



## Deputy cleared

### Chris Grace back on job for sheriff

McClain County Sheriff's Deputy Chris Grace is back on the job.

After a thorough investigation by the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation, District Attorney Greg Mashburn has cleared Grace of any wrong doing in connection with the March 30 killing of

Please see **Grace**, back page

## Day of prayers

### Annual observance to be May 4

**Jeanne Grimes**  
**The Purcell Register**

Residents of Purcell are invited to join millions of Americans in observing the annual National Day of Prayer on May 4.

The local observance hosted by the Heartland Ministerial

Please see **Prayer**, back page

# Purcell residents INJURED

### Grinding accident at SH 39 and Bryant Avenue

**Jeanne Grimes**  
**The Purcell Register**

An elderly Purcell couple were critically injured April 19 when their vehicle T-boned a pickup that failed to yield from a stop sign.

Admitted to OU Medical Center were Jimmie P. Ridenour, 81, and Helen Ridenour, 75.

Both suffered internal injuries. Jimmie Ridenour also sustained head injuries.

An OU Medical Center spokesman said Tuesday both have since been discharged from the hospital.

Oklahoma Highway Patrol Trooper Brian Ozment identified the pickup driver as Deshask N. Fielder, 21, of Wayne.

Ozment said Fielder was ejected from his pickup about 15 feet. He was treated and released at OU Medical Center.

All three were transported to Oklahoma City by Wadley's EMS.

Ozment reported the wreck occurred around 12:55 p.m.

Please see **Accident**, back page



John D. Montgomery • The Purcell Register

## Accident victim

**Purcell first** responders extract Jimmie Ridenour of Purcell out of his white Ford after a grinding accident at the intersection of SH 39 and Bryant Avenue in front of Union Hill Baptist Church last Wednesday afternoon. A passenger in the vehicle, Helen Ridenour, was also injured. Both were transported to OU Medical Center in Oklahoma City where they were admitted in critical condition, according to the Oklahoma Highway Patrol.



John D. Montgomery • The Purcell Register

## Modern era cowboy

When the wagon train came through Purcell last Saturday in Purcell on its way to Lexington one of the horse riders must have been phoning in his pizza order.

## 'Unaccounted' water

### How much is lost? No one can say

**Jeanne Grimes**  
**The Purcell Register**

Water leaks can be costly for residents who are charged for every gallon on their side of the meter whether it makes it to a faucet or not.

But municipalities, Purcell included, are much less concerned about the liquid leaking from the waterlines that make up their water systems.

It's simply a given that lines are going to leak for any number of reasons.

It's called "unaccounted for" water and a system like

Purcell's provides ample opportunities for water to disappear.

Purcell draws its water from a well field in the Lexington Wildlife Management Area.

From there it is pumped several miles across Cleveland County, across the South Canadian River and finally into the city's water towers and mains.

Kenny Sullivan is a civil

Please see **Water**, back page

## Brush week 1

The City of Purcell's brush pick up will begin next week.

Brush, limbs and debris must be left at curb side by Sunday in the area north of Grant Street.

It will be collected during business hours Monday

through May 5.

There will be no pick up in alleys and any brush set out after the scheduled date will be invoiced to the resident.

For more information, call city hall at 527-6561.

**The Purcell Register**

**Deadlines**

- **News:** 12 noon, Tuesday
- **Display Ads:** 12 noon, Tuesday
- **Classifieds:** 11 a.m., Tuesday
- **Legal Notices:** 2 p.m., Tuesday

**Contact us**

**405-527-2126**  
purcellregister@gmail.com

**Inside**

**Academic All-State**

Austin Nation and Riley Hamilton tabbed for 3A basketballers.

Pg. 1B

**Inside**

**Headed to State**

Purcell girls golf back in the picture.

Pg. 5B

**Find it...**

Opinion ..... 4A

Society ..... 6A

Sports ..... 1B

Obituaries ..... 10A

Classifieds ..... 10B



• Photo provided

### Missing teen

**Jesika Skinner**, 15, of Lexington, is reported missing from her grandmother's home. She left between 12:08 and 7 a.m. April 17. Anyone who knows her whereabouts or who hears from her is asked to contact the Lexington Police Department at 527-9881 or Barbara Skinner at 527-7599 or 226-8481.

## Minor fire at Rob's Ranch

### Laundry basket melted with laundry in it

**John D. Montgomery**  
The Purcell Register

A small fire broke out in the southeast corner of the laundry room at Rob's Ranch, 23899 N. state Highway 74, about 10:30 p.m. Saturday.

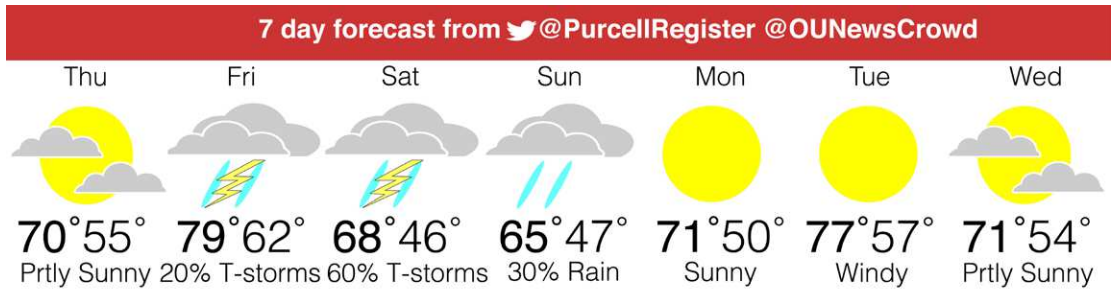
Purcell fire crews rushed to the scene but the fire had been put out by a sprinkler system and fire extinguisher by the staff.

By the time Purcell firefighters arrived, staff at the ranch had the fire suppression system shut down.

A melted plastic basket with laundry was taken outside of the building.

Firemen assisted staff with changing the sprinkler head and placing the fire suppression system back in service.

After a thorough check of the scene firemen left the building west of Purcell.



## Storms usher in milder temps

There are warmer temperatures this week as opposed to last week. Chances for thunderstorms exist over the weekend

with the highest probability on Saturday. After a stormy weekend the weather will clear up and temperatures will stay

in the low to upper 70s. Expect some windy conditions and minimal cloud cover.

— Leah Hill

## Delta Head Start/Early Head Start accepting applications

Delta Head Start/Early Head Start is currently accepting applications for pregnant women, infants, toddlers and children ages three to five.

Delta Head Start/Early Head Start is a comprehensive program designed to foster healthy development of children, and their families, focusing on the development of each child in areas such as social skills, self-help skills, physical development, emotional skills and school readiness.

Children with disabilities, including children with severe disabilities are encouraged to

apply.

We provide an inclusive classroom setting for all children. Delta Head Start/Early Head Start also provides children with hot, healthy, and nutritious breakfasts and lunches, and depending on the hours we also serve a healthy snack. We fill up fast and we are prioritizing lists right now.

A state certified birth certificate, current immunization record and income verification, along with a complete application is needed to be eligible for Head Start/Early Head Start.

Delta Head Start/Early Head

Start operates under Delta Community Action Agency, serving Garvin, McClain and Stephens counties.

Delta Head Start/Early Head Start is committed to providing each and every child an opportunity to learn and grow in a safe, healthy and happy environment.

If you would like your child and family to participate in this exciting learning experience, please call a Delta Head Start/Early Head Start staff member at (405) 756-1100 and let's work together to get your child off to a great head start!

## Rep. Cleveland honored for supporting agriculture, rural Oklahoma

Rep. Bob Cleveland, R-Lexington, was presented with the Oklahoma Farm Bureau 100 Percent Club award for his support of farmers, ranchers and rural Oklahoma during the 2016 legislative session.

"This honor is presented to those legislators who stand with Farm Bureau in its core mission of improving the lives of rural Oklahoma," said Tom Buchanan, OKFB president. "We're grateful to these state

lawmakers for their leadership and service at the state Capitol."

Cleveland received the award for a 100 percent voting record

Please see **Honors**, page 3A



John D. Montgomery • The Purcell Register

### Storm damage

A fragile tree took a hit from strong winds in a thunderstorm that blew through Purcell last Friday morning snagging an electrical power line forcing city of Purcell electric crews to repair the line and the service to the house of Beatrice Bordingham at 719 S. Santa Fe Street in Purcell.

## Work zone safety campaign

### ODOT rolls out new messages to increase awareness

The orange and white barrels and cones are there for a reason.

And so are the reduced speed limits and signage.

Seventeen seconds—according to the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, that is roughly the amount of time speeding through a construction zone will save you.

Five seconds – that's the average time a driver takes to glance at a text message. Drivers traveling at 60 mph will travel the length of a football field without their eyes on the road.

Seconds matter and can literally mark the difference between life and death.

Your life matters, too.

ODOT is launching a new round of safety messages this spring on that theme.

Your Life Matters: Drive Like It seeks to allay the top causes of work zone crashes – speeding and driver inattention.

According to ODOT, there have been 85 work zone fatalities across the state in the past five years.

Seventeen were just in the last year and those killed in-

cluded drivers, passengers and an ODOT employee.

Jarrell Gray, 47, was killed in May 2016 while working along State Highway 20 in Delaware County. He was the 60th ODOT employee killed in the line of duty.

Gray died because a driver was apparently distracted by a cell phone and veered off the highway and onto the shoulder area where he was working.

"The ripple effects from tragedies like this stretch far beyond the work zone to families, friends and to the legal system," said ODOT Executive Director Mike Patterson.

"If your hands are on the wheel, then you are responsible for ensuring the safety of everyone around you, including yourself," he added. "We do our part to set up safe work zones in order to make critically needed repairs. But drivers have to do their part too."

Spring and summer are typically when more maintenance and construction projects will be underway across Oklahoma. For motorists, that means more work zones, not just on daily commutes, but also upcoming

summer road trips.

Oklahomans can expect to see increased safety messages on ODOT's Facebook and Twitter accounts.

This is in conjunction with new public service announcements in which workers tasked with keeping Oklahoma's highways safe will share their stories.

A memorial event is planned for May 1 to honor the lives lost in recent work zone accidents.

Gov. Mary Fallin has declared April 3 through May 3 as Work Zone Awareness Month.

The primary sponsors of the campaign are the Oklahoma Highway Safety Office, Oklahoma Turnpike Authority and Midstate Traffic Control. Partners with ODOT in the campaign are the Oklahoma Association of Broadcasters, Fairway Outdoor, Tyler Media and Direct Traffic Control.

Every life matters in a high-way work zone. And ODOT officials hope their message this spring—Your Life Matters: Drive Like It—will stay with motorists in all the seasons to come and, by helping prevent accidents, will save lives.

## IT'S ALMOST TIME...

Time for the  
**Purcell City Wide  
Garage Sale**

# Friday & Saturday May 5 & 6

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GARAGE SALE**  
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MAY 5TH AND 6TH, 2017  
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Deadline is Tuesday, May 2 at 11 AM

The  
**Call Purcell Register**  
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# NEWS In Brief

## Chamber Luncheon

The April Heart of Oklahoma Chamber of Commerce luncheon will be held Friday, April 28, at 12 p.m. at Rodney's Pizza Place in Purcell.

Purcell City Manager, Dale Bunn, will be the guest speaker. In an effort to keep members up to date with the latest City News, the City Manager will be updating the public on the status of major City projects and general news for the business community.

Cost for the luncheon is \$10.

RSVP to the chamber if you plan to attend at 527-3093.

## Domino Tournament

American Legion Post 301 will host a Domino Tournament Saturday, April 29, beginning at 12 p.m. It is an open tournament to raise funds for Post programs and there is a \$5 entry fee per player.

It is good family fun and everyone is welcome to participate. The team will receive engraved coffee mugs and bragging rights

for a month.

The winners last month were JC and Cindy Davis of Harrah.

The Post is located at 104 E Broadway in Lexington.

## Museum News

The McClain County Museum and Historical Society will be open Thursday, April 27, and Friday, April 28, from 1-4 p.m.

Contact the museum at mcmuseum@mail.com, call (405) 701-3171 or Facebook to schedule an alternate time to visit or to purchase an historic Purcell poster.

## Football Scoreboard

Any business interested in placing an advertisement on the Purcell Football Scoreboard at Conger Field is asked to contact Jay Solomon for details at 527-6591 ext. 3305.

## Citywide Garage Sale

The Purcell City Wide Garage Sale will be held Friday and Saturday, May 5 and 6.

The city fee will be waived for this weekend only.

Call the Heart of Oklahoma Chamber of Commerce at 527-3093 to have your name put on the list.

## Dragon 5K Run

The Purcell Alumni Association in conjunction with the Purcell Masonic Lodge is

hosting the Dragon 5K Run Saturday, May 13, at 10 a.m. at Purcell City Lake.

Registration is \$25 per participant which includes a T-shirt and a goodie bag.

Proceeds of the run will go toward the annual alumni high school scholarship award given to a Purcell Dragon senior.

For more information contact John and Pam Hobbs at 527-8698.

## Lex Senior Citizens Lunch

The Lexington senior citizens serve lunch from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays for a \$6 donation. To-go orders are \$7.

The lunch is open to the public and home cooked and served by the Lexington Senior Citizens.

The Lexington Community Center is located at 131 S. Main.

## Purcell NA Group

Purcell New Beginnings Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets Wednesdays at 7 p.m. for Living Clean and Fridays at 7 p.m. for Basic Text.

The group meets at the 7th and Monroe Church of Christ in Purcell.

For more information call Sarah W. at (405) 816-9233.

# McClain County lawyers to offer free legal advice

Attorneys across Oklahoma will provide free legal advice on Thursday, April 27, during the 66th annual statewide celebration of Law Day.

Oklahoma City and Tulsa lawyers will staff the statewide toll-free hotline on Thursday, April 27, between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. Those who speak only Spanish can call the hotline with legal questions from 3-9 p.m., as Spanish-speaking attorneys and translators will be available to take calls. The toll-free number to call is 800-456-8525 or email AskALawyer@okbar.org or PregunteAUnAbogado@okbar.org.

"This annual event gives us the opportunity to provide a much needed community service," said Oklahoma Bar Association President Linda Thomas of Bartlesville. "Hundreds of volunteer attorneys will be standing by to answer calls or emails. We encourage Oklahomans with legal questions to take advantage of this opportunity to receive free legal advice."

Lawyers in other counties will also be giving free legal

advice. About 300 lawyers will be volunteering statewide.

The Ask A Lawyer free legal advice project is one of several events in which Oklahoma lawyers participate to observe Law Day. This year, more than 900 students statewide entered Law Day art and writing contests.

Other students are taking part in various Law Day activities, such as classroom visits from lawyers and judges and learning how legal rights and obligations change after one's 18th birthday.

The accompanying Ask A Lawyer television program will air across the state on April 27 at 7 p.m. on OETA. The show is designed to share information about legal issues in easy-to-understand language.

This year's topics include adoption and how to navigate the legal aspects of both private and DHS adoption, bankruptcy and debt issues and drug court and how it benefits not only the participants but also the community.

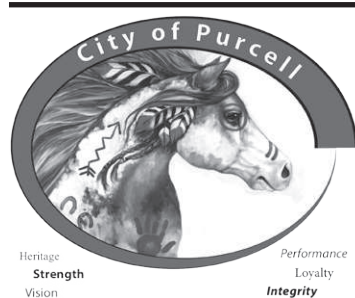
The McClain County Bar Association will participate in

the Ask A Lawyer program in conjunction with the statewide campaign to answer questions by phone. The number to call in McClain County is 527-7575, and the phone number will be staffed from 5-7 p.m.

Law McMeans serves as the county's Law Day chair. The Law Day chairperson works in conjunction with the state bar's Law Day Committee to coordinate the Ask A Lawyer call-in event.

Though Law Day is celebrated across the country, it was Wewoka attorney and 1953 OBA President Hicks Epton who originally had the idea of celebrating the law and how it affects our lives in 1952. President Dwight D. Eisenhower established Law Day nationally by proclamation in 1958; in 1961, Congress set aside May 1 as a day for all Americans to celebrate their freedom and the ideals of equality and justice under the law.

More information about Law Day is available on the OBA website at www.okbar.org/LawDay.



# NEWS from the City of Purcell

### Brush Pick Up Schedule

The following is the schedule for brush, limb and debris pick up across Purcell:

- North of Grant Street, at curb by April 30 with pick up May 1-5.
- South of State Highway 39 West, at curb by May 7 with pick up May 8-12.
- East of Green Avenue between Grant Street and SH39 West, at curb by May 14 with pick up May 15-19.
- West of Green Avenue between Grant Street and SH39 West, at curb by May 21 with pick up May 22-26.

There will be no pick up in alleys and any brush set out after the scheduled date will be invoiced to the resident.

## Jace Woodrow promoted to Credit Analyst

Steve Sherman, McClain Bank President, has announced that Jace Woodrow has been promoted to Credit Analyst.

Sherman stated, "We are very pleased to have Jace join the Bank on a full-time basis. Jace is a bright young man with a bright future and we feel honored that he's a part of the McClain Bank family."

Woodrow graduated from Washington High School in 2012. He then attended the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma (USAO) and graduated in December 2016 with a degree in business, with an emphasis in management and accounting.

That same month, he began working at the McClain Bank

Noble Branch as a part-time Teller. He transferred to the Main Bank in Purcell in March 2017.

Born and raised on a cattle farm in Washington, Jace played both basketball and baseball in high school. Still a sports fan, he enjoys whitetail hunting and fishing, as well as spending time with his family and friends.

Woodrow is engaged to be married this fall to Taylor Dacus of Minco.

In his role as Credit Analyst, Jace will be responsible for providing an independent assessment of the credit worthiness of new and existing loan customers.



Woodrow



Jeanne Grimes • The Purcell Register

## Final fold

With their fellow color guard members standing at attention, two soldiers make the final fold in an American flag during a celebration of life Friday for Herman R. Wilson, a former employee of **The Purcell Register** of Lexington. The ceremonial unit is from Bravo Battery, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Field Artillery at Ft. Sill.

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and

May 25, 2017 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
**at OLG Lexington**  
201 W. Broadway, Lexington, OK 73051

PHONE: (405) 527-6124

From page 2A

## Honors:

on Farm Bureau-supported legislation during the 2016 legislative session.

Legislators were scored on four pieces of legislation which included aiding the extermination of feral swine, increasing penalties for cattle theft, easing restrictions on prescribed agricultural burns, and granting driver's licenses to temporary H-2A agricultural workers.

In honor of the award, Cleveland received a OKFB 100 Percent Club coin to display in his office at the state Capitol.

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# Society



## It's a Small World

Gracie Montgomery

A special happy birthday wish to my younger son, Matt Montgomery.

Matt celebrates his birthday Monday, May 1.

Happy birthday to Mike Jones, Susie Peters, Billy Keeler, Hannah Hofer, Logan McKiddy, Mary Mauldin, Louis Zuech, Bailey Chaples, Denise Clark, Tyler Simmons, Paul Steiner, Aracely Garcia, Adam Duffy, Jennifer Kozik, Bridget Roper, Logan Fox, Jo Idleman, Michael Cole, McKenna Eubank, Karter Wilhoit, Greg Wayland, Amye Jennings, Emily Sparlin McKay, Lynn Terrell, Martha Jo Anderson, Kara Davis, Kathy Smith, Steven Wright, Cassidy Nicholson, Dominique Gavia and Brandon Rolin.

The Heartland Ministerial Alliance will host the annual National Day of Prayer event at 6 p.m. Thursday, May 4, at the First Christian Church, 117 W. Washington, in Purcell.

The event will begin at the church and then proceed to locations in the city that have been designated as areas that we are to focus our prayers.

They include Purcell Junior High, Purcell City Hall, McClain County Courthouse, Veterans Memorial and The Purcell Register.

At these locations, attendees will focus on schools, government, media, military, churches and police and fire departments.

"We want our community to join us as we pray together for our city and our great nation," said the Rev. Justin Blankenship, a Ministerial Alliance member, pastor of Landmark Church and organizer of this year's event.

The Purcell City Wide Garage Sale will be held Friday and Saturday, May 5 and 6.

The city fee will be waived for this weekend only.

Call the Heart of Oklahoma Chamber of Commerce at 527-3093 to have your name put on the list.

Make a "Family Play Date" with the Purcell Public Library

to explore through play in the next session of the monthly program scheduled for 10:30 a.m. Friday, April 28, in the Meeting Room of the library, 919 N. Ninth St.

The theme for the program is "Let's Grow," and in honor of the many things that grow in springtime, looks at those things as well as things that don't grow.

Friday Play Date is designed for preschool-age children and toddlers to learn through exploring new things.

Registration is not required in advance to attend.

For more information, visit the library, call 527-5546 or go online to [www.pioneerlibrarysystem.org/purcell](http://www.pioneerlibrarysystem.org/purcell).

The April Heart of Oklahoma Chamber of Commerce luncheon will be held Friday, April 28, at 12 p.m. at Rodney's Pizza Place in Purcell.

Purcell City Manager, Dale Bunn, will be the guest speaker. In an effort to keep members up to date with the latest City News, the City Manager will be updating the public on the status of major City projects and general news for the business community.

Cost for the luncheon is \$10. RSVP to the chamber if you plan to attend at 527-3093.

Here's a twist on a favorite. **Crunchy Ramen Taco Salad**

1/2 cup Kraft Classic Ranch Dressing  
1/2 cup Taco Bell Hot Restaurant Sauce  
2 TBL fresh lime juice  
2-3 oz. packages ramen noodle soup mix  
14 oz. pkg. coleslaw blend (cabbage slaw mix)  
1 cup frozen corn, thawed  
1 cup rinsed canned black beans  
1 cup Kraft Shredded Sharp Cheddar Cheese

Mix dressing, hot sauce and lime juice until blended.

Break Ramen Noodles into large bowl. Discard Seasoning Packets or reserve for another use.

Add remaining ingredients and dressing mixture to noodles; mix lightly.

## Miss Basden, Mr. Bozarth announce July 29 nuptials



Justin Bozarth and Elizabeth Basden

She is a 2012 graduate of Oktaha High School, a 2016 graduate of Oral Roberts University and is currently working on a Masters in Marriage and Family Therapy at ORU.

Mr. Bozarth is the son of Cristal and Scott Hosek of Wayne and Troy and Shelly Bozarth of Purcell.

He attended Purcell Schools and graduated from Wayne High School in 2010. He went on to graduate from the Oaks School of Leadership at Southwestern Assemblies of God University.

Mr. Bozart is currently the associate pastor at The Landing Church in Glenpool.

Justin Bozarth and Elizabeth Basden announce their engagement and approaching marriage.

The couple plans to exchange wedding vows Saturday, July 29, 2017 at The Landing Church in Glenpool, Okla.

Miss Basden is the daughter of Kathleen Basden of Muskogee and the late Ronald J. Basden.

## Okeyha Mothers Club has meeting

The Okeyha Mothers Club met April 10, 2017, in the home of Dede Page. Eleven members were present for the meeting.

Kim Thompson led the discussion of the 79th Oklahoma Association of Mothers Club convention that was held the previous weekend in Oklahoma City's Skirvin Hotel. All those attending said that it was a wonderful venue and everyone had a great time.

Next year the OAMC will be celebrating 80 years and the Okeyha Club is the only founding club still in existence. They will be in charge of registration as well as assisting the Bliss Club of Lexington in decorations for the banquet.

At this year's banquet our own Jenny Hunter, State Chaplain, was honored with a Life Membership award for her

many contributions to the club.

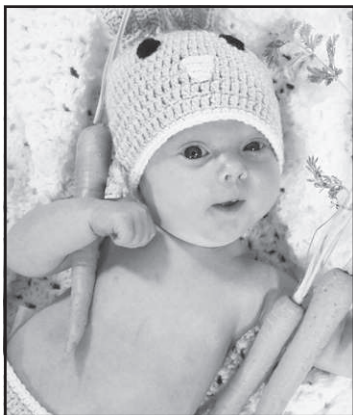
Great progress is being made on this year's Holiday Home Tour. Several local families are already signed up to show their homes.

The annual Okeyha Scholarship applications, awarded to a PHS graduating senior, have been at the office of Amy Tolle, PHS Counselor.

These will be collected and the scholarship committee will review them prior to the April 24 meeting. Members will vote on the winner which will be presented at the PHS Awards assembly.

The next meeting will be April 24, 2017 in the home of Aletha Lydick. Prospective members may attend that meeting or the final meeting of the 2016-2017 year on May 1, 2017.

## Births Weaver



Chandler Ashleigh Weaver  
Jack Hunter and Mackinsey

Leigh (Couch) Weaver of Tulsa announce the birth of their daughter, Chandler Ashleigh Weaver, on Ash Wednesday, March 1, 2017.

Chandler Ashleigh weighed eight pounds seven ounces and measured 20 inches.

Grandparents are Sheila Hensley of Purcell, Terry Couch of Arcadia and Scott and Bridget Weaver of Noble.

Great-grandparents are Kenny and Valerie Lee of Purcell and Jack and Donna Weaver of Sallisaw.



Photo provided

## Pauls Valley Opry

Mike Deviney will be back on stage at the Pauls Valley Opry Saturday, May 6. Mike is the 2016 Male Vocalist Award winner of the Pauls Valley Opry. The show begins at 6:30 p.m. at the Pauls Valley High School auditorium.

## Biology and genetic workshops hosted by Chickasaw Nation

The Chickasaw Nation Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Academy is hosting a biology and genetics workshop for students, grades fifth through 12th, who have an interest in science.

Chickasaw citizen and evolutionary biologist, Dr. Chris Hamilton, will share a presentation about bats and hawkmoths and how they have evolved for survival.

The workshop will be held from 6-10 p.m. Friday, May 5, and 8 a.m.-noon, Saturday, May

6, at the STEM Academy, 301 Seabrook Road, in Ada.

Dinner will be provided Friday and breakfast will be provided Saturday.

The workshops are offered to students at no cost.

Chickasaw preference will be given.

For more information, call (580) 272-5579 or email [stprogram@chickasaw.net](mailto:stprogram@chickasaw.net) to RSVP.

To learn more about Dr. Hamilton's work, visit <http://www.8legs2fangs.com>.

## Chickasaw Nation to host high school art competition

The Chickasaw Nation presents the 2017 Tobachi High School Art Competition at the Chickasaw Nation Arts & Humanities building, 201 N. Broadway Avenue, in Ada.

An awards reception and closing ceremony will take place at 4 p.m., Friday, May 5, at the Chokma'si Gallery in the arts and humanities building.

The competition, previously known as "Art Attack," is comprised of 11 schools. Students

submitted artwork in the following categories: drawing, painting, ceramics, sculpture and two-dimensional artwork.

All works of art will be judged on originality, technical skill and design.

Artwork will be on display at the Chokma'si Gallery through May 5.

For more information, contact Stan Pollard at (580) 272-5520 or [Stanley.pollard@chickasaw.net](mailto:Stanley.pollard@chickasaw.net).

## PHS Class of 2007 reunion set for May 6

The Purcell High School Class of 2007 Ten Year Reunion will be held on Saturday, May 6, from 7-10 p.m. at HeyDay Entertainment, 3201 Market Place, in Norman.

Tickets will be sold at the

door for \$25 per person. All classmates will be able to bring a guest.

Please contact Laine Dillinger via Facebook or call Purcell High School for more information.

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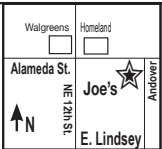
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# A tax increase to save lives

By State Rep. Bobby Cleveland

We now have five weeks left in the first session of the 56th Legislature, and we are getting into the meat of the budget bills. Soon enough, we could be voting on a proposal to increase the cigarette tax by \$1.50 per pack.

The House of Representatives saw a similar bill last year, and I voted against it. That decision has eaten me up ever since.

In 1988, my older brother Buzzy died of throat cancer. He was the mainstay of our family. Every single weekend, we'd all pile into his house, and his wife would put up with the old Cleveland crew and make us all dinner while we sat around and laughed at the stupid things we all did as kids. Buzzy kept our family together. But he was a smoker, and his tobacco use ultimately took him away from us.

In the years since Buzzy died, I also lost my sister Shirley and my other brother Jerry to the same beast. Both Shirley and Jerry had smoked too, and it had gotten the best of them.

Shirley had a smile that could

light up a room, and I treasure the fact she got to live into her 70s. Jerry was a constant source of advice and a wonderful confidant. Three of my siblings were stolen away, all because of cigarettes.

This tax is Oklahoma's opportunity to help ensure 88,000 children never become smokers who ultimately die from tobacco use. We should be thinking about our children and our grandchildren and doing whatever is in our power to stop this terrible habit in its tracks.

Tobacco use is responsible for 7,500 deaths each year in our state. That's more than the number of people who die from homicides, suicides, alcohol, illegal drugs, car crashes and AIDS combined.

It's a devastating habit that 22 percent of our adult population engages in, and it contributes to nearly one-third of the cancer deaths in our state. I've seen the devastation cigarettes can bring to a family, and I wouldn't wish the heartbreak on anyone.

Unfortunately, far too many families in this state are in the same boat as mine.

If you're still not sold on this, we should look at it from

a financial perspective. The increase is expected to generate around \$200 million annually, which would put a huge dent in the projected \$878 million budget shortfall.

Experts suggest the hike could also reduce health care costs by \$1.62 billion each year by incentivizing adults to quit and discouraging children from starting. In addition, it could save the state \$264 million in Medicaid costs.

The tobacco industry spends nearly \$170 million each year for marketing in our state. That money directly fuels a habit that sickens and kills Oklahomans and costs the state billions each year in health care costs and productivity losses. We cannot let this industry continue to take the lives of thousands of our family members while we sit idly by and watch it happen.

If this increase in tobacco tax encourages even one smoker to quit the deadly habit, it will have been worth it to me.

Rep. Bobby Cleveland, R-Slaughterville, represents House District 20. He can be reached at Bobby.Cleveland@okhouse.gov or by calling (405)-557-7308.

From page 4A

## Gov.:

Techlahoma include Code for OKC, Code for Tulsa, Nerdy Girls OKC Code Club, OKC Python and OKC.js, one of several java-focused groups that meet there.

Both StarSpace46 and 36° North are community-focused co-working and collaboration spaces that serve as startup incubators.

Facebook Chief Operating Officer Sheryl Sandberg recently invited two other governors and me to take part in the Girls Who Code 2017 Female Governors' Summit at Facebook's headquarters in Menlo Park, Calif. I was able to speak to our state's thriving initiatives to connect Oklahoma children in the K-12 age group with computer science education and all things STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics).

For instance, the Tulsa Regional STEM Alliance is part of a drive to promote STEM and computer science to young people through activities, such as coding camps and professional education for teachers in conjunction with the Oklahoma Engineering

Foundation.

Project Lead the Way, a national not-for-profit entity, has developed a comprehensive computer science educational program targeting students at all grade levels through high school. It offers a "Launch" module for kindergarten through fifth grade, two new courses embedded in its middle school Gateway curriculum, and a high school course for App developers as well as one for "innovators and makers."

"We have a pretty comprehensive opportunity for K through 12 students," said Robin Schott, Project Lead the Way's Oklahoma-based vice president for the west-central region. "Our curriculum is problem-solving based, so students are solving real-world problems through our content, and it is very engaging to them."

Why is all this important? Consider the type of employees that Oklahoma's tech-focused companies are seeking. They are all hiring computer-coding professionals. And that includes our

long-established oil and gas community.

"Technology is intertwined with the future of our economy," said Dustin Curzon, executive director of Tulsa's 36° North. "For our economy to thrive, we need to invest in the current and future generations to create more tech careers -- not just coders but knowledge workers who can integrate technology into their professions."

I am committed to ensure this growth continues across the state. Through Oklahoma Works, resources are being committed to make sure our students are prepared to meet the demands of the new economy.

My support for Oklahoma's entrepreneurial community stands as a testament to Oklahoma's dedication to growing and diversifying our economy.

The future of computer science, in its many forms, is bright, and Oklahoma will likely remain an emerging center for growth in this industry.



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**ROYAL THEATRE**

From page 4A

## Cole:

World War I. The reductions in defense spending means we have fewer soldiers, fewer ships, older airplanes and, consequently, reduced fighting power.

With rise of groups like ISIS and lone wolf attacks in Europe, it is imperative that our national security and defense capabilities are restored to a level commensurate to the threats we face. Accordingly, I have supported and will continue to support President Trump's efforts to increase the size and capability of America's military.

The sustained reduction in defense spending over the past several years has left us without the capability to confront our enemies whenever, and wherever necessary. This must change.

For the past eight years President Obama consistently requested less money for defense spending than his own Defense Secretaries asked for. Additionally, his foreign policy was all too often one

of appeasement, or of drawing "red lines," and then failing to act when said lines were crossed.

It's safe to say that with just a few short months in office, President Trump has demonstrated that the United States will no longer stand idly by when our national security interests are threatened.

When the Syrian regime of Bashar al-Assad used chemical weapons against its own people, America reacted. When our intelligence forces discovered a large underground ISIS base in Afghanistan, the United States took it out.

This President understands that terrorists cannot be negotiated with, or otherwise appeased. The only thing the terrorists understand is violent attacks hurting the lives of the innocent.

We must do everything in our power to give the President the tools he needs - including an Authorization for the Use of Military Force - to fight and win the war on terror.



Jeanne Grimes • The Purcell Register

### Triple mule team

For these three mules, pulling a modern day covered wagon along a paved highway in Lexington is surely an easier task than that performed by mules and horses on the first land run, the opening of the Unassigned Lands on April 22, 1889. Still, the team and wagoner offered a glimpse into that pioneer past with their appearance in the 89er Day parade on Saturday. **(Related photos page on 1A and 11A)**

From page 5A

## Movies:

disappointed.

The movie completely falls apart in the last 20 minutes. It's like the filmmakers didn't know how to end it so they just decided to rip-off "The Blair Witch Project" and call it a day.

I thought the performances were pretty good too, up until the last 20 minutes that is. I'm not exactly sure what changed to be honest.

At that point the movie stops cutting between the past and modern day and just finishes out the film with footage from 1997. Maybe the teens' acting only worked well during short, edited snippets. Maybe their performances just can't hold up when things actually get crazy. Either way the ending left a lot

to be desired. I don't know that I'd recommend this movie. If you're absolutely dying for a new horror/suspense film there isn't much else out there and this movie may scratch that itch. Just maybe go into it with lowered expectations.

"Phoenix Forgotten" is rated PG-13.

## Weekend outlook

### Cold and rainy

The squall line that blew through Purcell Friday morning brought more wind than rain.

Winds were clocked at 50 m.p.h. or better with the system dumping .68" of rain in the central part of town.

Residents in the north part of Purcell recorded only .3" Tuesday night brought another 1.10" of rain.

That rainfall brings the yearly total to 12.23". Oklahoma City has recorded 10.78" at Will Rogers World Airport.

The normal year-to-date total is 8.45".

Rain and colder temperatures are forecast for the latter part of the week and into the weekend.

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**Saturday, April 29**  
Dinner at 5:30 PM • Auction at 7 PM

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Menu: BBQ Brisket Sandwich, Potato Salad, Baked Beans, Dessert & Drink

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# Wayne School News



# NEWS

from the  
City of Purcell

## Heather Spray Wayne School

### Call With Your News

If you have any community news, let us know. We would be happy to report your events and news items.

News articles need to be delivered to the school by 9:30 a.m. each Monday.

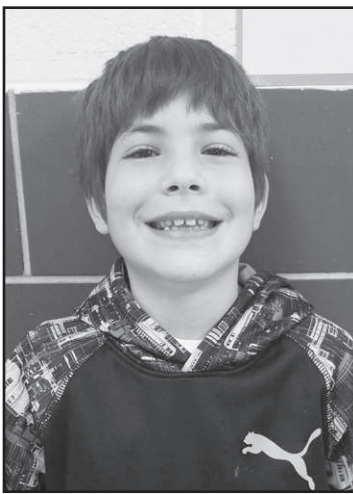
Call Heather Spray at Wayne Middle School at 449-3305.



Haven Cheatwood

joys playing games and going swimming. When Haven grows up he wants to be a cop.

Congratulations Haven Cheatwood!



Kane Lauderdale

### Mrs. Keeler's Fourth Grade Student of the Week

Mrs. Keeler's Fourth Grade Student of the Week is Kane Lauderdale. Kane's favorite color is blue, school subject is Science, and food is pizza.

In Kane's free time he enjoys playing games. When Kane grows up he wants to be an oceanographer.

Congratulations Kane Lauderdale!

In Shane's free time he enjoys drawing. When Shane grows up he wants to be a storm chaser.

Congratulations Shane Coughran!

### Pre-K Early Enrollment

We are trying to locate children who will be old enough for our Wayne Pre-Kindergarten for 2017-2018 school year.

Children must be four years old before September 1 for Wayne Pre-Kindergarten. If you have a child or know of a child this age, please come by the elementary office to pick up a form, if you do not have a child currently enrolled in the elementary.

Forms have been sent out with our current students and all forms need to be turned in as soon as possible. Please refine potty training habits over the summer.

If the student is not completely potty trained they will be asked to come back when they can use the bathroom independently. For enrollment of your child please bring the following items with you: Copy of Certified Birth Certificate, Social Security Card, current shot record, proof of address, and CDIB card if applicable.

### Upcoming Events:

- April 28—No School.
- May 1—NHS Ceremony, 8 a.m.; HS Awards Assembly, 6 p.m.
- May 4—ScienceFest, fourth and fifth grade; Elementary Spring Music Program, 6:30 p.m.
- May 5—No School.
- May 8—OBI Blood Drive, high school library; Athletic Banquet, 6 p.m.
- May 9—Elementary Spelling Bee; Band Banquet, 6 p.m.
- May 10—Elementary Spelling Bee.
- May 11—FFA Banquet.
- May 12—No School.
- May 15—High School Graduation, 7 p.m.
- May 16—Eighth Grade Promotion, 1 p.m.
- May 17—Kindergarten Graduation, 10 a.m.; Elementary Awards Assembly 1 p.m.
- May 18—Students last day of school, release at 1 p.m.
- May 19—Faculty last day of school.



Raedyn Saunders

### Mrs. Mead's Third Grade Students of the Week

Mrs. Mead's Third Grade Student of the Week is Raedyn Saunders. Raedyn's favorite color is pink, animal is cat, food is cake, t.v. show is "Wonder Girl" and holiday is Valentine's Day. Raedyn likes school because it is fun.

In Raedyn's free time she enjoys watching television, playing with toys and playing with her teddy bear. When Raedyn grows up she wants to be a teacher.

Congratulations Raedyn Saunders!

Mrs. Mead's Third Grade Student of the Week is Haven Cheatwood. Haven's favorite color is blue, animal is a lion, food is steak, sport is baseball, t.v. show is Spiderman, and holiday is New Year's Eve.

In Haven's free time he en-



Keeli Todd

### Mrs. Moreno's Third Grade Student of the Week

Mrs. Moreno's Third Grade Student of the Week is Keeli Todd. Keeli's favorite color is blue, animal is a horse, food is tomatoes, sport is basketball, t.v. show is "Full House," and holiday is Halloween.

In Keeli's free time she enjoys drawing, playing with her dogs, and riding horses. When Keeli grows up she wants to be a barrel racer.

Congratulations Keeli Todd!



Shane Coughran

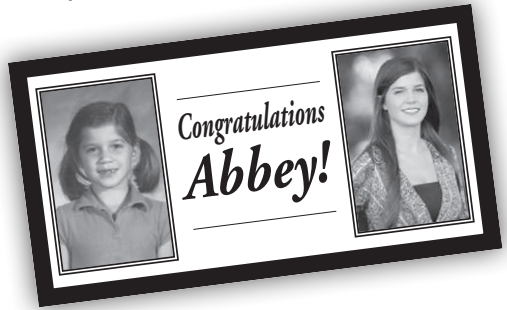
### Mrs. Boles Fourth Grade Student of the Week

Mrs. Boles Fourth Grade Student of the Week is Shane Coughran. Shane's favorite color is blue, school subject is math, and food is tacos.

# Our Graduation Section

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The Purcell Register

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## Rosedale News

By Donna Stufflebean

An Easter celebration was held in the home of Doris Lang. Easter dinner was served following an Easter egg hunt.

Doc received a lot of birthday wishes, cards and phone calls.

Attending were Doris Lang, Donna Stufflebean, Bo and Frank Linker, Shaeli Summers, Tommy, Kandace, Hailey, Trestin and Kolten Miller, Hailey

Please see **Rosedale**, page 9A

## Newsmakers

### SWOSU announces graduates

Southwestern Oklahoma State University at Weatherford has announced students who will complete requirements for associate's, bachelor's, master's or doctoral degrees after the 2016 spring semester.

Convocation will be held Friday and Saturday, May 5-6, on the Weatherford campus.

Heart of Oklahoma students graduating include **Jimi Bryen**, B.S. in Nursing; and **Thad Mowdy**, Doctor of Pharmacy; both of Lexington; **Kenyatta Brown**, B.S. in Engineering Physics; and **Leigh Gwin**, B.S. in Nursing; both of Purcell; and **Maddison Aday**, B.S. in Elementary Education; **Tracy Andrews**, M.Ed. in Reading Specialist; and **Ryan Siebert**, Bachelor of Music Education-Instrumental; all of Washington.

### SWOSU new student orientation

A total of 620 high school seniors have enrolled for the 2017 fall semester at Southwestern Oklahoma State University as part of the first three sessions of the New Student Orientation Program on the Weatherford campus.

Among the students who enrolled at the latest session are **Daytin Elizabeth Christian** of Purcell; and **Carrie Ann Burks** of Washington.

SWOSU is offering three more enrollment opportunities for high school seniors who plan to attend SWOSU this fall. Enrollment dates are June 19, July 17 and August 16. Students must apply and be accepted to SWOSU before they can attend an enrollment session. Each of the enrollment sessions offers students the chance to meet current SWOSU students and new freshmen, visit and enroll with a faculty advisor within the major they have selected, and obtain answers to any of their questions. For more information, visit [www.swosu.edu/admissions/nso](http://www.swosu.edu/admissions/nso) or contact New Student Orientation at (580) 774-3233 or [orientation@swosu.edu](mailto:orientation@swosu.edu).

### Painter to receive degree

Spring commencement exercises at Northwestern Oklahoma State University will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, May 6, at Ranger Field.

Retired educator Mary Elaine Williams Nichols, who graduated from Northwestern in 1970, will be speaking at commencement.

**Dylan Painter** of Purcell will receive his Master of Education in adult education management and administration.

### ECU Music Concert

East Central University's Boswell Chapel will be the site as the ECU Student Woodwind Chamber Music Concert will take place at 1 p.m. Sunday, April 30.

The concert is free and open to the public. The program will feature a saxophone quartet, coached by Nathaniel Berman, and will include Dillyn Stephens of Norman; Anthony Smith of Oklahoma City; Shelby Hubbard of Chelsea and **Abigail Hardage** of Washington.

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# 89ER DAY CELEBRATION



Jeanne Grimes • The Purcell Register

## Across the river

The Indian Territory Round-up Club from Purcell showed up at the 89er Day parade in Lexington with flags, rodeo royalty and sharp looking horses and uniforms.



Jeanne Grimes • The Purcell Register

## Wagon defenders

Two youngsters brandish what appear to be water pistols as their wagon rolls along the parade route at 89er Day in Lexington.



Jeanne Grimes • The Purcell Register

## 71 years

And still purrs like a kitten. This 1946 pickup was one of several vehicles in the 89er Day parade Saturday at Lexington.



Jeanne Grimes • The Purcell Register

## Dogged if it wasn't

A dog seated beside its master seems to be driving this horse-drawn wagon in the 89er Day parade at Lexington. But surely those are human hands on the reins.



Jeanne Grimes • The Purcell Register

## Surry with the fringe on top

Too young still to ride a horse, a pint-size cowboy with the Indian Territory Round-up Club waves to spectators from his ride – a surry complete with fringe on top being pulled by a Haflinger. The group participated in Saturday's parade for 89er Day in Lexington.



Jeanne Grimes • The Purcell Register

## Marching with pride

The Pride of Lexington Bulldog Band lent their musical talents to the 89er Day parade in Lexington on Saturday.



Jeanne Grimes • The Purcell Register

## Armed celebrants

Reenactors with Tri-State Gunfighters were back in Lexington to celebrate 89er Day with lead and gunpowder.



Jeanne Grimes • The Purcell Register

## Royal waves

Rodeo queens rode with an area roundup club Saturday during the 89er Day parade in Lexington.



Jeanne Grimes • The Purcell Register

## Hoofing it

A mounted contingent led the covered wagons along the parade route Saturday at Lexington's 89er Day Parade.



Jeanne Grimes • The Purcell Register

## Mule team

An outrider accompanied this covered wagon in the 89er Day parade Saturday at Lexington.



• Photo provided

### Car clinician

**Bill Findley**, owner of the Car Clinic LLC, cuts the ribbon April 18 to officially open the new business at 330 S. Green Ave. He was joined by family, friends and representatives from the Heart of Oklaoma Chamber of Commerce.



• Photo provided

### Making a Memmo's memory

**A new** eatery is open in Purcell. Owner Jen Hashani prepares to cut the ribbon to officially open Memmo's Italian Restaurant at 327 S. Green Ave., on April 12. Joining him are several representatives from the Heart of Oklahoma Chamber of Commerce, as well as family, friends and staff.



John D. Montgomery • The Purcell Register

### Purcell Firefighters respond

**Purcell Firefighter** Gage Christian was among those responding to a grassfire on the west side of Interstate 35 at mile marker 91 last Wednesday afternoon. The blaze, which was a controlled burn that got out of control, was doused in 20 minutes.



Jeanne Grimes • The Purcell Register

### Blessings be

**Bill Mougner** uses oversize scissors to cut the ribbon in front of Blessings by Design, 125 W. Main St., on Friday. Mougner and his wife, Chris, are co-owners of the new business with Nonie Humeston, shown left of Mougner. Representing the Heart of Oklahoma Chamber of Commerce are, from left, Mandy Davis, Jenny Hunter, Trevor Killblane, Michael Briganti, Billie Briganti, Gayla Riddle, Raegan Knox and Roselyn McAlister.

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2009 Ford Grand Marquis  
Leather, 69K Miles  
**\$9,234**

2009 Hyundai Sonata  
GLS, PW & PL  
**\$6,750**

2015 Ford Escape  
4 Cyl, Auto, 30K Miles  
**\$16,426**

From page 1A

### Water:

engineer who does work for the City of Purcell.

Not only is water lost through leaks, but also from fire hydrants and normal flushing of the lines.

How much water is unaccounted?

No one really knows.

City council member Mike Pollok says he was told by previous city manager Eric Johnson that the figure was 25 percent.

Current city manager Dale Bunn thinks that is too high, offering an estimate instead

of 10 percent.

"There are leaks in the system, aged lines that need to be replaced," Bunn said, adding Purcell's distribution system covers roughly 100 square miles.

Even though he can't say with certainty how many gallons the city loses, Bunn said the city is better now at accounting for the commodity.

"We used to not meter water use at city buildings and parks," he explained. "We now meter those and keep records. We've got a better handle on it."

From page 1A

### Grace:

Doyle Johnson of Byars after a vehicle chase.

Mashburn said Grace's actions were not inappropriate for the situation.

The nine-year veteran of the department was on paid

temporary leave following the lethal shooting.

He has now been completely reinstated and is back on the job, sheriff Don Hewett told **The Purcell Register**.

**APRIL SPECIAL!**

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**WE HAVE A DRIVE THRU!**

From page 1A

### Accident:

approximately four miles west of Purcell at the intersection of State Highway 39 and Bryant Avenue in front of the Union Hill Baptist Church.

Fielder was driving a 2001 Chevrolet 1500 pickup north-

bound on Bryant Avenue and pulled onto the highway after failing to yield from the stop sign.

As the pickup entered the intersection, it was struck on the passenger side by a west-

bound 2013 Ford Edge driven by Jimmie Ridenour.

The pickup came to rest on its right side in the church parking lot after the collision while the Ford Edge spun around and landed near the parking lot.

From page 1A

### Prayer:

Alliance will begin at 6 p.m. at First Christian Church, 117 W. Washington.

From there, participants are asked to walk to locations designated as areas where they are asked to focus their prayers.

The prayerful tour stops include the McClain County Courthouse, **The Purcell Register**, Purcell City Hall, Veterans Memorial and Purcell Junior High School.

At each stop, prayers will address a specific focus - government, the media, military, churches, schools, police and fire departments.

All the focus locations are within a short walk from the church.

"We want our community to join us as we pray together for our city and our great nation," said the Rev. Justin Blankenship, a Ministerial Alliance member.

Blankenship is the organizer of this year's event. He is also pastor of Landmark Church.

At this crucial time for the

nation, the people can do nothing more important than pray, he added.

Blankenship thanked residents in advance for making this spiritual discipline a personal priority and standing with the alliance as it encourages others to incorporate prayer in their lives.

The Lord has graciously anointed our efforts, empowering them to touch and change many hearts and lives, the minister continued.

We look forward to seeing His hand move across our land in exciting ways each May in response to our petitions, he added.

According to the Heartland Ministerial Alliance, many Christians aren't aware they live in a nation that has a law in place requiring the President proclaim a National Day of Prayer each year on the first Thursday in May.

In fact, the National Day of Prayer tradition predates the founding of the United States

of America, evidenced by the Continental Congress' proclamation in 1775 setting aside a day of prayer.

In 1952, Congress established an annual day of prayer and, in 1988, that law was amended, designating the National Day of Prayer as the first Thursday in May.

"As citizens and residents of the United States and as believers in Christ Jesus, we not only have a spiritual responsibility according to 1 Timothy 2:1-2 to pray, but a civic duty as well to heed our President's call to stand in the gap for our nation," the alliance states. "Who but God's people have the ability to enter into the very throne room of Heaven with prayers and petitions?"

This year's theme is "For Your Great Name's Sake! Hear Us... Forgive Us... Heal Us!" This is taken from Daniel 9:19, which says, "O Lord, Listen! O Lord, Forgive! O Lord, Hear and Act! For Your Sake, O My God..."

# Dragons hosting Lexington

## District Tournament moved up to Wednesday afternoon

**John D. Montgomery**  
**The Purcell Register**

Mother Nature was the winner of the 29th Annual Heart of Oklahoma baseball tournament.

Purcell was one of four area teams to win their opener and were excited about facing Wayne in the semifinals.

But Oklahoma thunderstorms prevailed and the tournament had to be canceled.

"We're disappointed because we love playing in it," Purcell Head Coach Robbie Carriger said. "It just wasn't in the cards. It is what it is and this time of year there is no

time to make it up. We'll just move forward."

Forward meant getting a lot of different pitchers work in Monday night's 14-10 loss

We've got to capitalize when we get runners on base. It's great if your entire lineup is hitting over .300 but if you don't drive them in you can get beat.

— **Robbie Carriger, head coach**

at Ada and then setting their sights on Lexington in the District Tournament.

The tournament has been

moved up a day to Wednesday beginning at 4 p.m. The second game will follow at 7 p.m. with the if necessary game set for today (Thursday).

Lexington has defeated Purcell in their two meetings this season.

The Bulldogs prevailed 7-3

in the season opener and just recently pinned a 6-5 loss on the Dragons.

"Jarod (Ennis) does a great job," Carriger said of his Lexington counterpart. "His kids buy in. We out-hit them both games. We just left too many men on base. They've had good pitching and got timely hits against us.

"We've got to capitalize when we get runners on base. It's great if your entire lineup is hitting over .300 but if you don't drive them in you can

Please see **Dragons**, page 2B



Janet Moore • The Purcell Register

### Crash course

**Lexington junior** Caden Jones slaps a tag on Purcell's Ethan Wayland during the Bulldog's 6-5 win over the Dragons while Jarrett Sweeney watches.



Janet Moore • The Purcell Register

### Under the tag

**Cam Webster** slides under the Newcastle third baseman Thursday during the Heart of Oklahoma Baseball Tournament. Webster went on to score and the Bulldogs defeated the Racers 5-3.

## Lexington eyes District Tourney

### Play in Purcell Wednesday at 4 p.m.

**John D. Montgomery**  
**The Purcell Register**

Coach Jarod Ennis' Lexington Bulldogs were to take an 11-9 record into the District Tournament at Purcell Wednesday.

The first of the best two out of three begins at 4 p.m. Wednesday with the second game set for 7 p.m.

The if necessary game will be today (Thursday).

Lexington has beaten the Dragons in both regular season match ups, 7-3 to open the season and 6-5 in their last meeting.

"It'll be a tough match up for us," Ennis said. "We've seen them a bunch this year."

Lexington kicked off the Heart of Oklahoma Tournament with a 5-3 victory over Newcastle riding the pitching

arm of Seth Comer, who tossed a complete game.

Comer issued no walks, struck out four, scattered seven hits and allowed two earned runs.

Broc Sukenis and Caden Jones led the 10-hit Bulldog attack.

They both went 2-3 with Sukenis knocking in a pair of RBIs. Jones ripped a double and had an RBI.

Cam Webster, Greysen Griffith, Comer, Coleman Boatright, Garrett Woods and Hunter Findley all had a hit in the contest.

Had the Purcell Tournament continued, Lexington would have faced Washington in the semifinals.

Please see **Bulldogs**, page 4B

## Hamilton, Nation named All-State

### Purcell Seniors gain Basketball Academic All-State accolades

Purcell's Dragons not only excelled on the basketball court this season but are shining in the classroom as well.

Seniors Riley Hamilton and Austin Nation have both been named Class 3A Basketball Academic All Staters.

Hamilton averaged 16.1 points per game, 5.7 re-

bounds, 3.1 assists and 2.9 steals.

Nation averaged 14 points per game, 5.2 rebounds, 3.5 assists and 2.3 steals.

In the classroom, Hamilton has a GPA of 4.22 while Nation carries a 4.17 GPA.

Both young men are in the Top Ten percent of the graduating class.



Riley Hamilton



Austin Nation

## Swayze sets school record

### In 400 meter dash

**John D. Montgomery**  
**The Purcell Register**

Purcell's mile relay team finished first in the Canadian Valley Conference meet last week at Pauls Valley.

Haylee Swayze set a new school record in the 400 meter dash with a 57.56 effort.

Swayze also finished first in the 100 meter hurdles in 14.71.

The Conference Champion mile relay quartet was comprised of Alena Dunaway, Masheli Lewis, Chelsea Spain and Swayze.

"I was very pleased with several of our athletes that were able to set new personal records for the season," head coach Greg Dillard said.

"Haylee Swayze set a new school record in the 400 meters. Her 57.56 effort smashed the old school standard set

by Cicely Martin of 58.85," Dillard said.

Spain and Carly Busacco both ran their best times in the 100 meters. Spain covered the 100 meters in 13.05 while Busacco legged a 13.84.

"This is the time of year we need to start making a push to really prepare for the Regional Meet coming up next weekend," Dillard confirmed.

The Dragons competed at Ardmore last Saturday with Swayze winning both hurdle races.

That was the last regular season meet with Regionals this Saturday at Madill.

**Conference Results:**  
**100 m** - Chelsea Spain, fourth, 13.05; Alena Dunaway,

Please see **Record**, page 4B

## Lex to McLoud

### Face Sulphur in Regional Tournament opener

**John D. Montgomery**  
**The Purcell Register**

Lexington blanked Comanche and beat Lindsay twice to win the District Tournament at Lexington April 19.

The Lady Bulldogs run-ruled Comanche 12-0, treated Lindsay in much the same way in an 11-1 victory before shutting out the Leopardettes 8-0 to sew up the crown.

Lexington will travel to McLoud for the Regional Tournament along with Morris, Sulphur and the host Lady Redskins.

Lexington is scheduled to play Sulphur at 2:15 today (Thursday) weather permitting.

In the Comanche victory Tiffani Hinkle and Bri Webster were both 2-2. Hinkle had one

RBI and Webster had a pair. Lindsey Barber knocked in two RBIs in a 1-3 effort.

Rachel Beason went 1-2 at the plate and registered an RBI. Both Amanda Graddy and Konnor McDonald had multiple RBI outings without getting a hit.

Graddy was 0-2 with an RBI while McDonald went 0-3 with 3 RBIs.

A home run in a 2-4 outing at the plate in the first game with Lindsay made Hinkle's bat twinkle with 5 RBIs. She had one in the second Lindsay victory giving her seven for the tournament.

Hannah Robbins, McDonald and Barber all had two

Please see **Regional**, page 4B



Janet Moore  
The Purcell Register

### Pitching in the rain

**Jordan Kutz** goes home with the pitch amid the rain as Washington defeated Bridge Creek 2-1 in the Heart of Oklahoma Baseball Tournament on Thursday. Kutz struck out eight and gave up four hits in the win. See related story on 2B

# Wayne hosting Healdton

District playoffs start at 2 p.m. today (Thursday)



Janet Moore • The Purcell Register

**Emily Montgomery**  
The Purcell Register

District playoffs officially get underway when Wayne hosts Healdton today (Thursday) at 2:00 and 4:30 p.m. The if-necessary game is Friday at 1:00 p.m.

"They should be a solid team. We'll have to have our best games to move on," said head coach Brad Lucas.

Mother Nature got in the way of the Heart of Oklahoma tournament last week, raining out all but four games.

But, the Wayne Bulldogs were able to snag a 6-5 victory over Pauls Valley before the weather took over.

The Bulldogs were held scoreless through three innings.

In the bottom of the fourth, Brock Walck led off with a hit by pitch, then stole second. Rodney Gray had an RBI single to score Walck and put the Bulldogs on the board.

Gray then stole home and the score was knotted at two-all.

The Panthers scored two more in the fifth and, again, it was time for a Bulldog rally.

Fayte Givens led off with a double. Braden Smith socked a double to score Givens. Madden was up to the plate next. He had a fielder's choice RBI, scoring Smith to once again tie the score.

Pauls Valley scored one in the sixth to take back the lead, 5-4.

The Panthers were held scoreless in the top of the seventh, leaving the door open for Wayne.

Smith leads off for the Bull-

Please see **Wayne**, page 4B



Janet Moore • The Purcell Register

## Dirty job

**Robbie Carriger** and members of the Purcell baseball program attempt to cover the field as wet weather approaches. The Heart of Oklahoma Baseball Tournament was shortened due to rain.

## Fire it in

**Wayne senior** Braden Smith throws a ball to first base from short stop for an out against Pauls Valley during the Heart of Oklahoma Baseball Tournament Thursday. Wayne defeated the Panthers 6-5.

# Warriors waiting on Regionals

After Star Spencer forfeits Districts

**John Denny Montgomery**  
The Purcell Register

The Washington Warriors baseball team picked up three wins as they get set for the State Playoffs.

They defeated Latta 6-5, Bridge Creek 2-1 and Wayne 13-2.

Head coach Nick Blackburn said his team is ready for the playoffs.

"They've been looking forward to Districts and Regionals," he said.

The team will have to wait a

little longer after Star Spencer forfeited Districts to the Warriors.

Blackburn said Star Spencer isn't associated with the Oklahoma Secondary Schools Athletic Association in baseball and decided to forfeit.

In the meantime Blackburn has been trying to schedule a couple games to keep his team sharp.

"I don't want to go with no games for nine days," he said.

"We're scrambling to find games."

He was able to get a game scheduled against Lawton Ike for Friday at 3 p.m.

"They're doing us a favor and helping us out by playing us," he said.

## Latta

In the Latta game Chaz Orr went the distance on the mound, throwing a complete game with six strikeouts.

Orr also had three RBIs in the game.

Brandon Reese went 2-3 with two RBIs of his own.

## Bridge Creek

In a rain-shortened Heart of Oklahoma Tournament last Thursday, Washington defeated Bridge Creek 2-1 in their only game of the tourney.

Brandon Reese registered the team's only RBI and Logan Fox scored both runs in the win, plus two stolen bases.

Washington racked up nine hits but left nine runners stranded on base.

Jordan Kutz got the win and had eight strikeouts.

## Wayne

Washington pounded Wayne 13-2 Monday evening.

Harrison Keeler had four RBIs and two walks.

Orr had three RBIs himself. Wayne took the early lead, scoring both of their runs in the first inning.

But Washington got rolling and scored three runs in the second and five each in the third and fourth.

"We had a couple errors but one was a ball that got in between two guys and one bounced funny off the lip of the infield," Blackburn said.

"Not to make excuses but they weren't mental."

Washington will await their Regional assignment.

"I like the way we're playing and I'm looking forward to Regionals," Blackburn said.

Washington is 17-5 and ranked No. 8 in Class 3A.



Janet Moore • The Purcell Register

## Bat on ball

**Chaz Orr** singles during Washington's 2-1 win over Bridge Creek in the Heart of Oklahoma Baseball Tournament at Purcell. Orr was 1-2 from the plate.

From page 1B

## Dragons:

get beat," Carriger said.

"Plus, Lexington hasn't seen Ethan (Wayland) or (Jarrett) Sweeney or our closer so it could be a little different game. We should have some spark. It's the playoffs and we're playing Lex so we shouldn't need any motivation.

"We expect it to be a good competitive series. We should have good crowd. It should be a lot of fun," Carriger said.

The Dragons stymied Little Axe in the first round of the Heart of Oklahoma Tournament and were looking forward to a match with the Wayne Bulldogs in the semifinals that never happened due to the weather.

"We started the first game on Friday but then the rain came

in," Carriger said. "We were trying to put the tarp down but it was so windy that cinder blocks were being tossed through the air. The tarp came up and lifted me into the air."

Waylon Steiner got the pitching victory against the Racers throwing three innings before turning the rock over to Brett Webb for the remainder of the game.

"Steiner didn't have his best stuff but the thing about Steiner is he stays around the zone. He may be our best at that. He doesn't give bases away (on walks) and usually has good run support."

Eight of the nine players Purcell sent to the plate got at least one hit.

Webb and Dylan Collateta

led the way with two hits each.

Webb was 2-2 with three RBIs while Collateta got his two RBIs in a 2-3 performance at the plate. Cauy Hollis ripped a two run double. Wayland and Fernando Auz both added a hit.

"It was a good day of baseball," Carriger said. "We're just getting ready for Districts."

Purcell is 14-8 heading into the District Tournament.

Purcell used almost every pitcher in their loss to Ada.

"We were going to let each pitcher pitch an inning just to get loose," Carriger said.

Collateta took the pitching loss but was a shiny penny on offense.

The senior stud went 5-5 at the plate with a home run, a double and six runs batted in.

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# Good Luck

## at Regional Tournament

**Lexington  
Lady Bulldogs**  
vs. Sulphur at McLoud  
Thursday at 2:15 PM



**Washington Lady Warriors**  
vs. Davis at Mangum • Thursday at 2:15 PM

**Purcell  
Boys Golf**  
Hunter Askew,  
Jake Berrey  
& Trey Leshner

## at District Tournament



**Purcell  
Dragons**  
vs. Lexington  
Wednesday at 4 PM



**Lexington  
Bulldogs**  
vs. Purcell  
Wednesday at 4 PM



**Wayne  
Bulldogs**  
vs. Healdton  
Thursday at 2:30 PM

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# Purcell's softball season over

**John D. Montgomery**  
The Purcell Register

Purcell's Slow-pitch softball team played its final games of the season in the District Tournament at Prague last week.

The Lady Red Devils pinned a 25-0 loss on the Dragons before Byng ended the Purcell season with a 15-5 run-rule victory.

Purcell finished 4-13 for the season.

Jaden Webb, Addie Burton, Camryn Dickerson and Cheyenne Fulks all had hits in the Prague contest.

The Dragons hit much better in the loss to Byng with Webb going 2-3, Burton 2-3, Christian 2-3, Fulks 2-3 and Addie Stanton 2-2.

Dickerson and Christian Lindsey also had a hit in the game.

Webb banged a home run and a double. Christian also went yard and one of Burton's hits was a sharp double.

Burton, Webb and Lindsey all had an RBI while Christian knocked in a pair of runners.



Janet Moore • The Purcell Register

## Soft

**Christian Lindsey** delivers the pitch for the Purcell. The Dragons' season ended with a 15-5 loss to Byng last Thursday.

From page 1B

## Wayne:



Janet Moore • The Purcell Register

## Hug the line

**Cooper Chick** watches a sacrifice bunt go down the first base line during Wayne's 6-5 win over Pauls Valley in their lone game during the Heart of Oklahoma Baseball Tournament.

From page 1B

## Bulldogs:

Lexington is coming off a 13-5 victory over Konawa on Monday, setting the stage for a run at the District title.

Cody Bear was the winning pitcher tossing six innings.

Boatright carried the big lumber for the Bulldog hitters going 2-3 and knocking in four base runners.

Webster was 2-4 and scored three times while Bear helped his own cause going 2-4 with a double and scored twice.

Ennis got one hit each from Jones, Comer, Woods and Findley.

Findley was 1-1 with a two RBI double and scored three times.

From page 1B

## Regional:

hits in the first Lindsay win. Robbins and Barber both had two RBIs while McDonald registered one.

Graddy also had an RBI in a 1-3 hitting performance.

In the finale, Barber and Anna Sample were both 3-3 with an RBI.

Hinkle went 3-4 and Jacie Jones was 1-3 with 3 RBIs.

Lexington took a 19-11 season record into the Regional.



John Denny Montgomery • The Purcell Register

## Eyeing it

**ShaeBug Scarberry** chips Tuesday during the Regional golf tournament at Brent Bruehl Memorial Golf Course.

From page 1B

## Record:

13.78; Carly Busacco, 13.84.  
**200** - Busacco, 29.28.

**400** - Haylee Swayze, first, 57.56\*, Savannah Ibarra, 1:06.4; Angela Resendiz, 1:19.8.

**800** - Resendiz, 3:13.1.  
**100 h** - Swayze, first, 14.71.

**Long jump** - Dunaway, fourth, 14'7 1/2".

**Shot** - Daytin Christian, 29'7"; Sklyer Love, 27'6"; Makayla Williams, 26'6".

**Discus** - Williams, 74'3"; Love, 64'1".

**400 relay** - Purcell, third, 51.31 (Spain, Lewis, Ibarra, Swayze).

**800 relay** - Purcell, second, 1:51.7 (Spain, Ibarra, Lewis, Swayze).

**1600 relay** - Purcell, first, 4:12.6 (Dunaway, Lewis, Spain, Swayze).

(\*New School Record)

### Ardmore results:

**100 m** - Katelyn Carwile, 13.70; Dunaway, 13.90; Busacco, 14.15.

**200 m** - Spain, 27.21, fifth; Busacco, 28.92.

**400 m** - Ibarra, 1:05.7; Resendiz, 1:19.2.

**800 m** - Resendiz, 3:14.3.

**100 h** - Swayze, first, 15.07.

**300h** - Swayze, first, 46.12.

**Shot** - Williams, 29'5"; Christian, 30'1"; Love, 25'6".

**Discus** - Williams 84'5"; Love, 54'3".

**Long jump** - Dunaway 14'4".

**400 relay** - Purcell, 53.54 (Spain, Lewis, Ibarra, Carwile).

**800 relay** - Purcell, fourth, 1:49.98 (Spain, Lewis, Ibarra, Swayze).

**1600 relay** - Purcell, second, 4:12.02 (Dunaway, Lewis, Spain, Swayze).

# Lady Bulldogs out

Losses to Ringling eliminates Wayne

**Emily Montgomery**  
The Purcell Register

The Wayne Lady Bulldogs fell to Ringling two times to be knocked out of the playoffs in the District tournament.

Coach Scott Brewer's girls took out ECP 8-0 in their first game of the tournament to play their way through the winner's bracket.

Next up were the Ringling Lady Blue Devils. Scoring nine runs in the first inning, Wayne came out hot and never looked back in the 16-3 lopsided win.

"This was a good win for us. We had a big first inning and were hitting the ball well," Brewer said.

Peyton Spencer led the team at the plate, going 2-2. She cranked the bat for two home runs also. Maddison Hunt's bat was on fire too, going 3-3 and adding a homerun too.

Wayne and Ringling faced off again in game three where the Lady Bulldogs were on the short end, falling 5-4.

"We didn't hit the ball well and when we did hit it, it was right to them. Our defense was good, but we couldn't get the hits we needed and left 11 runners stranded," Brewer said.

Bailey Kennedy had three hits in the loss while Paige

Hunt, Hannah Wissinger and Raegan Dill each added a couple.

With one loss each, Wayne and Ringling were in for round three, winner takes all.

The Lady Blue Devils had the better outing and came out on top, 9-4.

"Our bats were dead and we left 13 runners on base. You just can't expect to win that way," Brewer said.

Earlier in the week, the Lady Bulldogs were on the road for a festival with Cement and Cyril.

Wayne notched a 12-1 victory over Cement and fell 11-1 to Cyril.

Cristal Bennett had four hits through the two game festival.

The Wayne Lady Bulldogs finished the season with a 19-10 record, ranked in the top ten all season.

"Overall the girls played well this season. I don't think anyone expected us to win that many games and I'm proud of the way they played," Brewer said.


Lost to graduation are seniors Spencer, Bennett, Paige Hunt, Gracie Dill and Kaylan Doshier.

According to Brewer the seniors have been an asset to the softball program and will be missed.

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# Washington to Mangum

## Warriors on the road for Regionals

**JohnDennyMontgomery**  
**The Purcell Register**

After a tough District tournament Washington advanced to the Regional tournament in Mangum and face Davis today (Thursday) at 2:15.

In the first game of Districts Washington cruised to a 17-0

win over CCS. "It went well," head coach Jace Brewer said. "We swung it well."

In the second game - the start of a best-of-three showdown - Washington beat Konawa 18-3. "We hit the ball well," he said. "It was a decisive victory."

The second game didn't go quite as smoothly as the first.

"We had a lack of focus and effort and it cost us," Brewer said of his team's 9-5 loss to Konawa. "Early defensive mistakes gave them extra bases and extra outs," he said.

In the rubber match Washing-

ton was again triumphant with a 9-0 win.

"We hit three home runs in the first inning and it silenced them early," Brewer said. "That's the capability we have."

Brewer said he knew the District tournament was going to be difficult and he said the Regional will be tough as well.

In Washington's previous match up with Davis they came away with a 16-1 win, according to the coach.

"Our destiny is in our own hands," he said.

"Two wins and we're in (at State)."

### Moore

Washington lost a 11-10 final to Moore Monday night in a back and forth battle.

Washington got them down 4-0 early but Moore came storming back.

Washington struck again in the fourth inning when they scored five runs.

But Washington was unable to close out the game and left the tying and winning runs on third and first respectively when the game ended.

"We had them where we wanted them," Brewer said.



John Denny Montgomery • The Purcell Register

## Regional bound

**Hunter Askew** shot 101 at Lake Murray Golf Course on Monday to qualify for the Regional golf tournament.



John Denny Montgomery • The Purcell Register

## Qualifier

**Trey Leshner** shot 105 at Lake Murray Golf Course Monday to qualify for the Regional golf tournament.

# Girl golfers state bound

## Three boys qualify for Regionals

**JohnDennyMontgomery**  
**The Purcell Register**

The Purcell girls are headed to a familiar place after Tuesday's round at Brent Bruehl Memorial Golf Course.

They're going back to State. Led by Jade McCurdy's third place finish and the 79 on her scorecard, the Dragons shot 366 as a team.

They were just behind Regional winner Marlow, who shot 362.

ShaeBug Scarberry, back from injury after breaking a bone in her hand just weeks ago, shot 83.

Caitlynn Land posted 96, Lexi Longley carded 108 and Alicia Baker shot 112.

The State tournament will be played in Tahlequah at Cherokee Springs Golf Course May 3-4.

The Purcell boys golf team competed in the Regional Qualifying Tournament at Lake Murray Golf Course on Monday where three Dragons qualified for the Regional Tournament May 1.

Jake Berrey - 97, Hunter Askew - 101 and Trey Leshner - 105 qualified as individual players for Regionals.

Sam Quick shot 112 and Titus Pruitt carded 122.

As a team Purcell shot 415. The boys team also competed in the Conference Tournament Thursday at Brent Bruehl Memorial Golf Course.

Trey Leshner led Purcell's scoring, shooting an 87, Jake Berrey shot 94 and Sam Quick was a shot behind posting 95.

Hunter Askew shot 102 and Titus Pruitt shot 115.

As a team the Dragons shot 378.

### Boys



John Denny Montgomery • The Purcell Register

## Going over some scores

**Jade McCurdy** and Purcell golf coach Mike Gowens visit during the Regional golf tournament at Brent Bruehl Memorial Golf Course Tuesday.



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## Holding down second

**Aly Clemence** enjoys the view from second base. Washington travels to Mangum Thursday to play Davis at 2:15 p.m. in the Regional slow-pitch softball tournament.

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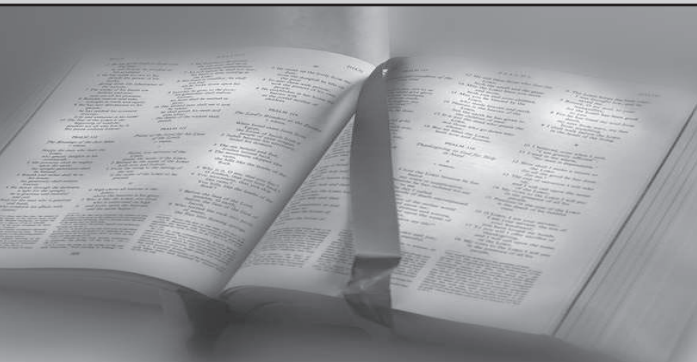
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HIS HEART, HIS PASSION, HIS PURPOSE

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Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.  
Worship - 10:45 a.m.  
Evening - 6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday Evening - 6:30 p.m.  
Steve Roach, Pastor

**SUNRAY**  
BAPTIST CHURCH  
2223 N. 9th, Purcell, OK 73080  
Pastor Dennis Clark  
527-6808  
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Morning Worship: 10:50 a.m.  
Evening Worship: 5:00 p.m.  
Wednesday Bible Study: 6:30 p.m.

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**Christ**  
Purcell, OK  
Sunday 10:30 & 1:30  
Wednesday Evening 6:30

**Fountains**  
of Faith  
Affiliated with Independent Assemblies  
Pastors Neal & Sandra Hector  
122 S. 6th Street • Purcell, OK 73080  
405-740-5163 • 405-740-1978  
Sunday Worship 10:30 am  
Sunday Evening 6:00 pm  
Wednesday 7:00 pm



### Green Avenue Church of Christ

The Wednesday evening auditorium class continued looking at the third chapter of First Corinthians focusing on the role of servants of God who plant His word and those who nurture it.

The Sunday morning adult Bible class studied Numbers 26 through 36 which includes the appointment of Joshua to replace Moses as leader of Israel, God's instruction to the Israelites to take the land which he had given them and rules about how they should handle the inheritance of a man who

had no sons.

During the Sunday morning assembly Keith Shackelford brought a lesson on the importance of being steadfast beginning with the reading of 1 Corinthians 15:58. The lesson looked at poor examples of being steadfast like Balaam (Numbers 22-23), Solomon (1 Kings 11), and the people of Judah (1 Kings 13), and good examples like Job (Job 1-2), three young Hebrews (Daniel 3), Daniel (Daniel 6), Ruth (Ruth 1) and numerous others (Hebrews 11).

The Sunday evening sermon examined the importance of being courageous starting with Numbers 13:20. The lesson included how to obtain and lose courage, when it is needed and finally how God is with those who are courageous..

The church is located at 407 Jackson Street in Purcell. Bible classes begin at 9:45 Sunday morning and 7 Wednesday evening, with worship at 10:45 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Sunday. Bible study correspondence courses are available. You can call the office at 527-4052.

### Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church

By Fr. Jim Chamberlain

Each of us responds differently to a tragedy. When something terrible happens, we respond in our own way – it is the only way we know how.

For a year, I worked as a chaplain at Children's Medical Center in Dallas. I worked on the floor where children were dying, or being healed, of leukemia or other forms of cancer. I noticed that sometimes the tragedy of a child's cancer would break the parents apart.

Sometimes the parents would leave each other in divorce. But at other times it made the marriage stronger. Each person responded differently to the tragedy.

One mother blamed herself for the cancer. Another mother blamed God and became bitter. One father was very quiet and couldn't speak. Another father was always optimistic and grateful even for the few precious days that he had left with his child. Some marriages became stronger. Some marriages did not endure the trial, even if the child was healed and returned home.

The disciples each responded differently to the tragedy of Jesus' death. Peter was so afraid that he denied ever knowing Jesus. Thomas was there. He saw the nails being driven into the hands and feet.

But then he hid in the bushes so that he would not be next. John, the beloved disciple, and Mary, the mother of Jesus,

followed him to the end. They were alone with him at the foot of the cross.

We sometimes forget that God is writing a story in each of our lives. God is writing the story of Todd and of Jerry and Kathy and Vivian. It begins with 60 or 70 or 80 years of life on this earth – of going to school, of learning a skill, of pleasing our boss, of paying our taxes, loving our children – and then we die. Each of us will have one last heartbeat. Our lungs will breathe one last breath. And then we die. We just die. What a bum!

Unless...unless... What if this life is just the first chapter of the story that God is writing with our life? What if this life is simply a glimpse of things to come in the eternal life with God. The Catechism of the Catholic Church says this: "Faith makes us taste in advance the light of the beatific vision, the goal of our journey here below." [CCC, #163]

Often when I am driving in the car alone – in silence – I remember one of the beautiful events in my life. I remember the things I saw, the people who were there, the fragrance in the air, the feelings I had. And I am comforted. This is only a glimpse of my eternal life with God.

That is the message of Easter. Now the story is no longer about Jesus of Nazareth, an historical

figure. Now the story is about the risen Christ that dwells within you and me. Now the story is my story and your story and the story of Jerry and Kathy and everyone else who believes in him. As the funeral liturgy reminds us "Our life is changed, not ended." That is the Easter promise. That is why the Gospel is called godspel, or the "good news". "God" is an Olde English word that means "good", and "spel" is a word that means "news".

On Easter Sunday night – when all the disciples were huddled in fear, just like in a storm shelter – waiting for the storm – Jesus walked in among them and said "I have good news for you. Your life here is only the beginning. Your life here is the chance to seek God, to know him and to love him, so that you might live the life eternal, the same life that I am now living with the Father." That truly is the gospel. That truly is "good news."

Our big Cinco de Mayo festival will be held on Sunday, May 7, from 12-4 p.m. All are invited to enjoy delicious foods, games for the children, and fun for the whole family.

Our weekend Mass schedule is Saturday at 5 p.m. (English), Sunday at 11 a.m. (English) and 1 p.m. (Spanish).

For more information, call our church office at 527-3077. Please visit our parish, and like us on Facebook.

### Lexington Westside Church of Christ

We want to welcome all to the "front porch." For this week, we want to visit with you about ... "A Case for Faith."

The amazing light of Lee Strobel – the one-time atheist turned believer – is now shining brightly in theaters all across the country. "The Case For Christ" is a powerful story of a Chicago Tribune journalist's attempt to prove Christianity wrong from a researcher's point of view.

In one of the opening scenes, Lee's wife and young daughter are eating in a restaurant when the little girl gets choked, caus-

ing immediate chaos throughout the restaurant. No one is able to dislodge the food from the child's throat, and she likely would have died right there ... except ... by "chance" a nurse happens to be at the restaurant and is able to perform the Heimlich and save her life. Lee's wife Leslie – gripped with both fear and thanksgiving – pours her trembling heart out to the Good Samaritan nurse. But the nurse says, "Oh, it wasn't me that saved your little girl. It was Jesus."

That night when Lee and Leslie put the little girl to bed, the girl asks her mom and dad innocently: "Who's Jesus?"

Leslie looks hopelessly to her rational journalist husband for the answer, which he provides freely:

"Oh," he said, "we don't believe in Jesus. We're atheists." With that, they kiss the 6-year-old good night, as the little girl says, "I guess I will be an atheist, too."

Theaters across the country cannot help but to gasp – collectively – at that moment. But while Lee Strobel is content to chalk up the powerful event of that day to "chance," Leslie cannot quite get over

it. It weighs on her mind, and that tugging at her heart leads her to investigate this "Jesus" thing further, ultimately forcing Lee to as well. While Leslie is truly looking for something to anchor her life to, Lee is looking to debunk this silly notion of a Jesus who was raised from the dead.

Strobel's story – really, more of a "journey" – truly is compelling, even until the end when – after he has spent months looking to prove the fallacy of this resurrection notion – Lee asks his editor if he can write an article on his findings. Of course, his editor knows the nature of the thesis and declines.

That night at home, as Lee laments that lost opportunity, Leslie says non-assumingly: "Well, then, write a book."

Since that casual "write a book" suggestion, Lee Strobel has written twenty "apologetic" books, including the one that bears the name of the movie, The Case for Christ, and also his powerful A Case for Faith. We find a hint of greatness in this journey.

Please see **Westside**, page 7B

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