near Red Rock Canyon at a beautiful private camp ground.

The agenda includes many fun events such as a field trip to an electric generating plant, a trip to Celebration Station in Oklahoma City, navigating a ropes course and a big dance! They will also have an opportunity to learn how cooperatives function by forming a pop and candy coop through the week, complete with a board of directors and a general manager. Throw in hiking, swimming and a volleyball tournament and you have the makings for an enjoyable and informative experience.

AEC has four great young representatives and we are excited to be able to give them this opportunity!



## Outdoor TVs hold up in extreme weather

Watching the big game on a weekend can bring friends together quickly. Add a barbeque and you have a party if the television is big and visible enough for the whole crowd.

Putting a TV on your patio could even convince your teenagers and their friends to hang out at *your* house this summer, if you really want that...

Before rearranging furniture, consider safety: Moving an indoor TV outside could damage the set and anyone who touches it, if it gets wet.

TVs designed for outdoor use are perfectly safe in the rain, snow and heat, their manufacturers say. But they are expensive--costing several thousand dollars because of their weather-and glare-resistant construction.

If the investment is within your budget, look for an outdoor TV that is:

- Designed for permanent installation. It's a hassle to carry the TV outside every time

you want to watch it and back in when you're finished.

- Weatherproof--in rain, snow, cold and heat. Good ones have internal heaters and coolers and powder-coated aluminum exteriors to protect their inner workings from extreme temperatures.
- Equipped with a weatherproof remote control, so you can leave that outside, too.
- Easy to watch, even in direct sunlight. Choose a model with a screen that won't glare.

If a weatherproof TV isn't in your price range, buy an indoor TV that can withstand high temperatures, and mount it on a dolly or in a wagon so you can haul it outdoors and back in after every use.

Be sure to keep this appliance out of the rain; a wet TV can malfunction and spark, end your party and threaten your safety.

Ending a barbeque with such a tragic incident is much worse than just losing the game!

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## Avard

secure a no-interest loan of \$740,000 through the Rural Economic Development Loans and Grants.

In 1960 the population of Woods County was nearly 12,000 but it steadily declined until 2007 when it reached a little over 8,000 with per capita income only **\$23,370**. (The state per capita average was **\$32,400**.) Thankfully, a few progressive-minded businessmen sought solutions.

Just 6 years later, at a recent ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Avard Rail Park, Lt. Governor Todd Lamb stated, "In the last 12 to 18 months, northwest Oklahoma has led the entire nation in net job growth. Also, in the same time period, the entire state of Oklahoma has led the nation in job growth. We are the national champions in manufacturing job growth, with a growth rate of 6.7%.

He continued, " ...In Woods and Alfalfa county, and in Oklahoma, we have had the lowest unemployment of any state with a population of two million or above. If it were not for northwest Oklahoma, as a state we would not be able to say we have the lowest unemployment rate in the nation."

The Industrial Park consists of 508 acres. Trustees now include Edward Sutter, Todd Holder, Stan Bixler, Joe Royster and Leslie Kamas. Shelley Reed, Woods County Clerk, serves as liaison between the Rail Park

Authority and the county commissioners.

Already SandRidge Energy has agreed to locate their division of Chaparral Drilling Fluids in the new park. Martin Marietta has begun shipments of rock and sand to the new location.

New resurfacing of the road to the park was completed through the cooperation of the Rail Park Authority and the Woods County Commissioners.

BNSF just recently donated additional rail for the 95 car unit trains that now arrive weekly. BNSF has already begun the construction of a "Y" to join the two tracks to the north, adding to the convenience and safety of the Park. Completion is scheduled for June.

With interest in oil/gas booming in the area, shipping by rail sounds like a sweet solution. Crude oil, pipe, drilling equipment, drilling mud, rock and sand are candidates.

Avard also sits in the middle of the wheat belt with grain, fertilizer, and feed transported by trucks daily. Heavy wind turbines contribute to alternative energy

sources in northwest Oklahoma. The construction and maintenance of the tall turbines also open up rail shipping possibilities.

Rail transport is much cheaper than trucking and barges have enormous capacity for shipping.

Count the rock, oil and wheat trucks going by your neighborhood every day. Avard is rolling fast without the skating rink.



*Rural train tracks in the early morning..*



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FACEBOOK



# Kids vie for Kindles with “Dig Deeper” -- Summer Reading Program

Area children are about to begin an exciting project at Cherokee’s City/County Library. “**Dig Deep--Read.**” kicks off Monday, June 3 and the program runs through July 22.

The theme targets ages Kindergarten through 5th grade and

encourages reading through motivational programs and speakers. The Library has hosted summer programs for many years introducing true and imaginary places and events to a fresh, new group of primary readers every summer.

Featured entertainers for **Dig Deep--Read** include a magical archeologist, an Upside Down Artist (draws *everything* upside down) and an informative speaker from the Water Resource Board introducing fascinating facts about water. Phillip Wilber will bring along some fossils, rocks and crystals. Librarian Star Baker promises the readers will actually make their own crystals! It is a great summer to be a kid.

At the conclusion of the project the three most ambitious readers will receive new Kindles as prizes for having read the most books during the summer. Registration forms are now available at the Library. Librarian Star Baker, Elia Donaldson and Carrie Gannon will be happy to assist you with enrollment.

Adult readers with a Kindle, Nook or other reading device are invited to go Online to [www.cherokee.okpls.org](http://www.cherokee.okpls.org) and click on the **OK Virtual Library** link. Following directions there it is easy to download a virtual book without a trip to the Library. Senior citizens and busy readers like the conve-



*Cherokee’s audience looks forward to seeing a magical archeologist persuade a young girl to levitate.*

nience of choosing a book quickly in the privacy of home and getting 2 weeks before the virtual book is automatically removed from the reading device. Available books stay current with popular trends and readers can add notes and bookmarks on their own reading devices.

Lastly, be sure to stroll by the check-out counter at the Library. Dried fruits and baking nuts are always for sale there. Advertised as fresh and reasonably priced, the goodies taste great by themselves or can be saved for Mom’s cookies. Money from every sale goes to the Friends of the Library which funds needs at the Library, benefitting readers throughout the area.



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