

Volume 103 • Issue 103 | Wednesday, December 23, 2020

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PATRICK FORD | NEWS EDITOR

District 2 Commissioner Robert Hardridge (center) is thanked for his service by fellow commissioners Ron Ballard, left, and James Connors.

County officers honored during session

Board tables two agenda items

PATRICK FORD
NEWS EDITOR

Certificates of Appreciation were given out during Monday's session of the Okmulgee County Board of Commissioners.

The board honored

County Clerk Becky Thomas for 29 years of service to the county. She began her employment in 1991 and will retire on Dec. 30.

"We wish you the best in your future endeavors," Commissioner

Robert Hardridge said on behalf of the board.

Hardridge was presented a certificate from fellow commissioners Ron Ballard and James Connors, for his 14 years of service as District 2 commissioner. Sheriff

Eddy Rice also honored Hardridge with a certificate from his department along with Okmulgee County Emergency Management Director Tim Craighton. County Commission-

SEE COUNTY, PAGE A4

Meth found following traffic stop

Muskogee man facing drug charges

PATRICK FORD
NEWS EDITOR

A Muskogee man is facing drug trafficking charges following his arrest last week in Henryetta.

Jerry Chad Pippin, 47, is being held on a \$51,200 bond on complaints of Trafficking Meth after four ounces of the drug were discovered in his vehicle following a traffic stop by a Henryetta officer.

According to the court records, on Dec. 15, the

HPD officer was traveling north on Frisco Ave. when he clocked a car traveling faster than the posted speed limit.

A search of the vehicle yielded methamphetamine, syringes and a digital scale.

Pippin was booked into the Okmulgee County Jail. He is scheduled for an initial court appearance in Okmulgee County district court on Jan. 7, 2021, at 2 p.m. before Judge Deborah Reheard.

Traditional vs. Standards-based Report Cards

School board discusses grading issue

PATRICK FORD
NEWS EDITOR

A lengthy discussion on Traditional vs. Standards-based Report Cards was held during the Okmulgee School board meeting last week.

Superintendent Renee Dove invited Okmulgee Primary School Principal Jennifer Neal to update the board on a proposal to move

her school to the standards-based method of grading (1st through 4th). Also in attendance at the meeting were principals and administrators from the other district sites.

Neal pointed out that Kindergarten was also using the Standards Based Report Card for quite some time.

On traditional report cards, stu-

dents receive one grade for reading, one for math, one for science, and so on.

A standards-based report card, however, lists the most important skills students should learn in each subject at a particular grade level. For example, in mathematics, a report card might list these skills:

SEE REPORT CARDS, PAGE A4



Tons of Toys Delivered to DHS

Lots of children will have a brighter holiday this year thanks to the Harlan Ford Toy Drive, in conjunction with the Okmulgee Fraternal Order of Police. The community donated toys and bikes at Harlan Ford, Jandebeur Motor-

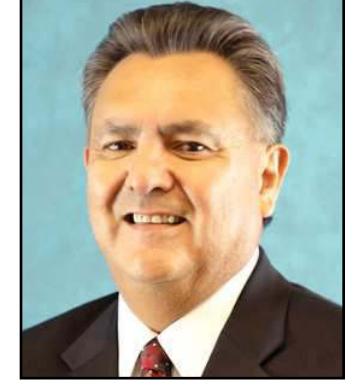
sports Park, Tavern 56 Okmulgee, McIntosh Tumbling of Henryetta, and The Ranch Bar and Grill of Beggs. Nine truck loads of toys and bikes were delivered Monday to the Okmulgee County DHS to distribute to foster children.

Harlan Ford and the Okmulgee FOP thanks everyone for their support in this successful endeavor.

MCN Chief Hill announces death of CMN President

Muscogee Nation Principal Chief David Hill announced Sunday on social media the passing of Robert Bible, president of the College of the Muscogee Nation.

"Today, I received the unfortunate news the Muscogee Creek Nation has lost an incredible asset to our tribe, and the cabinet and leadership group has lost a tremendous friend with the passing of Mr. Robert Bible," the chief stated in his post.



Robert Bible

"Mr. Bible's legacy will live on with generations of graduates and the con-

SEE PRESIDENT, PAGE A4

Additional charge filed for child sexual abuse

Lester Lay already serving prison sentence

PATRICK FORD
NEWS EDITOR

Another count of child sexual abuse has been filed against a county man already serving a prison sentence.

Lester "Larry" Lay, 76, has been charged in CF-2020-292 for one count of Child Sexual Abuse. The charge was filed in Okmulgee County district court on Dec. 15.

In January, Lay was sentenced to 25 years in the Oklahoma Department of Corrections, with all suspended except the first 10 years, a \$5,000 fine, \$1,000 Victims Compensation Assessment fund, \$250 to Oklahoma Indigent Defense System, court costs, and at least two years DOC supervision. He must also reg-

SEE ABUSE, PAGE A4

Holiday closings, trash routes announced

Okmulgee's City Hall offices and Public Works operations will be closed on Thursday and Friday, Dec. 24-25, in observance of the Christmas holiday.

Sanitation service through Thursday will run as usual. Crews are working on Christmas Eve. Friday's sanitation route will run on Thursday.

SEE HOLIDAY, PAGE A3

PATRICK FORD | NEWS EDITOR



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MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Schaudt's
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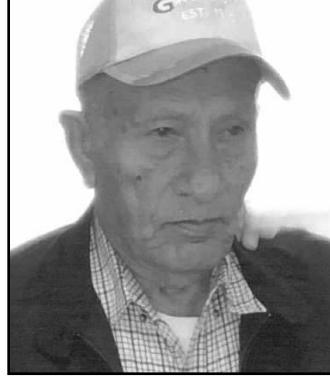
Perry Gene Booker
 February 19, 1935 - December 20, 2020

Perry Gene Booker passed away on Sunday December 20, 2020, at the age of 85. Perry was born February 19, 1935, in Hulbert, to the Late Homer and Hazel (Crosslin) Booker. He graduated from Liberty Morris in 1953. Perry met Pat Marquardt Booker, the love of his life in 1956. They would meet and go skating every weekend. He was drafted into the United States Army in 1958. Perry would often hitchhike home to see Pat on the weekends. Perry married Patricia Ann Marquardt October 8, 1960, at the Justice of the Peace in Henryetta. He was honorably discharged in 1963. He enjoyed coon hunting with his father in law, fishing and riding his bike. Perry worked several jobs including Pepsi, Red Sewell, and Ball Brothers Glass. He worked at Ball Brothers until he retired in 1991. After the retirement, he and Pat moved to Eufaula and spent their days fishing and watching their grandchildren grow up. Perry enjoyed fishing, hunting for arrowheads, and aggravating Pat or anyone else he could give a hard time. They moved back to Okmulgee in 2002 to be closer to their grandkids. He was always well known for his amazing gardens, rather it be his delicious tomatoes or large cabbages, everyone was always amazed.

Perry is proceeded in death by both his parents, Homer and Hazel; his mother and father-in-law, Leo F. and Leo Marquardt; sister Genine Brown; brothers Anthony, Robert, Jackie, Doyle, and John (Dewayne) Booker; and his great granddaughter Kaydence Golightly. Perry leaves behind his loving wife Patricia Booker; a son Phil Booker and wife Ruby of Bixby; daughter Cindi Golightly and husband Wayne of Morris; a nephew that was like a son Rick Wolfe; two grandsons Duston Golightly and wife Lindsey of Morris, Brooks Booker of Tulsa; two granddaughters Jamie Golightly and husband Wesley Steph of Okmulgee, Desiree Hall and husband Brook of Tulsa; five great grandchildren Jaiden, Jasey, Leighton, Ryan, and Abel; sisters Linda Osburn and husband Henry of Preston, Darlene Ray and husband Delbert of Preston, Joyce Cash and husband Ed of Texas, and Bernice Snelson and husband Bob of Preston; brother Paul Booker. He gained many honorary children and grandchildren over the years and had many special nieces and nephews. We will always carry your memory in our heart.

A funeral service will be held 10 a.m. Wednesday, December 23, 2020, at the McClendon-Winters Funeral Home Chapel. Visitation was Tuesday, December 22, 2020, from 1-5 p.m. Pallbearers will be Michael Morton, Matt Wasson, Clint Wilson, Jason Ray, Dustin Golightly, and Ronnie Orsburn. Honorary Pallbearers will be Brooks Booker, Rick Wolfe, and Wesley Steph.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the McClendon-Winters Funeral Home of Okmulgee. Memories, condolences, photos and videos may be shared with the family on Perry's Tribute Page at www.mcclendon-winters.com.


Louie C. Moore Jr.
 September 15, 1925 - December 19, 2020

Louie C. Moore Jr. of Okmulgee, departed this life on Dec. 19, 2020, at the age of 95. He was born on September 15, 1925, to Louie and Bertha (Durning) in Russellville, Ark. He grew up in Eastern Oklahoma and graduated from Porum High School in 1943. He enlisted in the United States Army Air Corps after graduation and served in the Pacific Theater in World War II. While home on leave from the service, he was united in marriage on February 3, 1945, to his high school sweetheart, Emma Jean Pratchard. They celebrated sixty-five wonderful years of marriage. He was employed by Southwestern Bell Telephone Company and worked in the Okmulgee office for forty years. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Okmulgee for over seventy years and was active in the Methodist Men's group.

He was a proud member of American Legion Post 317 in Porum, and Post 10 in Okmulgee for sixty-two years.

Louie will be remembered for many things: kindness, gentlemanly manners, quiet nature, perfect posture, politeness, love of Emma Jean's cooking, never missing a sporting game of Jack and Joe, crafting beautiful woodworking gifts for his granddaughter Nicole, and spending time with his children and their families. Louie was especially pleased to become a grandparent and later a great grandparent. At ninety-four years of age, he would still make the drive to celebrate their special birthdays. Louie was indeed from the "Greatest Generation".

Louie is predeceased by his beloved wife Emma Jean; parents Louie and Bertha; and his sister Miriam (Moore) Pratchard. He is survived by son, Jack L. Moore and wife Jana of Stillwater; son Joe B. Moore and wife Sharon Bogard of Rowlett, Texas; granddaughter Nicole Moore Henry and husband Matthew Tyler Henry of Richardson, Texas; grandson Ryan D. Goltz and wife Keri of Edmond; great grandchildren Jack and Emma Henry and Lauren and Andrew Goltz; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Memorials may be given in Louie's name to the Food Pantry at the First United Methodist Church, 302 South Seminole Avenue, Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447.

Family graveside services are planned at Oakwood Cemetery in Okmulgee. Memorial Services have been entrusted to the care of McClendon-Winters Funeral Home of Okmulgee. A celebration of Louie's life will be held at the First United Methodist Church in Okmulgee, at a future date.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the McClendon-Winters Funeral Home of Okmulgee. Memories, condolences, photos and videos may be shared with the family on Louie's Tribute Page at www.mcclendon-winters.com.

James Lee

March 29, 1978 - December 15, 2020

James Lee of Longtown passed away on Tuesday, December 15, 2020, at the age of 42. James was born on March 29, 1978, in Tulsa, to his parents, Nelson and Laurel (Pope) Lee. Arrangements are entrusted to Schaudt's Okmulgee Funeral Service & Cremation Care Centers. Family and friends may leave kind words of comfort, special memories and condolences to the family online at www.schaudtfuneralservice.com.

Johanna Gormley Harris

August 13, 1936 - December 13, 2020

Johanna (Gormley) Harris, 84, died December 13, 2020, surrounded by family at home in Bakersfield, Calif. Johanna was born on August 13, 1936, in Okmulgee. In lieu of flowers, her family asks you perform a random act of kindness for a friend or stranger. Donations can be made to CASA California <https://kerncasa.org/donate/donate.html>.

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**Obituaries continued
on page A3**
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Lindell Keith Berryhill, Jr.
September 8, 1971 - October 8, 2020

Lindell Keith "Bullhead" Berryhill, Jr. was born September 8, 1971, in Claremore to Lindell Keith Berryhill, Sr. and Christine (Willie) Berryhill. He passed away October 8, 2020, in Okmulgee at 48 years of age. Lindell grew up in Morris and attended Morris Schools. He married Ki-Cupkoce McKinney on March 16, 2016, in Branson, Mo. Lindell enjoyed playing basketball and pool and riding his Harley. His greatest love was spending time with his family.



Lindell was preceded in death by his mother, Christine Berryhill; maternal grandparents, George Toosley Willie and Maryland (Harjo) Willie; and paternal grandfather, William Raymond Berryhill.

Survivors include his wife, Ki-Cupkoce "Ekaese" Berryhill; father, Lindell Keith Berryhill, Sr.; children and step-children, Krystal Berryhill, Elijah James Berryhill, Dustin Rumfelt, Mekhia Mendoza, Sv-Le-Kv McKinney, Jonas Kaulaity, and Kunaww Kaulaity; siblings, Angela Berryhill and Brandon "Eco" Berryhill and wife Sally; five grandchildren; nine nephews; seven nieces; five great nephews; and eleven great nieces.

A memorial service will be held 2 p.m. Monday, December 28, 2020, at the McClelland-Winters Funeral Home Chapel.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the McClelland-Winters Funeral Home of Okmulgee. Memories, condolences, photos and videos may be shared with the family on Lindell's Tribute Page at www.mcclelland-winters.com.

Kathryn Ruth Brown

May 13, 1953 - December 18, 2020

Kathryn Ruth Brown, a resident of Davis, died December 18, 2020, at the age of 67. She was born May 13, 1953, in Okemah, to Roy and Marie (DeWebber) Wilbourn. Visitation for Kathryn will be Wednesday, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Rogers Funeral Home.

Mona Diane (Pollard) Tarkington

December 3, 1959 - December 20, 2020

Mona Diane Pollard Tarkington, a resident of rural Henryetta (Dewar) passed away Sunday, December 20, 2020, at the age of 61. She was born December 3, 1959, in Okmulgee to Bobby G. Britt and Velma (Brison) Britt.

Funeral services are scheduled for 2 p.m., Wednesday, December 23, 2020, at Dewar United Pentecostal Church with Rev. Matthew Martin officiating. Interment will follow in New Sonora Cemetery under direction of Integrity Funeral Service.

Aphia Baker
July 28, 1932 - December 17, 2020

Aphia Baker of Waco, Texas passed away Thursday, December 17, 2020, at the age of 88. Aphia was born on July 28, 1932, in Kansas City, Mo. to her parents, Arthur and Aphia (Lyons) Brown. Services will be held in the near future.

Arrangements are entrusted to Schaudt's Okmulgee Funeral Service. Family and friends may leave kind words of comfort, special memories and condolences to the family online at www.schaudtfuneralservice.com.

Reva Blevins

October 20, 1929 - December 21, 2020

Services are pending for Reva Blevins, 91, of Henryetta, with Integrity Funeral Service. She passed away on Monday, December 21, 2020, in Henryetta.

Steve Pearson

December 4, 1970 - December 18, 2020

Stephen Boyd Pearson was born December 4, 1970, in Henryetta to Wade Arthur Pearson and Sandra Kay Fox. He died December 18, 2020. Service was held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, December 22, 2020, at the Rogers Funeral Home Chapel. Interment followed at the Westlawn Cemetery under the direction of the Rogers Funeral Home.

Okmulgee County COVID-19 death toll is 26

PATRICK FORD
NEWS EDITOR

Okmulgee County reported another COVID-19 related death, bringing the total to 26. The death was of a female between ages 50 to 64. It was reported in the latest statistics from the Oklahoma State Department of Health.

A total of 2,240 have died, which was an increase of 22 from the previous day.

The seven-day rolling average for new cases reported was 3,376, the state health department said. A total of 15,404 Oklahomans have been hospitalized due to the virus with 1,623 currently in acute care OSDH licensed facilities and 136 currently in other types of facilities. As of Tuesday morning, 2,251,317 tests have returned negative since testing began in February.

Newman Thompson, Jr.
March 7, 1938 - December 21, 2020

Services are pending for Newman Thompson Jr., 82, of Henryetta, with Integrity Funeral Service. He passed away on Monday, December 21, 2020, in Ft. Smith, Ark.

OKMULGEE POLICE BLOTTER**12/01/2020**

7:17 a.m. 21st/Creek. Suspicious person - male on purple bike looking in cars.

10:16 a.m. 600 block of East 14th. Animal control - puppies need picked up.

11:06 a.m. Creek Village. Burglary of auto - Gun stolen out of vehicle.

11:27 a.m. 1200 block of East 7th. Tenant refusing to let city turn off water.

11:43 a.m. Southbound on Muskogee/8th Street. White crew cab truck, possible drunk driver.

12:42 p.m. 600 block of North Griffin. Burglary - building broken into.

12:50 p.m. Shoe Sensation. RP advised a subject is littering.

2:33 p.m. Outside El Charro. Robbery - outside wireless associate robbed by black male, demanded money and fled in direction of Love's.

4:20 p.m. Banyan/Mission Road. Reckless driver - driver in gray Civic ran RP off the road, driving in wrong lane.

12/02/2020

12:22 p.m. 800 block of South Rogers. Animal control - aggressive tan dog.

12:27 p.m. Briarwood Apts. in front of office. Suspicious vehicle - tan

SEE POLICE, PAGE A5

12/03/2020

2:41 a.m. 8th/Wood Circle K. Shoplifter. RP advised a female subject stole a bunch of items, then put her phone and



COURTESY PHOTO

Rotary Club Celebrates Christmas with Donation

Members of the Rotary Club are pictured at Harlan Ford last week for their Christmas Party as the group made a donation to the Harlan Ford Toy Drive.

**A Friendly Wager**

Oscar Higgs and Aaron Swayze of the Okmulgee County Sheriff's Office placed a small wager on the recent OU vs. OSU bedlam game. Higgs, a graduate and 'super fan' of OSU lost the bet, so he had to wear an OU jersey as payment. Though it pained him to have to do so, he was a good sport and posed with Swayze for this photo. The back of the shirt did plainly state that he was only wearing the shirt because he lost a bet.

REPORT CARDS

CONTINUED FROM A1

- I can define a number sentence.
- I can solve number sentences that have brackets.
- I can find the sum of two 2-digit numbers.
- I can find the product of two 2-digit numbers.
- I can find the quotient of two 2-digit numbers.

Instead of letter grades, students receive marks or a code that show how well they have mastered the skills. The marks might show whether the student is advanced, proficient, basic or below basic for each standard or they might be numbers representing whether students meet, exceed, or approach each standard.

Standards-based report cards should provide more consistency between

teachers than traditional report cards because all students are evaluated on the same grade-level skills. Parents can see exactly which skills and knowledge their child has acquired.

"The teacher instead of assigning one letter grade for a subject, they focus on each piece of learning and each skill those kids are needing to learn," Neal said.

By the end of the school years, there is hope the student has made progress in learning a particular skill.

Teachers record whether a student is proficient in the subject, have mastered it, or needs work, Neal stated.

Neal and district leaders have been working on what standards should be used.

Also being considered is whether to use a numbered system, either 3 or 4-prong, with the higher number showing a mastering or proficiency in the re-

quired standard.

Neal stated the district already works with pacing grade which shows parents and students what skills have been taught, and where improvement is needed.

The overall goal is to bring about better conversations with families on their child's progress. This allows teachers to go back over those subjects that need work, rather than it being a "one and done."

"Each grade level has chosen about 14 to 17 standards in English/Language Arts and also in Math," Neal said.

Teachers have also talked to their peers in the next grade level to see what students must be proficient in.

"We will still teach all the standards, but there are few that must be focused on," Neal said. "Standards based report cards are a working document."

One question asked by the board was

whether this system would avoid those difficult conversations with parents.

"We will still have to have hard conversations with parents," Neal said, "but I think it will be better equip our teachers for those conversations."

A decision on the proposal was tabled until a future date, as district staff works on finalizing the actual grading process and how the reports would be made, explaining it to parents.

"It is a shift and it is a change, but it is a good move in the right direction," Supt. Dove said, "and we can get the piece to this so you can see the strength of it."

Neal added the district is looking at using a Letter system instead of a numbered one, which is what the Pre-K and Kindergarten already uses.

"We just haven't settled on that yet, but we will share that with you," Neal said.

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Holiday Closings

Hoffman Fellowship | The Hoffman Fellowship will be closed the next two weeks and will reopen Saturday, Jan. 9. Special guests that evening will be Gospel Way. Join us for an evening of worshipful music. All are welcome!

Okmulgee Chamber of Commerce | The Okmulgee Chamber of Commerce will close at noon Thursday, Dec. 24, and will reopen Tuesday, Jan. 5.

Okmulgee Times | The Okmulgee Times will be closed Dec. 24-25 for Christmas. The office will reopen Monday, Dec. 28.

December 23
Community Christmas Dinner | A Community Christ-

mas Dinner will be held at the Okmulgee Community Center Wednesday, Dec. 23, at 1 p.m. The free meal will be provided thanks to the efforts of Patricia Thompson and Cheryl Baldridge. If you are interested in helping or donating items for the meal, contact Cheryl Baldridge via Facebook. The Okmulgee Community Center is located at 7th 7 Kern.

Ongoing Events

American Legion Post 10 Meetings | Okmulgee's American Legion Post 10 has commenced regular monthly meetings each 2nd Thursday at 5 p.m. at the hut, located at the southeast corner of 6th & Oklahoma. Meals are served at 5:30 p.m. and business meetings begin at 6 p.m.

HOLIDAY

CONTINUED FROM A1

Emergency service, police and fire departments, will remain operational during the holiday.

City offices and Public Works operations will resume on Monday, Dec. 28.

The Okmulgee County Courthouse will also be closed Thursday and Friday.

PRESIDENT

CONTINUED FROM A1

tinued advancement of our College of the Muscogee Nation, where he served as President," Chief Hill wrote.

Bible played a crucial role in the construction, development, growth and ultimately, the national accreditation of the College of the Muscogee Nation, according to Chief Hill.

"His impact is immeasurable as is the effect his work has had on the education and lives of so many students," Chief Hill stated. "Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and his CMN family today. God bless them."

"Mr. Bible, we will continue your commitment to providing education and opportunity to our tribal citizens and advancing the growth of our tribal college like you would want. Mvto!"

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Change in guest list draws angry response

Dear Abby
- by -
Abigail Van Buren



over this. I feel Ashley should have asked us before adding this other couple to our dinner. I feel like sending her a letter saying no friend should treat another friend like this, I guess she's not really a friend and end the relationship. My husband is stopping me from sending such a letter. Am I overreacting? -- ANGRY IN OREGON

DEAR ANGRY: Yes, you are. You have blown this out of proportion. Be glad you have a husband who advised you as he did. Ashley did the right thing by telling you the guest list for the dinner had grown so you could opt out if you wished. Because she was the host, she was not obligated to ask permission to include the extras.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a truck driver who is on the road for weeks at a time. My girlfriend got a new job and is working every day. On the weekends, she goes out to bars.

I feel jealous because I'm working and even when I can get a weekend to be with her, she doesn't want to be intimate. Also, she promises to call me but rarely does. Should I just end it? I've been married twice and thought we would be a couple and marry. I don't know what I should do. -- ON THE ROAD

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DEAR ON THE ROAD: Allow me to steer you in the right direction. You are apart from this woman weeks at a time, and when you do manage to be together, she isn't interested in intimacy. After promising to stay in closer touch with you, she fails to follow through. This should tell you when you're out of sight, you're not on her mind.

Take the hint. End the "romance" -- what little there is of it. Then, thank your lucky stars she isn't your wife, and you're not heading to divorce court for a third time.

DEAR ABBY: I am a step-grandma whose 4-year-old grandson desperately needs a haircut. Is it OK for Santa to get him a gift card for a haircut? -- CLEAN CUT IN FLORIDA

DEAR CLEAN CUT: The child's parents may like their son's hair the way it is. If the reason they are leaving it long is financial, a gift card might be appreciated. However, if that's not the case, your gesture would be interpreted as judgmental, and it would not be appreciated.

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DEAR ABBY: I've known my friend "Ashley" for a lot of years. She is single. Several years ago, I introduced her to another couple, the "Smiths." We all have a lot in common and take turns inviting each other for dinner. This group and a couple of other couples are the only people in my social circle I have seen periodically during this pandemic.

Two weeks ago, Ashley invited my husband and me and the Smiths for dinner. Three days before the dinner, Ashley sent me a text the Smiths will be bringing another couple, and she wanted to be sure it was OK with us. I called her immediately and told her with the spike in COVID cases, I wasn't comfortable having a close dinner with a couple who wasn't in my social circle. She said she was "sorry," meaning if I didn't like it, my husband and I could stay home.

I'm extremely hurt and angry and am losing sleep

More light in the days ahead despite the darkness



For the Children

By Joe Dorman, CEO
Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy

see their desired gifts end up with them.

Despite that letdown, I need to look to the positives. We had hundreds of supporters this year supply donations to help those in need and those young people will still have a happy morning when they wake up and open presents. We helped make that happen, and so did those who contributed to our mission. Likewise, the same can be said about the many other programs out there doing similar work and their donors.

As we enter a new year, with new challenges yet unknown, we will still be battling the COVID-19 virus and all it has caused. This season is meant to remind us there is light even in darkness - no matter your faith tradition. Even if you don't have one, the fact that each day will have more light for the next six months is another tangible reminder there is light even in darkness. We must also sometimes intentionally focus on that light to help move away from the dark.

So, let me close this column with that wish for you: no matter how dark times may be, there is light, there is hope. We Oklahomans have always been able to make a brighter future, no matter the darkness that has fallen, and I am confident we will again. So, I wish "Happy Holidays" to you all.

About OICA: The Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy was established in 1983 by a group of citizens seeking to create a strong advocacy network that would provide a voice for the needs of children and youth in Oklahoma, particularly those in the state's care and those growing up amid poverty, violence, abuse and neglect, disparities, or other situations that put their lives and future at risk. Our mission statement: "Creating awareness, taking action and changing policy to improve the health, safety, and well-being of Oklahoma's children."

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Henryetta First Christian Church
Sunday School begins at 9 a.m. followed by worship service at 10 a.m. Come join us for worship! Everyone is welcome and invited to attend. Henryetta First Christian Church is located at 412 N. 5th Street.

**"The Meaning of Christmas"
by Mary Morris**

"And there were, in the same country, shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.' (Luke 2:8-14)

Back in the day, the Holy Bible (and only one version, the King James, was used) was a teaching tool. Not only were children taught to read from it, but they also learned portions of it by heart. This small section was memorized and recited by my second grade class as part of our Christmas program. I can still repeat it (almost) flawlessly, these 62 years later.

The words capture the essence of Christ's birth. He came so ALL people - great, small, rich, poor, widely renowned, or completely unknown - would be acceptable in heaven, despite their ignobility on earth. No matter that Christ was a prince, He was born in a barn, so He was reachable to both royals and commoners. Christ's birth brought about a level playing field.

Nothing has changed about that in twenty centuries. Christmas is a time of love and wonder and miracles. If ever we needed to be reminded of that, it is now. Become a part of that even if, at first, it has to be forced. You will find the more love and cheer you give away, ten times as much comes back to you.

My prayer for you is that you find the joy only Christ can bring. Become like the shepherds and seek Him of whom

the angels spoke. "Peace, good will toward men."

St. Michael Catholic Church

Feast of Holy Family (B)

(Sirach 3:2-6/Col. 3: 12-21/Lk. 2 22-40)

This Sunday, the Church invites us to celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family: Mary + Joseph + Jesus. Right after Christmas, the Church focuses on celebrating the Holy Family because she and we realize family is the basic, the center, and the navel of society! Without family, we lack a lot of fun and love and a lot of things when we grow up.

If you look at a landscape, it may be covered with snow or with green grass and wildflowers. It all depends on the presence or absence of the sun. In the same ways, if you look into a home where there are young children, you will find signs of neglect or signs of care, depending on the presence or absence of love especially from their parents.

God can become a human person without parents; but he did not do it that way! He was born in Bethlehem with his parents, Joseph his father and Mary his mother. He chose a human way in which he created on earth, family. A good family life will be marked by simplicity, solidarity, intimacy and loyalty. But most of all it will bring out the best in us. It will reveal to us our hidden beauty and grandeur, our untapped power and capacities. When we are loved by our family, we discover resources and strengths we never dreamed of, much as Joseph did in the gospel when his wife Mary and his child Jesus were threatened.

We thank God for giving each of us family. We ask for those, especially children who have been abandoned from their families. May God bless all families on earth with God's love and care.

Let us also pray for Marriage life. Because it is a basic of the family. May God help all people in the world to sanctify our families, show us the value of family life, and help us to live in peace and love in our families.

May God bless all families in the world.

Cornerstone Foursquare

A Place to Worship the King

"Be our guest as we've embarked in a study, 'Worship the King.' The Cornerstone Foursquare (CF) family would love

for you to discover with us the Language of the Wisemen this season," Rev. Mickey Baldwin, lead pastor, said. He continues, saying, "Letting our lives be filled with worship, we start by having eyes to see God's goodness and hearts moved by faith to go. Join us each Sunday in December or be a part of our online family during our LIVESTREAM on Facebook.

The CF campus is located at 617 N. Oklahoma Ave. in Okmulgee at the intersection of Oklahoma & Trent. Our service streams LIVE on Facebook at 10:30 a.m. Sundays and 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays to connect with our Facebook family.

The doors open at 10 a.m. for connecting and Café Hope, followed by passionate music, children's programming and encouragement from God's Word at 10:30 a.m.

Rev. Baldwin concluded, saying, "This season, maybe more than others, as we deal with changes brought on by the COVID pandemic, we must move past cynical views, our complacent lives and commercial focus so we can learn the language of being a true worshiper. Maybe we should ask, like the Wisemen, 'Where is the newborn King?' May we also be so bold to find and worship the King."

Other ways to connect with us can be found at these social media sites: Instagram - CornerstoneOkmulgee, Twitter - @CornerstoneOK and YouTube. For more information, call 918-756-4787 or find us at www.okmulgeefoursquare.org. #worshiptheking #hopeishere #givethanks #seeyousunday

First United Methodist Church

8th & Seminole • Okmulgee

www.fumcokmulgee.org

First United Methodist Church invites you to join us this coming Sunday morning. Traditional Worship Service begins at 9 a.m. in the Sanctuary, followed by Sunday School at 10 a.m. for all ages. Children's Church is held at 11 a.m. every Sunday (except the first Sunday of the month). Contemporary Praise & Worship Service is held at 11 a.m. in the Rowe Family Life Center. The youth meet Sunday in the EPI Center from 5 to 7:30 p.m.

Opportunities of the Week:

Wednesday, Dec. 23

10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Food Pantry

12 p.m. Lost & Found NA - Basement

7 p.m. No Choir Rehearsal

7 p.m. Lost & Found NA - Basement

Thursday, Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve

6:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight

Service with Holy Communion

Friday, Dec. 25 - Merry Christmas!

No Lost & Found NA Meeting

Catholic Community of Okmulgee

St. Anthony's Catholic Church

515 S. Morton Ave. • 918-756-4385

All services will be at St. Anthony's Catholic Church

CHRISTmas Services

Thursday, Dec. 24

4 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass

7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass

Friday, Dec. 25

12 a.m. Midnight Mass

9 a.m. Christmas Morning Mass

This mass will also be livestreamed on the Catholic Community of Okmulgee Facebook page.

New Year's Day - Mary the Holy Mother of God

Thursday, Dec. 31

5 p.m. New Year's Day Vigil Mass

Friday, Jan. 1

9 a.m. New Year's Day Mass

This mass will also be livestreamed on the Catholic Community of Okmulgee Facebook page.

For more information, please contact the Community Office at 918-756-4385 or saumchurches@gmail.com. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Shorter Chapel AME Church

Shorter Chapel AME Church is located at 405 N. Central Ave. in Okmulgee. Freeman Culver is the pastor. Services are every Sunday at 11:30 a.m. Come to pray, and come as you are!

Trinity Lutheran Church

Pastor Rev. Dr. Christian C. Tiews and Trinity Lutheran, a congregation of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, cordially invite you to attend services.

Trinity Lutheran is located at 2014 E. 6th Street in Okmulgee. The office phone number is 918-756-6046 and office hours are 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 1 to 5 p.m. Friday.



*Holiday
Seasons*

**OFFICE
CLOSED**

**Thursday, Dec. 24
& Friday, Dec. 25**

**Oklmulgee
TIMES**

WORSHIP DIRECTORY

APOSTOLIC

Apostolic Church of Jesus Christ
700 S Liberty • Okmulgee
918-756-2662

Apostolic Life Church
1512 E 13th • Okmulgee
918-756-0313

Greater Praise & Worship Center
13425 Loop 56 • Okmulgee
918-756-0965

Jesus Is Lord Apostolic
14th & Oklahoma • Okmulgee

Mount Calvary Miracle Temple
1004 N Osage • Okmulgee
918-756-1648

New Life Apostolic Church
4900 N Wood • Okmulgee
918-756-5983

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Compass Assembly of God
13425 Loop 56 • Okmulgee
918-756-0965

First Assembly of God
4th & Seminole • Okmulgee
918-756-0203

First Assembly of God (Beggs)
400 E Main • Beggs
918-267-4407

First Grace Assembly
716 N Taft • Okmulgee
918-756-6544

Morris Assembly of God
206 N Hughes • Morris
918-733-4200

Preston Assembly of God
14030 Celia Berryhill • Okmulgee
918-845-3919

BAPTIST

Belvin Baptist Church
320 N Mission • Okmulgee
918-990-0215

Calvary Baptist
1327 E 13th • Okmulgee
918-756-4887

Cane Creek Baptist
Boynton, OK

Central First Baptist
521 N Central • Okmulgee
918-756-0578

Clearview Baptist Church
16950 Loop 56 • Okmulgee
918-230-6710

Cotton Creek Baptist
Boynton & Morris
918-441-3388

Crossroads Baptist Church
6962 Happy Camp • Beggs
918-267-4720

Eastside Baptist Church
3rd & Osage • Okmulgee
918-756-1686

Faith Baptist Church
1000 N Grand • Okmulgee
918-756-1634 • 918-752-0388

First Baptist Church
5th & Seminole • Okmulgee
918-756-7880

First Freewill Baptist Church
11th & Oklahoma • Okmulgee

Fundamental Indian Baptist
615 S Oklahoma • Okmulgee

Grovania Freewill Baptist
12015 N 230 • Okmulgee
918-756-5305

Liberty Baptist Church
23570 Liberty • Morris
918-733-2623

Macedonia Baptist Church
1029 N Sioux • Okmulgee
918-756-0956

Morris First Baptist Church
2nd & Peking • Morris
918-733-2340

Morris Indian Baptist Church
Morris

Mt. Zion Baptist Church
1500 N Miami • Okmulgee
918-756-6553

Natura Baptist Church
7995 N 250 • Beggs

New Jerusalem Baptist Church
11435 Nixon • Preston
918-695-0361

New Salem Baptist Church
1300 E Lafayette • Okmulgee

Northwest Baptist Church
10455 Smith • Okmulgee
918-703-9480

Nuyaka Baptist Church
12 miles west of N Hwy 75 &
3 miles west of Okmulgee

Okmulgee Indian Baptist
W Eufaula • Okmulgee

Preston First Baptist Church
918-756-5979

Second Baptist Church
1103 N Alabama • Okmulgee

Southside Baptist Church
918-756-2065

St. Matthews Baptist Church
1001 E Chicago • Okmulgee

Trinity Baptist Church
West of Morris on Hwy 62
918-733-2746

Twin Hills Baptist Church
20200 Hwy 16 • Okmulgee

CATHOLIC

St. Anthony's Catholic Church
515 S Morton • Okmulgee
918-756-4385

Uganda Martyrs
806 E 3rd • Okmulgee
918-756-4385

CHRISTIAN

First Christian Church
8th & Seminole • Okmulgee
918-756-0994

First Christian Church (Morris)
3rd & Peoria • Morris

Love International Christian Ministry
710 N Hillman • Okmulgee
918-756-2682

Osage Avenue Christian Church
1101 E Smith • Okmulgee

Town & Country Christian Church
1160 E 13th • Okmulgee
South of cemetery • 918-756-6107

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Church of Christ
3rd & Comanche • Okmulgee
918-582-9535 • 918-906-4986

Eastside Church of Christ
801 N Miami • Okmulgee
918-756-6737

Grand Ave. Church of Christ
318 S Grand • Okmulgee
918-756-7462

Southside Church of Christ
15th & Rogers • Okmulgee
918-756-6142

CHURCH OF GOD

Church of God of Prophecy
1st & Cherokee • Beggs

Eastside Church of God in Christ
1500 E McLagan • Okmulgee
918-756-2811

Mt. Zion Church of God in Christ
707 N Muskogee • Okmulgee

New Beginnings Church of God
13040 Celia Berryhill • Okmulgee
918-756-2204

Northside Evangelistic Temple
Preston • 918-756-7563

Trinity Church of God in Christ
1701 N Mission • Okmulgee
918-756-9004 (Leave a Message)

EPISCOPAL

Church of the Redeemer
213 N Seminole • Okmulgee
918-756-2384

LUTHERAN

Trinity Lutheran Church
1314 E 6th • Okmulgee

METHODIST

Beggs United Methodist Church
6th & Broadway • Beggs
918-267-3820

Big Cussetah United Methodist
3.5 miles south on Prairie Bell • Morris

Cleaves Memorial
806 E Smith • Okmulgee

First United Methodist
8th & Seminole • Okmulgee
918-756-6083

Greater Jones Chapel AME
1125 Smith • Okmulgee
918-756-8296

Handy Chapel
1st & Broadway • Beggs

Morris First United Methodist
601 S Hughes • Morris

Newtown United Indian Methodist
14460 N 210 • Okmulgee
918-304-1400

Shorter Chapel AME
405 N Central • Okmulgee

NAZARENE

Church of the Nazarene
711 N Okmulgee • Okmulgee
918-756-3359

PENTECOSTAL

Abundant Life PH
10094 Leonard • Okmulgee
918-650-0232

The Refuge Okmulgee
1206 W 5th • Okmulgee
918-756-2442 • www.therefuge.us

United Pentecostal
608 W Ozard • Morris
918-733-2610

PRESBYTERIAN

First Presbyterian Church
401 S Seminole • Okmulgee

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTISTS

Marantha Seventh Day
1213 E Chicago • Okmulgee
918-521-0482

Okmulgee Seventh Day
Hwy 62 • 3 miles east of Okmulgee

OTHER

Bald Hill Community Church
N 280 & Bald Hill

Beggs House of Prayer
Broadway & 1st • Beggs

The Church

2501 E 2nd • Okmulgee

Church of the Living God
Temple 94 • 1100 N Osage • Okmulgee
918-756-2724

Church of the Living God

1301 W Eufaula • Okmulgee
918-756-9539

Church on the Move South

Glenpool Conference Center

Compassion & Love Outreach

103 E 9th • Beggs

Conversion Ministry

1330 E MLK • Okmulgee

Cornerstone Foursquare

617 N Oklahoma • Okmulgee
918-756-4787

Freedom Is Just a Click Away

www.godsgatheringplace.org
918-815-9476

House of Fire

729 S Chickashaw • Okmulgee
918-756-5557

House of Prayer

1015 N Wood • Okmulgee
918-756-6471

Jesus More Than Enough

714 W 16th • Okmulgee

Jubilee Christian Church

2 miles north on Hwy 75 • Okmulgee
918-756-5338

Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses

1229 E 6th • Okmulgee
918-756-4129 • 918-652-3392

Lakeview Community Church

918-756-4181

Lighthouse Outreach Center

918-652-9517

Living Way Tabernacle

Oklahoma & Eufaula • Okmulgee

Mt. Calvary Miracle Temple

1004 N Osage • Okmulgee
918-756-1648

Oasis Church

1314 N Oklahoma • Okmulgee
918-640-9072

Okmulgee Community Church

729 S Chickashaw • Okmulgee

Rebound Church

Winners named for Sparkle Spree

Okmulgee Main Street held the annual Sparkle Spree drawing last week. Here are the winners of the various prizes:

- \$50 Main Street Bucks - Kelley Mishima and Kara Dildine
- \$100 Main Street Bucks - Barbara Waller and Charla Newport-Sadler
- \$200 Main Street Bucks - Christy Vanbrundt and Angie Efurd
- \$250 Main Street Bucks - Jenny Weaver and Sarah Stice
- \$300 Main Street Bucks - Beverly Cazenave
- \$500 Grand Prize - Angie Efurd

Thanks to the community for supporting and shopping at local businesses.



COURTESY PHOTOS | ROBYN STAUDT



LETTERS TO SANTA

Twin Hills Pre-K

Dear Santa,
I would like fake fingernails, an Elsa doll and a real horse!
From, Peyton G

Dear Santa,
I would like a blue tractor, a stuffed kangaroo and choo choo train with a track.
From, Kaysen S

Dear Santa,
I would like a real, brown dog, a teddy bear and a toy mouse - scare my daddy!

From, Kinsley H

Dear Santa,
I would like a real guitar and a Nerf gun that shoots darts.
From, Jance R

Dear Santa,
I would like a green monster truck, bey blades and new markers.
From, Jacobi R

Dear Santa,
I would like a choo choo train, a remote control airplane and a tiny, yellow car.
From, Robbie W

Dear Santa,
I would like a stuffed cat, a Barbie doll and a baby doll that cries.
From, Rynlee B

Dear Santa,
I would like a soft teddy bear, a baby doll that cries and a doll house.
From, Aubrey W

Dear Santa,
I would like a real horse, a pink Barbie horse, and a baby stroller.
From, Savanna

Dear Santa,
I would like an Elsa doll that is as big as me!

From, Aven W

Dear Santa,
I would like a rainbow teddy bear, a blue puppy and a red tractor.
From, Serena F

Dear Santa,
I would like a blue teddy bear, a train on a track and a race car.
From, Elijah L

Dear Santa,
I would like a big, green car and a blue monster truck.
From, Conner N



COURTESY PHOTOS

VFW Post 1189 Holds Children's Christmas Party

Okmulgee VFW Post 1189 hosted their Annual Children's Christmas Party on Saturday with a drive-thru event at the post home. VFW and Auxiliary members are shown with the gifts that were distributed. The members delivered the gifts to the cars according to the number of children present. A big thanks to the post for making Christmas brighter for area children.



**SOUTH COUNTY
LAW FIRM**

Merry Christmas
From South County Law Firm
Don't miss the Christmas Light Display!
1700 E. 6th Street, Okmulgee, OK 74447 • 918-756-1000



JOECROPDUSTER, LLC
AIRPLANE CROP SPRAYING
918-704-0308
JOE WOOLSLAYER



SPORTS



Wednesday, December 23, 2020

Jacob Factor | Sports Editor

Email Sports Ideas to jacob@cookson.news

Dragons win!



SCOTT DELK | FREE-LANCE REPORTER

Dewar Dragons won their first state championship Saturday against Laverne Tigers.

Dewar wins first state championship in undefeated season

JACOB FACTOR
SPORTS EDITOR

Saturday was a day of celebration for the undefeated Dewar Dragons.

The Dragons won their first state title in their first championship appearance since 2007 Saturday against the Laverne Tigers in a 38-20 victory.

"The kids played really hard, they just outplayed (Laverne)," head coach Josh Been said. "It was all them! They deserve all the credit; they worked their tails off this year."

At the start of the game, Laverne took an early lead with a one-yard touchdown after a drive down the field, but Dewar's Shawn Maxwell answered with

his own three-yard TD.

Laverne then countered with another TD after a 36-yard run to finish the first quarter in the lead.

Dewar picked up their defense the rest of the game to keep Laverne scoreless for most of the game.

In the meantime, Dewar's offense landed four more TDs to take the 38-20 win.

Thomas Brownfield caught a 53-yard pass from Joey Fowler for the Dragons' second TD to make the score 14-12 in Dewar's favor, and the Dragons' rode that lead all the way to the gold ball.

Fowler ran an 18-yard run to score Dewar's next TD, then ran a ten-yarder

to score again.

Maxwell with a one-yard run secured the final TD for the Dragons.

Laverne got one last TD in the final minutes of the game on a 20-yard run.

Fowler completed 13 of 17 passes for 171 yards in the game.

Maxwell had 210 rushing yards in the game and two TDs, and Fowler ran for 139 yards and also had two TDs.

On the receiving side, Brownfield had 97 yards and a TD, with his longest reception for 53 yards.

James Brison had 57 receiving yards, and Maxwell had 16.

Four Dragons made double-digit tackles on defense.

Fowler led the defense with 20 tackles, followed by Maxwell who made 15 tackles.

Tyler Maldonado made 14 tackles and Brownfield had 10 of them.

Also assisting the defense with tackles were Baylor Selby with eight, Kaelem Carter with seven, Brison with five, Kaedyn Harrison with one and Brett Hays with one.

Fowler also caught two interceptions.

The Dragons had an outstanding season, averaging 54 points per game until the championship.

In the regular season, they only had 52 points scored against them.

Beggs seniors have memorable high school careers

The Golden Demons finished their season two weeks ago.

Their four seniors finished outstanding high school football careers.

Beggs Senior J.J. Roe has probably played in more high school football games than anyone in the state of Oklahoma. He has been a part of 57 games in the past four years.

From the 2017-2018 season until now, the Beggs football team is a four-time Oklahoma State Semi-Finalist and a two-time State Runner-Up.

The Demons four-year record is an impressive 48-9.

"The entire community of Beggs can be proud of the 2020 football team," said Head Coach David Tenison. "With a 10-3 record, we overcame so much adversity with Covid, injuries and several other obstacles."

"This is a relatively young team as we only graduate four seniors," he said. "These young men worked hard

to be good and their efforts will always be appreciated."

"Our four seniors, Roe, Kendal Daniels, Trey Gaines,

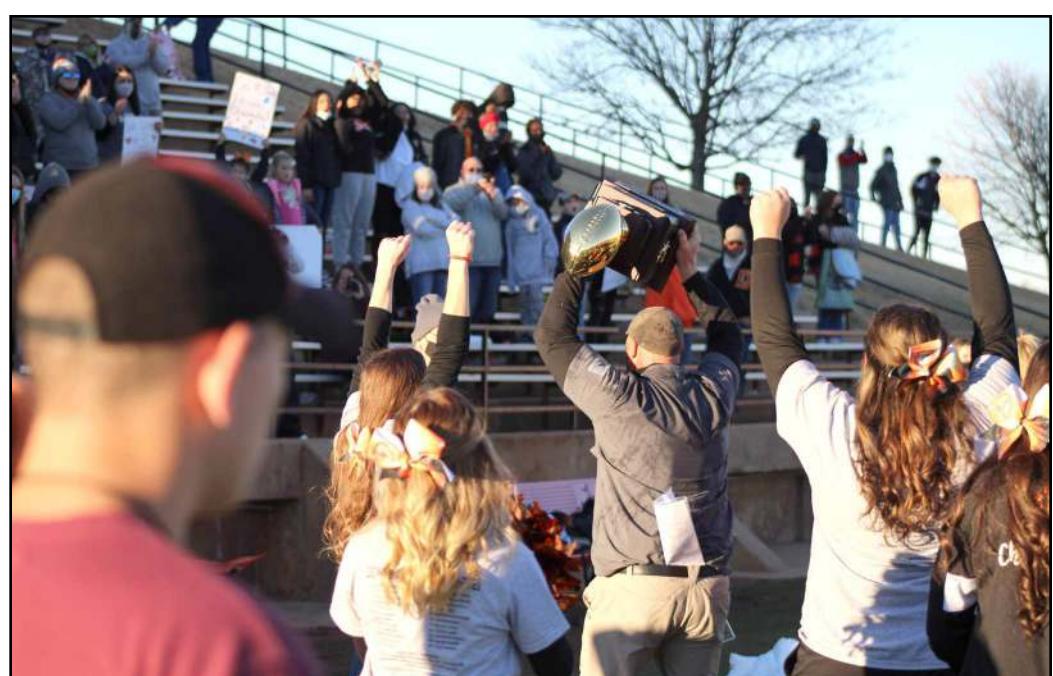
and Jesse Pendergrass did an outstanding job of leading and mentoring several young players who played a key role in our success this year," Tenison said.



Beggs Golden Demons seniors from left to right: Kendal Daniels, Jesse Pendergrass, Trey Gaines and J.J. Roe.

COURTESY PHOTO

Photos from Dewar's championship





COURTESY PHOTO

Beggs' Kendal Daniels signs with Texas A&M

Beggs stand-out senior Kendal Daniels signed to continue his football career with Texas A&M last week.

"This is what can happen when goals are set and hard work is put in every day," Beggs Athletics said. "We are so excited for what your future holds. Go get 'em, Kendal!"

Tournament of Champions canceled

Tulsa's Tournament of Champions that was scheduled for Dec. 27-Dec. 29 has been canceled.

Beggs boys were scheduled to compete in the tourney.

TPS canceled the event due to rising COVID-19 numbers.

Instead, there will be a "Festival of Champions" event held at Jenks High School.

On Dec. 28, Beggs will play 5A first-ranked Memorial at 3 p.m. On Dec. 29, Beggs meets Webster at noon.

Games will be held three hours apart

so fans can clear the arena after each game.

The event was moved to Jenks so fans can attend as TPS policy doesn't allow fans at their events. Schools will receive 125 tickets each and no tickets will be sold at the door.

Morris gets win against Chandler



Morris Eagles took down Chandler last Thursday in an easy 78-42 victory. The Eagles go into Winter Break with a 3-2 record and will continue their season in January with a game Jan. 5 at Eufaula.



JACOB FACTOR | SPORTS EDITOR

Morris' Kolby Adams earned the Class 2A District 7 Quarterback of the Year.

Daniels earns MVP in Class 2A District 7

Morris, Beggs players win honors

Class 2A District 7 Awards:

MVP: Kendal Daniels, Beggs

Offensive players of the year: Levi Korir, Metro Christian; Hayden Cooper, Kiefer

Defensive player of the year: Cade Gibson, Metro Christian

Coach of the year: Jared McCoy, Metro Christian

Position players of the year

QB: Kolby Adams, Morris

WR: Malachi Penland and Junior Simpson, Metro Christian

OL: Evan Grantham, Metro Christian; Kolby Burris, Morris; Bailey Capehart, Kiefer

DL: Jacob Cloyde, Metro Christian; Jerry Ramos, Morris; Brock Capehart, Kiefer

ILB: Jesse McCoy, Victory Christian

OLB: Jesse Pendergrass, Beggs

CB: Trey Gaines, Beggs

S: Colton Cook, Metro Christian

K: Jonah Edwards, Victory Christian

P: Gabe Boyd, Kiefer

Injured athletes: Patrick Bann, Okmulgee; Wyatt Ward, Morris

First team

OL: Bryson Wolfe and Briley Phillips, Metro Christian; JJ Roe, Beggs; AJ Rodriguez, Victory Christian

RB: Maverick Parker, Kiefer

WR: Gabriel Calhoon, Victory Christian

DB/WR: Conner David, Haskell

OLB: Andre Rodriguez, Victory Christian

K: Caden Combs, Metro Christian

JACOB FACTOR | SPORTS EDITOR



PATRICK FORD | NEWS EDITOR

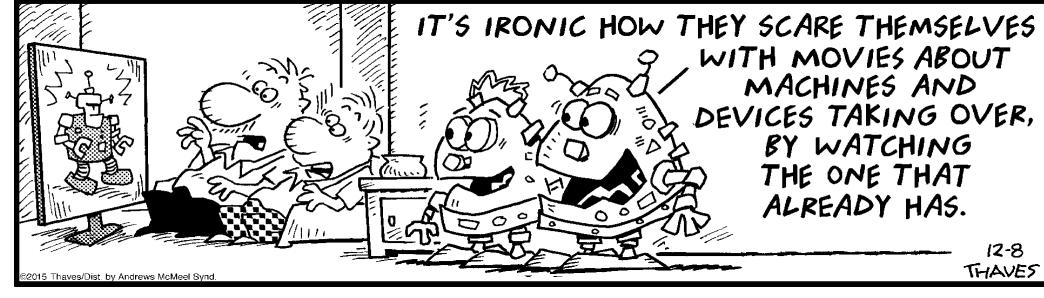
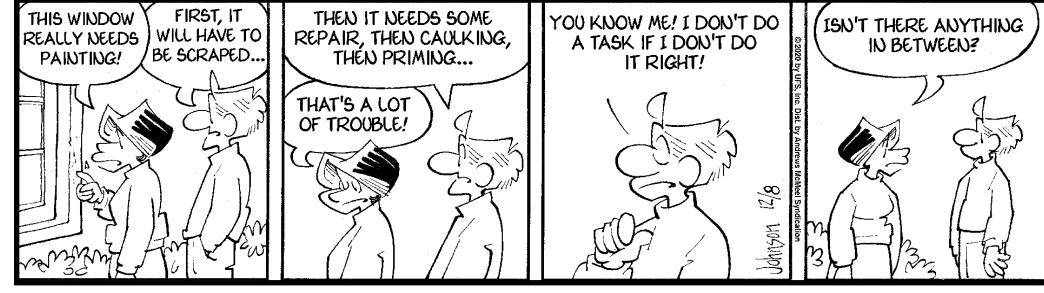
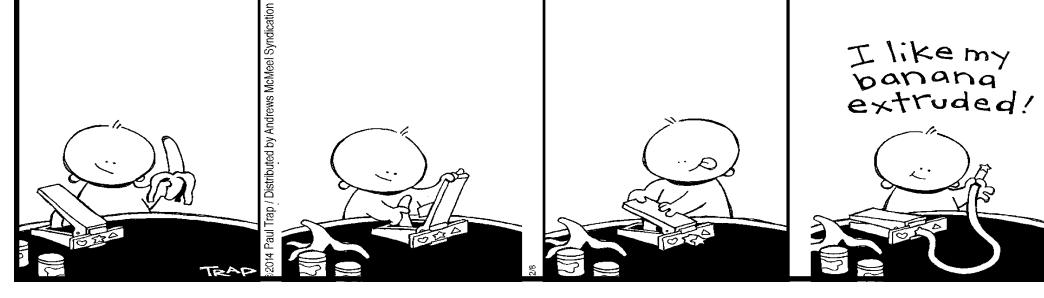
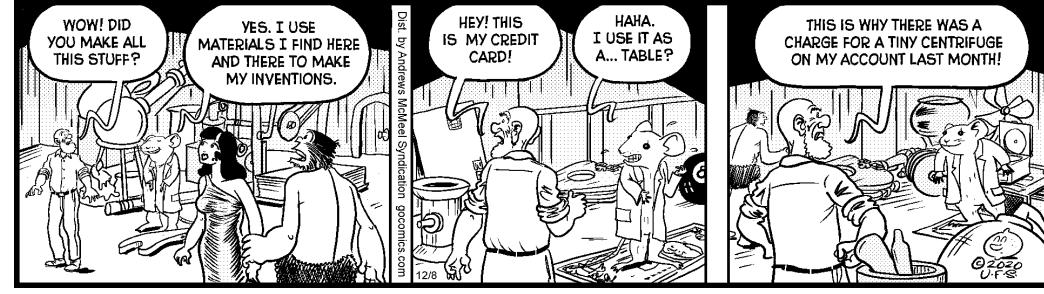
Salvation Army Distributes Food, Gifts

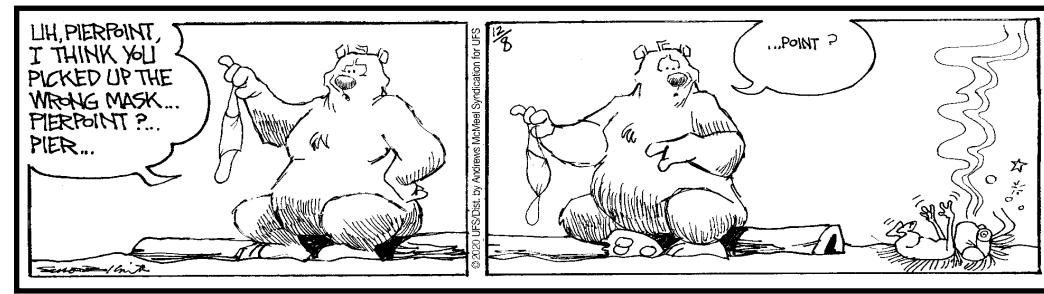
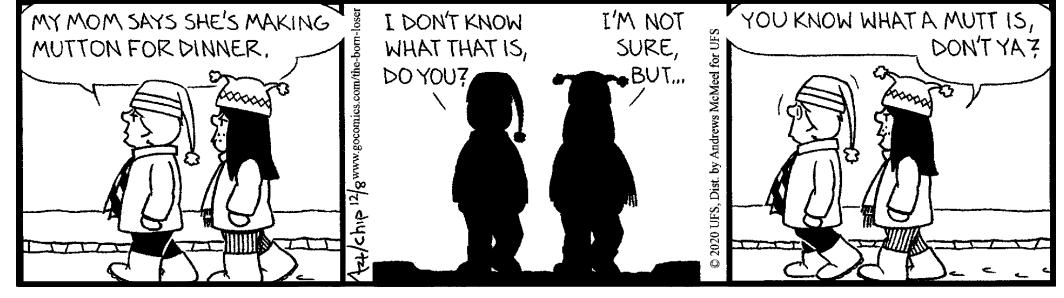
Omulgee County Salvation Army board members, staff and volunteers participated in distributing blessings to community children and families in need last week. The agency delivered presents for the Salvation Army Angel Tree,

along with provisions for Christmas dinner. The event was held at the Okmulgee Community Center this year.



COMICS

FRANK AND ERNEST ® by Ron Thaves

ARLO & JANIS ® by Jimmy Johnson

THATABABY ® by Paul Trap

ALLEY OOP ® by Dave Graue & Jack Bender

BIG NATE ® by Lincoln Peirce

THE GRIZWELLS ® by Bill Schorr

THE BORN LOSER ® by Art & Chip Sansom

ASTROGRAPH

Relax and don't overreact. Look at the consequences before leaping into something. Put more time and effort into personal improvement, instead of trying to change others. Mull over your options and make the necessary preparations to indulge in something you feel compelled to do. Take your time and do things right the first time.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Keep the peace at home and when dealing with friends and relatives. It's better to observe and be objective when others decide to share opinions. Focus on improving your life.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19)

Keep the momentum flowing. Refuse to let outside influences slow you down or cause uncertainty. Look for opportunities; you will meet individuals who can help you bring about positive change.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20)

Be a leader, not a follower. Set the standard, follow your heart and do what you do best. An offer looks promising. Don't let an emotional situation slow you down.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Refuse to get involved in someone's dilemma. You have enough to do without taking on responsibilities that don't belong to you. Less talk and more action will help you reach your objective.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

Be precise, and pay close attention to detail. Don't jump into something that has too many variables. Leave no room for mistakes or indiscretions. Play by the rules, and avoid those who don't.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

Be open to suggestions and willing to try something new, but don't get carried away. Someone you least expect will disappoint you. If you want something done, do it yourself.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

Emotions will surface, and anger will set in if you aren't careful. Take a positive approach when dealing with partners, and be willing to meet people halfway. Take care of unfinished business.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

Uncertainty regarding your reputation, position or status will leave you in a quandary. When in doubt, sit tight and let things unfold naturally. Pay more attention to self-improvement.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Take the initiative, and make things happen. It's up to you to lay the groundwork. Don't take risks with your or someone else's health. Abide by the rules, and focus on what you can do.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

Be careful what you spend your money on, and protect your possessions, passwords and documents. Look at all the alternatives, and make changes that lead to a less stressful lifestyle. Romance is in the stars.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)

You need to chill out, contemplate what's next and refuse to let others dictate what you can do. Use your imagination, consider what makes you happy and move forward with a good plan.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)

Reach out, touch base with people you miss and spread a little joy to the folks you love. Make plans that will give you something to look forward to when the time is right.

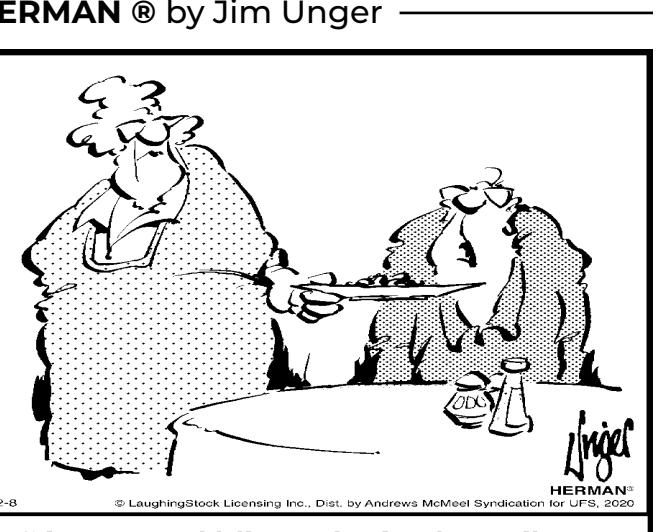

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★								
5		2	7	3	6			
	2	6		3		5	9	
				9	5	2		7
				1			4	2
				5	9	1	2	4
2				5			9	
9	7	1	2					
1	8		5			6	2	
3	2	8	9					5

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PREVIOUS SOLUTION								
1	8	7	2	4	6	9	5	3
2	6	3	8	9	5	7	4	1
4	9	5	1	7	3	2	6	8
8	5	2	3	1	4	6	7	9
6	1	9	7	8	2	4	3	5
3	7	4	5	6	9	8	1	2
9	3	1	4	2	7	5	8	6
7	2	8	6	5	1	3	9	4
5	4	6	9	3	8	1	2	7

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CELEBRITY CIPHER

by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present.

Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

"Z BUYL A' H WMKAR UAFDBLOL ZA HBL

DMOGR DBLOL Z DUAH HM PL UGG HBL

HZCL. HBL PLNH MW CF GZWL ZN HBL

C MYZAI." - NLUA XMAALOF

Previous Solution: "God grant me the courage not to give up what I think is right even though I think it is hopeless." - Admiral Chester W. Nimitz

TODAY'S CLUE: n sienba x

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410 E Trudgeon • Henryetta • 918-652-6600

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Legal Notices

Published in the Okmulgee Times 12-23-2020, 12-30-2020, 1-6-2021

IN THE DISTRICT COURT
WITHIN AND FOR
OKMULGEE COUNTY
STATE OF OKLAHOMA
QUICKEN LOANS INC.,
Plaintiff,
vs.GUS G. GORDON, PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
ESTATE OF GARY WESLEY
GORDON, DECEASED, et al.,
Defendant(s).

No. CJ-2020-56

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA
TO: Gus G. Gordon, Personal Representative of the Estate of Gary Wesley Gordon, Deceased, Donna Gordon, Spouse of Donna Gordon, if married

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued by Quicken Loans Inc., and that you must answer the Petition of said Plaintiff on file in said cause on or before February 4, 2021, or the allegations of said Petition will be taken as true and judgment rendered, foreclosing any interest you may have in the following-described real estate (property) situated in Okmulgee County, Oklahoma, to-wit:

Lot Thirty-four (34), in Jericho, a Subdivision, Okmulgee County, State of Oklahoma, less a tract described as follows: Beginning at the NW/C of said Lot 34; thence South 89°50'00" East along the North line of said Lot 34 a distance of 375.29 feet; thence South 00°00'00" West a distance of 300.26 feet to the South line of said Lot 34; thence North 89°50'00" West a distance of 225 feet to the SW/C of said Lot 34; thence North 26°32'39" West a distance of 336.21 feet to the point of beginning, for the sum of:

Reason

Unpaid Principal Balance:
Amount \$76,505.42
Date of Default: 11/01/2019
Interest Due From: 10/01/2019Lender's Fees & Costs:
Corporate Advances \$15.00
Accrued Late Charges \$66.48

Other Fees \$17.00

including all subsequent advances by Plaintiff, if any, for taxes, insurance premiums, or expenses necessary for the preservation of the subject property, all costs of this action; reasonable attorney's fees and costs as the Court may allow, and the costs of foreclosing your interest in the property and ordering said property sold with or without appraisal as Plaintiff may elect, all of which you will take due notice.

WITNESS my hand and official seal this 7th day of December, 2020.

Charly Criner, Court Clerk
By: /s/ Desiree Underwood
DEPUTY COURT CLERK

Don Timberlake - # 9021

Chynna Scruggs - # 32663

Kim S. Jenkins - # 32809

William H. Sullivan - # 8761

BAER & TIMBERLAKE, P.C.

P.O. Box 18486

LPXLP

Oklahoma City, OK 73154-0486
Telephone: (405) 842-7722
Facsimile: (405) 848-9349
don@baer-timberlake.comPublished in the Okmulgee Times
12-16-2020, 12-23-2020DISTRICT COURT OF
OKMULGEE COUNTY
STATE OF OKLAHOMA
PROBATE DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF THE
ESTATE OF LLOYD GARLAND
LANG, Deceased.

Case No. PB 2020-28

**ORDER AND NOTICE OF
HEARING FINAL ACCOUNT,
PETITION FOR ORDER AL-
LOWING FINAL ACCOUNT,
DETERMINING HEIRS,
DEVISEES AND LEGATEES,
DISTRIBUTING ESTATE AND
DISCHARGING PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE**

On December 09, 2020, Abbie Lang filed herein a Final Account and Petition for Order Allowing Final Account, Determining Heirs, Devisees and Legatees, Distributing Estate and Discharging Personal Representative in the above referenced case.

IT IS ORDERED that said Final Account and Petition for Order Allowing Final Account, Determining Heirs, Devisees and Legatees, Distributing Estate and Discharging Personal Representative is set for hearing at 9:00 A.M. on the 12th day of January, 2021, in the Okmulgee County District Court, at the Okmulgee County Courthouse, in Okmulgee, Oklahoma.

This Order shall constitute the notice of this hearing.
Dated: 9th day of December, 2020./s/Cynthia D Pickering
CYNTHIA D. PICKERING
Associate District Judge
The Barksdale Law Firm, P.C.
310 East Seventh Street
Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447Published in the Okmulgee Times
12-18-2020, 12-23-2020, 12-25-2020, 12-30-2020**NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO
SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND
NOTICE OF INTENT TO RE-
QUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS**

12/18/2020

Muscogee (Creek) Nation
2951 N. Wood Dr.Okmulgee, OK 74447
(918) 549-2580

These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Housing Authority.

**REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF
FUNDS**

On or about January 7th, 2020, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation will submit a request to the U.S. Office of Housing and Urban Development Southern Plains Office of Native American Programs, for the release of Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) funds of, grant number 20BV4007240 under Title/Section Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) ACT to purchase the Briarwood Apartments. The purchase of the Briarwood apartments will be used with HUD COVID-19 funding, to house displaced Native American families, who have been affected by the Covid 19 pandemic.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Housing Division has gone under contract to purchase the Briarwood Apartments, which consists of Forty-Eight (48) unit multi-family apartment buildings on 2.54 acres, more or less, including all minerals owned by Seller at the subject property. The Briarwood Apartments were built in 1987. A detached office, a laundry room and a small maintenance building are also included with the purchase agreement. The Briarwood Apartments are infrastructure and connected to the City of Okmulgee Public Works Authority, for solid waste disposal, recycling, waste water, sanitary sewers and water supply. The Briarwood Apartments are infrastructure with an electric utility provider.

We are purchasing the Briarwood apartments on an emergency basis, with HUD COVID-19 funding, to house displaced Native American families, who have been affected by the Covid 19 pandemic.

Legal description: Okm Unplatted 32-14-13 A Tract of land SW NW Described as Beg @ NW corner E 101.3' To E R-O-W Line Hwy 75, S 674.10' E 506.8' TO POB; Thence S 433' to a point on N R-O-W Line Hwy 56.

Physical address: 2800 N. Osage Place, Okmulgee, OK 74447

The estimated total project cost \$2,442,700.00 and will not involve activities other than those listed.

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFI-
CANT IMPACT**

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Office of Environmental Services, located at 2951 N. Wood Dr., Okmulgee, OK 74447 and may be examined or copied weekdays 8:00 A.M to 5:00 P.M., by appointments only.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Call Order: 240

JP No. 33444(04)

Description of work and location of project:

SSR-256B(061)SR SH-16 OKMULGEE JP No. 33444(04)

RESURFACE (ASPHALT)

SH-16: FROM THE SH-52 JUNCTION, EXTEND EAST NEAR BEGGS.

STATE OF OKLAHOMA, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

- By: TIM GATZ, Director.

ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS
AGAINST SHELTON B. RAY, DECEASED,
ARE REQUIRED TO PRESENT THE SAME
WITH A DESCRIPTION OF ALL SECURITY
INTEREST AND ALL OTHER COLLATERAL,
IF ANY, HELD BY EACH CREDITOR WITH
RESPECT TO SUCH CLAIM TO DEBRA ANN
GARDENHIRE, PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE
AT THE OFFICES OF HER ATTORNEYS,
THE BARKSDALE LAW FIRM, P.C., 310
EAST SEVENTH STREET, OKMULGEE,
OKLAHOMA 74447, BY THE FOLLOWING
PRESENTMENT DATE: JANUARY 19, 2020
OR SAME WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

All persons having claims against Shelton B. Ray, deceased, are required to present the same with a description of all security interest and all other collateral, if any, held by each creditor with respect to such claim to Debra Ann Gardenhire, Personal Representative at the offices of her attorneys, The Barksdale Law Firm, P.C., 310 East Seventh Street, Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447, by the following presentment date: January 19, 2020 or same will be forever barred.

**ENVIRONMENTAL
CERTIFICATION**

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation certifies to HUD that James H. Williams, in his capacity as Tribe's certifying official consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the Muscogee (Creek) Nation to use Program funds.

**OBJECTIONS TO
RELEASE OF FUNDS**

HUD will accept objections to its release of fund and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation; (b) the Muscogee (Creek) Nation has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality.

Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be emailed to SPONAP_EnvironmentalComments@hud.gov. Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Mr. James H. Williams, Certifying Official, Muscogee (Creek) Nation

At 9:22 a.m. the Board voted to go into Executive Session to discuss a confidential communication matter with the Board of County Commissioners' Attorney. Motion, Ballard; Second, Connors. Vote: Ballard, yes; Connors, yes; Hardridge, yes.

At 10:29 a.m. the Board voted to return from Executive Session and back to the regular meeting. Let the record show that no action was taken by the Board in Executive Session. Motion, Connors; Second, Ballard. Vote: Ballard, yes; Connors, yes; Hardridge, yes.

The Board approved to have a certified appraisal done to determine the value of the County property that was previously the site of the Henryetta radio tower. The radio tower was dismantled in 2019.

Motion, Connors; Second, Ballard. Vote: Ballard, yes; Connors, yes; Hardridge, yes.

The meeting adjourned at 10:31 a.m. with a motion by Connors and a second by Ballard. Vote: Ballard, yes; Connors, yes; Hardridge, yes.

/s/Becky Thomas

BECKY THOMAS, COUNTY CLERK

/s/Robert Hardridge

ROBERT HARDRIDGE, CHAIRMAN

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

At 10:29 a.m. the Board voted to return from Executive Session and back to the regular meeting. Let the record show that no action was taken by the Board in Executive Session. Motion, Connors; Second, Ballard. Vote: Ballard, yes; Connors, yes; Hardridge, yes.

The meeting adjourned at 10:31 a.m. with a motion by Connors and a second by Ballard. Vote: Ballard, yes; Connors, yes; Hardridge, yes.

The Board approved to have a certified appraisal done to determine the value of the County property that was previously the site of the Henryetta radio tower. The radio tower was dismantled in 2019.

Motion, Connors; Second, Ballard. Vote: Ballard, yes; Connors, yes; Hardridge, yes.

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/s/Becky Thomas

BECKY THOMAS, COUNTY CLERK

/s/Robert Hardridge

ROBERT HARDRIDGE, CHAIRMAN

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This Order shall constitute the notice of this hearing.
 Dated: 17th day of December, 2020.
 /s/Cynthia D Pickering
 CYNTHIA D. PICKERING
 Associate District Judge
 HUGH M. ROBINSON, OBA
 NO. 12188
 114 North Grand Ave., Suite 200
 Okmulgee, OK 74447
 918-756-2200 Telephone
 918-756-3860 Fax

Published in the Okmulgee Times 12-23-2020, 12-30-2020
IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF OKMULGEE COUNTY STATE OF OKLAHOMA
 IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN MARION KEYLON, DECEASED.
 Case No. PB-2013-75
ALIAS NOTICE OF HEARING FINAL ACCOUNT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE, PETITION FOR DETERMINATION OF HEIRS, DISTRIBUTION OF ESTATE AND DISCHARGE

Patti Miller, having on this day presented for settlement and filed in this Court her Final Account of the administration of the Estate of John Marion Keylon, Deceased, and having filed with her account a Petition for Distribution of the Estate of John Marion Keylon, Deceased, and Discharge as Personal Representative.

NOTICE is hereby given that the 26th day of January, 2021, at the hour of 9:00 o'clock A.M. of said date in the Courtroom of the undersigned Judge, or the Judge to whom this cause is assigned on said hearing date, in the County Courthouse in the city of Okmulgee, Okmulgee County, Oklahoma, has been duly fixed and appointed by the Court for the hearing thereon, at which time and place any person interested may appear, and show cause, if any they have, why said account should not be approved, the heirs of said Decedent should

not be determined, the distribution of said Estate should not be made as prayed for, and said Patti Miller discharged as Personal Representative.

/s/Cynthia D Pickering
 CYNTHIA PICKERING

JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

Jeremy T. Pittman, 18808
 Jeremy T. Pittman, PLC
 311 W. 7th - P.O. Box 486
 Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447
 Telephone: (918) 938-0604

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 CMA 2:30 pm - 10:30 am thru Fri
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United Community Action Program is accepting applications for a Multi-Purpose Aide at Henryetta Head Start/Early Head Start.

Desired qualifications: must have High School Diploma or GED, experience working with children is a plus. Health & retirement benefits are available. Applications are available at Henryetta Head Start, located at 100 W. Cleger Street in Henryetta, or on our website at www.ucapinc.org or call 918-762-2561, ext. 147. EOE. Closing date is Monday, December 28, 2020.

United Community Action Program is accepting applications for a Health & Safety Aide at Henryetta Head Start / Early Head Start

Desired qualifications: High School Diploma or GED, also experience working with children is a plus. Job duties will include: Temperature checks, health & safety sanitation, tracking data, etc. Health & retirement benefits are offered. Applications are available at Henryetta Head Start, located at 100 W. Cleger Street in Henryetta, or on our website at www.ucapinc.org or call 918-762-2561, ext. 147. EOE. Closing date is Monday, December 28, 2020.

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NOTICE OF VACANCY

Applications are now being accepted for the position shown below. For further information contact Ravonda Higgins at (918) 758-0840. Qualified and interested persons should submit an application, resume and current certifications to Green Country Technology Center, Attn: Dee Dee Estes, PO Box 1217, Okmulgee, OK 74447-1217 or emailed to destes@gctcok.edu. Applications and job descriptions can be found by visiting our website at www.gctcok.edu. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

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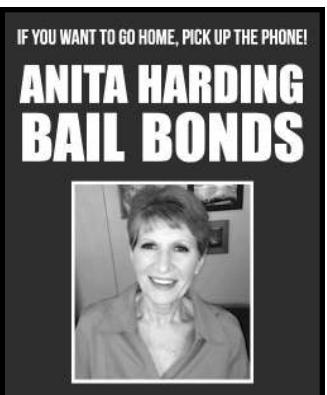
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