

# THE GROVE SUN

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Grove is being considered as a location for a helicopter medical ambulance service, Air Evac.

## Air Evac considering Grove location

Carolyn Ashford Boothe  
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GROVE — The Grove Economic Development Committee learned Air Evac, a helicopter medical rescue service, may soon open a location in the city.

The company which operates in 15 states, is interested in leasing land behind the current EMS building on 13th Street near the hospital. Air Evac would like to build a building and a helicopter pad. The city owns the land it is interested in leasing.

Air Evac has nearby locations in Claremore and Muskogee as well as Springdale and Fort Smith, Arkansas.

The company is a membership organization established in 1985 by citizens in West Plains, Missouri. They wanted to provide air medical

transportation to rural areas since most, at that time, were based in metropolitan areas.

Today it operates more than 140 helicopter air ambulance bases in 15 states.

Flight crews consist of a pilot, flight nurse and flight paramedic. They are available seven days a week.

The company is interested in being located near Integris Grove. According to city manager Bill Keefer, the company would initially operate from the Grove Airport until its facility is built.

Keefer says the company is interested in a 10-year lease and would like to have 1.5 acres for the facility.

During the Economic Development Committee meeting, Board Member David Adzigian questioned the proposed location.

SEE AIR EVAC PG 4

## Josh West authors bill to limit marijuana business licenses

GROVE — Grove State Representative Josh West (R-Grove), the majority leader of the Oklahoma House of Representatives, authored a bill to limit the number of marijuana business licenses. Last week it passed the House and now goes to the Senate for debate.

HB 1172 would require the Oklahoma Medical Marijuana Authority (OMMA) to limit new licenses beginning Sept. 1 for another two years. West contends the state's Medical Marijuana Authority does not have the manpower to properly regulate the more than 10,0250 business licenses. The bill would limit the state to have no more than 8,000 business licenses with a maximum of 2,000 dispensaries, 5,000 growers, and 1,000 processors.

"We need to slow it down. We need to help

SEE MARIJUANA PG 3



Special District Judge Alicia Littlefield will retire on April 1. She plans to spend more time with her husband, former State Senator Rick Littlefield (left) who recently sold his business in Bernice. In addition, she says she will miss associating with the court staff, particularly Delaware County Court Clerk Caroline Weaver (right).

## Judge retires after 25 years

GROVE — When Special District Judge Alicia Littlefield announced she was retiring April 1, many of her colleagues thought it was another of her practical jokes.

However, after 25 years on the bench Judge

Littlefield is actually retiring. Her decision was encouraged because her husband Rick Littlefield recently sold the family's convenience store in Bernice.

"We love to travel, and it is time to do things together," the Judge

added. "For 25 years, I have called the jail every Sunday night at 6:30 p.m. to see if any bonds need to be set. I have called from out-of-the country when we were on vacation. It is time to end those phone calls."

Judge Littlefield grew

up in Bethany and is the daughter of a Pentecostal minister. She grew up watching "Perry Mason" and instead of dreaming to be Della Reese, she wanted to be part of the courtroom drama when Mason unmasked the identity of the true

SEE LITTLEFIELD PG 3



Rep. Josh West

## Three vie for Ward 2 City Council Seat

GROVE — Voters in Grove City Council Ward 2 will choose a new council member on Tuesday April 6. The current council member

Josh McElhaney chose not to seek re-election

The three men seeking to replace him are Zeke Daniels, Steven Thomas and Jeremy Watters. The

district is the northeast part of the city bounded by Main Street on the west and 13th Street on the south.

The city's website

provides a map of each of the council districts.

While the actual election is on Tuesday, April 6, early voting will begin on Thursday, April 1.

SEE ELECTION PG 3

## Delco Commissioners focus on Jay library

JAY — The branch manager of the Delaware County Library in Jay, Shelly Cook, addressed the Delaware County Commissioners on Tuesday asking for help with building maintenance and repairs.

The library is part of the Eastern Oklahoma Library system, but the building is the responsibility of the county and city.

County commissioner Jake Callihan has met with Cook and said he is talking with the Cherokee

Nation to see if they can help to repaving the parking lot and perhaps the alley behind the library.

The library is located at 429 S. 9th Street. Cook told the commissioners that she is getting bids on flooring as well.

In addition, there is concern about the building's exterior lighting. Commissioner Callihan said that he is concerned whether the lighting is adequate to allow staff to safely get to their cars after dark.

SEE LIBRARY PG 4



Thomas



Watters



Daniels



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## Gordon M. Hatcher (1934-2021)

Dr. Gordon Merrell Hatcher passed away peacefully, at Tri Star Centennial Medical Center Nashville, Tn. Sunday February 28, 2021.

He was surrounded by his loving family, reading scriptures and singing his favorite hymns. Born November 22, 1934 to Gordon A. Merrill and Hazel (Kiser) Merrill in Sorona California. After losing his father in a work-related accident at the age of 3, his mother remarried a man who adopted Gordon giving him his last name, Hatcher. Gordon later changed his middle name to Merrell, although with a different spelling, to honor the name of his biological father. The family later moved to Commerce Oklahoma where Gordon lived until adulthood.

Gordon gained a love for fishing at an early age. He spoke of his mother's expert fishing skills, and days spent fishing in local mining ponds and lakes in Northeast Oklahoma. He also loved sports, playing football and baseball, becoming a baseball letterman at Commerce Highschool (home of all-star Mickey Mantel). He grew up around talented players who would later go on to the pros, and even dated Mickey Mantel's sister in high school.

Gordon started his working career early in life, delivering local newspapers in Commerce, where he became editor of the "The Viking" newspaper, and manager of "The Norswind" newspaper, by age 18. These jobs afforded him to purchase a pink 1950 Metropolitan car, and his entrepreneurial skills gave him the idea to charge 25 cents to anyone who rode with him, including his dates!

Gordon graduated with honors, Salutatorian from Commerce High School and then married young at the age of 19. He and his wife had two sons together but divorced shortly following the tragic death of their oldest son Merrell William Hatcher on May 1, 1978 at the age of 22.

It was the sole encouragement of a high school teacher that inspired Gordon to leave Oklahoma and begin his life of ministry and education. He also pursued degrees in journalism and psychology in numerous states.

### Undergraduate Studies:

Northeastern Oklahoma A & M Jr. College, Miami, Oklahoma 1952-1953 (studied with History and Journalism scholarships)

Kansas State Teacher's College, Pittsburg, Kansas 1953 (studied with Journalism scholarship)

Oklahoma Baptist University Shawnee, Kansas 1956 (studied Religion and Journalism with Journalism scholarship)

Served as Vice President of Oklahoma Collegiate Press Assistant 1953-1955.

### Graduate Studies:

University of Pacific Stockton, California. M.A. Student Personnel and Guidance Counselor, Social Psychology. 1966-1968

Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma. Doctor of Education. 1971

Western Colorado University (years N/A)

### Teaching:

St. Gregory's College, Shawnee Kansas. Instructor Psychology, Sociology, Anthropology 1971

Oklahoma City Southwestern, Bethany, Oklahoma. Psychology and Sociology 1970

Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, Kansas. Extension Dept 1966-1967

Norman College, Norman Park, Georgia. General Psychology, Educational Psychology, Education 1964-1966

Missouri Baptist University, Professor 1987-1992

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville Arkansas, Assistant Professor 1990-1992

Henderson State University, Arkadelphia, Arkansas, Assistant Professor 1990-1992

Barry University, Orlando Florida, Professor 1995-2000

### Administration:

Dean of Crowder College, Neosho Missouri, 1970-1984

Consultant in High School relations at Oklahoma City

Southwestern College 1970-1971

Director of Field Services at Oklahoma Baptist University 1966-1970

Director of Counseling and Guidance at Norman College 1964-1966

Board of Directors at St. Charles Parish Guidance Center, Norco, Louisiana 1962-1964

Counselor at Goodwill Industries, New Orleans, Louisiana 1961-1964

Group and Individual Counselor at Sellers Home for

Unwed Mothers, New Orleans Louisiana 1962-1963

Director of Church Street Counseling, Orlando Florida, 1990-2005

President of Florida Marriage and Family Therapist Assoc. 2002-2003/Board Member

1999-2006/Approved Supervisor F.M.F.T.

### Ministry (From Teenager to Retirement):

Gordon traveled holding revival services and filling pulpits in the following states:

Oklahoma, Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Georgia, and too many others to list. And after retirement, pastored First Baptist Church, Blue Jacket Oklahoma, 2007-2015, and Grace Presbyterian Church, Grove Oklahoma, 2015-2019

Gordon met Karen (Janine) Stapp in 1985 in St Louis Missouri. He and Karen married January 1, 1990. They both pursued careers in education and ministry in Missouri, Florida, Arkansas, and Colorado. Gordon and Karen retired in 2005 on Grand Lake in Grove Oklahoma. Together they enjoyed boating, fishing, making new friends, going to yard sales, pastoring two churches, and especially enjoyed eating at Mazzi's with dear friends and neighbors every Tuesday. Karen passed away in 2016 and Gordon remained working in ministry in Grove until 2019.

Gordon spent the last two years of his life living on Cheatham Lake near Nashville Tennessee. Although he walked with a walker and occasionally used an automatic scooter, he was still able to enjoy the outdoors, frequently traveled back to Oklahoma, Florida and Chicago. He continued to enjoy pontoon fishing, meeting people, eating out, attending church, as well as an occasional backstage guest at the Grand Ole Opry. He loved reading his Bible daily, listening to piano hymns and time spent at family functions, and always looked forward to visits from great-great nieces Evelyne and Audra Pitney. Gordon is predeceased by his parents, wife Karen (Janine) and son Merrell. He is survived by numerous close friends and family and will be sorely missed by them all.

Memorial Service will be held March 30, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. Grace Presbyterian Church, 206 Elk Grove St. Grove OK. Officiated by Rev. Richard Dayringer Interment of ashes following the service at I.O.O.F. Cemetery, Neosho Oklahoma.



Gordon M. Hatcher

## Delaware County Public Records

### Divorces

Connie Sue Appleton v. David S. Appleton

Timothy J. Chandler v. Emily Chandler

Codi Lynn Espinoza v. Edilberto Espinoza

Delaina Pauline Green v. Whitney Nichole Green

Kacee Leeann Stick v. Justin Trent Luper

Renee Russell v. Mike Russell

Latisha M. Smith v. Brian J. Smith

Ashley Diane Taylor v. Eric Burton Taylor

### Protective orders

Jody Jean Declue v. Rick Declue

Candace Marie Pairis v. Anthony

Norris Kuite

Renee Russell v. Mike Edwin Russell

### Misdemeanors

State of Oklahoma v. Krysten Butcher

for driving under the influence alcohol, misdemeanor

State of Oklahoma v. Jeremy Robert

Elrod for driving while suspended/

cancelled/revoked, a misdemeanor

State of Oklahoma v. Lisa Marie

Huffman for driving while suspended/

cancelled/revoked, a misdemeanor

State of Oklahoma v. Casey Clark

Mahone for driving while suspended/

cancelled/revoked, a misdemeanor

### Felonies

State of Oklahoma v. Bill Joseph

Brown for malicious injury to property

over \$1,000- a felony

State of Oklahoma v. Dennis Allan

Dennis for possession of contraband by

an inmate, felony

State of Oklahoma v. Brian Mayhew

for possess firearms during probation, a

felony

State of Oklahoma v. Brandon Lee

Presley for rape – first degree, a felony

State of Oklahoma v. Joshua Chad

Quick for unauthorized use of a vehicle,

AFCF, a felony

State of Oklahoma v. Satch Clinton

Williams for kidnapping AFCF, a

felony

## Cherokee Nation making it easier for public to access COVID-19 vaccines

TAHLEQUAH — The Cherokee Nation is making it even easier for the public to access the COVID-19 vaccine at tribal health centers throughout the 14-county reservation by improving the registration process, reducing paperwork requirements and broadening vaccine distribution to all those in and outside the reservation.

Any member of the public, regardless of where they live, is now eligible to schedule a COVID-19 vaccine appointment at any of the tribe's outpatient health centers.

Those looking to receive the COVID-19 vaccine can now call 1-539-234-4099 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday to schedule an appointment. No registration paperwork is required before calling, and in many instances, same-day appointments may be available. Patients scheduling a COVID-19 vaccine can also now request either the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine when registering.

"Our Cherokee Nation health team was extremely successful in ensuring we reached our most vulnerable populations, including Cherokee elders and first responders, when our first COVID-19 vaccines arrived in December," said Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. "Since then, we have continued to successfully reach Cherokee citizens of all ages through rigorous outreach efforts and rapid expansion of our vaccine availability. That's why, as a good community partner,

the Cherokee Nation is now offering COVID-19 vaccine appointments to anyone, regardless of where they live, including our Cherokee citizens, citizens of other federally recognized tribes, and members of the public. We also remain focused on making the process faster and easier to help create safer communities."

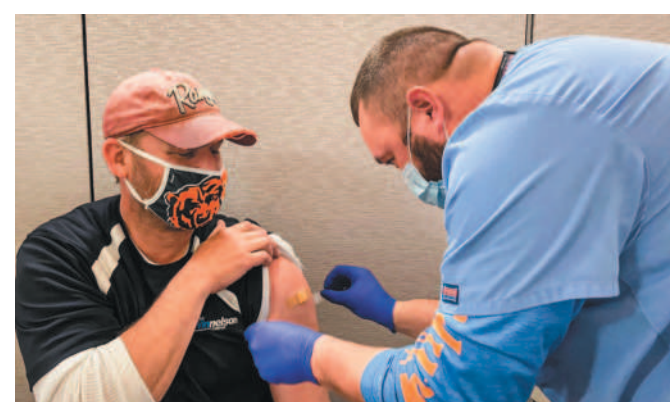
Since receiving its first distribution of vaccines in mid-December, the Cherokee Nation has administered more than 36,500 doses of vaccines.

"We are making every effort to ensure the vaccination process is quick and easy for all patients," said Chief of Staff Todd Enlow. "The average wait time to receive a vaccine is typically less than about 10 minutes from the time you walk in the doors of one of our health centers. Of course, out of an abundance of caution, we will ask that you remain on-site in designated areas for monitoring by our health care teams for 15 minutes following your vaccine, or if you have

certain underlying health conditions, you may be monitored for up to 30 minutes. With nine vaccine distribution locations throughout Northeast Oklahoma, it has never been easier or quicker to get the COVID-19 vaccine."

Vaccines are available in all Cherokee Nation Health Service locations in Jay, Tahlequah, Ochelata, Sallisaw, Muskogee, Vinita, Nowata and Salina. The tribe is also offering scheduled appointments at the new Cherokee Nation office located at 402 W. Locust Street in Stilwell while the Wilma P. Mankiller Health Center is undergoing expansion. Vaccinations continue to be administered by appointment only and walk-ins are not available at this time.

Evening appointments are also now being offered at all health centers every Thursday until 7 p.m. in the month of March, and Cherokee Nation Health Services is exploring other community vaccine outreach opportunities.



Jason Stanfill, 44, traveled from Broken Arrow to receive his COVID-19 vaccine at the Cherokee Nation Outpatient Health Center in Tahlequah on March 18.

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# ELECTION

CONTINUED FROM PG 1

According to the County Election Board Secretary Crystal January, early voting is open to all voters.

Early voting will be available from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. on both April 1 and April 2 at the County Election Board in Jay. Early voting is not available at regular polling places.

Each of the candidates spoke with the Grove Sun and provided information about their candidacy.

## Zeke Daniels

Zeke Daniels is originally from Orlando, Florida, where he grew up in the Baptist church where his father was a worship leader. Daniels ran a homeless shelter for seven years in Florida and then joined a church as Youth leader, contemporary worship leader and communications director. Daniels came to Grove in 2014 to accept his current position with the Grove First United Methodist Church where he is contemporary worship leader, communications director and youth assistant.

He and his wife Talitha have seven children, two of whom are adults, and five of whom still live at home and attend Grove schools.

Daniels is also well known for his frequent appearances as a musician playing both as a solo artist and as a member of a band.

Daniels said that he plans to “work with city council members to make good things happen” including working to help facilitate more affordable housing, promote tourism and promote the area as a great retirement destination.

He said that he is sorry to see city manager Bill Keefer retire because he has been fiscally responsible and is leaving the city with a surplus. He would like to find a similar person to replace him when he retires this summer.

He would like to work to develop more kid-friendly attractions. “I hate it that kids leave Grove to spend money on activities.”

He says he will work to bring new types of businesses to the area. “We need new types of businesses that just don’t come in a duplicate ones that are already here.”

## Steven Thomas III

Steven Thomas was raised in northern California in a rural area much like Grove. He joined the U.S. Army and served from 2005 until 2009. After leaving the service he joined Direct Financial and Insurance Services and purchased the business in 2017.

He and his wife have five children and moved to Grove in 2017. His mother- and father-in-law lived in the Grove area and they came for a visit and fell in love with the area.

Since moving to the area Thomas has been an active volunteer including as a member of the Grove Rotary, a tutor at the elementary school, a member of the Grove American Legion Post, a member of the Grove Veterans Ritual Team and serves as Commander of the Grove Sons of the American Legion Squadron 187. He is also a volunteer football and baseball coach for his sons’ teams. He is a member of the Bible Baptist Church in Grove.

Thomas ran two years ago for the Grove

City Council’s at-large seat. “I think there is a need for change. The council rubber stamps every issue and goes with the flow. I lost all trust two years ago when the council flip-flopped on a zoning issue. Voting against it seven days before the election and then immediately after the election voting for a zoning change that allowed vacation homes to be placed in neighborhoods.

“I want the council to stop hiding discussions and deciding issues before they meet. It is not fair to a lot of people. Public voting is a formality.”

He had praise for current city manager Bill Keefer saying he “has done a lot of good. He is very open and approachable. Economic growth has been stellar.”

Thomas says he is not a politician and he says what he means. “I stand behind my word.” He says he has been campaigning by visiting with businesses and constituents and communicating through social media.

## Jeremy Watters

Jeremy Watters grew up in Bartlesville and after high school joined the Air Force. He spent four years stationed in Japan. He returned to Bartlesville and worked as a school district mechanic. In 2010 he married and became a missionary in Bangladesh with both he and his wife teaching at Grace International School. They returned home for a vacation in 2016 and during that time bombings shattered buildings near their school. With two young children, the couple decided not to return.

His wife became a teacher in the Grove

district, and he worked for the Sheriff’s office for a year and then in maintenance at Simmons. In January 2020, he decided to follow his passion and earn a teaching degree. He is a full-time student working to obtain his teaching degree. He plans to either teach in elementary or high school teaching science or math.

Watters says government should “stay out of people’s personal life. I am for common sense. There needs to be a reason why government takes an action.” He does not believe in the mask mandate passed by the council. He also is concerned about the downtown traffic light that has the right turn lane blocked at Third and Main Streets.

He would like to see more businesses that are family oriented and cater to moderate and lower income families. “We have many people who are retired and on a fixed income. There needs to be more opportunities of shopping for the lower income.”

Watters said he would also like to see more child-oriented businesses. “We need have something other than just the lake for our kids.”

He would like to see money spent on projects rather than just on planning. We need to implement.”

He would like to work on changing traffic flow so that there is not such a backup in downtown and at the light on Highway 59 and Leisure Road.

He is an active member of the First Baptist Church and says that he hasn’t put out signs because he thinks they litter the roadway. “I think I am well-known and known for my straight talk.”

# LITTLEFIELD

CONTINUED FROM PG 1

criminal on the witness stand.

Littlefield received both her undergraduate and law school degree from Oklahoma City University. She served as a prosecuting attorney and then a public defender before being appointed by District Judge Sam C. Fullerton to serve as a Special District Judge.

Judge Littlefield gives her staff and colleagues the credit for a well-run courtroom. “I have spent much of my 25 years with Caroline Weaver, the Delaware County’s Court Clerk. “I could not have done my job without the outstanding help of Weaver and my staff, the prosecuting attorneys, the lawyers and the help of law enforcement. You have to use common sense.”

She is most passionate about the establishment of the drug court and participating in adoptions.

The drug court was established in 2013 and provides assistance to those suffering from addiction rather than sending them to prison. “The results have been dramatic. To watch a person transform their lives is very rewarding.” Judge Littlefield has taken their recovery personally and has even been asked to perform marriage ceremonies for the court’s graduates.

She also cites the joy of adoptions as some of her career highlights.

Her husband, former State

Senator Rick Littlefield, says he will not miss the 3 a.m. knocks on the door to sign search warrants.

“I love all facets of the job. I am proud that our county ranks in the top three counties for collection of child support in the state.”

In addition, the Judge said that technological advances during her time on the bench have changed how the court system works. Now instead of bringing prisoners into the courtroom, the county uses smart board technology to have the prisoners appear in court by closed circuit television. The attorneys meet with their clients and appear in the courtroom.

Judge Littlefield is known for her clean desk routine. She does not leave the courthouse until all matters are taken care of. “If you leave something undone, it just stacks up.” The judge’s day is certainly not a 9 to 5 job, and she looks forward to raising cattle and traveling.

The school kids who she enjoys giving tours may miss her signature gavel pencils and also getting their hands on the chocolate kisses she typically passes out each time a drug court defendant successfully passes one of the phases.

Her office will definitely require a little remodeling to remove the sayings on her walls. “I will miss the people the most. Every day is different, and the staff makes it easy.”

# MARIJUANA

CONTINUED FROM PG 1

combat the black market. It will help all businesses that are following the law, “West said.

West said that currently, the OMMA requires testing of all products. However, West says that only 11% of the product is currently being tested. “It allows product not grown in Oklahoma to come into the state and be ‘washed’. It is not tested. This is medical marijuana and it is our job to regulate it.”

West noted that the Department of Health had only 90 days to set up the Authority once voters passed the legislation. Marijuana Authority is currently working on a system that would track marijuana plants from “seed to

sale” which would be a major step in regulating the industry.

West’s bill would require that once a license is issued, the business would have to become active within 18 months. West contends that many licenses currently never become active and are subject to organized crime and other black-market uses. Instead of actually having a business it allows them to transport the product. The bill also requires dispensaries to have at least \$5,000 in sales each month.

There are several bills concerning the medical marijuana industry including one which would prohibit the sales of

agricultural land to foreign citizens unless their country also allows United States citizens to own land in their country.

The author is House Speaker Charles McCall (R-Atoka) and is HB 1497. It is directly aimed at Chinese citizens. In Delaware County there are 198 grower licenses. Of those, 29 are in the Grove zip code, 55 in the Jay zip code and 22 in Afton. Afton also has another six growers that are in either Craig or Ottawa County.

West says that legitimate operators need protection and those selling or transporting it on the black market need to be stopped.



Delaware County has 198 marijuana licensed growers.

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# LIBRARY

CONTINUED FROM PG 1



The library in Jay may soon have some new upgrades including paving of the parking lot, better exterior lighting and some new flooring.

The commission was going to have staff look at whether the lights could be redirected or if new ones are needed.

Another possible upgrade for the building would be to create an entry foyer including a new set of doors. "It would make it safer for staff as well as provide an entryway."

Cook expressed concern about the

daily cleaning of the library. She pointed out that a 2002 Operating Agreement between the City of Jay and the county requires that the two entities will be responsible for the maintenance of the building.

Cook noted that "We need someone every day to vacuum and take out the trash." She said that she now only

has part-time staff and that their responsibilities don't allow them to do those chores.

Chairman David Poindexter pointed out while he had never discussed who would be responsible for the daily maintenance with the city, but that he would talk with the mayor to work out the issue. "We have never had a specific agreement on who would pay for maintenance, but we have always been able to work things out so the library is taken care of."

Human Resource Director Vicki Cossairt mentioned the possibility an AARP employee taking over the responsibilities.

In other action, the commission opened a bid for a used pumper/tanker truck for the Butler Fire District. There was only one bid and it was from the New England Fire Department for \$119,000. There was a delivery option of an additional \$2,300.

Since no one from the district was present, the commission agreed to send the bid to the fire district for review.

# AIR EVAC

CONTINUED FROM PG 1

Adzigan was a Navy helicopter pilot serving two combat tours in the Gulf of Tonkin flying search and rescue. He then spent 27 years in simulation and training industry.

Adzigan questioned the proposed flight pattern for the helicopter if the location is approved what the possible use for the rest of the six-acre tract might be.

He also expressed concern about the parks in the area including the ball fields and pool area. "I have concerns about the location with housing so close. There could be flights

in at 2 a.m. or 3 a.m." He asked if the company would consider being housed at the airport instead.

Adzigan serves on the Grove Municipal Airport Managing Trust Authority as well as on the board of the nearby Grand Lake Family YMCA.

Keefer said the company was interested in that specific location because it would have access to the hospital without using the hospital's land pad.

It currently has more than 3 million people covered by its AirMedCare Network.

# S U D O K U

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

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

Sudoku uses pure logic and requires no math to solve. It is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers.

The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once.

# CRYPTOQUIP

CZI QZK'O RZLAJPGPKQ GZM  
 OZ MZJE OGH B RZSSDABHNSP  
 UZSQHKX RGDHJ? SPO LP  
 NJPDE HO QZMK UZJ CZI.

Friday's Cryptoquip: WHAT SINGLE STATEMENT WOULD BE ACCURATE ABOUT EITHER A MAN OR A GOAT? IT'S HALF THE FAUN.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals U

# C R O S S W O R D

Across

- 1) "Cinderella" event
- 5) Beat one's\_ (jabber)
- 9) Jack Homer's fruits
- 14) Opera tenor's tune
- 15) Cast-of-thousands film
- 16) Like Halloween sounds
- 17) The IT department manages it
- 20) Registers register them
- 21) Foot-activated devices
- 22) Stagnation
- 25) Grig, when grown
- 26) Eyeball-bending drawings
- 28) Till contents
- 32) One in agreement
- 37) Steak condiment
- 38) Question upon meeting a stranger
- 41) "... with in sight"
- 42) Gross out
- 43) Installs a ready-made lawn
- 44) Sounds the bells
- 46) "As to"
- 47) Seemingly without end
- 53) Extremely delicate, as beauty
- 58) Like many marsh plants
- 59) Not what it once was
- 62) Sheds tears
- 63) Fiendish or wicked
- 64) Do a lawn job
- 65) "Faster!"
- 66) Melon protector
- 67) Changes color, in a way

Down

- 1) Low guys at the opera
- 2) Indo-European

- 3) Cotton thread used for hosiery
- 4) Procrastinator's promise
- 5) Valuable stone
- 6) \_ and downs
- 7) Atomizer output
- 8) Basket maker?
- 9) "She loves me" decider
- 10) More than risqué
- 11) Caspian Sea tributary

- 12) Deep mud
- 13) Calls, in poker
- 18) Maximal suffix
- 19) Yard divisions
- 23) Minute amount
- 24) Impersonator
- 27) Building used for sports
- 28) Upscale eatery
- 29) Luminous surrounding

- 30) Dundee native
- 31) Deep red blood pigment
- 32) Grain beards
- 33) "Vamoose!"
- 34) Watermelon discard
- 35) "East" or "west" endings
- 36) Flanders of animation
- 37) Pension starter?
- 39) Harvard rival
- 40) Topple from power
- 44) Jury member, essentially
- 45) Pencil attachment
- 46) Commonplace, as writing
- 48) Bungle up
- 49) Didn't stay divorced
- 50) Poverty-stricken
- 51) "Time is money," e.g.
- 52) Harps' older relatives
- 53) Make impressions?
- 54) Drive\_
- 55) Elder son, often
- 56) Still-life pitcher
- 57) Name on many jeans' labels
- 60) "Jaws" sighting
- 61) Like a centenarian

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Answers to Friday's crossword

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## Legals

**IN THE DISTRICT COURT IN AND FOR DELAWARE COUNTY STATE OF OKLAHOMA**

JON IRELAND, a/k/a JOHN IRELAND, Plaintiff,

v.

MARVIN E. DEAN, if living, and if not living, THEN HIS UNKNOWN HEIRS, SUCCESSORS and ASSIGNS; and THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, SUCCESSORS and ASSIGNS OF WILMA D. DEAN, Deceased, Defendants.

**NOTICE BY PUBLICATION CV-2021-21**

THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS;

GREETINGS:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that you have been sued in the District Court of Delaware County, State of Oklahoma, in Case No. CV-2021-21, wherein the above-named Plaintiff alleges that he is the sole owner and holder of the following-described real property, to-wit:

Lots 1 and 2, Block D, Unit 1, Sunnywood Estates, a subdivision, according to the recorded Plat thereof, Delaware County, Oklahoma ("the subject property").

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that, unless you answer the Plaintiff's Petition on or before the 10th day of May, 2021, the allegations in the Petition will be taken as true and judgment will be rendered determining that you, and all persons claiming by or through you, have no right, title or interest in or to the subject property adverse to the Plaintiff or otherwise. You are referred to the Petition for further details.

WITNESS my hand this 10th day of March, 2021.

**Caroline M. Weaver, Court Clerk**  
**Delaware County, Oklahoma:**  
**By: Chelsea Hicks, Deputy**

**Phil K. Thompson, OBA # 8979 DAVIS & THOMPSON, PLLC**  
314 S. 5th Street  
P.O. Box 487  
Jay, OK 74346-0487  
Telephone: (918)253-4220  
Facsimile: (918)253-8110  
Attorney for Plaintiff

(Published in The Grove Sun March 16, 23, and 30, 2021) LPXLP

**IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF DELAWARE COUNTY STATE OF OKLAHOMA**

Tammy Marquez, Petitioner,

vs.

Jose Marquez, Respondent.

**NOTICE BY PUBLICATION FD-21-38**

THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA TO: Jose Martinez Marquez

YOU are hereby notified that a Petition has been filed alleging Petitioner is entitled to a divorce from you.

You are further notified that you must file and Answer to this Petition within 20 days following the final running of this notice, otherwise a default judgement may be entered in Petitioner's favor.

WITNESS my hand and seal this 12<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2021.

**/s/Caroline Weaver, Court Clerk**  
**By: /s/Chelsea Hicks, Deputy Court Clerk (SEAL)**

(Published in The Grove Sun March 16, 2021) LPXLP

**IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF DELAWARE COUNTY STATE OF OKLAHOMA**

In Re the Marriage of:

LINDA CASTILLO, Petitioner,

and

MARCOS ANTONIO MARAVILLA CRUZ, Respondent.

**NOTICE BY PUBLICATION FP-2020-20**

THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA TO: MARCOS ANTONIO MARAVILLA CRUZ

You are hereby notified that the Petitioner has sued you for Paternity. You must answer the Petition on or before the 22nd day of April, 2021, or the Petition will be taken as true and Paternity and Custody and other relief sought will be granted to the Petitioner.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL this 8<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2021.

**Caroline M. Weaver, Court Clerk**  
**By: Chelsea Hicks, Deputy**

**Brandi Robertson, OBA # 21338**  
Attorney for the Petitioner  
Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma, Inc.  
224 S. Muskogee Avenue  
Tahlequah, OK 74464  
Phone: 918-708-1150  
Fax: 918-708-1375  
[brandi.robertson@laok.org](mailto:brandi.robertson@laok.org)

(Published in The Grove Sun March 16, 23, and 30, 2021) LPXLP

**NOTICE**

The City of Grove is seeking requests for proposals (RFP's) for Audit Services and External Financial Statement Preparation Services for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021. RFP's are to be sealed and marked on the outside of the envelopes accordingly as to which services are being proposed. RFP's must be received in the office of the City Treasurer no later than 10:30 AM April 23, 2021. For a detailed RFP packet, or for any questions, please contact Lisa Allred at (918)786-6107 or [lallred@cityofgroveok.gov](mailto:lallred@cityofgroveok.gov). The City of Grove reserves the right to reject any and all RFP's.

**Lisa Allred, City Treasurer**

(Published in The Grove Sun March 16 and 23, 2021) LPXLP

**IN THE DISTRICT COURT IN AND FOR DELAWARE COUNTY STATE OF OKLAHOMA**

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF BILLY M. TIFFANY, DECEASED

**ALIAS NOTICE TO CREDITORS PB-2020-67**

All creditors having claims against Billy M. Tiffany, deceased, are required to present the same with a description of all security interests and other collateral (if any) held by each creditor with respect to such claim, to Galen Lee Tiffany, Personal Representative of the Estate, c/o Clayton M. Baker, Attorney at Law, P.O. Box 487, Jay, OK 74346, on or before the following presentment date: the 21st day of May, 2021, or the same will be forever barred.

DATED this 10th day of March, 2021.

**/s/ Clayton M. Baker Attorney for Personal Representative**

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(Published in The Grove Sun March 16 and 23, 2021) LPXLP

**IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF DELAWARE COUNTY STATE OF OKLAHOMA**

IN THE MATTER OF THE GUARDIANSHIP OF REYNOLDS "TOM" CARPENTER, an incapacitated person.

**NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY AT PUBLIC AUCTION PG-2020-62**

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to an Order of the District Court of Delaware County, State of Oklahoma, in the Matter of the Guardianship of Reynolds "Tom" Carpenter, (the "Ward"), the undersigned, as Guardian of the Person and the Estate of said Ward, will sell at public auction for cash, subject to confirmation of said District Court, all of the right,

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title and interest of the Ward, in the real property described as:

Lot 15, Block 1, Buffalo Shores Addition in Section 13, Township 24 North, Range 23 East, Delaware County, Oklahoma a/k/a 1643 Pine Drive, Grove, Oklahoma

and the tangible personal property belonging to the Ward.

The sale of the real property shall be conducted on site by Mr. Ed's Auction Company, Inc., on April 22, 2021 commencing at 6:00 p.m.

The sale of the tangible personal property shall be conducted by and at Mr. Ed's Auction Company, Inc., on online at [mredsauction.hibid.com](http://mredsauction.hibid.com) beginning at 8:00 a.m., April 4, 2021 through 5:00 p.m. April 11, 2021.

This Notice shall be published once each week for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper

in Delaware County, Oklahoma in which any of the real property is situated and in the County where the Order is made and mailed to all interested parties. The sale must not occur earlier than ten (10) days from the date of first publication of this Notice.

Dated the 22nd day of March, 2021.

**Wendy Nightingale of Purview Life Tulsa, Guardian of the Person and Estate of Reynolds "Tom" Carpenter**

**Robyn Owens, OBA #6828 THE OWENS LAW FIRM, P.C.**  
234 West 13th Street  
Tulsa, OK 74119  
(918)587-0021  
(918)587-6111 Facsimile  
Attorney for General Guardian

(Published in The Grove Sun March 23 and 30, 2021) LPXLP



The Grove Area Chamber of Commerce hosted a Business After Hours at The Lakehouse in downtown Grove on Thursday, March 18. Lakehouse owner Brecka Bagby (left) and Diane Roberts helped prepare an appetizer feast. The Lakehouse is located at 27 W. 3rd in Grove.

**Grove banker graduates from OBA Commercial Lending School**

OKLAHOMA CITY — Case Hampton, with Bank of Grand Lake in Grove, recently completed the Oklahoma Bankers Association Commercial Lending School in Oklahoma City.

Hampton was among 34 graduates of the school, which was held Feb. 28 – March 5 at the OBA Harris Event Center in Oklahoma City.

The OBA Commercial Lending School, conducted annually, is designed to prepare bankers to serve effectively as commercial loan officers. Students learn about steps they should take in evaluating business loan requests, how businesses are structured and how to evaluate the management

of business borrowers. They also studied factors that affect loan pricing and approaches to loan structuring and administrations. Students were given an opportunity to apply these analytical techniques in a lending situation case study.

The OBA conducts more than 70 educational programs and seminars each year, which reach more than 5,000 bankers across the state. The Association represents approximately 200 banks across the state and serves as the primary advocate for the banking industry. It's also heavily involved in fraud training and prevention as well as legal and compliance services and communications for its member banks.

## Cherokee Nation offers 35 drive-up Wi-Fi locations

### *Tribe expands resources for citizens, communities*

TAHLEQUAH — Cherokee Nation is offering free Wi-Fi at 35 drive-up locations throughout its reservation. Cherokee Connect, the tribe's universal connectivity initiative, is focused on serving as a broadband resource and deploying connectivity that fills the gap for Cherokee households currently lacking internet access.

"As we continue working toward the long-term goal of delivering affordable, reliable broadband, we know there is an urgent need for citizens to safely connect," said Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. "These sites are now available for families to apply for assistance, elders to get access to telehealth and our students to pursue their education. The way we live now depends on our ability to connect. It's my hope that these sites can bring a sense of comfort to people, while we continue to push forward with our broadband plan and bridge the digital divide that burdens northeast Oklahoma."

The self-contained, wireless-driven Cherokee Connect technology allows Cherokee citizens to drive up within 100 feet of the signage, remain in their vehicles and connect to the internet, ensuring they are safely socially distanced while completing necessary online tasks.

Simply connect to the "Cherokee Connect" network, accept the terms and conditions and then begin browsing the web.

Currently, 26 Cherokee Connect sites are available for public use, and the remaining locations will be complete over the next several weeks. The Cherokee Nation focused on conveniently locating the sites throughout the reservation with a special emphasis on easy access for those living in rural areas.

Cherokee Connect locations are available in the following communities:

- Delaware County: Grove, Jay, Kansas, Kenwood and West Siloam Springs
- Craig County: Vinita, Welch and White Oak
- Adair County: Chewey, Stilwell, Westville
- Cherokee County: Hulbert, Tahlequah
- Mayes County: Adair, Pryor and Salina
- Muskogee County: Fort Gibson, Muskogee and Warner
- Nowata County: Nowata and South Coffeyville
- Rogers County: Catoosa, Chelsea, Claremore and Oologah
- Sequoyah County: Roland, Sallisaw and Vian



(L-R) Cherokee Nation Deputy Chief Bryan Warner, Tribal Councilor Canaan Duncan, Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. and Chewey Community Center President Steve Sands at the site of the Cherokee Connect Wi-Fi location.

• Tulsa County: Sperry  
 • Washington County: Ochelata and Ramona  
 "Most of our kids live up the river which is a dead zone. There are kids who have never been on the Internet at home their entire lives," said Steve Sands, president of the Chewey Community Center, which is slated to get a Cherokee Connect Wi-Fi site. "Now, they can come here and use the Wi-Fi, and see what everyone is doing or stay engaged, and their parents can use it while their kids play."  
 The tribe has also launched a new website, connect.cherokee.org, where citizens can find the exact location of a Cherokee Connect site, take a connectivity survey, and learn more about Cherokee Nation's broadband efforts and federal broadband subsidies for low-income households on tribal lands.  
 The Cherokee Nation also kicked off a broadband feasibility study that is evaluating the telecommunications infrastructure around all Cherokee community buildings. This study, funded by the U.S. Department of Interior, will help the tribe develop a roadmap to ensure all communities

are connected.  
 "We know that there are great partners providing outstanding broadband services to our citizens in many rural parts of the reservation," said Deputy Principal Chief Bryan Warner. "We are studying this existing infrastructure to ensure we make the best long-term decisions. We want every citizen to have access to affordable, reliable broadband, and we can leverage these existing partnerships to continue building upon their success."  
 In response to the pandemic, the Cherokee Nation launched the Respond, Recover, Rebuild Mobile Hotspot Connectivity Assistance Program that provided a mobile hotspot device to thousands of Cherokee households lacking internet.  
 The distribution of these AT&T powered devices, with up to a year of service, was focused on providing connectivity to K-12 students and elders needing access to telehealth.  
 For more information about the Cherokee Nation's broadband efforts please visit <https://connect.cherokee.org>.

## National Day of Remembrance honors those we have lost

**Chuck Hoskin Jr.**  
 Cherokee Nation  
 Principal Chief

March 18, 2020, was the day COVID-19 forever changed the Cherokee Nation and Oklahoma. It was the day we lost the first Oklahoman – a Cherokee Nation citizen, Merle Dry – to this deadly pandemic. To mark this anniversary, Cherokee Nation recently hosted a National Day of Remembrance. This online vigil paid respect to Mr. Dry and the numerous other beloved Cherokee men and women we have lost to the virus in the past 12 months.

It has been a sad chapter in our history. We have lost hundreds of Cherokees to the pandemic, including more than 50 Cherokee first-language speaking elders. The casualties were our family, our friends, our coworkers and our fellow Cherokees. They were our culture keepers, our oral historians and our language propagators to the next generation.

The loss of so many will forever remind me of how precious and how fragile life is. They must live on now in our memories, stories and hearts. We owe it to them and to ourselves to never forget their legacy.

We must now move forward, driven by what we've lost. But we know better days are ahead. I believe the future is beginning to turn bright again for the Cherokee Nation.

As the pandemic declines

and more of us are vaccinated, it's tempting to relax our vigilance. We must not. We owe it to the victims of this virus and all of our loved ones to stop the spread of COVID-19 and prevent even more tragedies until it is fully behind us.

In mourning those who have left us, we remain mindful of how to beat the COVID-19 virus. That means getting the vaccine, wearing a mask in large gatherings, and following the latest public health recommendations. Each life lost to COVID-19 is a deep loss, and each life lost was meaningful. We can give even deeper meaning to those we lost by working together, in their memory, to keep each other safe and keep our communities strong. As Cherokees, we must maintain our spirit of gadugi – looking out for each other and working for the greater good.

We all know someone who has walked on because of COVID-19 – a friend, a loved one, a pillar of our community or the bedrock of a family. May their memories be eternal, and may we live in ways that honor their legacies. While much has changed over the past year, one thing that never changes is that Cherokee Nation and Cherokee citizens remain steadfast, showing strength, creativity and resilience even during times of great hardship.

Wado.  
 Chuck Hoskin Jr. is principal chief of the Cherokee Nation.

## Langley library plans online auction

LANGLEY — The Friends of Langley Public Library are gearing up for its yearly fundraiser to be held April 4 through 24.

"Due to the pandemic we were forced to cancel last year's event," said Jeanie Norman of the Langley Public Library. "We are really looking forward to this year's event which will be an online auction."

"The event will allow us to continue to provide the services so desperately

needed in our area. With your assistance this event is sure to be a huge success."

The online auction will be held on the Bidding Owl site at <https://www.biddingowl.com/Auction/home.cfm?auctionID=25541>, April 4-24.

It is free to look and register at the site. "We have lots of interesting and unique items from local businesses as well as handcrafted and handmade

items," Norman said.

The Friends of Langley Public Library is a 501c3 tax deductible organization which was established to assist and promote the many programs Langley Public Library has to offer the community.

Some of the programs established through our assistance include; children's story time, the annual Summer Reading Programs, E-Books as well as adult programming

events.

In addition the library has purchased furniture, and computer hardware and software to facilitate the needs of the library as well as the community through eight public access computer stations.

Please join our event next month to ensure that it is a great success. For more information you can contact the Library at 918-782-4461.



Joe Capolino/Vinita Daily Journal

Area manager for Reid Newspapers Andrew Crawford, who oversees the Grove Sun, Delaware County Journal, stands with Brecka Bagby, owner of the Lakehouse, during a Grove Area Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours at The Lakehouse Thursday, March 19. Crawford attended the after hours event to introduce the goals of the new management of the area newspapers. Bagby who opened the Lakehouse in April 2020 celebrated the opening of her business and demonstrated some of the food items her business can help prepare for parties and events.

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# Sports

## All three 2019 Mantle Classic division winners back

Jim Ellis  
news@reidnewspapers.com

COMMERCE — All three of the division winners will be back to defend titles at the 21st annual Mickey Mantle Classic that is scheduled for April 8-10.

Last year's tournament was canceled due to COVID-19.

The decision came after the Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association announced that all spring sports had been cancelled for the remainder of the 2019-2020 season.

"This is all you can do," tournament director Brian Waybright said at the time.

In 2008 and 2018 both championship games were rained out and in 2011 and 2012, both large school games were cancelled — but the banquet was still held.

Quapaw won the Comet Division,

Grove captured the Triple Crown and East Newton High of Granby, Missouri, claimed the first Miners Division title.

This year's field includes Quapaw, Liberty, Wyandotte, Commerce, Afton and Diamond, Missouri, make up the Comet Division, East Newton, the Neosho JV, Welch, Fairland, Grove JV and Bluejacket in the Miners Division and Miami, Grove, Wichita (Kansas) Home School and Arcadia Valley High of Ironton, Missouri in the Triple Crown Division.

Games in the wooden bat tournament will be split between Mickey Mantle Field in Commerce and Joe Pollock Field in Miami.

Nine pool and several consolation games will be played in Miami.

Frank White, a key cog on the infield in the Kansas City Royals' glory years of the 1980s, will be the tournament's special guest.

## Norse split home twinbill with Connors State

MIAMI — Northeastern A&M went 1-2 in an Oklahoma Collegiate Athletic Conference weekend series with Connors State College.

The Golden Norse lost 11-6 Friday at Warner then split Saturday's double-header at Homa Thomas Field, taking the opener 4-3 before falling 13-8 in the nightcap.

NEO 4, Connors 3  
The Norsemen got what turned out to be winning runs in the third inning.

Jacob Ervin and Emile Boies singled.

Ervin scored on groundout by Dionysius Chialtas, and then Boies sprinted home on a wild pitch.

Connors scored single runs in the fourth and sixth, then Merrill slammed the door in the seventh by striking out the side.

The Norsemen scratched out single runs in the first and second.

Mathieu Vallee headed up the NEO offense, going 3-for 3 with three singles and a walk.

Ervin, Boies, Hayden Hutchens, Zane Knox and Kevin Esquelin single

Daniel Merrill went the distance to get the victory. He scattered six hits, striking out 13 and walking one.

Only one of the Cowboys' three runs was earned.

Tyson Fourkiller had a homer and double and Nollan Koon had a pair of singles for CSC.

Connors 13, NEO 8

The Cowboys took charge by scoring eight times in the third inning.

NEO put together two-run rallies in the fourth, fifth and sixth then tacked on single runs in the seventh and ninth innings.

Four of the eight Norse hits came on home runs.

Boies had a pair of homers, a two-run blast in the fourth and another in the ninth.

James Dunlap drove in two runs with a homer in the fifth and Ervin got NEO's final run in the ninth.

Boies also had a single.

Lopez Yealex had

a pair of base hits and Jackson Newman singled.

Samuel Replogle suffered the loss.

Reid Willbanks had three singles while Koon had another two hits.

Jonathan Pena added a homer.

Connors 11, NEO 6

The Cowboys took the lead for good thanks to a three-run first.

They added two more three-run rallies in the fifth and seventh.

NEO got two-runs each in the fourth and sixth and one run each in the seventh and ninth.

Boies collected a double and two singles; Ervin and Chialtas had a home run and single

Edouard Savoie and Hutchens each had a double and Lopez chipped in with a base hit.

The Cowboys' offense included a homer and two singles by Peyton McDowell, a double and two singles by Grant Randall, three singles by Pena and two by Koons.

## No. 6 Johnson County sweeps Lady Norse

MIAMI — Sixth-ranked Johnson County (Kansas) Community College rolled to a 3-0 win over Northeastern A&M here Thursday, March 18.

Johnson County, now 16-2, swept the Lady Norse 25-19, 25-20 and 25-19.

Alana Browder had nine kills while Jazzmin Kloos and Alanys Ruis logged eight each.

Paige Simpson had the only ace for the Lady Norse.

Ariana Ruiz, Paige Schrader and Alanys Ruiz each had 1.0 blocks.

Ariana Ruiz was the assist leader with 30.

NEO got 20 digs from Jillian Brunnett, 13 from Kloos and eight from Victoria Medina.

The Lady Norse (10-6) wrap up the regular season Wednesday, March 24 at Rose State.



Provided

**Har-Ber Village opened its season on Saturday with a ribbon cutting on Friday for several new interactive exhibits. The new exhibits allows visitors to pretend they are on a journey in a covered wagon, or living in a cabin. Visitors can play with vintage dolls and toys. Another new exhibit allows visitors to see the wool and fiber process from raw materials to beautiful rugs, table runners and placements. Goods produced are now available for sale.**

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## Geer named MLC player of year

Jim Ellis  
news@reidnewspapers.com

GROVE — It's a three-peat for Grove's Rory Geer.

The University of Central Oklahoma signee was named player of the year in the Metro Lakes Conference for the third straight year.

Geer led the Lady Ridgerunners to back-to-back MLC titles as a sophomore and junior.

She helped Grove reach the 4A state tournament as a junior (it was cancelled due to COVID-19) and senior.

Geer averaged 16.4 points, 5.4 rebounds, 2.8 steals and 2.6 assists.

Her field goal percentage for the season was 44.8% and 81.1% on free throws.

She had two blocked shots.

A four-year starter, Geer scored more than 1,600 points.

Linda Brice of Coweta was the offensive player of the year and Rhett Looney of Pryor was the top defensive player.

The Lady Ridgerunners' Anna Bacon and Kolby Boyett were named all-conference second team players.

The first team included Kacey Fishinghawk, Faith Springwater and Tatum Havens of Tahlequah, Alexxia Mercer of Coweta and Kaylee Alt of Pryor.

Along with Bacon and Boyett, other second-team selections were Abbey Stamper, Collinsville; Allyson Mercer, Coweta, and Alexsyah Goudeau, Tahlequah.

Corbin Beal represented the GHS boys on the second team.

Hagen Hacker, Hank Hacker, Braden Pittman and Greg McCurdy all received honorable mention honors.

Claremore's Hart Loft was named the boys' MVP while Dawson Alt of Pryor and Mason Ford of Coweta were the offensive and defensive players of the year.

First-team all-MLC selections were Jacob Mills and Na'Kylan Starks, Coweta; Hayden Smith, Tahlequah, and Jordan and Isaac Tiger, Glenpool.

The boys' second teamers were Beal, Avery Cook, Glenpool; Josh Gore, Pryor; Trey Young, Tahlequah, and Cyrdes, Collinsville.

# Sports

## Ridgerunners go 1-2 in Arkansas tournament

**Drew Osborne**  
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HARRISON, Arkansas — The Grove Ridgerunners baseball team competed in Harrison, Arkansas at the Ozark Classic Tournament over the weekend.

The Ridgerunners won one game and lost two. The Ridgerunners lost to Mountain Home, Arkansas, 3-2 and McDonald County 6-4.

They beat Pea Ridge, Arkansas, by a score of 9-5.

The Ridgerunners are now 5-5 and will take on Miami Monday at home in a district contest.

The Ridgerunners opened the tournament losing 3-2 to Mountain Home.

The Ridgerunners struck first in the top of the second inning. Wyatt Wall singled and Alex Oliver was hit by a pitch to put runners on base. With two outs, Layne Rutherford singled to right center scoring both runners giving the Ridgerunners their only two runs of the game.

The Ridgerunners walked the bases loaded in the bottom of the sixth with the time limit expired. It looked



The Grove Ridgerunners baseball team competed in Harrison, Arkansas at the Ozark Classic Tournament over the weekend.

Provided

like they were going to survive and move on to the seventh when a ground ball was hit to shortstop.

The Ridgerunners didn't field it cleanly and the runner reached first while a run scored ending the game with a 3-2 Mountain Home victory.

Dropping to the loser's bracket, the Ridgerunners still had their work cut out for them against a very good Pea Ridge team. The Ridgerunner offense didn't

seem to have the problems they did the night before scoring in all but one inning. They really broke the game open scoring four runs in the top of the second inning.

Ayden Hunsperger walked and moved to second with two outs. Hank Hacker walked and Isaac Lopez followed with a bloop double that landed behind first base. Corbin Beal then ripped a line drive into right field and made the score 5-1 in favor of the

Ridgerunners.

The final score was 9-5 in favor of the Ridgerunners.

The win over Pea Ridge put the Ridgerunners in the consolation game against McDonald County.

Things started poorly for the Ridgerunners as they walked three of the first four batters they faced. Even so, they had a chance to get out of the inning with minimal damage when an error was made extending McDonald County's opportunity.

The Ridgerunners found themselves down 3-0 before they even got to hit.

The Ridgerunners bounced back though when they scored two runs in the bottom of the second inning. Oliver doubled and Jace McPhetridge walked. Dayton Keller had an infield single followed by a Hank Hacker single making it 3-2 McDonald County.

The game stayed that way until McDonald County scored two runs in the top

of the fifth and one run in the top of the sixth making it 6-2. With two outs in the bottom of the seventh, the Ridgerunners made things interesting.

Keller turned a two-strike count into a walk and Wall was hit by a pitch. Lopez singled followed by two walks making the score 6-4 in favor of the Mustangs. The Ridgerunners pinch-hit Cody Richards and Richards just missed at worst, tying the game with a line drive toward the right field corner.

The McDonald County first baseman jumped and caught the ball ending the game.

The Ridgerunners weren't happy with their showing, losing two games they felt they could have won had they done a little better job on the mound. In their two losses, they used a combined nine pitchers and walked a total of 19 batters. They gave up just seven hits in those two games but when there are guys on base for free, each of those hits becomes a run-scoring outcome instead of just getting a guy on a base.

## Northeastern A&M Norse stop Connors, Redlands

**Jim Ellis**  
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EL RENO — Turning in one of their better shooting nights of the season, the Northeastern A&M men squeezed out an 85-75 victory over Redlands Community College here Saturday, March 21.

NEO(10-6, 6-5) also claimed a narrow

win against Connors State College on the road Thursday, March 18, picking up a 75-70 win.

That avenged an 86-82 loss Monday, March 15 at the NEO Field House.

It will be another busy week — hosting Redlands Monday, traveling to Murray State on Thursday, March 25 and playing Saturday, March 27 at Northern Oklahoma

— Enid.

The Norse downed 34 of their 64 their field goal attempts (53.1%) in Saturday's win.

They roared out to a 45-27 lead in the first half then held on as Redlands held a 48-40 edge over the final 20 minutes.

Four players scored in double figures for NEO.

Brian Moore led the way with 24 points. He was followed by Nikita Konstantynovskiy with 18, Kalil Camara, 12, and Jadan Graves, 11.

Others with points were James Franklin Jr., nine; Tucson Redding, four; Tyren Collins, Shayne Scruggs and Omeechi Williams, two each, and Christian Cuevas, one.

NEO 75, Connors State 70

A 15-1 run in the second half helped the Norse overcome a six-point deficit.

NEO had led 33-30 at the half and then held a two-point edge in the second.

A 21-point effort by Moore topped the scoring for the Norse.

Graves and Franklin added 13 and 11, respectively.

The rest of the scoring for the Golden Norse included eight for Redding, seven for Konstantynovskiy, six by Camara; three by Taylor Gonzales and two each from Collins, Williams and Scruggs.

Jarquavious Cain got 14 of his team-high 19 points in the second half. Jordan Tillmon had 17 and Jahcoree Ealy finished with 15.

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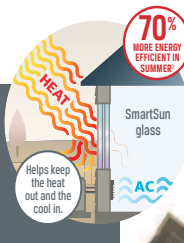
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