

THE LAMP



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IEC STORM OUTAGE

BY C.L. HARMON

It's always been said that life is stranger than fiction. There are so many ironies weaved throughout the fabric of life that sometimes we feel we are cloaked in a shroud of mystery.

Oh okay! Enough of the mysterious, poetic lead-in and on to some real irony...some dark and cloudy covered irony close to home and with a twist of fate type of connection to Hollywood.

Monday, May 10, at 7 p.m., a tornado struck west of Fairfax. Now there is nothing strange about a tornado in Oklahoma in the spring.

But, what makes this one so ironic is that it occurred exactly where crews filmed part of the movie Twister starring Helen Hunt and Bill Paxton which just

happens to be about tornadoes in Oklahoma. Weird huh!

To delve a little deeper, the tornado also struck exactly 14 years to the day of the movie release on May 10, 1996.

In addition, although not so ironic, there was also tornado damage in the Otoe area. IEC had a total of 80 poles down in both areas.

IEC crews and four contractor crews worked until all services were restored on the evening of May 12. At the height of the outage on Monday night, 380 members were without power.

IEC would like to thank the Harrison Ranch for feeding the crews that worked in the area and also everyone who contributed food or help to the crews working those long hard hours. ♦



Office Closings

IEC offices will be closed Monday, July 5th so our employees can spend Independence Day with their families.

To report an outage please call :

- (918) 358-2514
- 1-800-482-2750
- (918) 295-9598 IWR

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IEC GIVES SPECIAL GIFT

BY C.L. HARMON

From wherever one's vantage point, they were sure to see a lime green T-shirt, a smile and open arms at the Special Olympics recently held at the OSU track in Stillwater May 12-14.

Those lime green tees are representative of IEC's commitment to making a difference in people's lives and the community. Each year since at least 1996, IEC employees slip on the green tees and volunteer their time to make others feel special.

"We are very committed to being involved in the

community and Special Olympics is just one more way we can achieve this goal, IEC General Manager Jack Clinkscale said.

It is all voluntary. And what these volunteers have discovered is that Special Olympics is the type of charity that gives back more than it asks from those who become involved. In fact most who participate, continually go back year after, according to Kim Lay who has volunteered for the past eight years.

This year 49 employees took part in bringing joy to over 4000 athletes with physical and mental handicaps. Arriving at 7:30 a.m. these volunteers battled cold temperatures and winds to give each of those athletes an opportunity to take home a medal. The employees in return gets the special gift of giving to others.

"Volunteering at the Special Olympics is a heart-warming experience. I had the opportunity to assist with the awards ceremony after each race. The athletes were able to stand up on the podium and hear their name being called, then receive their medal.

My favorite part about the entire experience was watching each athlete as they heard their name. Their faces would light up, with their eyes getting big and a smile spreading wide across their face. They would wave and hold up their medals for pictures. Seeing those smiles made my day," volunteer Jenna Yates said.

As with any athlete in competition, these competitors train, get nervous and hope to be a winner.

They too battled the elements for a chance to see how far their training would take them.

It's an amazing experience to watch these





athletes as nervousness turns to excitement, then determination and then back to excitement as they high five or run into the arms of a volunteer waiting across the finish line.

The volunteers from IEC mostly work in the track and field events, according to Member Service Representative Clara Eulert. Some keep time while others help prepare the athletes at the starting line. But it is by far everyone's favorite, to be on the receiving end when those tired bodies with smiling faces run into their arms, as was apparent by anyone watching.

But all the volunteers appeared to express a true commitment to their tasks regardless of what they were doing. With smiles and positive words, each gave an athlete a special memory.

"I have had the opportunity for several years to work at the track events, lining up the athletes before each race. It's amazing to see the determination and the competitiveness in each of their faces.

The best part about volunteering at Special Olympics is to see the happiness and joy for life that the athletes have, and the happiness and joy they bring to their families who are cheering for them on the sidelines.

The problems you face in your daily life are nothing compared to what these athletes face every day of their life. You leave special Olympics receiving more of a blessing than anything you gave of yourself that day," volunteer Brian Cox said.

Once the event begins, volunteers cannot

help the athletes in any way other than to yell support and encouragement from their positions. The Special Olympics of Oklahoma Organization discourages volunteers from helping the athletes in any way as it defeats the purpose of Special Olympics.

The organization feels that by allowing each athlete to win or lose of their own merit teaches them to deal with life. They understand that it can be difficult to see the disappointment in a competitor. Helping athletes or giving them an award not earned does not allow them to learn the valuable lessons that losing teaches everyone.

Oklahoma's first Special Olympics was held in 1969 at the University of Tulsa and with that came the need for volunteers. Over the years, Oklahoma Electric Cooperatives have grown their involvement to become the largest group of volunteers in the state, according to IEC Member Services Manager David Wilson.

"Co-op volunteers can always be seen as we are the ones in the bright neon shirts," Eulert said.

Competitions for the Olympics include: softball throw, shot put, weight lifting, long jump, wheel chair races, playing softball and many more. This year the Special Olympics Organization brought thousands of athletes to competitions, handed out numerous ribbons and medals to teams and individuals. ♦



Recipe: vanilla Ice Cream

2 eggs

2 cups milk

3/4 cup sugar

1 tbsp. vanilla

1/6 tsp. salt

1 cub heavy whipping cream

Separate the eggs and make a soft custard of the milk, egg yolks and sugar. Beat the egg whites until stiff. Pour hot custard over egg whites and mix thoroughly. Add vanilla and salt. Cool, add whip cream and freeze.

ANNUAL MEETING DATE CHANGE

IEC's Annual Meeting of the Members will be held August 26th at 7 p.m. inside the Cleveland Event Center. Registration will open at 5 p.m. Come get your \$20 registration gift for the first 800 members to register. Stay for the gifts, prizes, and entertainment.

Details of the meeting will be in next month's Lamp. Stay tuned.

TRUSTEE ELECTION FILING NOTICE

Any member desiring to serve as an IEC board Trustee for the following districts, who meets the qualifications of a Trustee and lives in the district may file a notice of candidacy at IEC's office in Cleveland, OK.

- District 1 filing period June 14 through June 24, 2010
- District 2 filing period June 15 through June 25, 2010
- District 3 filing period June 17 through June 27, 2010

If unsure of your district it can be found on your IEC bill in the account summary box or you can call the IEC office at 918-358-2514

2010 Annual Meeting Business Spotlight Reservation Form

Business Name _____

Contact Person _____

Cell/Home Phone _____

Work Telephone _____

E-mail Address _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Product to be sold or displayed _____

Return completed form by Friday, July 9th to:
Indian Electric Cooperative
Attn: Clara Eulert
P. O. Box 49, Cleveland, OK 74020
Spaces reserved on a first come, first serve basis

(918) 358-2514
(800) 482-2750
(918) 295-9597 IVR
(918) 295-9598 IVR Outages
WWW.IECOK.COM

Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (Monday - Friday)

Greg Fielding, President District 4
 Wanda Foster, Vice-President District 5
 Berry Keeler, Sec.-Treas. District 1
 Loris Peckenpaugh - Ass't. Sec.-Treas. District 3
 Robert Burk District 6
 Mike Spradling District 7
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