

Lightning strike hits pole at Plaza Shell

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There was more than rain and wind during storms the third weekend of July.

During the early morning hours of Monday, July 22, lightning struck a power pole that feeds a transformer on the northwest corner of the Plaza Shell gas station and convenience store.

Employees called city workers when lights in the business began to flicker, according to Mike Libich, who heads up the city electrical department.

“The fuse holder was cut out,” Libich said, noting that repairs didn’t take too long.

High winds could be what broke off part of a large cottonwood tree from its trunk at Lake Helen.

“It didn’t appear to be from a lightning strike and the tree was hollow,” Libich said. “Still it had stood through a lot of other storms.”