



"Phone Chatter"

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P.O. Box 111 - Caldwell, Kansas 67022-0111 - (620) 845-5682

VOLUME 31

MAY 2002

NO. 05

Straight Talk with Greg Aldridge, General Manager Telephone poles aren't really telephone poles



What an unusual winter we just survived. It seemed the only moisture we had was in the frozen form. Many of you were without power, because of the ice storm in February that pulled so many electric poles down. Hopefully, you noticed that this had little effect on your telephone service. Most people still refer to the poles as telephone poles, but pretty soon none of those you see in KanOkla Country have telephone wiring on them. Our telephone cable is 99.9% buried, with the rest being converted within the next month or so. Except for generators being stolen from our remote switching sites, we had little trouble with the ice.

With the cable being underground, it presents us with another problem—folks accidentally cutting them while digging. (This would be almost completely eliminated if everyone would call before they dig.) To keep your service from major outages, we are just completing our last fiber optic cabling in a ring. (Dick Cantrell has mentioned this in passed Chatters.) What this means is that all of the telephone traffic that comes by fiber optics to our main switch in Caldwell has an alternate route to go if it is cut. (And it is switched automatically.) This just occurred in April, and no one's service was interrupted when the fiber was cut! But the rings are only in the fiber routes between the central offices, so please—always call before you dig.

KanOkla is always looking for ways to make your service better. Not only is it important to us that you have the latest in technology and services available, but that you have quality reliable service.

Hopefully, by the time you get this, all of us will have a lot more moisture, in the form of rain this time!



Easter Egg Hunt 2002

Fun Easter Egg Hunt Facts
Total of Children participating
1999—138 children
2000—231 children
2001—232 children
2002—276 children



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KANOKLA TELEPHONE ASSN., INC.
 PO Box 111, Caldwell, KS 67022-0111
 (620-845-5682)

Greg Aldridge General Manager

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Other Business 620-845-5682,
or dial 611 inside the KanOkla Service Area.
- In Emergency Dial Operator

PHONE CHATTER

A member newsletter published by the
 KanOkla Telephone Assn., Inc.

Editor - Louise DeWitt
Assistant Editor - Pam Schneider
Staff - Kim Reilly

KanOkla Sponsors Trip to Nationís Capital for Area Youth



KanOkla Telephone is sponsoring an educational tour for area students, June 1-5, 2002, to Washington, D.C. The 8th Annual Youth Tour exposes and explains the telecommunications industry to students from rural America in a legislative context. Students also have the opportunity to visit many of the historical sites in the nationís capital.

Kayla Johnson of Braman, OK and Jessica Yunker of Caldwell, KS will be KanOklaís representatives for the youth tour. Kayla, a junior at Braman High School, is the daughter of Mike and Robin Johnson and Sharon Whicker. Jessica is the daughter of Galen and Suzie Yunker and is a junior at Caldwell High School.

The trip focuses on a comprehensive overview of the telecommunications industry, including careers in telecommunications, the critical role telecommunications plays in rural America, and how legislative and regulatory decisions, made in Washington, affect the industry.

Todayís youth are the future of telecommunications in rural America and we hope that by educating them about the industry, we will not only broaden their horizons, but strengthen our communities, said Greg Aldridge, KanOklaís General Manager. We are proud to have a role in educating our local youth and contributing to the future economic health of our communities.

The Youth Tour will bring together 100 high school juniors from across rural America to Washington on a four-day legislatively and culturally enriched experience. The tour will allow youth to visit the Supreme Court and U.S. Capitol to meet with a member of Congress. They will also participate in an informational session about the Federal Communications Commission, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Utilities Service and more. Students will visit the nationís most historic sites and popular tour sites, including the Supreme Court and the Lincoln and Roosevelt Memorials.

The 8th Annual Youth Tour is hosted by the Foundation for Rural Services (FRS). FRS leads aggressive public information, economic and community development projects, which focus on rural telecommunications, to educate the public and improve the quality of rural American life. It is the philanthropic arm of the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association (NTCA), of which KanOkla is a member.

SURVEY WINNERÖ

Tim Stevenson - Caldwell, KS
 Tim Stevenson won a KanOkla Bucks
 Certificate for \$25.00.
 Congratulations!

Please make note of a directory correctionÖ.

Darwin and Lois Barnes phone number
 is 620-845-6739.

Congratulations!



There has been a new addition to the KanOkla Family! Byron and Karleen Ridlen are proud parents of Benjamin Lee born on April 2, 2002. The little lad weighed 6 pounds and 15 ounces and was 19.5 inches long.

Congratulations Byron, Karleen, and to big sister Keely!
 (Photo by Barb Schlotto)

KanOkla Matching Funds Program Working in Hardtner Area

Here is another successful KanOkla Matching Funds story. KanOkla received a thank you note from Joy Helmer, Hardtner Public Librarian.

Pam,

These are the final bills for the 2001-02 Community Grant. We greatly appreciate all your help in accomplishing the goals we set in 2001. We already have money and ideas for this years projects. Your community support has fulfilled its goal of stimulating people to give to the library. In addition to monetary contributions we also received 750 books, 431 videos, 150 audio books, and 100 computer c.d.s from other patrons; also a laptop computer and video camera. Thank you to everyone at KanOkla for their generosity.

Joy Helmer

Hardtner Public Library

Because of the success of the KanOkla Matching Funds Program, the KanOkla Board has committed another \$100,000 in matching funds for year 2002. For information on this program, contact Pan Schneider at 620-845-5682.



Look what's happening in KanOkla Country!

Chisholm Trail Festival **Caldwell, KS**
May 4, Saturday. All day event. Downtown.

Goltry Volunteer Fire Department Pig Roast **Goltry, OK**
May 18, Saturday. 5:30 p.m. Goltry Gym.

Town-wide Garage Sale **Hardtner, KS**
June 1, Saturday. 8:00 a.m. Town of Hardtner.



KanOkla Internet News



We've received tons of questions this month, and we're truly grateful to help with all your Internet questions. Remember that if you have a question regarding your Internet service, something you've seen online, or just a general Internet inquiry, drop an email to whiz@kanokla.com. We're always ready to hear from you, and always ready, too!

I Get TONS of Junk Mail ñ Can I Make It Stop?

Most unsolicited spam doesn't contain a valid working reply email address, and most of the time is not correctly addressed to your email address. Unfortunately, there is little you can do about unsolicited spam mail - replying doesn't work as you may have noticed. The sender is very likely not even in the United States - most spam is sent from overseas.

One preventative measure to block spam messages would be to set up message rules in your email client. You can block messages several ways ñ by subject (which you could use to block all messages with 'get rich quick' in the subject) or by sender's address (all messages from a particular person).

Here's the step-by-step details, direct from Microsoft ñ To create a rule for e-mail messages On the Tools menu, point to Message Rules, and then click Mail. Message rules cannot be created for IMAP or HTTP e-mail accounts. If this is the first rule you are creating, proceed to step 3. Otherwise, on the Mail Rules tab, click New and proceed to step 4. Select the conditions for your rule by selecting the desired check boxes in the Conditions section. (You must select at least one condition.) You can specify multiple conditions for a single rule by selecting more than one check box. Click the hyperlink in the Rule Description section to specify whether all of the rule conditions must be met before the specified action occurs and/or whether at least one must be met. Specify the actions for your rule by selecting the desired check boxes in the Actions section. (You must select at least one condition.) Click the underlined hyperlinks in the Rule Description section to specify the conditions or actions for your rule. You can click contains people or contains specific words in the Rule Description section to specify the people or words you'd like Outlook Express to look for in messages. If you enter multiple people or multiple words per condition, use the Options button in the Select People or Type Specific Words dialog boxes to further customize the condition. In the Name of the rule text box, select the default name or type a new name for your rule, and then click OK. For more help with message rules, call the support center at 800-KANOKLA.

If you have any questions or comments about anything I've addressed in this month's issue, don't hesitate to let me know at whiz@kanokla.com.

Thanks, & have a great month.

- The Whiz



This photo was taken in KanOkla Country. If you can correctly identify the location of this beautiful stain glass call us at 620-845-5682 or 611. Your name will be put into a drawing and be eligible to win a \$30.00 KanOkla Buck certificate.

Good Luck!

FUDGEY FRUIT PIZZA

1 1/2 cup (1 stick) 60% vegetable oil spread
3/4 cup granulated sugar
2 teaspoons vanilla extract, divided
1 1/2 cup plus 1 tablespoon HERSHEY'S Cocoa, divided
1-1/4 cups all-purpose flour
1/2 cup HERSHEY'S Syrup, divided
1 package (8 oz.) nonfat cream cheese
1 cup powdered sugar
2 cups sliced fresh strawberries
1/4 cup HERSHEY'S Strawberry Syrup

1. Heat oven to 325°F. Lightly grease 12-inch pizza pan. 2. Beat vegetable oil spread, granulated sugar and 1 teaspoon vanilla until creamy. Add 1/2 cup cocoa; beat well. Gradually add flour and 1/4 cup chocolate syrup, beating until well combined. Press dough evenly into prepared pan, forming cookie crust. Bake 20 to 25 minutes or until set. Cool completely. 3. Prepare Filling by combining cream cheese, powdered sugar, remaining 1 tablespoon cocoa and remaining 1 teaspoon vanilla extract. Spread over crust to within 1-inch of edge. Cover; refrigerate until cold, about 1 hour. 4. Just before serving, place sliced strawberries on top; drizzle with remaining 1/4 cup chocolate syrup and strawberry syrup. Serve immediately, cut into slices. 12 servings.



8th Annual Chisholm Trail Festival

Caldwell will be celebrating their 8th annual Chisholm Trail Festival on May 4th, 2002. The day will get started at 9:00 am with a new event, chalk the walk in which anyone can create their own chalk art in the street, plus the Kolache Kitchen will be baking up their famous kolaches. At 10:00, the Talking Tombstones will portray our most notorious citizens buried at our local and Boot Hill cemeteries (you may catch the tram to take you out to this event). The Historical Walking Tour is at 11:00 along with stage entertainment. The Art Council is hosting the annual Art Show at the Fair Building with a progressive painting for anyone to add to. Get your Old Time Photo taken at the Shooting Gallery and check out the booths at the Community Building. At high noon, the race begins! The 12-member obstacle teams will compete for the trophy and T-shirts. The teams consist of bicycles, runners, horses, a four-wheeler, and a canoe. A new division of age 30+ will compete at the same time, but with less strenuous activity! Please call Randy Sawyer and get registered (620-845-2549)! A hearty chuck wagon dinner will be served from 11:30 to 1:30 at the livestock pavilion. Buttons will be sold at the Chamber of Commerce booth near the Gazebo with button drawings and a Best Git Up (period dress/cowboy gear) contest at 1:00. The Historical Pageant will begin at 1:30 on the stage near the Heritage Park portraying Caldwell's birth and hey day as a cowtown. The Kansas Kountree Kloggers will be entertaining immediately after, and the Cow Chip Throw will follow down by the tracks at approximately 2:45pm. Thundershoots Productions, Inc. is presenting the 1st annual Chisholm Trail Bull Mania beginning at 5:00 at the rodeo grounds. Lots of games and activities are planned for the kids along with the bull riding.

Címon out and have some fun!





Bucks for Books

Attention all KanOkla Country Youth Groups!!!



Collect KanOkla directories and receive 50 cents for each. This is a great opportunity to earn money for your group. Organize, teamwork, and watch the dollars multiply. Take advantage of this great money making program!



Beautiful weather is already starting and there are always a lot of outdoor projects to conquer. One thing to keep in mind before you get the shovel or digger out is please call **before** you dig to get a line locate so you don't cut important wiring. It costs a lot to repair this kind of damage, however it doesn't cost anything to do a line locate.

Just call 1-800-344-7233 DIGSAFE in Kansas, and 1-800-522-6543 CALL OKIE in Oklahoma.

Isn't it always better to be safe than sorry later?

Do you wish you had **Caller ID** (where you can see who is calling you before you answer the phone), or **Voice Mail** (where people can leave you messages), or **Touchtone** (where you can dial faster), or **Call Waiting** (where you never miss a call), or **Three-Way Calling** (where you can talk to two people at the same time), or **Automatic Recall** (where you can call back the last person that called you), or **Automatic Call Back** (where it will try a busy number for you for thirty minutes), or **Call Forwarding** (where you can forward the call to where you are), or one of our many other calling features?

Then now is the time to add any calling feature(s) during May because you get THREE MONTHS FREE plus FREE ACTIVATION!

Certain restrictions apply so call KanOkla at 611 (inside of KanOkla Country) for details!

THE ANATOMY OF A FIBER OPTIC CABLE PROJECT

By Leon Dreiling, Associate Engineer



I'd like to take a little bit of your time and explain to you what it takes to start and complete a fiber optic cable construction project. First we go through the **design** stage. We decide where the project is located and why we need to upgrade. We then ride routes to establish the best way to get from point A to point B. We need to decide if remotes will be installed along the route and whether copper cable will be installed along with the fiber optic cable. When various tangibles are established we then send it to the engineering department.

At this point we go into the **survey** stage. The surveying is done by an engineering group or by someone employed by KanOkla. When an engineering group does the surveying, they use GPS (Global Positioning System) and transfer the information to a CAD (Computer Aided Drafting) drawing. The drawings are placed in book format and sent to KanOkla's engineering department for approval. We can tell by the drawings where we will need to obtain permits and possibly easements. Permits are drawn up and sent to counties, cities, states, and railroad companies, if needed, for approval. Where needed, an easement is drawn up and sent to a landowner for permission to place the cable on their right-of-way. After these steps are done, a contract is drawn up and sent to several contractors along with the survey sheets for bidding. A contractor will review the project on site and submit their bid. Normally we will take the lowest bid. After the project is awarded to a contractor, they will order material from the survey sheets. A date is set as to when to start the project and when the project is to be completed.

After all this is in place we go into the **construction** stage. The contractor is responsible for all foreign substructures such as water lines, gas lines, electric lines, etc. The contractor will call the appropriate one-call system for locates prior to any construction. A utility company has 48 hours to respond to a locate once the contractor has called either Kansas Dig Safe or Oklahoma's Call Okie. KanOkla furnishes an inspector to inspect all phases of construction. The inspector will update the survey books in red as construction progresses. Upon completion of the fiber optic cable, it is spliced and a date is set to place it in service.

When construction is complete we then go into the final stage, which is the **as built** stage. The contractor and inspector agree on units on all the red line sheets. The sheets are then sent to the engineering group to update the original survey sheets. The survey sheets are then sent to KanOkla so that they can be added to the existing sheets and transferred to maps. Depending on the size of the project, a contractor will be compensated once a month for services performed minus a percentage. The percentage is paid when the project is completed, which includes clean up. The contractor is responsible for all clean up for one year upon completion of the project.

Whew! Glad that's over. That's a lot of work. No matter what size of project we have, whether it is a ten-mile project or a 250-mile project, these are the steps we go through for a fiber optic cable project.



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