

# "Hotlines"

Published Monthly  
for the Members of  
Alfalfa Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Cherokee, OK  
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*Spring...Don't miss  
nature's beauty!*



May, 2014

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



## Area News Briefs

AEC Offices will be  
closed on  
**Monday, May 26,  
2014**  
for Memorial Day.  
Please observe the  
holiday with  
safety  
and reverence.



**AVOID SWEATING!  
TIME FOR AN A/C  
CHECK-UP!**

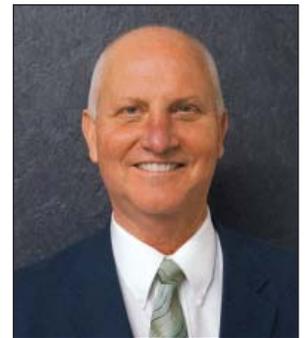
AEC SERVICES, INC.  
(580) 596-2638 or  
1-800-853-4969

**SEE  
AEC ON  
FACEBOOK**

**POWER  
OUTAGE?  
(580) 596-3333  
OR  
1-888-736-3837**

To place brief announcements  
in "Hotlines" please call  
(580) 596-3333 EARLY

## *From The Manager's Desk* **The Life of a Lineman**



They wake before the sun, pour steaming cups of coffee, and kiss their family goodbye. After swinging by the office to get the day's orders, 21 men climb into their trucks and head out. Our linemen form a solid team with one job: to deliver safe, reliable electricity. But that job can change in a million ways when rough weather steps in.

We often take power—and the men and women who provide it—for granted. Let's take a moment and stand in their boots.

Linemen have to work safely, smart, and efficiently—all while 40 feet in the air wearing sturdy, thick rubber gloves. On a typical day, linemen maintain electrical distribution lines or build service to new homes and businesses in Oklahoma and Kansas. They have a lot on their plates. But when our dispatch center calls crews with a problem, everything else takes a backseat.

Power restoration takes precedence on a lineman's to-do list. These brave men are always on call. We have crews standing by to serve you 24 hours a day, in the middle of the night or wee hours of the morning, weekends and holidays.

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## **Burlington hits trifecta for Youth Tour**

The small school of Burlington, Oklahoma, was well represented at 2014's Youth Tour Banquet. Terry Ryel acted as the Master of Ceremonies in the absence of Youth Tour Director, Ron Shafer who was out of

town. Students were rewarded for their efforts in writing essays and participating in personal interviews.

Winners were as follows: Delegates to Eden Valley, Colorado

**con't on page 3**

## ALTERNATING CURRENTS...

### Giving Back

By Ron Shafer

Our cooperative has been benefiting from several years of increased sales, and that has resulted in a strong financial position. We have started putting some of this money back in to the system in the form of several line improvement projects. One of those projects is in Cherokee where we have replaced some of the poles on the lines feeding out of the substation. Due to their proximity to the sub, these lines are critical to the integrity of the service throughout Cherokee and the poles holding them up were quite old and weakened.

Another area of improvement, as a direct result of increased sales due to the oil business, has been more and bigger substations. Prior to 2008, we were serving all of our customers from 10 substations. Since that time, we are now serving load from 18 substations. We are in the process of adding 2 more to that total, hopefully within a year. Of the original 10 locations, 5 have had major rebuilds to upgrade the capacity rating. The substation in Cherokee was completely replaced with a new one in a different location.

Add to the above statistics the many miles of line that have been built in our area. Then consider all of the new transmission lines that WFEC, our service provider, has rebuilt and improved. You quickly realize that the system as a whole is much more capable of meeting the service needs of our members well in to the future.

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## Generous prizes at Annual Meeting 2014



*Phyllis Puffinbarger of Cherokee poses with General manager Colin Whitley after winning the coveted \$1,000 check.*

If you attended Annual Meeting chances are that you sat next to somebody who won a prize. All seven counties (five in Oklahoma and two in Kansas) were represented this year and most with at least two winners.

Among those winning large ticket items were: Don and Jean Carpenter- Kindle Fire HDX; Dean Berg of Helena - Nikon Digital camera;

Donna Caywood, Cherokee- digital camcorder; Jack and Nada Bernard, Cherokee- Blu-ray DVD player; Joe Wilson, Cherokee,- portable DVD player; and Carrol Guffey, Cherokee- portable DVD player.

Those winning \$50 cash included Loyd Cink, Jr., Donald Engle, Bruce Martin, Raymond Wilson and Laura Girty.



*Employee Douglas Conrady played the National Anthem on his horn as the American Legion presented the flag.*

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## Burlington, trifecta winner

(near Steamboat Springs) included Mary Elizabeth Shaffer of Ringwood and Daniel Ross of Burlington. Primarily a leadership conference, students from Kansas, Colorado, Wyoming, Nebraska and Oklahoma join together for a week of outdoor activities and competition.

Those traveling to Washington, D. C. for "Government in Action" include Keyra Clark of Burlington and Kelsey Huel of Waynoka. The girls will join delegates from cooperatives throughout Oklahoma and many other states touring government buildings and taking in the flavor of the nation's capital.

Conner Whitley, homeschooled at Cherokee and Sadie Vore of Burlington won the \$400 scholarships which will be valid at any University or Vocational Technology School.

Susie Koontz visited area high schools introducing the subject and research tools. With the fiftieth anniversary of John F. Kennedy's death at the end of 2013 AEC honored Kennedy's understanding that the cooperative model was important for promoting democracy. Students were asked to explain how both cooperatives and President Kennedy are still important to the entire world today.

The 500-word essays were judged for excellence together with a personal interview concerning the function of an electrical cooperative.

Teachers honored at the banquet include Robyn Turney, Burlington; Gina Bohlen, Ringwood; Jackie Whitley, Cherokee; and Sam Wooten, Waynoka;



*Kelsey Hall, Waynoka; Keyra Clark, Burlington; Elizabeth Shaffer, Ringwood; Daniel Ross, Burlington; Sadie Vore, Burlington and Conner Whitley from Cherokee.*



**LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!**

## con't from page 1

Can you imagine getting a call at 3 a.m. telling you to work outside during bad weather? Not many people are willing to face storms. Our linemen face harsh elements daily, all to serve you.

Linemen also focus on safety; the lives of coworkers are on the line. Job safety is important to everyone, no matter your occupation. But for linemen, there can be no slip ups or careless actions. Mistakes can cost a limb or life. That's one of the reasons linemen form a brotherhood. When you put your life in the hands of co-

workers every day, they become more than colleagues. They're family.

That sense of family extends to electric co-ops across the nation. One of our principles is cooperation among cooperatives. We help other co-ops in their time of need, and they extend that service to us, too. It's reassuring to know if a severe storm strikes, a national team of linemen stand ready to answer the call.

To be ready to respond no matter the situation or weather conditions, linemen are highly trained. At

Alfalfa Electric, linemen go through regular training to ensure they can work safely with various kinds of equipment. The equipment gets tested regularly, too.

These highly skilled men light our homes and businesses every day. They endure harsh weather and long hours, all to make our lives better. Today (and every day), please take a moment to thank them. Alfalfa Electric Cooperative's linemen are the heart of the Co-op Nation, proud and strong.



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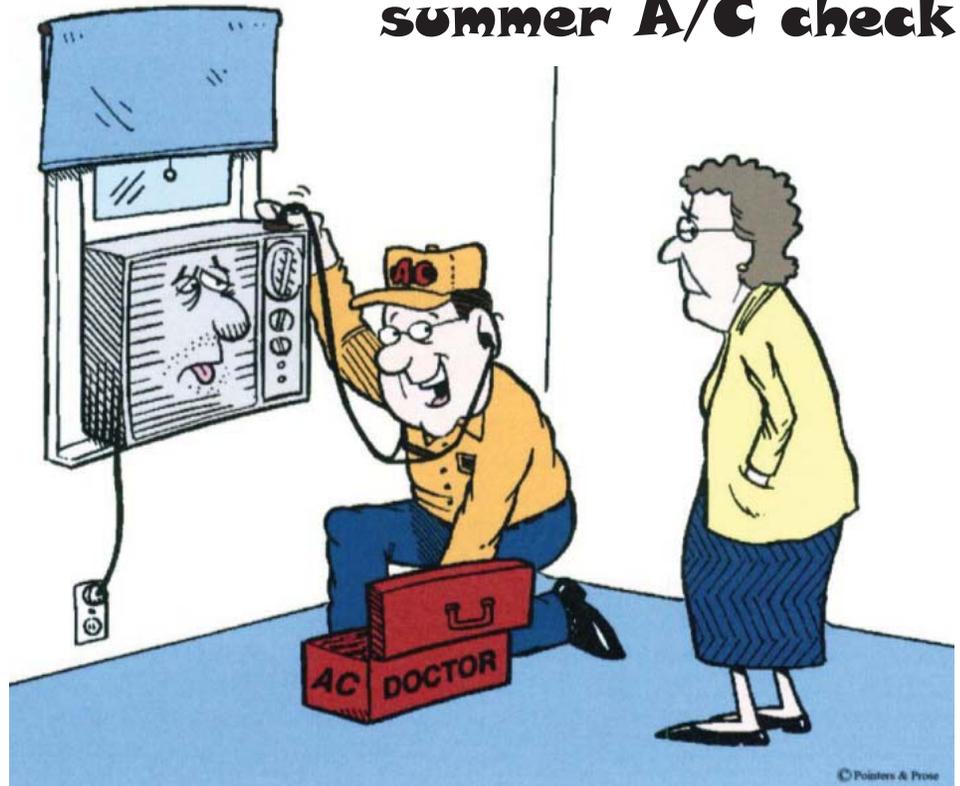
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## Get home ready with summer A/C check



*"Don't sweat it ma'am, I'll have him chillin' in no time!"*

Even if your air conditioning system ran perfectly last summer, it's a good idea to call an HVAC professional to give it a once-over before it gets hot outside.

Like any machine with moving parts, your air conditioning system needs regular maintenance. Before the weather heats up, find out if yours will survive another summer.

A pre-season tune-up won't guarantee that nothing will go wrong once the temperatures start to soar, but it will reveal any obvious problems; normal wear and tear; or the need for maintenance and replacement parts.

Don't let your a/c surprise you by conking out on the hottest day of the summer. Make that phone call.