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VIAN TENKILLER NEWS

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Love Notes

VIAN

TENKILLER NEWS

Covering Western Sequoyah County

Valentine's Day Greetings Only \$10

See page 10 for details!

Vian man fails to comply with Sex Offender Registration

AMIE CATO-REMER
EDITOR

A Vian man has been charged with a felony count of failure to comply with Sex Offender Registration Act. Gregory Clinton, 49, was formally charged on Jan. 25 and a bench warrant was issued for his arrest the same day. He is listed as a Level 3 Sex Offender.

He received a \$7,500 bond and is now scheduled for a Feb. 10 arraignment before Associate District Judge Kyle Waters.

Sequoyah County Sheriff's Deputy Amy Edwards with the depart-



Gregory Clinton

ment's Sex and Violent Offender Registration Unit reported on Dec. 30, 2020, she requested Dep-

uty Thomas Stafford go to an address on East 980 Road in Vian and make contact with Clinton.

Stafford was told to tell Clinton to make contact with Edwards as soon as possible in regards to his Oklahoma Department of Corrections Sex and Violent Offender Registration paperwork.

Oklahoma Department of Corrections reportedly sent an address verification letter to Clinton on Nov. 20, 2020, and the letter was returned back to them on Nov. 28, 2020.

According to an affi-

See COMPLY, page 3

Former Police Chief files wrongful termination suit

ROY FAULKENBERRY
SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

Former Vian Police Chief Mark E. Fisher has filed a wrongful termination lawsuit against the Town of Vian, seeking a judgment in excess of \$10,000.

Fisher's attorney's Frasier, Frasier and Hickman, LLP, filed the lawsuit on Jan. 20 in Sequoyah County District Court.

The former chief was discharged "for the good of the service" on Aug. 21, 2020, during a special meeting of the Vian Board of Trustees. He was let go, along with Vian Police Officer Wade Ranes, following an ex-



Former Chief Mark Fisher

ecutive session.

The petition says Fisher was the non-probationary police chief of

the Town of Vian, which participated in the Oklahoma state police pension plan of which Fisher was a member where he accrued retirement and other benefits.

According to the petition, Oklahoma law allows for persons such as Fisher to be discharged only with cause, but on Aug. 21, 2020, he was terminated without cause and with neither pre-termination nor post-termination procedures.

"As a result of this violation of Plaintiff's rights, he has lost wages and other benefits of employment, including a reduced retirement un-

See SUIT, page 3

Police, Code Enforcement talks top WF Meeting

AMIE CATO-REMER
EDITOR

The Webbers Falls Board of Trustees met on Jan. 12 where they took care of several matters regarding the police department and then unanimously voted to send Aron Sloan to Code Enforcement training.

Following a short executive session regarding the employment of Sloan, the trustees reconvened and voted to raise Sloan's pay to \$14 an hour and revisit the wage once he completes Code Enforcement training. The trustees then unanimously voted to send Sloan to Code Enforcement training.

Under police matters, it was announced that the police depart-

ment had assisted Oklahoma Highway patrol with six accidents, and that Officer Sloan had graduated from CLEET and helped apprehend an escaped felon from Texas.

The board also approved the utilization of AMS tax collection interception services for unpaid tickets and for Karen Swimmer to write grants for the police department.

It was noted that that the police department has received a grant to purchase body cameras in the amount of \$4,817 but the total cost of the cameras and accessories will be \$5,374.50. Police Chief Keith Bell requested the board approve the purchase of the body cameras and paying the difference of \$557.50, with all trustees voting

yes.

The trustees also approved the transfer of \$37,355.03 of Covid Cares Relief funds to the police department, and the transfer of \$20,000 of Safe OK Grant funds.

In fire department news, it was stated that metal is now going up on the new fire department building.

Tinhorns are still being replaced and the Greenhood lift station is complete, with replacement beginning on the lift station at SRS, according to city maintenance.

An Election Resolution was also passed by trustees..

Before adjourning, the board tabled taking action on Trustee and Mayor Pay Ordinance #12-15-2020-01.

Kenyatta Wright hopes to retain Vian Trustee Seat

After being appointed last year

AMIE CATO-REMER
EDITOR

Kenyatta Wright of Vian has announced that he will be seeking to retain his seat on the Vian Board of Trustees during the town's General Election on April 6.

Wright, an Independent, is a graduate of Vian High School and Oklahoma State University. He was appointed to fill the seat of former Vian Trustee Larry Patterson, who passed away in 2020.

"Larry Patterson was my first T-ball coach. I watched him serve this town for years and most recently as a trustee," Wright said. "But after he passed away, my first thought was to carry on his legacy and honor it as well."

Wright said three years



Kenyatta Wright

ago, he and his wife Amber decided to move their family back to his hometown and make it their forever home.

"The first thing we did as a family was to get involved and volunteer with the youth and many areas of need, and with-

out notice," Wright said. "I've never had a desire to get into politics or run for anything because most of the time my views and work has always been done without recognition, and I like it that way. I never wanted my family to ever be subjected to undeserved criticism, and sometimes in public office that happens."

Wright said when he was younger, he always wanted to be a Vian business owner.

"When I lived in a New York suburb the foundation of that successful community was inspiring education, small business, development and sustainability, promoting arts, and outdoor recreation," he said. "During

See WRIGHT, page 3

Webbers Falls passes Resolution for Municipal Election

AMIE REMER, EDITOR

The Webbers Falls Board of Trustees passed Resolution 12-15-2020-01 during their regular monthly meeting on Jan. 12, to declare a Municipal Election for two trustee seats currently held by Aaron Gage and Shiloh McPeak.

The non-partisan election is scheduled for Tuesday, April 6, and both seats will be for a four-year term set to expire in 2025.

To qualify for the election, each candidate must be a resident and registered voter within town limits for at least six months prior to filing a declaration of candidacy. The Resolution also states that such person elected must and shall not be in litigation with the town when elected.

Those wishing to have their name placed on the ballot as a candidate are asked to file with the secretary of the Muskogee County Election Board by a sworn statement of candidacy. The filing period ends at 5 p.m. on Feb. 3.

Absentee ballots will be provided in accordance with State Law, according to the Resolution.

The Muskogee County Election Board has also notified the town that there are no registered voters within the boundaries of Precinct 60, so the town has closed that Precinct.

Coronavirus Update

The Oklahoma State Department of Health reported the following COVID-19 numbers for Feb. 1.

- State Total Positive Cases, 390,868: Deaths, 3,564: Recovered, 358,040: Active 29,264.
- Sequoyah County Total Positive Cases, 3,587: Deaths, 26: Recovered, 3,229. (One additional death in Sequoyah County, one male in the 65 or older age group.)
- Sallisaw – Positive Cases, 1,362: Deaths, 13: Recovered, 1,244.
- Muldrow – Positive Cases, 903: Deaths, 3: Recovered, 790.
- Vian – Positive Cases, 482: Deaths, 5: Recovered, 440.
- Roland – Positive Cases, 422: Deaths, 1: Recovered, 375.
- Gore – Positive Cases, 300: Deaths, 4: Recovered, 274.
- Gans – Positive Cases, 79: Deaths, 0: Recovered, 71.
- Marble City – Positive Cases, 61: Deaths, 0: Recovered 54.
- Moffett – Positive Cases, 3: Deaths, 0: Recovered, 3. (No changes from previous day.)
- Webbers Falls (Muskogee County) – Positive Cases, 127: Deaths, 0: Recovered, 110.
- Oklahoma Immunization Summary
- Oklahoma Prime Doses Allocated – 315,600
- Oklahoma Boost Doses Allocated – 195,750
- Prime Doses Given – 315,034
- Completed Series of Doses – 58,245
- Total Doses Administered – 373,279



Rainy Remer
Age 9, Vian

What is your dream job? *To become a second grade teacher.*

Do you know what Karma is? *It's when bad juju comes after you for doing someone wrong.*

Are you good at keeping secrets? *Kind of but mom, dad, nana and papa always find out!*



Tinley Gibson
Age 9, Vian

What is your dream job? *To be an interior designer.*

Do you know what Karma is? *When you do something bad and something bad happens to you.*

Are you good at keeping secrets? *Yes, because if I told they'd be mad and I don't like people to be mad at me.*

Obituaries

Michael Christopher Rogers

June 16, 1971 – Jan. 22, 2021

Oklahoma City – Funeral services for Michael Christopher Rogers, 49, of Oklahoma City, were held at 10 a.m. on Fri., Jan. 29, 2021, at Agent Mallory Martin Chapel in Sallisaw. Burial was at Pilgrims Rest Cemetery in Stilwell under the direction of Agent Mallory Martin Funeral Service, Inc.

Mr. Rogers was born on June 16, 1971, in Stilwell to Michael Dale Rogers and Thursey (McMurtry) Catlett and passed away on Fri., Jan. 22, 2021, in Oklahoma City.

He was a retired Master Sergeant in the U.S. Air Force and of the Seventh Day Adventist faith.

Survivors include his mother, Thursey Catlett and husband Neal of Hartford, Ark.; father, Michael Rogers and wife Diane of Bates City, Mo.; several brothers and sisters; and other family members and friends.

Pallbearers were Eric Catlett, Nathan Curtis, Robbie Pollock, Keith Breslow, Ben Dougan and Audie McMurtry.

Memorial contributions may be made to the National Kidney Foundation or American Heart Association.



Aubrey Don Walton

Jan. 16, 2021 – Jan. 16, 2021

Memorial services for Aubrey Don Walton, infant son of Boyd Wayne Walton Jr. and Belicia Chantal (Goff) Walton, were held at 10 a.m. on Thurs., Jan. 28, 2021, at Agent Mallory Martin Chapel in Sallisaw.

Arrangements were under the direction of Agent Mallory Martin Funeral Service, Inc.

Aubrey was born on Sat., Jan. 16, 2021, and passed away on Sat., Jan. 16, 2021, in Fort Smith, Ark.

Survivors include his parents; one brother, Charles Walton of the home; grandparents, Boyd and Sharon Walton of the home; and other family members.

Rachel Deloris Doosing

Dec. 13, 1932 – Jan. 28, 2021

Sallisaw – Funeral services for Rachel Deloris Doosing, 88, of Sallisaw, were held at 10 a.m. on Wed., Feb. 3, 2021, at Agent Mallory Martin Chapel in Sallisaw. Burial was at Upper Camp Creek Cemetery in Muldrow under the direction of Agent Mallory Martin Funeral Service, Inc.

Mrs. Doosing was born on Dec. 13, 1932, in Tecumseh to George Albert Bowden and Virgie Mary (Badley) Bowden and passed away on Thurs., Jan. 28, 2021, in Tahlequah. She was a waitress.

Survivors include one son, Jim Johnson and wife Brenda of Sallisaw; one grandchild; one great-grandchild; and other family members and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; one son, Vic Johnson; three sisters, Ruth Chapman, Elsie Smith and Maudie Kirkland; and two brothers, Alfred and Ernest Bowden.

Cindy Marie Gentry

Oct. 18, 1965 – Jan. 21, 2021

Sallisaw – Memorial services for Cindy Marie Gentry, 55, of Sallisaw, were held at 10 a.m. on Tues., Jan. 26, 2021, at the Sequoyah Memorial Chapel with Pastor Charles Phillips officiating. Arrangements were under the direction of Forever Memories Funeral Service.

Mrs. Gentry was born on Oct. 18, 1965, in Modesto, Calif., to Lloyd and Glenda (Mathies) Gentry and passed away on Thurs., Jan. 21, 2021, in Fort Smith, Ark.

Survivors include her mother; one daughter, Ashley (Reese) Tuck of Vian; one son, Greg Reese of Sallisaw; four grandchildren; three brothers, Michael Gentry of Sallisaw, Rodney Gentry of Fredericksburg, Va., and Glen Burnett of Modesto; one sister, Kathleen Koffman of Kansas City, Kan.; and other family members and friends.

She was preceded in death by her father; and one son, Wesley Reese.



Eric Auger

June 22, 1970 – Jan. 21, 2021

Sallisaw – Eric Auger, 50, formerly of Sallisaw, passed away on Thurs., Jan. 21, 2021, in Tulsa. He was born on June 22, 1970, in Downey, Calif., to Pierre Auger and Katherine Maurer Auger.

Private memorial services will be held at a later date. Cremation is under the direction of Agent Mallory Martin Funeral Service, Inc.

He was the owner and operator of Eric's Heating and Air.

Survivors include two daughters, Blayke Wright and husband Cameron, and Colbie Auger, all of Sallisaw; his parents, of Sallisaw; one brother, Allen Auger of Boca Raton, Fla.; two grandchildren; and other family members and friends.

He was preceded in death by one grandchild.



Cherri Lorraine Jackson Gable

Jan. 15, 2021

Sallisaw – Cherri Lorraine Jackson Gable of Sallisaw passed away on Fri., Jan. 15, 2021, in Fort Smith, Ark.

Mrs. Gable's passion in life, besides her golf and golfing buddies, centered on helping anyone in need in any manner possible.

Survivors include one brother, Gary D. Jackson and wife Theresa of Sargent, Texas; one son, Heath D. Lockhart and

wife Debbie; one stepson, DC Gable of Oklahoma City; and a host of loving cousins and grandkids.

She was preceded in death by her parents, William N. Jackson and Rosemary Miller Jackson; her husband, Don Gable; and one brother, William N. Jackson.

As per her wishes there will be no service. In lieu of flowers please make a donation to the charity of your choice.



The Cherokee Nation launched the largest emergency food distribution effort in the tribe's history, which served more than 112,000 tribal citizens with boxes of foods during more than 300 food events

held in the Cherokee Nation. More than 70,000 ready-made meals were also delivered to Cherokee elders.

CN shares COVID-19 Respond, Recover, Rebuild Spending Report

The Cherokee Nation Treasurer released the tribe's COVID-19 Respond, Recover, Rebuild Spending Report, showing the number of ways the tribe has served citizens through job and food security, economic relief, health care, housing and connectivity during the pandemic.

The Cherokee Nation received \$411 million from the U.S. Department of Treasury for Coronavirus Relief assistance. Other federal COVID-19 funding received was spent as prescribed by each funding agency, such as USDA food program, health or transportation needs.

"The Cherokee Nation Finance Office has worked closely with Administration and the Council of the Cherokee Nation to ensure that our relief dollars helped our Cherokee citizens stay safe, stay working and had the basic essential needs such as food, shelter, health care, and clothing to get through this pandemic," Treasurer Tralynna Sherrill Scott said. "We are extremely proud to have served more than 130,000 citizens with direct assistance using the Coronavirus Relief Fund and thousands more of

our citizens through other essential programs and services we've offered."

The Cherokee Nation provided relief by dedicating \$177 million for jobs so that employees did not miss a paycheck or experience layoffs in the past year. Another \$54 million went directly to individual citizens for emergency relief, clothing assistance, those with disabilities, utilities and other needs.

They also invested \$38 million in PPE and safety supplies, including setting up its own N95 and N99 mask production. Once operational, the Cherokee Nation will be the only manufacturer of N99 masks in the United States. An additional \$22 million was invested in public health infrastructure needs such as, new employee health clinics, expanded domestic violence shelters, and community water line and water treatment improvements.

"We went where the needs were and the needs were all over, and different for different communities," Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. said. "There was an ongoing need for PPE manufacturing, so we are having Cherokees produce them

in the Cherokee Nation. Other facilities will be used for food security efforts. As we continue the largest emergency food distribution program in the history of the Cherokee Nation we need strategic locations to store and distribute food. Other locations are a way to spread staff and the citizens they serve out through social distancing."

Another important way the Cherokee Nation is helping communities and addressing needs through the COVID-19 pandemic is by addressing the digital divide throughout the reservation. They sent over \$19 million in Technology Grants to students to help them purchase necessary equipment for distance learning. The Nation spent an additional \$27 million toward improving connectivity, including providing more than 9,000 mobile Wi-Fi hotspots that included a year of service to Cherokee Nation citizens with no internet connectivity, as well as making investments to improve telework and tele-health capabilities.

"Over the next couple of weeks, we'll also be wrapping up the deploy-

ment of 35, Cherokee Connect drive up locations, where folks can pull into a parking lot, remain in their vehicles to socially distance and connect to the Internet," Deputy Chief Bryan Warner said. "These sites are strategically placed to make them easily accessible in many rural parts of the reservation."

The Cherokee Nation also launched the largest emergency food distribution effort in the tribe's history which served more than 112,000 tribal citizens with boxes of foods during more than 300 food events held in the Cherokee Nation. More than 70,000 ready-made meals were also delivered to Cherokee elders.

The tribe spent \$27 million to address food security through the pandemic, including the construction of five new food distribution centers, a meat processing facility, and additional refrigerated trucks. The tribe made other investments in public health, career services, community organizations, housing and economic relief.

A Respond, Recover and Rebuild website to house the spending report for Cherokee citizens is available online.

VIAN

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Area News



Former Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Ross Swimmer is one of nearly 6,000 Cherokee elders recently receiving a COVID-19 vaccine through the tribe. Cherokee Nation administered its 10,000th dose of the COVID-19 vaccine this week.

Cherokee Nation administers 10,000 dose of COVID-19 vaccine

The Cherokee Nation has administered its 10,000th dose of the COVID-19 vaccine to Cherokee citizens falling within the tribe’s Phase 1 and Phase 2A priority distribution plan, including frontline health care workers, first-language Cherokee speakers, and Cherokee elders.

“From Day 1 of the first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine arriving in the Cherokee Nation, we have prioritized Cherokee speakers, Cherokee elders and our health care workers who have been on the frontlines protecting all of us during the worst health crisis we’ve seen in generations,” said Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr.

“I appreciate our Health Services team for working so tirelessly to provide this vaccine to the most vulnerable in our communities. They have been effective and efficient in this process, and their work is saving lives every day.”

Nearly 60 percent of the tribe’s allotted COVID-19 vaccines have been provided to first-language Cherokee speakers, Cherokee National Treasures, and Cherokees elders since the first doses arrived on Dec. 14, 2020.

“This milestone for our health system is one we are excited to celebrate,” said Cherokee Nation Health Services Executive Director Dr. R. Stephen Jones. “It’s an encouragement to our health teams to have vaccinated this many of our staff, Cherokee speakers, National Treasures, elders and now even more groups as we have entered phase 2A of our vaccine distribution plan.”

Cherokee Nation’s Phase 2A is ongoing and includes teachers working for the Cherokee Nation, Cherokee Nation child care workers, food distribution program employees and other critical staff, as well as Cherokee citizens 55 and older.

“It’s important that our people take the vaccine as soon as possible, especially those at-risk citizens,” said former Cherokee Nation Princi-

pal Chief Ross Swimmer, one of the nearly 6,000 Cherokee elders recently receiving a COVID-19 vaccine through the tribe.

“From the time I started learning about this vaccine several months ago, it clearly is the best opportunity people have to avoid getting the COVID virus. It would be a shame if Cherokees didn’t take advantage of this. I want to encourage all of our Cherokee elders to come in and get this vaccine. This is a landmark project and I want to express my thanks to Chief Hoskin for his work, and to the medical providers for their efforts.”

Vaccinations are being administered by appointment only for established Cherokee Nation Health Services patients with a medical chart who fall within Phase 1 and 2A of the tribe’s phased distribution plan, which is available online at health.cherokee.org.

Individuals who meet phased distribution criteria can schedule an appointment by calling 1-539-234-4099.

Qualifying appointments are being scheduled from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, excluding holidays. Walk-ins are not being taken at this time.

“Vaccine uptake among our health care staff has also been an inspiration for others who meet phase criteria to get vaccinated,” Jones said. “We share our vaccine stories and educate one other to encourage even higher vaccine uptake among our health staff.”

For more info on the COVID-19 vaccine, including answers to frequently asked questions, or to find Cherokee Nation Health Service registration forms and the latest updates to the Cherokee Nation COVID-19 vaccine distribution plan, visit health.cherokee.org.

There were more than 13,800 positive cases of COVID-19 within the Cherokee Nation as of Jan. 28. Cherokee Nation Health Services has reported 90 deaths caused by COVID-19.

In Need of Clothing?

Anyone in need of clothing can now call God’s Blessings Clothes Closet in Vian for an appointment to come to the clothes closet.

“We’ll make you an ap-

pointment but you can only come in if you are wearing a mask,” Ruby Pigeon with God’s Blessings Clothes Closet said. “You can reach me at 918-705-1251.”

Legislature Holds Final Virtual Redistricting Meeting

The Oklahoma House of Representatives and the State Senate redistricting offices held a virtual town hall meeting on the legislative redistricting process.

The two virtual meetings – the first Dec. 21 – gave lawmakers and redistricting staff the opportunity to answer questions and take comments from the public in real time.

They were part of a series of 20 meetings held statewide in December and January to gather public input.

The meetings were open to anyone who wanted to attend.

The Oklahoma Senate will hold its final meeting at 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 28, in Owasso at the Tulsa Technology Center, Sycamore Room.

“We want the people of Oklahoma to have a say in who represents them both at the state Capitol and in the nation,” said State Rep. Ryan Martinez, R-Edmond, chair of the House Redistricting Committee.

“These meetings gave us a chance to explain the redistricting process, which is constitutionally required, and to learn from the public their concerns and their ideas for how they would like to be represented moving forward.”

“These public meetings allowed transparency into this process, and the virtual format gave us the opportunity to hear from people who could not get to one of the in-person meetings,” said State Sen. Lonnie Paxton, R-Tuttle, chair of the Senate Select Committee on Redistricting.

“I’m thankful to those who chose to participate in this process of making government work for the people.”

Every 10 years, the Legislature is constitutionally required to redraw Oklahoma’s legislative and congressional district boundaries to reflect population changes following the decennial census.

Redistricting plans for state legislative districts must be completed by May 28, 2021, the constitutionally mandated conclusion of the first regular legislative session following the end of the census.

Congressional redistricting has no deadline, but the Legislature aims to complete its work in time for the 2022 elections.

Meetings were live-streamed when possible, and video is archived. Previous House meetings can be viewed here: <https://okhouse.gov/Video/Default.aspx> and Senate meetings can be viewed here: <https://oksenate.gov/live-chamber>.

Anyone unable to attend the meeting may email comments to the House at redistrictoklahoma2020@okhouse.gov, Senate at redistricting@oksenate.gov, or contact their state representative or state senator.

All comments and public testimony will be shared with the committees.

Additional information about the redistricting process can be found here: <https://okhouse.gov/Publications/Redistricting.aspx> and here: <https://oksenate.gov/redistricting>.

COMPLY

from page 1

davit, Clinton registered with the Sequoyah County Sex and Violent Offender Registry on Aug. 20, 2019, stating that he lived with his wife. Edwards attempted to make contact with Clinton by calling the phone number he listed as a contact number but a recording stated the number had been disconnected and was no longer a working number. The same hap-

pened when Edwards tried calling Clinton’s wife’s number as well.

As of date, Edwards reported Clinton has not made contact with her office to give notice of a change of address and a warrant was then requested for his arrest.

If found guilty, the crime is punishable by incarceration in a correctional facility for not more than 5 years and fine not to exceed \$5000, or both such fine and imprisonment, according to District Attorney Jack Thorp.

SUIT

from page 1

der the above-referenced state system, has lost his job, has endured humiliation and emotional stress,” according to the petition.

Fisher is asking for a judgment against the town in a sum in excess of \$10,000, interest, costs, attorneys’ fees, reinstatement to his job position, other equitable relief and any and all other relief to which he is deemed entitled.

A resident of Fort Smith, Ark., Fisher was appointed as interim chief at Vian during a May 2017 special meeting. He had been employed with the Vian Police Department since August 2015 and has worked in law

enforcement for about 20 years.

Certified to work in both Arkansas and Oklahoma, Fisher started his career in law enforcement at the Sebastian County Jail in Arkansas and served as the former assistant police chief in Bokoshe and Quinton.

He was replaced by Daniel New as Vian’s Police Chief following his dismissal.

Vian Town Attorney Larry Vickers said he was aware of the filing of the lawsuit, but to his knowledge it has not been served as of yet.

“Due to its “pending” nature, I cannot comment on the matter,” he said.

Town Administrator Keith Boshers said he was unable to discuss anything regarding the case at this time.

WRIGHT

from page 1

my recent term I have gained more understanding of the intricacies of city government and have a long way to go, but I have the energy and confidence to help continue building our great town up and serving our citizens.”

Wright said he decided to run in 2021 to help continue the growth and quality of life in Vian.

“Vian, for the first time

in my lifetime is experiencing great growth and the city staff and team has some great leaders that really love this town and want to see everyone thrive,” he said.

“The Wrights have graced the Vian streets forever!” he said. “I’m a fourth generation Wright and my blood runs purple and gold.”

Wright and his wife of 21 years, Amber, have two daughters, Alexis and Avery, and two sons, Elijah and Solomon.

Intoxicated Woman takes infant inside casino

AMIE CATO-REMER
EDITOR

A Sallisaw woman is facing a felony charge of child neglect after she reportedly took her infant inside the Cherokee Casino in Roland while intoxicated and then locked her keys and the infant inside her vehicle.

Ahlexiah S. Cheater, 22, was formally charged on Jan. 20 in Sequoyah County District Court and received a \$5,000 bond. She is now scheduled to appear before Associate District Judge Kyle Waters for a March 24 felony disposition docket.

Roland Police Officer Tyler Ragan reported on the evening of Dec. 30, he was dispatched to the casino in reference to an intoxicated female who was reportedly attempting to drive away from the casino with a baby.

Casino security told Ragan that Cheater appeared to be heavily intoxicated and was trying to leave when she accidentally locked her child

and the keys to the vehicle inside the vehicle.

Ragan spoke with Cheater and reported she had an odor of alcohol coming from her person, slurred speech and was unsteady on her feet. The infant was reportedly in a car seat locked inside, crying, and Ragan was able to unlock the vehicle and let Cheater tend to the child.

One of the security officers told Ragan while Cheater was on the gaming floor, the security officer saw her at a gaming machine holding an infant baby. When the security officer confronted Cheater, telling her she couldn’t have the baby on the gaming floor, Cheater reportedly said, ‘Well, I’m trying to play, so you can have it,’ referring to the baby, and then tries to hand the baby off to the security officer.

The security officer informed Cheater once again she could not have a baby on the gaming floor and Cheater once

again told the security officer ‘Here, you can have her,’ once again referring to the baby.

The casino’s lead of security said as they were walking Cheater out of the casino, she reportedly tried handing the baby to a random male bystander, telling him to take her baby because she was going to jail, according to the affidavit. That’s when security reportedly contacted Roland Police.

Ragan spoke to Cheater about her level of intoxication. Cheater claimed she hadn’t drank anything until she and the baby arrived at the casino. The officer said they later found that to be untrue after reviewing the casino’s security surveillance.

According to the affidavit, the footage shows Cheater arriving on casino property with her baby but never shows her consuming an alcoholic beverage.

“She also stated that the baby wasn’t with her

when she first arrived. Cheater was very deceptive in her story and contradicted herself numerous times,” Ragan reported. “Cheater showed apparent signs of inebriation other than alcohol.”

After the Department of Human Services was contacted about the child, it was reportedly released into the custody of a family member.

Cheater was transported to the Roland Police Department and later transported to the Sequoyah County Detention Center where she was booked in on the charge.

If found guilty of the crime, Cheater could face imprisonment in the custody of the Department of Corrections not exceeding life imprisonment, or by imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding 1 year, or by a fine of not less than \$500 nor more than \$5,000, or both fine and imprisonment, according to District Attorney Jack Thorp.

Annual Azalea Pageant is March 20

The 37th annual Azalea Pageant will be held on Saturday, March 20, at the Roxy Theater in Muskogee. The pageant is held each year to kick off

the Azalea Festival and is open to girls from birth to 18 years of age.

For entry forms and more information, contact Pageant Director

Debbie Morgan at 918-360-6886, debbiemorgan1112@gmail.com, or on Facebook by searching Debbie Warren Morgan.

To check
CURRENT ROAD CONDITIONS
in Oklahoma,
call
888-425-2385.
dps.state.ok.us



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Mail to: **NEWS Editor, PO Box 750, Vian, OK 74962**
or e-mail at news@bigbasinllc.com

Religious

Known to God



Pastor Michael Martin

Vian Baptist Church

“Whosoever therefore shall confess Me before men, him will I confess also before My Father which is in heaven.” Matthew 10:32.

What a good thought! Being know to God! Think about that a moment. The Bible tells us in James 1:17 “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.”

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above. If God knows us, then we are in line for good gifts AND perfect gifts. If He knows us things will happen in our lives for a reason. We can rely on God that the reason will be good, even if it doesn't seem so in the moment.

My wife and I went to our 50 High School Reunion last year. We were late. I was upset. I had taken a wrong turn in Bolivar and headed north instead of east to Buffalo, Mo. As a teenager I had made that trip often and I was wondering what in the world had happened to my sense of direction. I finally got on 32 East and as we passed through Halfway, a tiny burg half way

between Bolivar and Buffalo, there had been a major accident at the intersection in the middle of town. Could God have directed me to take the wrong road to protect us? Of course He could have!

The part that talks about there being no variable-ness in God is a comfort as well. If God never changes, then His blessings never cease. He will always reward good with good. On the other hand, He will also reward bad with bad. John10:27 “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:” Those that follow Christ have no worries. Good will follow them. It's a promise.

Do Christians have trials and troubles? Of course they do, but God's promise is always with them. He can see our future and it might take some bad things to bring about some good things in our life.

I have heard of a Christian couple who wanted children so badly that they would pray and cry at night. The wife ached for motherhood. They went to a fertility clinic to see what the problems was. She had problems with fertility. They tried to implant a fertilized egg. She was happy for three months. She would walk around holding her stomach and thank God that there was a baby growing in there.

In the fourth month, the baby came early. It was still born. She was almost inconsolable. She begged God to show her why He had taken her baby. It shook her faith in God. Until...a house fire in the middle of the night.

Three precious children were saved, but their parents perished in the blaze. They had toyed with the idea of being foster parents. They had filled out all the paperwork, but had so far refused any children. Now with their broken hearts, God spoke to them about these three little girls that needed a home.

This begins a joyous time in their lives. They were able to adopt for no living relative wanted to care for the three children. They would not have adopted if they had had their own child. God tells of taking care of widows and orphans. Through circumstance, He prepared hearts of a husband and wife to love and care for those three small children.

Guess what? God also opened her womb and they were able to conceive and carry two more children full term. God had prepared them for a good gift (the little girls) and then He gave them a perfect gift (their own children). If we trust God with our lives, we will be rewarded with good things.

Spirit Led

(continued from last week)



Pastor Kenneth Byrd

Round Mountain Community Church

What is our spirit? Keep in mind our introductory text. Romans 8:14...As many as are led by the spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

Then verse 16 gives us a little insight into how the spirit of God leads us: The spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God. In other words, the spirit of God bears witness with the spirit of man.

Proverbs 20:27 says: The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord – according to these scriptures God will guide us though our spirits, so we must find out what our spirit is.

Jesus said to Nicodemus, except a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God (John 3:3).

Nicodemus, being natural, could only think naturally. So he said, how

can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born.

Jesus wasn't talking about a physical birth. He said: That which is born of the flesh is flesh and that which is born of the spirit is spirit. He was talking about a spiritual birth.

The part of man that is born again is his spirit. Man's spirit receives eternal life - the life of God, and the nature of God. It is man's spirit that is made a new creature in Christ.

Paul calls man's spirit the inward man. Peter calls man's spirit the hidden man of the heart.

1 Peter 3:4: But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.

In many places when the Bible speaks of the heart, it is speaking of the spirit. This is the real man. It will help you in your believing and in your faith to think like that.

In the New Testament, wherever the word heart is used, substitute the

word spirit and you will get a clearer picture of what the Bible is talking about. It's the spirit of man that is born again.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature, old things are passed away, behold all things are become new.

This is talking about the inward man. It couldn't be talking about the outward man. When you're born again and become a new creature, you don't get a new body.

The outward man is just like it was before, if you were bald before you were born again, you are still bald afterwards. If you had brown eyes before, you still have brown eyes. The outward man doesn't change. God doesn't do anything with the outward man.

You have to do something with the outward man. You find out what God wants you to do with the outward man from the Bible and then you do it.

God does something with the inward man. He makes the man on the inside a new man in Christ, a new creature, a new creation.

I Thessalonians 5:23...I

pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless. In this scriptural passage, Paul begins with the inside, the innermost part of man, the heart of his being, which is his spirit, and comes to the outside.

Many people misquote this verse. They say body, soul and spirit. Why do they put the body first? Because they are more body conscious than spirit conscious. Natural things mean more to them than spiritual things. So they put physical things first. Sometimes we're more mental conscious because we live more in the mental realm.

But man is a spirit being, we need to be spirit conscious. Spiritual things will become more real to us the more spirit conscious we become. If we're going to be led by the spirit of God, we must become more spirit conscious, or we will miss out on the whole thing. God's spirit leads us through our spirit. Put spirit first. Become more spirit conscious, more conscious of the inward man. Realize that you are a spirit being and that you became

See PASTOR BYRD, page 5

I Am with You... Be Strong and Work

Yet now be strong, Zerubbabel, Joshua, and all you people...and work; for I am with you,' says the Lord of hosts" (Haggai 2:4).

"Consider now from this day forward" (Haggai 2:18).

"Is the seed still in the barn? As yet the vine, the fig tree, the pomegranate, and the olive tree have not yielded fruit. But from this day I will bless you" (Haggai 2:19).



Shirley R. Watts

Disobedience

Zerubbabel led the Jews back into the homeland to rebuild the temple. They drug their feet, but finally got the foundation laid, but discouragement came in with the roaring of the enemies who surrounded Jerusalem and the temple remained in ruins. They were disobedient and God dealt with them, called for a drought and all the work in harvest was in vain.

This attitude is very much alive in individual Christians and in local churches today. I believe most of the light of Jesus is under a basket. Many are listening to the roaring of the lion and this leads to being disobedient to God. Many churches are not only lukewarm, but are dead and don't know it.

this sinful land. I will never keep this to myself! If you know Him as your personal Savior, let the world know it. That is being the best witness.

"Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 10:32-33).

God had called the Jews to go home and be a witness to the Gentiles. They were not a witness for Him, but ignored the call. God had done so much for them and has done so much for us, how do we ignore His call and command to go into "all the world" with the Gospel?

It had been 16 years and God reminds them of how He had to discipline them. They had a sinful heart. "So is this people, and so is this nation before Me,' says the Lord, 'and so is every work of their hands; and what they offer there is unclean" (Haggai 2:14).

They had laid the foundation with a negative spirit and it did not honor God. They needed to consider their personal heart, repent and get on with the work.

"I struck you with blight and mildew and hail in all the labors of your hands; yet you did not turn to Me,' says the Lord...Considers now from the day that the foundation of the Lord's temple was laid—consider it; Is the seed still in the barn? (Haggai 2:17-19). They had to say no!

Listening to the roaring of the enemy had to come to a halt. They must, and we must always put the Lord first in all we do and glorify Him. Time is short! Let's not wait sixteen years to finish His work.

"...be strong, all you people...', says the Lord, 'and work; for I am with you,' says the Lord of hosts... so My Spirit remains among you; do not fear!' (Haggai 2:4-5).

Let us work, pray and move across this land like "spiritual locust," casting out the roaring of the lion.

Be Salt and Light in these dark days!

God is with us!

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Blackgum Christian Union Church
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The Working People's Church.
Veterans and Bikers Welcome
918-773-5971
SUNDAY
Sunday School--10am
Morning Worship--11am
Evening Worship--5pm
WEDNESDAY
Weekday Service--6pm
Hwy 82 E, 1/4 mile E of Hwy Intersection, Vian

Blackgum First Baptist Church
Pastor Tim Hare
We exist to bring glory to God by exalting His Son, growing in His truth and fulfilling His mission.
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WEDNESDAY
Prayer Meeting and Bible Study--6pm
Kids and Youth--6pm
918-773-5431
Corner of Blackgum Landing Rd and Hwy. 100

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Evening Worship--6:30pm
WEDNESDAY
Evening Service--7pm
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First Baptist Church of Gore
The home of Trouty T
Pastor Doug Bane
FBC Gore...your place to belong
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Sunday school--9:45am
Morning Worship--11:00am
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Evening worship--6:00pm
WEDNESDAY
Prayer meeting and youth group--6:30pm
5th and Main Street
Gore, OK

First Presbyterian Church
Pastor Dianah Gourley
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Children's Sunday School-9:30am
Adult Sunday School-9:30am
Sunday Worship Service-11am
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fpc.sallisaw@sbcglobal.net

Gore United Methodist Church
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Sunday Service--9:30am
Fellowship--10:30am
Sunday School--10:45-11:30am
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Landmark Missionary Baptist Church
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Morning Worship--11am
Evening Worship--6pm
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Join us for worship and Bible study, you are always welcome!
Van Ministry available--
Call to make arrangements
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www.vianlandmark.org

Round Mountain Community Church
Pastor Kenneth Byrd
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Morning Worship--10:30am
WEDNESDAY
Evening Worship--7pm
4 miles west of Vian on Hwy 64,
watch for church sign, turn left, go across RR Track, continue 1/2 mile W & S
918-521-6116

Vian Baptist Church
Pastor Mike Martin
SUNDAY
Sunday School--9:45am
Morning Worship--10:45am
Evening Worship--6:00pm
WEDNESDAY
Wednesday Night Live--6:30pm
Corner of Hwys. 64 West and Old 82
918-773-5226

Vian First Free Will Baptist Church
Pastor Garry Brown
SUNDAY
Sunday School--10am
Morning Worship--11am
WEDNESDAY
Service--7pm
1 block N of Vian Police Dept., Corner of Blackstone and Sequoyah
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Vian United Methodist Church
"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"
Come as you are, we would love to see you!
SUNDAY
Sunday School--10am
Worship--11am
WEDNESDAY
Worship--6:00pm
Corner of Lee and Blackstone
Church Office
918-776-5335

Westside Church of Christ
SUNDAY
Worship--10:30am and 4pm
WEDNESDAY
Evening Service--7:00pm
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List your church for only \$4.50 per week or call Jan at 918-775-4433 to receive a discount when you pay for a year.

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VIAN WRESTLING

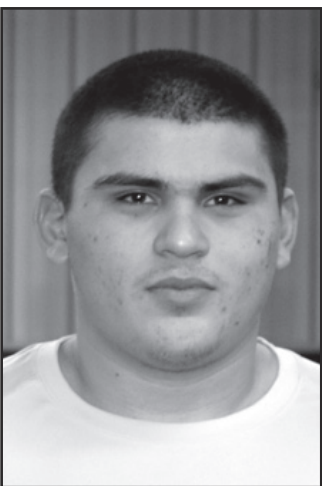
Vian Crowns Six Champions at Maverick Tournament



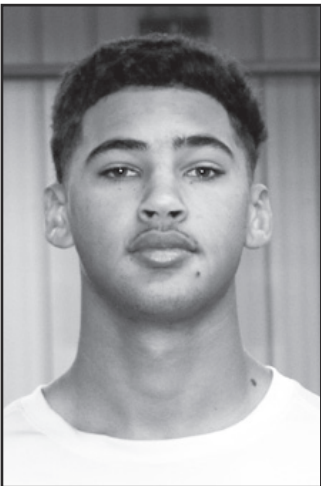
Murchison



Flynn



Partain



Rodgers



Hunt



Ritchey

CHRIS DAY
SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

Vian High School boys wrestling crowned four weight division champions Friday at the Maverick Conference tournament at Wagoner High School. The Wolverines finished third in the boys' tournament with 93 points. Stilwell took first with 168 points. Checotah was second with 113 points. Seven high schools competed in the boys' tournament.

The Vian High girls' wrestling team finished first in the girls' tournament with 25.5 points. Avery Ritchey and Taya Hunt brought home first-place titles at 109 and 136 pounds respectively. Sallisaw High School was scheduled to compete in the Maverick Conference tournament but had to drop out because of COVID-19 protocols. Vian's Braylen Rodgers, Connor Flynn, Cruz

Partain and Dil'n Murchison won their weight divisions Friday. Christian Shielke placed second at 126 pounds. Joe Crowder wrestled in two bouts and lost both. Rodgers started the 113-pound weight class with a loss to Easton Morgan of Hilldale. Rodgers was pinned early in the second period. The Vian wrestler won his next two bouts. He pinned Sean Newman of Stilwell and Sam Ander-

son of Checotah to claim first place. Flynn picked up three falls at 126 pounds. He pinned Lane Horn of Hilldale High School at the three-minute mark. In his next bout, Flynn pinned Kailen Butler of Stilwell at 2:59. In the final round, Flynn pinned Henryetta's Christian Gray at the 3:07 mark. Partain won the 195-pound weight class with two pins and a major decision. Partain pinned Wyatt

Branscum of Hilldale 46 seconds into the Round 1 bout. In the second round, Partain pinned Cade Richards of Fort Gibson in 1:30. In Round Three, Partain collected a 12-3 major decision over Adam Brown of Stilwell. In the 220-pound weight class, Murchison received a first-round bye. He pinned Grayson Gaddy of Hilldale in 30 seconds. In the first-place match, Murchison

pinned Uriah Flynn of Stilwell in 44 seconds. Shielke placed second at 120 pounds. The Vian wrestler pinned Tucker Watson of Henryetta in the first round. He pinned Dalton Murray of Checotah in the second round. In the third-round bout, Jayce Caviness of Stilwell pinned Shielke early in the second period. Crowder lost both his bouts at 145 pounds. He

See **WRESTLING**, page 8

VIAN BASKETBALL

Wolverines Upend Oktaha on Friday

Vian Girls Fall to No. 17 Lady Tigers

LEA LESSLEY
SPORTS EDITOR

Vian's high school basketball teams split their Big 8 Conference games against Oktaha on Friday night inside Traw Field-house. The Lady Wolverines fell 63-52 to the Class 2A No. 17 Lady Tigers and the Wolverines defeated the Tigers 58-41. Vian travels to Westville on Friday night before hosting Haskell on Tuesday. The conference contests at Westville are scheduled to start at 6 p.m. and the non-conference games against Haskell are slated to get underway at 6:30 p.m. **Oktaha Girls 63, Vian 52** The host Lady Wolverines (7-6 overall) couldn't overcome the Class 2A No. 17 Lady Tigers' fast start on Friday night as Oktaha (8-6) defeated Vian inside Traw Field-house. Behind the scoring of Ava Scott (8 points), Rylee Walters and Bekah Bunch (4 each) and Gra-

cie Harjo and Karley Fewell (3 each) the Lady Tigers outscored Vian 24-7 in the first period. Tayden Locust hit a pair of field goals for the Lady Wolverines. Vian sliced six points (13-7) off the deficit in the second stanza. Isabella Garrison knocked down a 3-pointer and totaled five points and Kacie Gibbins added four for the Lady Wolverines while Gracie Pendley registered three for the Lady Tigers, who led 31-20 at the half. Despite Locust's 10 points on five baskets Oktaha widened its advantage (17-15) in the third period. Scott hit a pair of 3-point baskets and recorded nine points in the quarter for the Lady Tigers, who took a 48-35 advantage to the fourth. Kahleisha Wright and Locust scored 10 and seven points, respectively, in the final frame as Vian outscored the Lady Tigers 19-15. Fewell registered six points for

Oktaha in the final eight minutes. Locust scored a game-high 21 points in the contest and also recording points for Vian were Wright (14), Garrison (9), Gibbins (5), Maisie Wells (3) and Greenlee Wells (2). Wright finished the game with 12 rebounds, Locust had four steals and three assists, Garrison registered five steals and three assists and Greenlee Wells had four steals and four assists. Scoring for the Lady Tigers were Scott (19 points), Fewell (11), Walters and Pendley (10 each), Bunch (8), Harjo (3) and Ryleigh Bacon (2). **Vian Boys 58, Oktaha 41** The Wolverines (7-6 overall) outscored the visiting Tigers (10-7) 32-9 in the first half of Friday's game as Vian went on to register the conference victory. In the first quarter Joe Glass hit a 3-pointer and totaled seven points and



LEA LESSLEY | NEWS

Vian's Xavin Lackey dribbles up the floor ahead of teammates Javyn Wright (20), Joe Glass (2) and DeSean Mays (22) during last Monday's conference home win against Class 2A No. 13 Hulbert. The Wolverines host Haskell in non-conference action on Friday. Diego Ramos made a 3-pointer for the Wolverines, who outscored the Tigers 16-4. Justice Retzlöff, Xavin Lackey and Ramos each scored four points in the second period as Vian added 11 points (16-5) to its advantage. Adam

See **VHS BASKETBALL**, page 8

GORE BASKETBALL

Gore Wins Home Games against Arkoma

LEA LESSLEY
SPORTS EDITOR

Gore's high school basketball teams defeated Arkoma in a pair of Riverside Athletic Conference games on Friday night inside the Gore Event Center. The Lady Pirates downed the Lady Mustangs 41-22 and the Pirates topped the Mustangs 42-39. Gore hosts Webbers Falls beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Friday night before taking on Chouteau-Mazie at home on Saturday at 4:30 p.m. On Tuesday Gore plays Porter at home starting at 6:30 p.m. **Gore Girls 41, Arkoma 22** The Lady Pirates (6-8) won their third consecutive contest on Friday night with their decisive victory over the visiting Lady Mustangs (1-6). Addison Sheffield connected on a 3-pointer and registered five points in



Brimm

the opening quarter and Kara Brimm and Karli Springer added three apiece as Gore took an 11-5 lead. Jaydynn Walden led Arkoma with three points. In the second stanza Sheffield made three 2-point field goals and scored six of her game-high 15 points as the Lady Pirates widened their advantage (8-6) to lead 19-11 at the half. Springer (5 points) and Skye Brooksher each knocked down a 3-pointer in the third quarter and Sheffield added four points to help Gore outscore Arkoma 13-10. Jessica Butler and Walden scored five points apiece for the Lady Mustangs, who went to the fourth trailing 32-21. In the final eight minutes Brimm and Brooksher each knocked down a 3-pointer as Gore added eight points (9-1) to its lead. Trailing Sheffield in scoring for Gore were Springer (10 points), Brimm and Brooksher (6 each), Kenzi Terrell (3)

and Natalie Casteel (1). Scoring for Arkoma were Butler (9 points), Walden (8), Haven Spoon and Whitley Gray (2 each) and Kaitlyn Glasgo (1). **Gore Boys 42, Arkoma 39** The Pirates (4-9 overall) erased a three-point deficit (31-28) at the end of the third quarter on Friday night in Gore by outscoring the Mustangs (6-5) 14-8 in the final eight minutes to register the conference victory. In the first period Ben Kirkpatrick made a pair of 2-point field goals for the Pirates but Arkoma took a 14-8 advantage, thanks to the scoring of Hunter Harmon and Deuce Walden (4 points each) and Grant Williams and Easton Smith (3 apiece). Each team scored 12 points in the second frame and the Mustangs led 26-



Thomas

20 at the half. Keigan Reid and Noah Cooper registered four points apiece and Brady Thomas hit a 3-pointer for Gore while Williams (5 points) and Walden each made a trey for Arkoma. The Pirates sliced three points (8-5) off the deficit in the third stanza. Reid and Cooper (4 points each) accounted for all of Gore's points and Josh Killion hit a 3-pointer for the Mustangs, who entered the fourth leading 31-28. In the final eight minutes Reid and Kirkpatrick each scored five points as the Pirates erased the deficit. Smith recorded five points for Arkoma in the fourth and Walden added three. Reid was the game's leading scorer with 15 points and also scoring for Gore were Cooper (12), Kirkpatrick (10), Thomas (3) and Jackson Duke (2). Scoring for the Mustangs were Smith and Walden (10 points each), Williams (8), Killion (5), Harmon (4) and Alex McLemore (2).

Sports

OSSAA Director Believes Seasons Will be Completed

CHRIS DAY
SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association Director David Jackson is confident champions will be crowned in all classes of basketball and wrestling this season.

Last year’s basketball championship rounds for Class 2A-6A were postponed March 12, less than two hours before first-round games were scheduled to start. Those championship rounds eventually were canceled because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID-19 issues continue to threaten sports. Many basketball games and wrestling duals and tournaments have been canceled this year. Sallisaw High School’s boys wrestling team canceled all of its sports events last week because of COVID-19 activities. The Black Diamonds did not wrestle in the Maverick Conference tournament last weekend. The Sallisaw High girls wrestling team is still competing.

Jackson spoke to members of the Oklahoma news media via a Zoom teleconference last Wednesday. He reviewed the basketball and wrestling COVID-19 protocols and answered media questions.

“I had a really good meeting this (last Wednesday) morning with a lot of our school people, and they want it to hap-

pen. They are the key. Our school people — administrators, coaches — have a crucial part in making what we are trying to do happen,” Jackson said. “With their determination in wanting this to happen that gives us confidence in this office that it will.”

The basketball and wrestling playoff seasons won’t look the same as those in the pre-COVID-19 era.

The biggest changes will be crowd limits and scheduling.

The OSSAA is working with the governor’s office to see if Gov. Kevin Stitt will allow more than four spectators per player into the sessions.

The OSSAA, Jackson said, would like to limit seating to 50 percent of capacity for each arena.

Discussions are ongoing, he said. No decision has been reached, yet.

The OSSAA has established COVID-19 safety protocols for the basketball and wrestling postseasons.

The minimum mandates for basketball and wrestling tournaments are:

- Facial coverings/masks will be required.
- Social distancing practices are mandated
- Facilities will be sanitized between games and sessions.
- Seating will meet either state man-

dates or site-specific regulations determined by the local school district.

Basketball game times will be 1 and 3 p.m. for afternoon sessions and 6 and 8 p.m. for evening sessions. The extra time between games and sessions will allow time for spectators to clear the facility and crews to sanitize it, Jackson said.

The OSSAA and host sites will split the additional sanitization costs — including additional personnel and disinfectant products, Jackson said.

Spirit squads will be limited to 10 members, and all squad members must wear a facemask.

The three-round state basketball tournaments in all seven classifications traditionally are held Thursday through Saturday, spaced out over two weekends.

It probably will change this year, Jackson said. The plan is to start the tournaments on Tuesday. The Class A and B tournaments are scheduled March 4-6 at the State Fair Arena in Oklahoma City. The 2A-3A-4A state tournaments are March 11-13 at the same site. The Class 5A and 6A tournaments are scheduled March 11-13 in Tulsa.

The additional days could mean extended hotel stays for some participating schools. Jackson said he hoped the schools could travel daily to the tournament and back home to reduce costs.

Wrestling
Changes in wrestling are not as extreme.

Regional tournaments will be held in a single day.

All start times are set by the OSSAA. Girls regionals will start at 10 a.m. Boys regionals will begin at 11 a.m.

The state tournament will be a three-day event with two sessions per day. All classes will complete their portion of the tournament in a single day.

The girls state tournament — all classes — will be held Feb. 25.

The Class 4A and 5A state tournaments will be held Feb. 26.

The Class 3A and 6A state tournaments will be held Feb. 27.

The Dual State tournaments will be held March 12 and 13. Classes 4A and 5A will compete in Dual State on March 12. Classes 3A and 6A will compete in Dual State on March 13.

No spirit groups will be permitted at any regional site. Information regarding spirit squads at the state tournament will be sent to schools before the event.

Ticket prices for basketball and wrestling will remain the same. Tickets will be \$7 per session for all preliminary tournaments. The ticket price will increase to \$10 per session for the state tournaments.

VIAN BASKETBALL

Lady Wolverines Top No. 9 Central

Vian Boys Complete Sweep with Win over Tigers

CHRIS DAY
SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

Greenlee Wells went 7-of-8 at the free-throw line in the fourth quarter to push the Vian Lady Wolverines to a 51-43 win over Class 2A’s No. 9 ranked Central Lady Tigers last Tuesday night.

Vian led 30-25 as the final period started. Central trimmed Vian’s lead to 32-28 with 7:09 left to play.

Central (8-3) never got closer than four points. Wells made layups and free throws and Kahleisha Wright scored points

in the final period to give the Lady Wolverines the eight-point victory.

The Class 3A Lady Wolverines improved their record to 7-5.

The Vian boys made it a sweep by beating Central 57-46.

The second quarter proved to be pivotal. Vian outscored Central 12-3 in that period to take a 28-16 lead into halftime. The

Wolverines evened their record at 6-6. Central fell to 3-7.

J a y v n Wright and Justice Retzlaff each scored four points for Vian in the second period.

Vian Girls 51, Central 43
Vian and Central started slowly in the first period. The only difference was a 3-pointer by Wells that gave Vian a 9-6 lead heading into the second

quarter.

The Lady Wolverines expanded their advantage to five points at half-time — 22-17. Wright caught fire for Vian in the second. She scored 11 of the Lady Wolverines 13 points. Central scored 11 points in the period. Jacklyn Marino made two buckets. Alexis Davis hit a 3-pointer for Central.

Both teams scored eight points in the third period as Vian maintained its five-point lead. Wright scored four points for Vian. Riley Cheek scored four points for the

Lady Tigers.

Wells wrapped up the Vian victory by scoring 10 points in the final stanza. She made two layups and 7-of-8 free throws to help Vian ice the home victory.

Wright was Vian’s leading scorer with 21. Wells finished with 19. Tayden Locust scored four points. Kacie Gibbins added three points, while Isabella Garrison and Maci Smith added two points each.

Three Central High players reached double figures. Cove Darden

was Central’s top scorer with 11 points. Cheek and Lee each scored 10 points. Davis made two 3-pointers to finish with six points. Marino scored four points and Madisyn Parish chipped in two points.

Vian Boys 57, Central 46
Consistency was the key to Vian’s 11-point win over Central last Tuesday night.

The Wolverines scored 28 points in the first two quarters and 29 points in the final two. Central

See **VIAN/CENTRAL**, page 8

GORE BASKETBALL

Gore Wins Pair of Conference Games at Gans

LEA LESSLEY
SPORTS EDITOR

The Gore High School basketball teams won a pair of Riverside Athletic Conference games at Gans last Tuesday night.

The Lady Pirates defeated the Lady Grizzlies 51-44 and the Pirates edged the Grizzlies 46-45.

Gore is scheduled to play at Keota on Tuesday night and Gans will host Webbers Falls.

Gore Girls 51, Gans 44
The Lady Pirates (5-8

overall) edged topped the Lady Grizzlies (1-5) last Tuesday night inside Bryant Reeves Fieldhouse in their second meeting in five days.

In the opening period Gans took a 12-11 lead behind the scoring of Addyson Gream (7 points) and Zoe Wharton

(5), who made a 3-pointer. Kara Brimm (5 points) and Addison Sheffield (3), who also each hit a 3-pointer, and Karli Springer (3) were Gore’s top scorers in the quarter.

The Lady Pirates erased the deficit in the second stanza after out-

scoring the Lady Grizzlies 13-8. Skye Brooksher connected on a pair of 3-pointers and Brimm registered three points for Gore while Gream scored four points for the Lady Grizzlies, who trailed 24-20 at the half.

In the third quarter Springer (7 points) and Sheffield (5) hit a 3-pointer apiece as Gore increased its advantage by three (15-12). Jaylie Taylor (6 points) also

knocked down a trey and Gream recorded five of her game-high 18 points. Gore went to the fourth leading 39-32.

Each team scored 12 points in the final eight minutes. Brooksher went 4-for-4 at the foul line and Sheffield and Springer (3-of-4 free throws) added three points apiece while Wharton and Taylor each knocked down a 3-pointer and registered five points apiece.

Springer scored a team-high 14 points, Brooksher and Sheffield added 13 points each and Brimm added 11.

Trailing Gream in scoring for Gans were Taylor (12 points), Wharton (11) and Madalynn Huskey (2).

Gore Boys 46, Gans 45
Jackson Duke’s free throw with three seconds

left in the contest put the Pirates (3-9 overall) ahead for good last Tuesday night in Gans as Gore slipped past the Grizzlies (5-4) in the conference game.

The Grizzlies, who downed the Pirates 68-61 in overtime on Jan. 21 in Gore, led 45-43 late in Tuesday’s game before Duke drove in for a layup to tie the score at 45-all. Duke was fouled on the play and his foul shot gave the Pirates the one-point lead.

In the opening stanza Gore took an 11-6 advantage. Noah Cooper (4 points) and Ben Kirkpatrick (3-pointer) were the Pirates’ top scorers in the first and Keith Renfro and Landon James (3-pointer) led the Grizzlies with three points

See **GORE/GANS**, page 8

Vian Sweeps Hulbert in Conference Action

LEA LESSLEY
SPORTS EDITOR

Vian swept a pair of Riverside Athletic Conference contests last Monday night inside Traw Fieldhouse.

The Lady Wolverines defeated Hulbert 59-27, their second win over the Lady Riders this season, and the Wolverines avenged a season-opening loss at Hulbert by beating the Class 2A No. 13 Riders 47-43.

Vian travels to Central on Tuesday for a pair of conference games starting at 6 p.m.

Vian Girls 59, Hulbert 27
The Lady Wolverines (6-5 overall) scored the first 17 points of the game and led 23-2 at the end of the first quarter last Mon-

day night at home as Vian cruised to the conference victory over the Lady Riders (4-12).

In the opening period Isabella Garrison (8 points), Greenlee Wells and Tayden Locust (4 each) and Kacie Gibbins (3) were Vian’s leading scorers and Brea Lamb scored for Hulbert.

The Lady Wolverines added five points (15-10) to their advantage in the second stanza and led 38-12 at the intermission. Kahleisha Wright and Maci Smith recorded four points each and Wells hit a 3-pointer for Vian while Lily Brown (6 points) made a pair of treys and Lilly Chambers

See **VIAN/HULBERT**, page 8



LEA LESSLEY | NEWS

Vian’s Kacie Gibbins brings the ball up the floor ahead of teammate Greenlee Wells during last Monday’s Riverside Athletic Conference home game against Hulbert. The Lady Wolverines defeated the Lady Riders 59-27.

SPORTS
Calendar

(All teams listed are high school teams)

Friday, Feb. 5

Vian basketball at Westville (6 p.m.);
Gore basketball vs. Webbers Falls (6:30 p.m.).

Saturday, Feb. 6

Gore basketball vs Chouteau-Mazie (4:30 p.m.).

Tuesday, Feb. 9

Vian wrestling dual at Greenwood, Ark. (6 p.m.);
Vian basketball vs. Haskell (6:30 p.m.);
Gore basketball vs. Porter (6:30 p.m.).

Public Records | Area News

WRESTLING

from page 6

was pinned by Tanner Jones of Checotah in 3:23 seconds. In the consolation round, Brayden Bullcock of Stilwell pinned Crowder at 4:55.

Vian had two wrestlers in the girls' tournament. Ritchey wrestled at 109 pounds.

Ritchey won her first match by a 17-0 technical fall over Kenadee Thomas of Locust Grove Junior High. She pinned her next two foes — Madeline Juliano of Jay Junior High, and Lani Smith of Sallisaw Junior High School.

Hunt wrestled at 136 pounds. She defeated Kaden Clarke of Stilwell High twice. She pinned Clarke in 48 seconds in the first round. It took Hunt 1:02 to pin Clarke in Round Two.

Agate
Maverick Conference
Tournament
BOYS
Team scores
1, Stilwell, 168; 2, Checotah, 113; 3, Vian, 93; 4, Fort Gibson, 92; 5, Henryetta, 51; 6, Hilldale, 34, 7, Wilburton, 0.

Vian results
113

Round 1: Easton Morgan, Hilldale, pin, Braylen Rodgers, Vian, 3:18

Round 2: Rodgers, Vian, pin Sean Newman, Stilwell, 2:35

Round 3: Rodgers, Vian, pin, Sam Anderson, Checotah, 1:36

120

Round 1: Christian Shielke, Vian, pin Tucker Watson, Henryetta, 0:47

Round 2: Shielke, Vian, pin Dalton Murray, Checotah, 2:37

Round 3: Shielke, Vian, pin, Christian Gray, Henryetta, 3:07

126

Round 1: Connor Flynn, Vian, pin Lane Horn, Hilldale, 3:00

Round 2: Flynn, Vian, pin Kailen Bulter, Stilwell, 2:59

Round 3: Flynn, Vian, pin Christian Gray, Henryetta, 3:07

145

Quarterfinal: Tanner Jones, Checotah, pin Joe Crowder, Vian, 3:29

Consolation Round 1: Brayden Bullock, Stilwell, pin, Crowder, Vian, 4:59

195

Round 1: Cruz Partain, Vian, pin Wyatt Brans-

cum, Hilldale, 0:46

Round 2: Partain, Vian, pin Cade Richards, Fort Gibson, 1:30

Round 3: Partain, Vian, maj. dec. Adam Brown, Stilwell, 12-3

220

Quarterfinal: Dil'n Murchison, Vian, bye

Semifinal: Murchison, Vian, pin Grayson Gaddy, Hilldale, 0:30

First-place match: Murchison, Vian, pin Uriah Flynn, Stilwell, 0:44.

GIRLS
Team scores
1, Vian, 25.5; 2, Stilwell, 24; 3, Fort Gibson, 18; 3, Henryetta, 18; 5, Wilburton, 12.

Vian results
109 Girls

Round 1: Avery Ritchey, Vian, tech. fall, Kenadee Thomas, Locust Grove JH, 17-0

Round 2: Ritchey, Vian, pin Madeline Juliano, Jay JH, 1:07

Round 3: Ritchey, Vian, pin Lani Smith, Sallisaw JH, 0:20

136 Girls

Round 1: Taya Hunt, Vian, pin Kaden Clarke, Stilwell, 0:48

Round 2: Hunt, pin, Clarke, Stilwell, 1:06.

Sequoyah County Courthouse Public Records

Editor's note: If the age does not appear next to a name, it was not listed in the court record.

Felony Docket

Donnell Body, 41, Sallisaw: False declaration of ownership to pawnbroker.

Kevin E. Breunig, 35, Harvest, Ala.: Poss. of firearm after former felony conviction; Knowingly receiving or concealing stolen property; Poss. of CDS.

Gregory Clinton, 49, Vian: Failure to comply with Sex Offender Registration Act.

Larry S. Cureton, 47, Fort Smith, Ark.: Unlawful poss. of CD w/intent to distribute.

Eugene V. Dimonaco, 52: Trafficking in illegal drugs; Poss. of CDS; Unlawful poss. of drug paraphernalia.

Gary Ensey, 64, Sallisaw: Failure to comply with Sex Offender Registration Act.

Jeffery T. Gentry, 53, Sallisaw: Poss. of stolen vehicle.

Raymond C. Gillespie, 34, Sallisaw: Escape from felony arrest or detention.

Bryan R. Hooper, 27, Sallisaw: Grand larceny; Burglary third degree; Poss. of firearm after former felony conviction.

Jamarcus Horton, 27, Red Bluff, Calif.: Poss. of firearm after former felony conviction.

Cassie W. Kioski, 36, Sallisaw: Poss. of stolen vehicle.

Summer N. Sanchez, 22, Muldrow: Battery/ A&B on police officer; Endangering others while eluding/attempting to elude police officers: Harboring fugitive from justice; False reporting of a crime.

Erick A. Wilson, 45, Wagoner: DUI-alcohol-aggravated; DUS.

Justin R. Walker, 25: Larceny of automobile, aircraft or other M/V.

Dena Wolfe, 39, Chouteau: Uttering forged instrument.

Leigha A. Yerton, 43, Fort Smith, Ark.: Harboring fugitive from justice.

Criminal
Misdemeanors

Heath D. Barnes, 36, Muskogee: Harassing and threatening electronic communication.

Robert E. Cheater, 56, Sallisaw: DUI.

Rashawn Eubanks, 23, Roland: Domestic A&B in presence of minor.

Wesley G. Garcia, 48, Clewiston, Fla.: Possess, deliver, sell, or manufacture drug paraphernalia.

Brent T. Hendricks, 30, Sallisaw: Domestic A&B in presence of minor.

Misty A. Henning, 35, Sallisaw: Unauthorized use of credit card.

Christopher Hopkins, 28, Vian: A&B.

Tiffany N. Julstead, 31, Sallisaw: Domestic A&B in presence of minor; Threaten to perform act of violence.

Phetsamone Ke-ovongvicnichit, 51, Fort Smith: DUI-alcohol.

Christopher D. Lasiter, 40, Muldrow: Poss. of CDS; Poss. of drug paraphernalia.

Randy Manard, Sallisaw, 65: Domestic abuse-A&B; Disrupt/prevent/interrupt/emergency telephone call; Disturbing the peace.

McKinzie N. Nichols, 20, Muldrow: Domestic A&B in presence of minor.

Sebastien P. Southerland, 21, Muldrow: DUS; Speeding; Driver not wearing seat belt.

Matthew Spencer, 18, Vian: Petit larceny; PI.

Marlee Thornburg, 20, Sallisaw: Malicious injury to property-under \$1,000.

Cody L. Worst, 30, Sallisaw: DUS.

Civil
Appearances

Arvest Bank vs. Cody L. Jeremiah – Breach agreement/contract.

Sharon Davis vs. Geico Casualty Comp.–Auto negligence.

Mark E. Fisher vs. Town of Vian–Wrongful termination.

LVNV Funding, LLC vs. Carl Poindexter–

Money judgement.

National Bank of Sallisaw vs. Sarah J. Miller–Default on loan.

Discover Bank vs. Billy Nguyen–Money judgement.

Discover Bank vs. Aarionna York–Money judgement.

Onemain Fin. Group, LLC vs. Tommy J. James–Money judgement.

Synchrony Bank vs. Brian L. Keith–Money judgement.

LVNV Funding, LLC vs. Amanda Sugg–Money judgement.

Small Claims

Red River Credit vs. Natasha Benford.

Red River Credit vs. Amber D. Black.

Blue Sky Finance, LLC vs. Tina Drum.

Cherry Tree Loan Svc. vs. Virginia Brackett.

Roland Properties II vs. Shannon Buker.

Red River Credit vs. Melissa Burger.

CRS Properties vs. Dawn M. Cheney.

Cherry Tree Loan Svc. vs. Cassandra Gutherie.

Cherry Tree Loan Svc. vs. James Harrison.

Cherry Tree Loan Svc. vs. Jerry Emerson.

GPB Rentals, LLC vs. Clifford Dollar.

Fast Money, LLC vs. Ronald Rofkahr.

Fast Money, LLC vs. Steve Holden.

Fast Money, LLC vs. Joseph Marceaux.

Jodie Lee's Furn. & Appli. vs. Trent Fields, et al.

Red River Credit vs. Crystal Irby.

Red River Credit vs. Regina Wright.

Red River Credit vs. Misty Sims.

Red River Credit vs. Cheryl Jordan.

Red River Credit vs. Raven Silva.

Red River Credit vs. Sammy L. Scoggins, Jr.

Divorces

Elizabeth A. Foster vs. Dustin L. Foster.

Kylie D. Rutherford vs. Mark D. Rutherford.

Tashua Schwab vs. Billy Schwab.

Tammy Wheeler vs. Zack Wheeler.

VHS BASKETBALL

from page 6

Johnson made a 3-pointer for the Tigers, who trailed by 23 points at the half.

Oktaha sliced six points (16-10) off the deficit in the third frame behind the scoring Ethan Frazier (9 points) and Preston Holmes (5). K'Den Richardson, who made a 3-pointer, and Lackey topped Vian's

scorers with four points apiece.

Each team scored 16 points in the final stanza. Retzloff, who went 4-for-4 at the foul line, Javyn Wright and Lackey registered four points each for the Wolverines and the Tigers were led offensively by Frazier (6 points), Jakob Blackwell (4) and Gabe Hamilton and Holmes (3 apiece).

Lackey scored a team-high 12 points for the Wolverines in the contest and also recording points for Vian were Glass and Ramos (9 each), Wright, Retzloff and Richardson (8 apiece) and Eric Porter (4).

Scoring for the Tigers were Frazier (19 points), Holmes (8), Johnson (7), Blackwell (4) and Hamilton (3).

VIAN/CENTRAL

from page 7

had the bad second quarter when the Tigers only scored three points — a trey by David Briggs. The Tigers scored 13 in the first and third quarters. They scored 17 in the final period. Central scored 30 points in the final two periods.

Retzloff paced the Wolverines in the first period with seven points. He knocked down two 3-pointers in the period. Diego Ramos scored three points. Wright and Eric Porter scored two points each.

Coy Brooks kept the Tigers close in the first by hitting three 3-point shots. David Stroud and Briggs each scored a bucket. Vian led 16-13

to start the second. The Wolverines outscored Central 12-3 to go up 28-16 at the half.

Ramos hit two treys and a free throw to help Vian take a 42-29 lead into the final period. Joe Glass made a 3-pointer and a two-point basket for the Wolverines in the frame. Brooks made two 3-pointers and Stroud made another to lift Central to a 13-point third period.

In the final period, Central's Jordan Cheater made two 3-pointers and went three-for-five at the charity stripe to help Central scored 17 points. Brooks added two 3-pointers in the period.

The free-throw line was Vian's best friend in the final period. The Wolverines converted

eight-of-12 in the period. K'Den Richardson made all six of his free throws. Wright and Xavin Lackey went two-of-four at the charity stripe. Glass made two baskets in the period.

Three Vian players finished in double figures. Retzloff led the scoring parade with 13 points. Wright and Ramos scored 11 and 10, respectively. Glass finished with nine points. Lackey scored six points. Richardson chipped in four. Porter and DeSean Mays scored two points apiece.

Brooks led all scorers with 21 points — all 3-pointers. Cheater finished with 11 points. Stroud scored seven points and Braggs added five. Maddox Edwards scored two points.

GORE/GANS

from page 7

apiece.

Gans grabbed a 20-19 lead at the half after outscoring the visitors 14-8 in the second frame. Renfroe totaled five points and Logan Henson and Ashton Langston (trey) added three apiece while Cooper, Keigan Reid, Brady Thomas and Duke each made a 2-point field goal for Gore.

The Grizzlies added

11 points (16-5) to their advantage in the third period. Renfroe registered 11 of his game-high 26 points and Langston made his second 3-pointer of the contest and Cooper and Aiden Dickerson led the Pirates with two points apiece.

The Pirates erased the deficit in the final eight minutes by outscoring the Grizzlies 22-9. Duke and Reid registered seven and

six points, respectively. Brock Warren and Kirkpatrick each hit a trey and Cooper also scored three points. Renfroe recorded seven points for the Grizzlies in the period.

Reid and Cooper tied for game-high scoring honors with 11 points apiece, and also recording points for the Pirates were Duke (9), Kirkpatrick (6), Thomas (4), Warren (3) and Dickerson (2).

Trailing Renfroe in scoring for Gans were Langston (6 points), Gabe Brunk (5), Henson and James (3 each) and Dylan Gavitt (2).

VIAN/HULBERT

from page 7

(4) hit a 3-pointer for the Lady Riders.

Garrison registered six of her game-high 14 points in the third stanza and Wright and Locust scored five and four points, respectively, for the Lady Wolverines, who outscored the visitors 21-3. Lamb scored Hulbert's points in the period.

In the final eight minutes the Lady Riders sliced 12 points (12-0) off the deficit and Gabby Cook (8 points) and Lamb (4) provided the points.

Trailing Garrison in scoring for Vian were Wright (11 points), Locust (10), Wells (9), Smith (8), Gibbins (3) and Harlee Carlton and Peydan Sovo (2 each).

Scoring for the Lady Riders were Lamb (9 points), Cook (8), Brown (6) and Chambers (4).

Locust finished the game with four assists and four steals, Wright grabbed seven rebounds and Smith and Skylar Locust each collected eight rebounds.

Vian Boys 47, Hulbert 43

The visiting Riders took their only lead of

the contest 10 seconds into the game last Monday night as the Wolverines (5-6 overall) led the rest of the way and downed Hulbert (9-4) in their conference game.

An inside basket by Aidan Carey early in the opening quarter gave the Riders a short-lived lead before 2-point baskets by Xavin Lackey, Javyn Wright and Justice Retzloff provided the Wolverines a 6-2 advantage with 3:20 left. Lackey's jumper in the lane at the 1:00 mark ended the first-period scoring with Vian on top 8-4.

Joe Glass' 3-pointer from the wing with 1:21 to go in the second quarter gave Vian its second 12-point lead (26-14) of the period and the Wolverines led 26-18 at the half. Wright made four 2-point baskets in the stanza and Glass and Hulbert's Ethan Chuculate each hit a pair of 3-pointers.

Vian outscored Hulbert 10-6 in the third quarter. Retzloff and Diego Ramos each knocked down a 3-pointer for the Wolverines and Chuculate registered five points for the Riders, who went

to the fourth trailing 36-24.

Baskets by Wright and DeSean Mays at the beginning of the final frame put the Wolverines in front 40-24 but a 3-pointer by Nolan Edmundson with 2:54 remaining capped a 12-0 run by the Riders to make the score 40-36. Glass hit both ends of a 1-and-1 eight seconds later and Hulbert got within two (42-40) at the 2:01 mark following Gabe Lewis' inside bucket. Free throws down the stretch by Wright (3) and Retzloff (2) and Vian's defense helped the Wolverines secure the victory. Mays (4 points) and Hulbert's Aidan Sanchez and Chuculate (4 each) were the top scorers in the final eight minutes.

Wright (15 points) tied for game-high scoring honors and also registering points for Vian were Glass (8), Retzloff (7), Lackey and Mays (6 each) and Ramos (5).

Scoring for Hulbert were Chuculate (15 points), Edmundson (11), Sanchez (9), Lewis (4) and Luis Santana and Carey (2 apiece).

DUI: Driving under the influence
DWI: Driving while intoxicated
DUS: Driving under suspension
CDS: Controlled dangerous substance
CD: Controlled Drug

POSS: Possession
TOC: Transporting open container
M/V: motor vehicle
D.L.: Driver's license
DPS: Department of Public Safety
A&B: Assault and Battery

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VIAN Tenkiller NEWS

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Area News

COMMUNITY CALENDER

Wednesday, Feb. 3, 10, 17 & 24
The Sequoyah County Historical Society museum will be open on Wednesdays from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Please wear a mask. The Historical Society will not hold group meetings until COVID-19 has ended.

Thursday, Feb. 4, 11, 18 & 25
Free crochet classes 2 to 4 p.m. at 3700 W. Cherokee Ave., Blue Ribbon Chapel, Sallisaw, with the Bizzy Beez. Classes held every Thursday. The Bizzy Beez volunteers invite the community to attend and learn how to crochet and enjoy the fellowship. Donation of yarn appreciated. For more information call Margaret Wood at 918-571-3345.

Friday, Feb. 5, 12, 19 & 26
Soup N’ Souls, soup kitchen, 6 p.m., Sallisaw First Assembly of God Church annex, W. Cherokee. Drive through only until further notice.

AA meeting, 7 p.m.,

Canterbury Chapel, 20 Randel St., Vian, behind smoke shop.

Monday, Feb. 8, 15 & 22
Sallisaw TOPS meeting, 10 a.m. to noon, First Christian Church, 706 N. Wheeler. For more information call Billie at 918-413-1383.

Tuesday, Feb. 9, 16 & 23
AA meeting, 7 p.m., Canterbury Chapel 20, Randel St., Vian, behind smoke shop.

Thursday, Feb. 4
Sequoyah County Democrats and Democrat Women monthly meeting, 6 p.m., Ruger’s Restaurant in Sallisaw. Check their Facebook page for regular updates.

Tuesday, Feb. 9
American Legion and auxiliary meeting, doors open at 5 p.m., meeting 5:30 p.m., First Baptist Church, 122 W. Chickasaw, Sallisaw. Meetings held second Tuesday of each month. New members, visitors, and anyone interested in joining, always welcome.

UCO announces Fall Honor Roll

The University of Central Oklahoma (UCO) recently announced the students named to the university’s honor rolls.

Students named to the President’s Honor Roll achieved a 4.0 GPA and students on the Dean’s Honor Roll achieved a 3.5 GPA and completed at least 12 hours of on-campus class credit for the semester.

Student on the list are:

President’s Honor Roll
Sallisaw: James Michael Limbaugh.

Dean’s Honor Roll
Muldrow: Jaxon T. Marr and Kenzie Deanne Taylor.

Sallisaw: Lillian Chloe Bengé; Jack Landrum Glander; Brittany Leigh Mattingly; and Valerie P. Vang.

Vian: Hannah Risley.

Vian Teacher Recognized on ‘Elite 100’ List by IXL

A Vian Elementary School teacher is among those who has been recognized on the Elite 100 List by demonstrating the “highest commitment” to helping their students learn through IXL Learning, a virtual learning program.

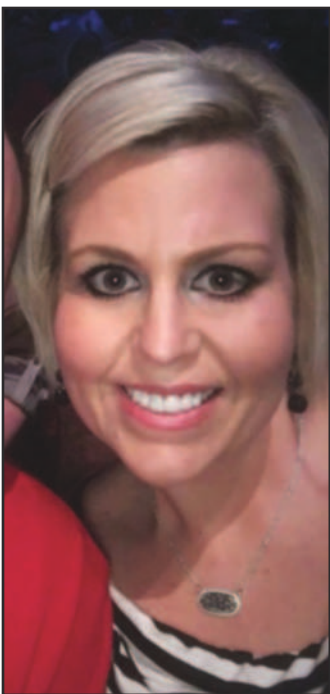
Melissa Massengale is among 700,000 educators from around the world recently selected on the list, officials of the IXL Learning program announced. IXL Learning is a K-12 personalized learning program which is used by 11 million students.

Massengale, who has been a teacher at Vian for four years, said teaching is her passion and she is honored to be included on the Elite 100 list.

“Teaching is my passion and one of my very favorite things about using the IXL program is the live classroom,” she said.

Massengale, who teaches elementary students at Vian, said she uses IXL in various ways to “reinforce concepts, identify areas for teaching and ultimately personalize instruction for her students no matter where they are learning from.

“I always try to put myself in the spot of the students when it comes to teaching and it has always made me think outside of the box,” she said. “I love to make teaching fun! If it’s boring and dull to me, how should I expect students to enjoy it? Yes, there are



Melissa Massengale

times when it has to be serious, but 80 percent of the time, learning can be made fun!” she said.

IXL is a personalized learning platform which provides curriculum, more continuous diagnostic, individual guidance, and real time analytics to help teachers differentiate instruction for each of their students, she said. There are so many different ways to use IXL to make it useful, fun and engaging. Massengale said one of the ways she uses IXL in her classroom is by completing skills that align with state standards after a lesson is taught.

“Instead of completing a worksheet, we complete the standard through an IXL assignment. Also, students who are at home can do this as well. For those students, I upload a video into their google

classroom of me teaching the lesson, then they are able to complete their practice using IXL.

“I am able to see a live feed on how my students are doing, how many questions they’ve answered, and if anyone is having trouble completing the skill they are working on. I love how I can click on the arrow on each student’s live square and comment to them on how they are doing. Sometimes, I simply let them know they are doing a great job. Other times, especially if I see they are only answering one or two questions every three to five minutes, I can remind them to stay focused or if I see they have missed multiple questions, I can remind them to read the explanation that IXL provides or I can give them a personalized explanation.”

Massengale said one of her many success stories she has in using IXL is her students’ science knowledge.

“I had my students start in the 2nd-grade science IXL skills, completing one state standard skill a day as bell work. By doing this, we were able to cover all of the state standards from 2 grade all the way to 5th grade. After state testing, I, for the first time, heard my students saying how easy the science test was because a lot of the questions were like the ones they did on IXL. I was so excited to hear this and happy for my students!

“Quarantine is not something that any of us like to hear. However, it seems to be something that happens from time to time. With IXL, students do not have to miss out on learning, it’s right at their fingertips!

“But I love teaching. A lot of times you hear people talk about their favorite things, hobbies and what they could do for hours, well, that thing for me is teaching,” she said.

IXL is currently used by 11 million students and by schools in 95 of the 100 top districts. It is best described as an integrated learning platform that supports personalized learning in math, English language arts, science, social studies and Spanish.

Program officials said IXL is built on over 8,500 interactive skills that are highly targeted and adjust to each student’s level of understanding. IXL’s adaptive assessment, the Real-Time Diagnostic, evaluates students across every concept in the K-12 curriculum, generating an accurate portrait of students’ knowledge levels in math and language arts. Using student data from the curriculum and diagnostic, IXL gives every learner a personalized action plan for growth. In addition, IXL Analytics provides real-time insight into student progress and helps teachers make better instructional decisions in the classroom.



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