



Byars election August 8

Voters in the town of Byars will go to the polls August 8 to decide if they want to continue to have Oklahoma Gas and Electric Company be franchised in the community.

On the ballot will be the right for OG&E to franchise and be granted rights to sell electric power to the citizens. This includes the right to construct, maintain and operate a system of poles, wires, conduits and other facilities and equipment for 25 years.

Mayor Bo Cail said it's the same thing the town did 25 or so years ago.

"We get the franchise tax off of the electricity sales," Cail said.

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

5 questions with Brad Beller



Brad Beller

Editor's note: Answering *The Purcell Register's* five questions this week is Brad Beller, head football coach for the defending State Champion Washington Warriors. **Q: When did you decide or what prompted you to get into education and coaching?**

A. I decided that I wanted to coach when I started school ball in 6th grade. I saw the impact that coaches had on young men and how much passion they had for the game.

Q: Who was your mentor?
A. Coach McCray. He was my head coach in high school and he gave me my first shot in the coaching world.

Q: What's the most challenging part of your job?

A. The most challenging part of my job is making sure that I'm always looking at the process and not just the result

Please see **Beller**, back page

MAN KILLED

while deputies serve eviction notice



John Denny Montgomery • The Purcell Register

Deadly situation

Law enforcement officers with the McClain County Sheriff's office, Purcell Police Department and Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation were on the scene of an officer-involved shooting Monday evening at a home on Apache St. The subject of an eviction notice was fatally shot after brandishing a knife at an officer serving the notice.

John D. Montgomery
The Purcell Register

One person is dead following an officer-involved shooting Monday at 7:02 p.m.

Two McClain County Sheriff Deputies were serving an eviction notice along with one misdemeanor warrant at 829 W. Apache St. in Purcell when the

scene took a turn for the worse.

The suspect, identified by the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation as 52-year-old John Wil-

liam Stockton, barricaded himself in a bedroom when deputies arrived.

Please see **Killed**, back page

Sales tax holiday August 4-6

The 2023 Sales Tax Holiday for back-to-school shopping starts Friday, August 4 and continues through Sunday, August 6 this year.

Under the special holiday law, if an item is tax exempt, anyone

may make the purchase tax-free. This includes, according to the State, the sale of any article of clothing or footwear designed to be worn on

Please see **Tax**, back page



John D. Montgomery • The Purcell Register

Enrollment

A new enrollment system is being implemented for Purcell Schools this year, open to all grades at the high school's Reimer Center.

SUMMER SPORTS SPOTLIGHT



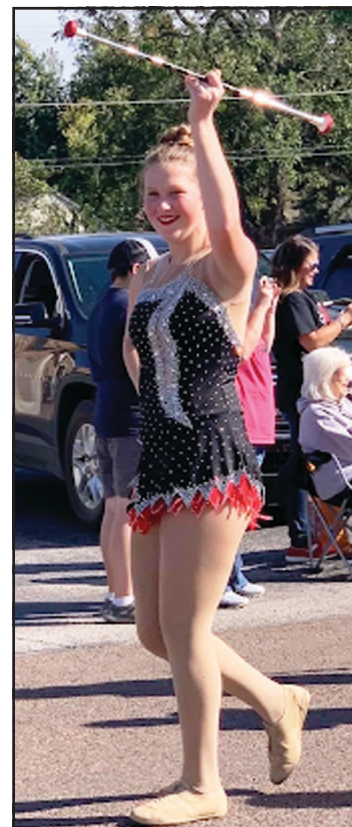
Zack Wright
The Purcell Register

For this week's installment of our summer series, we spoke with Presley Strickland, a senior at Washington High School.

Presley has been twirling a baton since she was three years old and now twirls during parades and on the sidelines of Friday night football games.

Our conversation with Presley is below. For those interested in featuring your student in the spotlight, please send a picture of the student with a short description stating why they should be featured to purcellregister@gmail.com.

Q: What's one of your favorite memories from twirling in



Presley Strickland

high school?

A: "Some of my favorite memories are being on the sidelines and being able to interact with the students, especially while I'm on the sidelines, but also being able to talk to some of the football players. I like being down there and being able to be really close to the game. And I just think it's fun when people get hyped up whenever I do some cool tricks."

Q: What's something a coach has told you that you've remembered or that has stuck with you?

A: "If I don't get it the first time, the more I practice it, the better I'm going to get at it, and

Please see **Presley**, back page

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

Hitting the links

A golf camp was recently held at the Brent Bruehl Memorial Golf Course.



Pg. 8A

Inside

New pilot program

Purcell's Public Library will be a pilot site host for a new teen program.



Pg. 2A

Find it...


Opinion.....4A

Society.....6A

Neighbors.....1B

Obituaries.....12A

Classifieds.....9A





John D. Montgomery • The Purcell Register

Mowing 'em down

Fueled by an unusually wet July, Purcell's Mike Savage has a lot of mowing to do with all the Lions Park and the football practice field. He took advantage of some cloud cover early last Wednesday to beat some of the intense heat.

Purcell Public Library selected for teens tech pilot program

Pioneer Library System's Purcell Public Library is one of 10 libraries selected to pilot a new internship initiative that brings teens and tweens together to build healthy digital habits.

Purcell Public Library will host two local teen interns to lead a workshop on digital citizenship for middle school students, rising sixth-eighth graders.

Programs will use the "Digital Connections" materials created by Common Sense Education in collaboration with the Public Library Association and AT&T.

In a six-part video series, students will follow two best friends, Daveed and Skylar, as they navigate the complexities of digital life, learning tips and strategies for how to use media and technology safely and responsibly to learn, create, and participate.

The workshops will explore how tweens can: Balance their technology use, show kindness when connecting with others online, stand up for others and confront cyberbullying, stay safe online by protecting themselves and their personal information, discern and share credible information, and use technology with purpose.

"We're all very aware of the importance of being a good digital citizen - of knowing

how to be a decent person online and knowing how to judge information and set boundaries around online use, especially with social media," Purcell Public Library Branch Manager Rebekah Lynam said of the program.

"I love that the library can play a role in connecting tweens and their families to tools and information around digital citizenship, so that kids are prepared to engage safely and wisely online," she concluded.

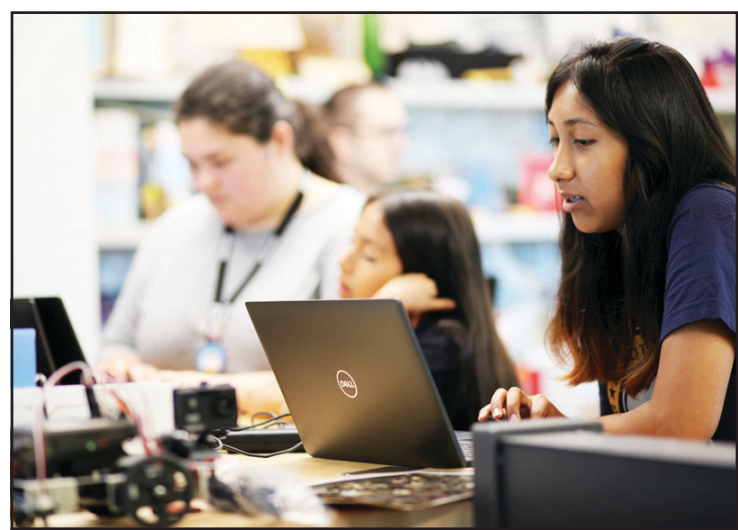
"Learn It! Digital Citizenship Skills for 6th-8th Grade" will

take place Thursday, August 3, from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Purcell Public Library.

Eligible students who complete the workshop will receive a \$100 VISA gift card. Registration is required.

For more information on the workshop, please contact Purcell Public Library Branch Manager Rebekah Lynam, rlynam@pioneerlibrarysystem.org or call 405-527-5546.

Learn more about this event by visiting the Pioneer Library System events calendar at pioneerlibrarysystem.org.



• Photo provided

Pilot program

The Purcell Public Library has been selected to pilot a new internship initiative program that brings teens and tweens together to build healthy digital habits.

7 Day forecast from @PurcellRegister @OUNewsCrowd

Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
101°78°	101°76°	100°77°	100°76°	102°77°	101°78°	100°75°
Mostly Sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy

Hydration key in the heat

We have experienced very warm temperatures this week due to a heat dome building across our region from the west. Triple-digit temperatures will be dominating into Thursday and Friday of this week, with

a mix of sunshine and clouds. Hundred-degree temperatures will also be possible this week-end under sunny skies. Clouds will begin to build back into the sky beginning on Monday as temperatures remain in

the lower 100s for afternoon highs. This dry and hot pattern will continue at least until the middle part of next week, so ensure you stay hydrated and take plenty of breaks in air-conditioned areas, if possible.

Taxes help fill city, county coffers

McClain County topped the \$400,000 mark in the latest collection of sales and use taxes. Purcell topped \$760,000 and Blanchard's collections were

boosted with a penny increase in their sales tax rate. Dibble and Lexington both showed increases over 2022 numbers.

Washington topped last year's mark by just over \$12,000 while Lexington took in an additional \$4,150 over their 2022 number.

JULY

SALES/USE TAX REPORT

CITY	RATE	2023	2022	DIFFERENCE
Blanchard	.05	\$605,024.70	\$492,313.22	+\$112,711.48
Byars	.04	\$3,506.46	\$10,968.00	-\$7,461.54
Cole	.04	\$10,571.96	\$3,675.00	-\$6,896.96
Dibble	.05	\$30,766.67	\$23,788.57	+\$6,978.10
Goldsby	.035	\$223,946.21	\$265,016.76	-\$41,070.55
Lexington	.04	\$57,192.56	\$53,042.50	+\$4,150.06
Lindsay	.04	\$292,068.64	\$313,809.29	-\$21,740.65
Maysville	.04	\$35,538.77	\$33,084.17	+\$2,454.60
Newcastle	.04	\$934,598.43	\$808,788.89	+\$125,809.54
Noble	.04	\$217,199.51	\$225,330.78	-\$8,131.27
Norman	.04125	\$9,692,026.40	\$9,153,583.66	+\$538,442.74
Paoli	.03	\$5,489.42	\$5,308.10	+\$181.32
Pauls Valley	.045	\$782,234.13	\$731,131.18	+\$51,102.95
Purcell	.05	\$760,543.79	\$716,028.04	+\$44,515.75
Slaughterville	.02	\$34,918.02	\$34,889.49	+\$28.53
Wanette	.035	\$5,045.88	\$7,647.34	-\$2,601.46
Washington	.04	\$43,011.31	\$30,593.44	+\$12,417.87
Wayne	.035	\$25,194.14	\$25,818.12	-\$623.98
McClain County	.005	\$410,833.48	\$353,329.11	+\$57,504.37

Don't flunk food safety

This school year

A healthy meal is more than selecting nutritious foods; it also includes safe food handling from the moment it's being prepared and up until lunchtime.

Would you pass or fail the safe lunch packing test? The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has four tips for parents and caregivers to get an easy A in food safety this school year.

"While there have been huge strides in food safety, at least 48 million people in the U.S. are still affected by foodborne illness every year," said USDA Under Secretary for Food Safety Dr. Emilio Esteban. "Our children's health and safety depend on the safe food handling practices we teach and practice at home."

Clean
A recent USDA observational study on food preparation showed that only 44 percent of participants attempted to wash their hands before meal preparation, a failing grade no matter how you look at it.

Even fewer participants (three percent) washed their hands properly by rubbing hands for at least 20 seconds. Proper handwashing practices can help prevent cross-contamination when preparing school lunches.

Separate
The kitchen can become a playground for bacteria when food is mishandled during preparation. To avoid cross-contamination, separate raw foods from those that are ready to eat during preparation. Don't use the same cutting board for raw foods and ready-to-eat foods like fruits and vegetables.

Having multiple cutting boards can help, but if you are only using one, make sure that you wash it in hot soapy water, sanitize, rinse, and air or pat dry with a clean paper towel between uses.

Cook
Cooking enough meat and poultry to use later in school lunches is a great time saver. But never rely on the color or texture of your meat and

poultry to know if it is safe to consume.

The only safe way to tell if it has been cooked to a safe minimum internal temperature is by using a food thermometer. Let the thermometer do all the hard work to help you pass the "Is it done yet?" test.

Chill
You'll pass the final food safety exam by never leaving food out of refrigeration for over two hours. Leaving food out too long at room temperature can cause bacteria to grow to dangerous levels that can cause illness.

Bacteria grow most rapidly in the range of temperatures between 40 F and 140 F, doubling in number in as little as 20 minutes. This range of temperatures is often called the "Danger Zone." If you will be cooking more than you will pack, make sure you store your leftovers safely in sealed containers or airtight packaging.

To do this, cut food into smaller pieces or divide large amounts of food into shallow containers to allow food to cool rapidly. Leftovers can be kept in the refrigerator for three to four days or can remain safe indefinitely when frozen.

Packing a Food Safe Lunch
When packing the school lunch, ditch the brown paper bag. Always pack school lunches in insulated lunch boxes or insulated containers

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NEWS In Brief

Back 2 School Bash

The 14th Annual Heart of Oklahoma Back 2 School Bash will be held Saturday, July 29, starting at 5 p.m.

The event will be located at Main Street and 2nd Ave., across from the caboose between McClain Bank and the McClain County Courthouse in downtown Purcell.

There will be various activities, games and lots more.

Seven hundred backpacks with school supplies will be given away.

Everyone is welcome and everything is free.

Knights Golf Tournament

The Knights of Columbus will host a four person scramble at Brent Bruehl Memorial Golf Course on Saturday, July 29, with an 8 a.m. shotgun start.

The \$400 team entry fee includes green fees, cart, range balls and lunch.

Proceeds from the tournament will go towards Knights community projects.

Contact Bob Bruehl at 405-990-3871 with questions.

Farmers Market

The Purcell Farmers Market is held each Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Santa Fe Plaza on Main Street.

Fresh, local produce, crafts, artisan food/drinks, book and vintage finds are all available.

Boots & Badges

Blood Drive

The McClain County Boots & Badges Blood Drive will be held Wednesday, August 2, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. in the bloodmobile located at 1930 S. Green Ave. in Purcell.

Donors receive a Boots & Badges t-shirt or the choice of a ticket to the Science Museum, Frontier City or Hurricane Harbor.

To schedule an appointment call the Our Blood Institute at 877-340-8777

or obi.org.

Meet the Wayne Bulldogs

The community is invited to the annual come-and-go Meet The Bulldogs on Friday, August 4, at 7 p.m.

High school students including those in baseball, basketball, football, softball, cheer, eSports and band will have players/participants at the event.

There will be photo opportunities and time to visit with your 23-24 Wayne High School Bulldogs.

Wayne 1969, 1970 Class Reunion

The Wayne Senior Classes of 1969 and 1970 will have a combined class reunion on Saturday, August 5, at the Wayne Community Center, formerly the senior citizens center. Other Wayne alumni classes are invited also.

The reunion will be held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. with lunch provided. Bring family pictures and school pictures to share.

Class members and other Wayne alumni can RSVP to B.B. at 405-615-6598, D.J. at 405-823-2645 or S.F. at 405-202-7756.

Seventh Grade TDAP Shot

All students entering seventh grade at Purcell Junior High must show proof of having the TDAP shot.

For more information call 405-442-0099, ext. 401.

Tri City Soccer Sign-Ups

Local youth ages U4-U19 can sign up to play soccer with Tri City Soccer League.

Regular registration will be held from July 9-August 2 and late registration (waiting list) will be held after August 2.

Opening weekend is August 26 and the last weekend is October 7.

Please visit tcasoccer.org to sign up.

Call 405-326-8063 for more information.

Coffee with Cong. Tom Cole

The Heart of Oklahoma Chamber of Commerce will host a Chamber Community Coffee with Congressman Tom Cole from 10-11 a.m. Thursday, August 10.

The coffee will be held at the chamber office, 220 W. Main St., in Purcell.

Community Coffee

The Heart of Oklahoma Chamber of Commerce Community Coffee will be held at 9 a.m. Tuesday, August 15, hosted by the City of Purcell and the Purcell Police Department.

The coffee will be held at the Purcell City Police Department, 1515 N. Green Ave., in Purcell.

This is a great opportunity to connect with local business and community leaders.

Senior Dance at Purcell

The Ole Troubadours are back at the Purcell Senior Citizens Center, 228 N. 2nd, every Friday from 7-9 p.m.

Join your friends for fun and dancing!

Admission is \$8 per person and refreshments will be available for purchase.

Proceeds will benefit the Purcell Senior Citizens Center.

Gospel Singing

Admission is free to the 59th Annual Konawa Gospel Singing Saturday, August 5.

Singing will begin at 7 p.m. in Veterans Park in Konawa. Those attending should bring a lawn chair.

Groups and singers include Gold City, Sound Street, Kevin Spencer, Southern Sonlight, The Russells, Tisha Todd, Mary Fay Jackson and Donna Kilmurray.

Museum News

The McClain County Museum and Historical Society has undergone some changes and the museum is now open for tours.

To schedule a tour contact Jerry Hayes at 405-812-8379.



John D. Montgomery • The Purcell Register

New parking lot

Sunray Baptist Church is getting a new parking lot in repayment of allowing Purcell Municipal Hospital equipment to be stored on their property during construction of the new hospital.

Fixico gets 210 month sentence

Pleads guilty to sexual abuse

Earlier this week, Michael Charles Fixico, 45, of Purcell, was sentenced to serve 210 months in federal prison for sexual abuse.

That's the word from United States Attorney Robert J. Troester.

On February 15, 2022, a 13-count Third Superseding Indictment was filed charging Fixico with multiple counts of sexual contact and abuse.

On March 3, 2023, Fixico pleaded guilty to Count 7, sexual abuse. He was charged in federal court because he is an Indian and the crimes occurred within the boundaries of the Chickasaw Nation Reservation.

At a sentencing hearing on July 17, U.S. District Court Judge David L. Russell sentenced Fixico to serve 210 months in federal prison.

In announcing the sentence, the court noted the serious-

ness of the offense, to afford deterrence to the criminal conduct, as well as the need to protect the public from further crimes by Fixico.

Fixico will be required to register as a sex offender and was also placed on supervised release for the remainder of his natural life, under the su-

pervision of the United States Probation Office.

This case is the result of investigations by the FBI Oklahoma City Field Office and the City of Purcell Police Department.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Arvo Mikkanen prosecuted the case.

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From page 2A

Safety:

to keep perishable foods safe until lunchtime.

For cold foods, include at least two cold sources in the insulated lunch box to keep perishable foods under 40 F. These can be frozen gel packs, frozen juice boxes or frozen bottled water. By lunchtime, juice boxes or bottled water should be thawed and ready to drink.

For hot foods, use an insulated container to keep food like soup, chili, and stew hot. Fill the container with boiling water, let stand for a few minutes, empty, and then pour in the piping hot food. Keep the insulated container closed until lunchtime to keep the food hot — 140 F or above.

Other Food Safe Options

Non-perishable foods are also a great option when it comes to food safety. Items that do not require refrigeration will be safe past lunchtime and are the perfect addition to school lunch boxes.

- pre-packaged, shelf-stable meals;
- whole or dried fruits like apples and bananas;
- whole vegetables like baby carrots and cherry tomatoes;
- hard cheeses like cheddar, gouda and parmesan;
- grains like bread and crackers;
- jerky like beef, chicken or other meats.

Read more about USDA's

four steps to food safety and get your food safe lunch questions answered by calling the USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline at 1-888-MPHotline

(1-888-674-6854), email MPHotline@usda.gov or chat live at ask.usda.gov from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday.

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Opinion

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Read us on the web at
www.purcellregister.com



Bugs are bad this year

Happy anniversary to my roommate, Gracie.

She celebrates her 44th anniversary on August 4.

jdm

The Register was late getting off the press last Wednesday so I was pinch-hitting for our girls who take papers to the Wayne Post Office and Smiley's Quick Stop convenience store.

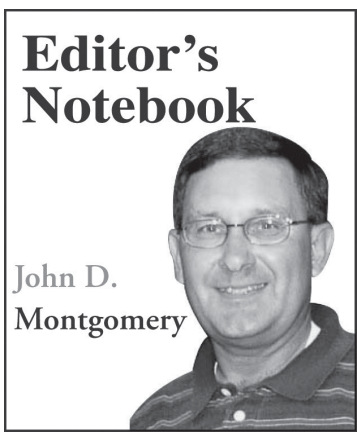
I was headed southbound on Green Avenue when I noticed a flying bug on my left hand.

I thought it was a fly by the size of it.

I took a swipe at it and blood went everywhere.

Biggest mosquito I've ever seen and he was full of blood.

Thing was it wasn't early in the morning or at dusk when



they are normally out for blood.

It was 3:30 in the afternoon with a heat index around 105.

Tough little bloodsucker.

Fortunately, he's no longer with us.

But a bunch of his buddies are still hanging around.

jdm

Speaking of flying bugs, can you believe the flies this year?

They have been thicker this summer than I can ever remember.

And the same is true for the gnats, that a six-year-old I know calls baby flies.

It's been an insane insect season.

jdm

I made a comment to a 12-year-old that, "it's getting ready to be summertime."

"It's been summer for a while already," came the reply.

The only thing is, the weather forecast for the foreseeable future is looking very hot with triple digits rearing their ugly heads along the way.

Hello from District 43

• Senator Jessica Garvin •



Update from the Capitol

We began the week back in the Senate Chamber Monday morning to debate veto overrides of Senate Bill 26, regarding the tobacco compacts, and House Bill 1005 on the motor vehicle tax tribal compacts.

Both of these measures were vetoed by Governor Stitt back in May just days after receiving overwhelming approval by both chambers. I'm pleased to say that both vetoes were overridden with a vote of 34-7. The bills extend these compacts for one year to allow time for the state and tribal nations to have further good faith negotiations.

Hopefully, you've already heard but the federal government approved our state's request for disaster assistance for 19 counties, including Stephens for the severe weather that happened from June 14-18.

This will provide FEMA public assistance to municipalities, counties, tribes and rural electric

cooperatives for debris removal, utility and infrastructure repairs, and other costs associated with the storm response. For more information, check out <https://www.fema.gov/assistance/public>.

Stephens County also recently received word that the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has approved our request for an SBA disaster declaration. This will provide low interest disaster loans for homeowners, renters, and business owners. To learn more, please visit <https://disasterloanassistance.sba.gov/ela/s/>.

I want to thank the Rush Springs Watermelon Festival staff and royalty, along with former state representative and current CEO of the Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy (OICA) Joe Dorman for bringing their delicious watermelons to the Capitol last week.

Unfortunately, I had a family

appointment I couldn't miss and was unable to attend, but I know this is always a special treat for staff in the building each year and this was no exception. I hope everyone marks their calendar to attend the festival on Saturday, August 12.

On Saturday, I also attended a special event at the Cole Fire Department celebrating their tornado relief efforts and the many volunteers who have been helping them along the way. They had a community cookout, and we presented some citations recognizing their service and dedication.

This week, I have a Women in Government board meeting. We're working on our national conference, which will be in November.

In closing, if you're a high school junior or senior and

Please see **Garvin**, page 5A

NEWS FROM CAPITOL HILL

Investing in America's aviation

Congressman Tom Cole

Oklahoma has long been a hub for aerospace and aviation industry development, as well as is the leader in the nation for training air traffic controllers.

Oklahomans take pride in contributing to the nation in this way, and this unique position means Congress is charged with fostering this vital sector through funding for research, training and operations to keep the aviation industry strong and safe for our state and the entire country.

Last week, the House passed H.R. 3935, the Securing Growth and Robust Leadership in American Aviation Act. This legislation reauthorizes the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and federal aviation programs for five years.

In recent years, our aviation system has faced several challenges including increased global competition, shortages in trained professionals and rapid changes in technology. This legislation would reauthorize research, innovation and critical updates to bring our

aviation systems and programs into the 21st century and long-term certainty for the many facets of this industry.

This bill is also important to the Fourth District and the state of Oklahoma. In addition to having critical airports in municipalities like Lawton, Norman, Ardmore, and Oklahoma City, central Oklahoma is also home to the Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center.

The Monroney Center is not only a key administrative, research and safety hub for the FAA, but it is also home to the FAA Academy, the only training center in the country for FAA-certified air traffic controllers.

It is no exaggeration to say that our national aviation industry cannot exist without a well-trained and stable air traffic control workforce, and that workforce would not exist without the Monroney Center.

While the FAA reauthorization is critical to extend these programs for five more years, real funding must also be realized to relieve a strained and delayed air traffic control

system.

Last week, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD), which I serve on as Chairman, passed its fiscal year 2024 funding bill out of the full House Appropriations Committee. While this legislation provides crucial funding for real infrastructure projects across the country, it is also of particular importance to Oklahoma.

If signed into law, this legislation prioritizes resources to the FAA to modernize the air traffic control system and train 1,800 new controllers and update and modernize facilities and equipment.

Investments from Congress have allowed Oklahoma's aviation industry to thrive, and in turn, Oklahoma has provided a well-trained air traffic workforce and needed updates in technology and operations.

The FAA reauthorization and full funding of critical aviation programs through appropriations will set up Oklahoma and the United States to continue to be a leader in aviation safety, innovation and reliability.

Letters to the Editor Policy

All letters to the editor must include the signature of the author and all those listed as signees. All letters must include the name, address and a daytime phone number for verification purposes. Addresses and phone numbers will not be published.

The Purcell Register does not print anonymous letters to the editor. Only two letters per month will be printed from the same author. Letters should be kept to a maximum of one (1) single spaced typed letter-sized page.

The Purcell Register reserves the right to edit any and all letters.

Letters to the editor during any campaign cycle which seek to endorse a candidate or discredit another will not be published during the campaign cycle. Letters to the editor published in The Purcell Register do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the newspaper.

Your Views

News from Washington

• Sen. James Lankford •



Keep calm and wait for your passport

If you're rethinking of traveling in the next few months, don't book your flight until you have your passport in your hands.

To give you perspective, if you apply today for a passport, you probably won't have it in hand until Thanksgiving, even if you pay the extra fee to "expedite" it. I think the State Department needs to get a better definition of "expedite."

Just a few years ago, getting a passport routinely took four to six weeks. Now, passport processing takes anywhere from 12 to 18 weeks or longer—another example of this Administration's inability to fulfill basic government services like permits, tax decisions, or a multitude of other issues.

Early in the COVID-19 pandemic, passport applications reached a 1.6 million backlog. I found out at the end of May 2020 that not a single passport had been processed since March 19, 2020, despite continuing to collect fees.

I immediately sent a letter to then-Secretary of State Pompeo to find out what was going on and address it. Secretary Pompeo immediately made passport services "mission critical," the backlog started to get caught up, and things went mostly back to normal.

But when the Biden Administration took over in 2021, processing times started to fall behind again and now have exceeded pandemic levels. Why?

State Department staff haven't been operating at 100 percent capacity, and passport offices never fully reopened to the public after the pandemic.

The office now has an unprecedented 3 million passport backlog—three times the worst backlog during the pandemic.

My office has received almost five-times the average number of requests for help this year. Oklahomans are frustrated that they face canceled vacations they saved for years to take, honeymoons they planned, business trips, or mission trips all because the State Department cannot do its job. They've created a mess.

I introduced my Passport Act, which addresses the root cause of the process breakdown, provides straightforward solutions to fix it, and prevents it from reaching historic levels again.

My bill will improve transparency and customer service by requiring the State Department to provide detailed status updates for passport applicants and add a customer service chat feature connecting applicants with the National Passport Information Center.

These days, you can track a package delivery online from almost any provider—but the State Department is lagging behind.

I worked with Senator Ricketts from Nebraska to have my bill included in the State Department reauthorization bill. Then, we worked to get it included in the annual defense bill moving through Congress right now.

I will see this through to get a solution to prevent this fiasco from happening again. Enjoy your vacation trip overseas; just get your passport before you book your flight.

Rants? Raves?

Submit your letter to the editor.

Life is always changing

By Dr. Glenn Mollette

No doubt life is always changing. If you don't like the weather it will change, eventually.

It's been hot most all over but cooler weather will come. In most of the country, cooler weather will be welcomed sooner rather than later.

An Arizona friend told me last week, "One hundred degrees is actually nice in our area. One hundred and twenty degrees is unbearable."

Across our country, Europe and Asia record temperatures have been recorded and for the longest periods of time.

When it's icy cold weather we hope and wish for warm weather. The problem in many of our areas is that we don't have much moderately cool weather or moderately warm. It seems to either be blazing hot or freezing cold.

It's hard to be satisfied. We get too hot and then we get too cold. Triple digit heat is insane and so is below zero. No one wants either one.

Have you ever been satisfied with your life? When were you satisfied? Were you happy when your parent was telling you what to do and how to live? Do you still have them telling you what to do?

The day comes when they are no longer around. Most likely you didn't take as much advice from them as you should have.

We don't pay much attention to old people when we are young but we wish we had. They knew more than us but we thought we knew everything.

We now know how smart they were. We learn the hard way and by the time we figure it out life has greatly changed.

Life is always changing. Children grow into adults. Our bodies change. We get old if we are very fortunate and blessed.

If possible, try to be happy and content today with what you have, where you are and what you are doing. Life changes and while it may get better and better, it can always become worse.

Enjoy the sunshine and enjoy the rain. Enjoy the car ride or sitting in your swing. Enjoy whatever labor you have to do. The time is coming when all will be through.

Live your life the best you can and there will be times you don't understand. So, make your schedule, make your plans and always do the best you can.

After all is said and done, it's all in God's hands.

Visit GlennMollette.com to subscribe, learn about his books and more additional biographical.

Dr. Glenn Mollette is a graduate of numerous schools including Georgetown College, Southern and Lexington Seminaries in Kentucky.

He is the author of 13 books including *UncommonSense*, the *Spiritual Chocolate* series, *Grandpa's Store*, *Minister's Guidebook insights from a fellow minister*.

His column is published weekly in over 600 publications in all 50 states.



• Photo provided

Baseball greats

1936 Hall of Fame inductees.

Cooperstown needs to restore excellence, tighten induction standards

By Joe Guzzardi, Society for American Baseball Research member

With the Hall of Fame induction ceremony the July 21–24 weekend, here's a baseball quiz. The question: What do Babe Ruth, Ty Cobb, Scott Rolen and Fred McGriff have in common?

Not many fans are fooled. Although Ruth, Cobb, Rolen and McGriff have skill levels that range from extraordinary to above average but not great, all four are Hall of Fame inductees. In many scribes' minds, the vast talent gap between the enshrined great and the very good is proof that the institution has lost its exclusivity. In too many cases, induction isn't warranted.

Ruth and Cobb are baseball titans elected along with Honus Wagner, Walter Johnson and Christy Mathewson in 1936; the five superstars represent first-ever HOF class.

In 2022, on his sixth ballot appearance, Rolen squeaked into the Hall with 76.3 percent of the vote, 1.3 percent over the minimum 75 percent required. McGriff took a more circuitous route.

After failing to reach the mandatory 75 percent for 10 consecutive years, the Baseball Writers' Association of America, as per its rules, dropped McGriff's name from the ballot. A few years later, McGriff reappeared on the Contemporary Era committee where he was unanimously elected.

The Contemporary Baseball Era includes players from 1980 to the present day, while the Classic Baseball Era spans the period prior to 1980 and includes Negro Leagues and pre-Negro Leagues stars.

In other words, just because

the BBWAA initially rejects a player—and in some cases, resoundingly rejects—doesn't mean that he won't reappear on either Classic or Contemporary Era ballot.

Rolen and McGriff are very good players, and would be welcome additions to any roster. But they're not Hall of Fame worthy.

Without getting too deeply into sabermetric weeds, McGriff in his 19-year career notably hit 30 home runs or more 10 times, and led the league in that category twice. But McGriff never finished higher than fourth in Most Valuable Player award voting, a telling evaluation of his overall value to the six teams he played for.

Many feel that Hall of Fame inductees should be the dominant players of their era, not merely key contributors.

Rolen's Hall of Fame credentials are less persuasive than McGriff's. Like McGriff, Rolen never finished higher than fourth in MVP balloting, but he had no league-leading categories, and was elected on the basis of his eight Gold Gloves—nice, but not Hall of Fame stuff.

The moment a debate about a candidate's credentials arises, he's probably not Hall of Fame material. Center field: Willie Mays, Mickey Mantle, Joe DiMaggio; Right field: Henry Aaron, Roberto Clemente, Frank Robinson; Catchers: Johnny Bench, Yogi Berra, Roy Campanella, Bill Dickey, Pitchers: Bob Feller, Tom Seaver, Whitey Ford—no one argues about their top place among the greats.

But when five failed ballots have been cast, and on the sixth, the player gets elected by the slimmest margin, as is Rolen's case, he doesn't belong.

The solution: eliminate the extra committees which are designed to expand the total inductees, reduce the 10-year eligibility to three years, and increase the approval margin from 75 percent to 90 percent. The truly great will easily reach the 90 percent plateau, while those who fall short will remain on the outside looking in.

Hall of Fame members returning to Cooperstown to honor the Class of 2023 included Jeff Bagwell, Harold Baines, Johnny Bench, Craig Biggio, Bert Blyleven, Wade Boggs, George Brett, Rod Carew, Orlando Cepeda, Andre Dawson, Rollie Fingers, Pat Gillick, Tom Glavine and Goose Gossage.

Also, Rickey Henderson, Whitey Herzog, Trevor Hoffman, Fergie Jenkins, Derek Jeter, Randy Johnson, Chipper Jones, Jim Kaat, Tony La Russa, Barry Larkin, Greg Maddux, Juan Marichal, Fred McGriff, Paul Molitor, Jack Morris, Eddie Murray, Mike Mussina, Tony Oliva, David Ortiz and Tony Pérez.

Also, Tim Lincecum, Jim Rice, Cal Ripken, Scott Rolen, Ryne Sandberg, John Schuerholz, Bud Selig, Ted Simmons, Lee Smith, Ozzie Smith, Frank Thomas, Jim Thome, Joe Torre, Alan Trammell, Larry Walker, Billy Williams, Dave Winfield and Robin Yount.

Not all would reach 90 percent.

Baseball will never see another class like 1936, but the BBWAA should keep Cobb, Ruth, Wagner, Johnson and Mathewson's greatness in mind when they vote.

Joe Guzzardi is a Society for American Baseball Research and Internet Baseball Writers Association Member. Contact him at guzzjoe@yahoo.com.

Oklahoma AG wants law firms to investigate winter storm natural gas costs

Paul Monies
Oklahoma Watch

Oklahoma Attorney General Gentner Drummond promised on July 18 the “largest lawsuit in state history” if natural gas marketers manipulated the trading market during a massive winter storm that hit the central United States in February 2021.

Ratepayers of the state's top investor-owned utilities are paying billions of dollars in higher bill surcharges for decades stemming from natural gas purchased during Winter Storm Uri. Prices in the trading hub covering Oklahoma spiked from \$2 a unit to almost \$1,200 during the storm.

Drummond said his office plans to contract with outside law firms to help with a possible lawsuit against market manipulators. He said none of the blame for the higher natural gas prices lay at the feet of either Oklahoma's oil and gas industry or the utilities buying the fuel for heating and electricity generation.

“Here in Oklahoma, families and businesses suffered greatly and they are still suffering, paying the prices in the form of higher utility rates. It's important to understand our oil and gas industry is not to blame. It is equally important to understand that our utility companies are not to blame,” Drummond said.

“But make no mistake: There are indeed guilty parties who are to blame.”

The attorney general said he wants law firms to submit bids to the state by the end of the month for help in the investigation against natural gas traders who may have manipulated the market.

“After careful and diligent review of the conduct during Winter Storm Uri, it's clear to me that several companies reaped billions of dollars at the expense of Oklahoma families and businesses,” Drummond said. “The magnitude of this scheme is staggering and unconscionable. The conduct in question is well outside the parameters and boundaries of ordinary capitalism.”

Mike Hunter, the attorney general during the 2021 storm, contracted with a Dallas law firm to look at allegations of price gouging in the weeks following the storm. But that investigation lost steam after

he resigned from office amid revelations of an affair later that year.

Hunter's governor-appointed successor, John O'Connor, did not pursue the matter any further. Drummond beat O'Connor in last year's GOP primary and easily cruised to election in November against a Libertarian candidate.

Ratepayer-Backed Bonds
Rather than recover the cost of natural gas right away, Oklahoma's biggest utilities settled



on ratepayer-backed bonds to spread the enormous costs over several years. That involved selling bonds to private investors, with the proceeds going to the utilities to pay for the fuel costs. Bondholders are being paid back with monthly surcharges on customer bills for decades for not only the fuel costs, but interest payments.

AARP Oklahoma, which frequently intervenes in rate cases at the Oklahoma Corporation Commission on behalf of its members, said utility customers remain saddled with the fuel costs for a generation.

“The companies who reaped

billions of dollars on the backs of hard-working Oklahomans must be held accountable,” said Sean Voskuhl, AARP state director. “Oklahoma utility customers want action to be taken against the companies who bilked customers out of billions of dollars in a matter of days during Winter Storm Uri and further demand the recovered funds are returned to customers immediately.”

Oklahoma's three elected corporation commissioners said Tuesday they welcomed a possible lawsuit by Drummond. But they remain split over whether the Corporation Commission should have done more as it reviewed fuel costs and the ratepayer-backed bonds when they came before the regulatory agency.

Longtime Commissioner Bob Anthony said the commission “refused to do its duty and protect ratepayers from fraud and market manipulation.”

Fellow Commissioners Todd Hiett and Kim David said investigations into possible market manipulation should be handled by the federal government or the attorney general.

“It is important to note that commission orders on fuel cost recovery from Uri require utilities to apply savings that result from future federal or legal actions to reduce customers' bills,” said Chairman Todd Hiett.

Kansas lawsuit against gas trader
Drummond's announcement

Please see **A.G.**, page 8A



• Paul Monies/Oklahoma Watch

Investigation plans

Oklahoma State Attorney General Gentner Drummond said his office plans to contract with outside law firms to help with a possible lawsuit against energy market manipulators. Drummond made the announcement at a press conference July 18.

From page 2A

Safety:

to keep perishable foods safe until lunchtime.

For cold foods, include at least two cold sources in the insulated lunch box to keep perishable foods under 40 F. These can be frozen gel packs, frozen juice boxes or frozen bottled water. By lunchtime, juice boxes or bottled water should be thawed and ready to drink.

For hot foods, use an insulated container to keep food like soup, chili, and stew hot.

From page 4A

Garvin:

you're interested in interning for me this fall and helping with research on my five interim studies, the deadline to apply is this Friday, July 28.

Again, contact my assistant Lauren Sorrell at lauren.sorrell@oksenate.gov to apply. Those chosen to participate will be contacted the first week of August.

If you have any other questions or concerns on legislative matters, please contact me at the Capitol. Please write to Senator Jessica Garvin, State Capitol, 2300 N. Lincoln Blvd, Room 237, Oklahoma City, OK, 73105, email me at Jessica.Garvin@oksenate.gov or call (405) 521-5522.

Fill the container with boiling water, let stand for a few minutes, empty, and then pour in the piping hot food. Keep the insulated container closed until lunchtime to keep the food hot — 140 F or above.

Other Food Safe Options

Non-perishable foods are also a great option when it comes to food safety. Items that do not require refrigeration will be safe past lunchtime and are the perfect addition to school lunch boxes.

- pre-packaged, shelf-stable meals;
- whole or dried fruits like apples and bananas;

- whole vegetables like baby carrots and cherry tomatoes;
- hard cheeses like cheddar, gouda and parmesan;
- grains like bread and crackers;
- jerky like beef, chicken or other meats.

Read more about USDA's four steps to food safety and get your food safe lunch questions answered by calling the USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline at 1-888-MPHotline (1-888-674-6854), email MPHonline@usda.gov or chat live at ask.usda.gov from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday.

Rants? Raves?

Submit your letter
to the editor.

Society

Storytelling at Pikes Peak Museum August 13

Family history has always impacted the community and helps us remember the values people share.

England Family History will be told by Jim and Barbara England on Sunday, August 13, at 2 p.m. in the Pikes Peak Museum.

This Rural School building is located in Erin Springs, two miles south of Lindsay, across from the Murray Lindsay Mansion.

This school building was formerly located southwest of Lindsay in a rural community known as Pikes Peak. It is one of the remaining rural school buildings operated as a museum to help people remember the value of community life in the early 1900s.

The Lindsay Community Historical Society offers tours and may be scheduled by calling 405-919-6146 or 405-

756-6502. A school event of a rural school day may also be planned. The museum sets on a large play area that may be used for community events or family gatherings.

Donations are appreciated to continue to maintain this over 100-year-old building. The generous donations of many have allowed LCHS to have the outside of the building repaired and resurfaced.

Future projects are being planned and completed as we are financially able. The Pikes Peak History Book 1908-2008 may be purchased along with T-shirts from the Lindsay Community Historical Society.

Many of the family stories of the Pikes Peak Community are now represented by many Lindsay residents who are offsprings of these families.

Come dig up your roots at the Pikes Peak School Museum.



It's a Small World

Gracie Montgomery

A special happy birthday to my funny, awesome grandson, Thomas Robert Montgomery. Thomas celebrates his 7th birthday Tuesday, August 1.

Happy 59th anniversary to Perry and Glenda Nemecek.

Happy birthday to Roger Cudd, John Hobbs, Lynda Dawson, Sherry Honeyman, Linda Couch, Jose Lius Vazquez, Dee Roberts, Katie Green, Joshua Cleeland, Maria Reyes and Stella Bledsoe.

The 14th Annual Heart of Oklahoma Back 2 School Bash will be held Saturday, July 29, starting at 5 p.m.

The event will be located at Main Street and 2nd Ave., across from the caboose between McClain Bank and the McClain County Courthouse in downtown Purcell.

There will be various activities, games and lots more.

Seven hundred backpacks with school supplies will be given away.

Everyone is welcome and everything is free.

The Purcell Farmers Market is held each Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Santa Fe Plaza on Main Street.

Fresh, local produce, crafts, artisan food/drinks, book and vintage finds are all available.

The Purcell Public Library will hold its annual Book Sale benefiting the Purcell Friends of the Library.

The sale will be held through July 31 during regular business hours of the library.

Celebrate summer with some great books that are ready for their forever homes!

Hardback books are \$1, paperbacks are 50 cents and all items are 10 for \$5.

For more information call the Purcell Public Library at 405-527-5546.

The Purcell Public Library will present "Learn It! Digital Citizenship Skills 6th-8th Grade" Thursday, August 3, from 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

In this introduction to digital citizenship skills we will build confidence in your digital skills. This class is designed for 6th - 8th grade students.

Strengthen your digital skills. This program will cover digital citizenship skills through hands-on exploration in a supportive learning environment.

Digital Citizenship Skills is provided by a grant through Common Sense Education in collaboration with the Public Library Association and AT&T. This workshop will be divided into 3 sections with brain breaks and lunch provided.

The workshop will explore how tweens can: balance their technology use, make sure to be kind online, stand up for others online, stay safe online, make sure we consume and share credible information,

and use technology with a purpose.

Students that attend must be in 6th-8th grade and attend the whole workshop to receive a \$100 VISA gift card.

Workshop schedule:
10 a.m.—Connecting with Kindness: Online Relationships

10:45 a.m.—Brain Break
11:15 a.m.—Connecting with Vigilance: Cyber Safety
Noon Lunch (Provided for attendees)

12:30 p.m.—Connecting with Vigilance: Online Misinformation

1:15 p.m.—Wrap-up
This workshop will be concluded by 1:30 p.m.

Registration is required and you can save your spot by calling 405-527-5546 or online at pioneerlibrarysystem.org.

The Knights of Columbus will host a four person scramble at the Brent Bruehl Memorial Golf Course on Saturday, July 29, with an 8 a.m. shotgun start.

The \$400 team entry fee includes green fees, cart, range balls and lunch.

Proceeds from the tournament will go towards Knights community projects.

Contact Bob Bruehl at 405-990-3871 with questions.

The McClain County Boots & Badges Blood Drive will be held Wednesday, August 2, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. in the bloodmobile located at 1930 S. Green Ave. in Purcell.

Donors receive a Boots & Badges t-shirt or the choice of a ticket to the Science Museum, Frontier City or Hurricane Harbor.

To schedule an appointment call the Our Blood Institute at 877-340-8777 or obi.org.

The community is invited to the annual come-and-go Meet The Bulldogs on Friday, August 4, at 7 p.m.

High school students including those in baseball, basketball, football, softball, cheer, eSports and band will have players/participants at the event.

There will be photo opportunities and time to visit with your 23-24 Wayne High School Bulldogs.

I got a tip from Earla Tate this was a really good recipe. It's comes from the Pioneer Woman.

Peach Dumplings

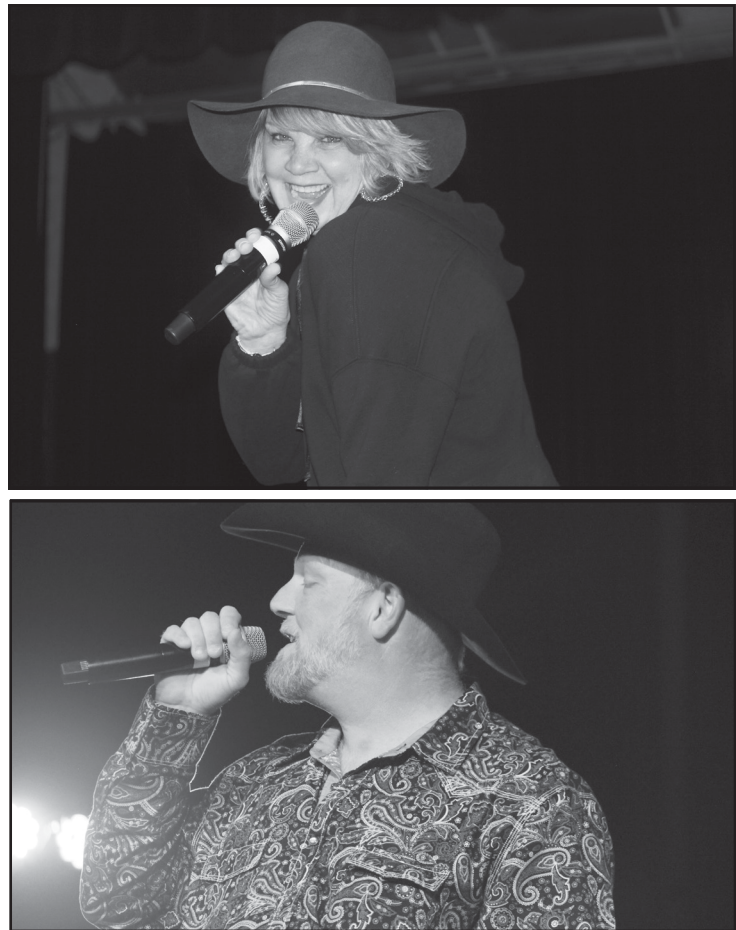
2 cans Crescent Rolls
16 whole frozen peach slices
1-1/2 stick (3/4 cup) butter
1-1/4 cup sugar
2 teaspoons vanilla extract
Ground cinnamon, for sprinkling
1 can Sprite, 7-Up or Mountain Dew

Extra butter for the pan
Whipped cream for serving
Butter a 9 x 13 inch baking dish. Roll each peach slice in a crescent roll. Place in the pan.

Melt butter, then add sugar and barely stir. Add vanilla, stir once or twice, then pour the entire mixture over the rolls/peaches in the pan.

Pour 3/4 of the can of Sprite around the edges and in the middle of the pan. Sprinkle with cinnamon and bake at 350° for 40 minutes.

Remove from the oven and let sit 10 minutes before serving. Serve with ice cream or whipped cream, and spoon some of the sweet sauces from the pan over the top.



• Photos provided

Pauls Valley Opry

Mary Alice Koehn, top, and Terry Wilson, bottom, both previous Horizon awards winners, will be on stage at the Pauls Valley Opry on Saturday, August 5. The show is at the Pauls Valley Junior High auditorium beginning at 6:30 p.m.

OSDH encourages families to get ready for back to school

As the summer winds down, the Oklahoma State Department of Health is reminding families to start thinking about records they may need to have before kids go back into the classroom.

"Parents and caregivers may need to get documents like birth certificates or shot records for school," said Erica Rankin-Riley, the public information officer for OSDH. "The sooner families start navigating the correct processes to obtain those documents, the better."

Birth certificates can be ordered online or by calling 877-817-7364.

Requests from a parent named on the record are typically issued in two business days and arrive in the mail typically within a week.

Below are costs for ordering birth certificates or changes to birth certificates:

- Birth certificate (with no changes): \$15 search fee
- One (1) copy issued, if birth record is found. Search fee is non-refundable if birth record is not found.
- Additional copies: \$15 each
- * Change or amendment to a record: \$40 (\$15 search fee

+ \$25 amendment fee)
* Online/phone convenience fee: \$5 for Oklahoma residents (varies for non-residents)
* Online/phone expedite fee: \$20 (if applicable).

Records that require a change or amendment are not eligible for expedited services.

To process orders as quickly as possible, applications should be completed in full without abbreviations or blanks and reviewed before submitting to make sure the information is correct.

If a parent or guardian needs to get a child's shot records those can be found online through the Oklahoma Immunization Information System (OSIIS) portal.

To obtain shot records through the portal you must have the child's name, date of birth, and the contact phone or email on the child's shot records.

If the records are not in OSIIS, you can contact the OSIIS Help Desk by emailing OSIISHelp@health.ok.gov or you can reach out to the provider who administered the shots and ask them to update OSIIS.

Stealey OHCE

Stealey OHCE held the monthly meeting July 10, 2023 at the McClain County Farm and Home Building in Purcell.

President Phyllis Horn called the meeting to order. Janet Little gave the thought for the day, "The Lighthouse."

The treasurer's report was read by Jan Lenard at the June meeting, and it was approved. The minutes from the June meeting were read by Janet Little due to the absence of Secretary Bonita Brakefield, and they were approved. 4-H mile of pennies were collected.

Unfinished business was discussed concerning the McClain County Fair list of exhibits and added names for new contributors. The 2023 McClain County Fair will be held September 5-9, 2023. The McClain County Fair Books are available at the OSU Extension Office.

Recycle project on used postage stamps for Wounded Warriors reports were turned in to Bonita Brakefield. Stealey OHCE has collected 263 stamps currently. Member volunteer hour reports for June will be completed at the next meeting.

There was no new business to discuss.

Follow us online OHCE McClain County Stealey. Anyone interested is welcome to attend. The next monthly meeting will be held Monday, August 14, at 1 p.m. in the education room at the McClain County Farm and Home Building.

Greener pastures helping beef producers

Bradley Secraw
Agriculture/4-H Educator

After experiencing one of the toughest years in 2022 due to the drought and high hay costs, beef cattle producers are smiling once again.

"We are happy now due to the rain and higher cattle prices plus our hay yields appear to be up and even better quality than last year. We aren't operating totally in the black with our financials, but we do have some cushion for our day-to-day operations," said Lucas Northcutt of Northcutt Farms in Lexington, Oklahoma.

The inventory of Oklahoma

cattle and calves totaled 4.60 million head on Jan. 1, 2023, down 12 percent from last year's inventory as reported by the United States Department of Agriculture.

"The reduction in the beef cattle inventory has helped to spur beef prices and create greener opportunities for producers," said Brad Secraw, OSU Extension Agricultural Educator for Cleveland County. "The overall drought forced many local beef cattle producers to cull their herds hard or sell out their herds altogether. Extension is always here to continuously work side by side to provide research, tools, and information to better manage their land resources."

"Many of us as beef cattle producers are appreciative of the training, resources, and tools that our local agricultural extension service provides," said Jona Kay Squires, co-owner of DJ Horton Farms.

Soil and forage samples can

Please see **Beef**, page 12A

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Golf campers

Almost 30 golf campers descended on Brent Bruehl Memorial Golf Course last week for a three-day golf camp put on by the staff and volunteers of the golf course. Although no major champions were crowned the campers learned about the game and enjoyed themselves.

From page 5A

A.G.:

comes several months after Kansas Attorney General Kris Kobach filed a lawsuit against a natural gas marketer, Macquarie Energy LLC, over trades during the 2021 winter storm. Macquarie, a subsidiary of an Australian bank, also sold \$154 million in natural gas to Oklahoma Natural Gas, Oklahoma Gas & Electric Co. and Public Service Co. of Oklahoma during the storm. Those three utilities spent more than \$2 billion on natural gas during the week-long winter storm, far outstripping their natural gas purchases for the entire previous year.

Drummond said he's willing to work with attorneys general in other states but his focus remains on the fallout for Oklahoma consumers.

"We've done the initial investigation extensively, and now it's time for research and gathering of evidence proposals from outside counsel," Drummond said in a news conference at the Oklahoma Capitol.

Oklahoma's utilities have maintained that they were at the mercy of the market during the price spikes of February 2021. Since the storm, OG&E and PSO have upgraded some equipment, changed how they buy natural gas and put more gas into storage.

In a statement on Tuesday, OG&E said it welcomed Drummond's investigation and any attempts to claw back costs on behalf of customers.

"Uri was a once-in-a-generation winter storm, and we

are proud that we preserved customer health and safety by keeping the heat and lights on," OG&E said in the statement. "To protect our customers from natural gas price volatility to the extent we can, OG&E continues to source fuel at the lowest available cost for our customers."

Chad Previceh, public relations manager for Oklahoma Natural Gas, said the utility did everything it could to keep its customers warm and safe during Winter Storm Uri.

"Oklahoma Natural Gas secures the natural gas its customers need and delivers that gas to their homes and businesses," Previceh said. "We do not set the price of natural gas nor profit from it."

Paul Monies has been a re-

porter with Oklahoma Watch since 2017 and covers state agencies and public health. Contact him at (571) 319-3289 or pmonies@oklahomawatch.org. Follow him on Twitter @pmonies.

Oklahoma Watch, at oklahomawatch.org, is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news organization that covers public-policy issues facing the state.

OSU EXTENSION News

The truth about chiggers

Gail Ellis
Agricultural Communications

Chiggers are a nuisance during the summer months. The little red mites feed on leaves and humans, irritating the skin with itchy, inflamed bites.

Justin Talley, head of the Oklahoma State University Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology, said any area of high vegetation can support chigger populations because of the humidity that is maintained within vegetative cover. Chiggers can be found in meadows but are usually most prominent in grassy or scrubby vegetation, shaded areas, leaf litter, rotten logs and stumps.

"If you walk through low vegetation, check your ankles, but chiggers could also feed around your waistline," Talley said. "Chigger feeding sites are anywhere where there may be some kind of tight clothing—waistlines, ankles and sock lines."

Common misconceptions about chiggers are that they burrow into the skin and can

be suffocated to prevent biting.

"Chiggers are non-burrowing mites. They feed on you, leave and then the bite is what causes irritation," he said. "Avoid substances that you think can suffocate the chiggers because they are simply not there by the time the bite begins to itch."

Another myth about the mite is that it can transmit disease. Talley said chiggers are at low risk for transmitting pathogens. Severe irritation is caused by compounds in adult chigger saliva that produce a reaction.

No lotions or soaps have been proven scientifically to attract chiggers, but Talley said those that are effective in deterring them include DEET, picaridin or IR3535 when applied to the skin.

"Use products that have at least 20 percent or higher of these compounds to effectively repel chiggers for extended periods of time," he said.

To relieve chigger bites, use common antihistamines or creams that counteract the skin's inflammatory response.



John D. Montgomery • The Purcell Register

Still mowing

A wet July has made for a lot more mowing for Purcell Schools Custodian Curtis Conway.



John D. Montgomery
The Purcell Register

Monkey bars

Norman kids utilizing the playground equipment at the Purcell Splash Pad on top of Red Hill last week.

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The Purcell Register

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COMPUTERS
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GARAGE SALES
GARAGE SALE: Saturday, July 29, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. 928 Luglena Lane, Purcell. 07/27/1tp

NORMAN FLEA MARKET: Flea Market and biggest garage sale in Norman. Friday, July 28, & Saturday, July 29. Lost Lease, closing antique store. Everything must go. Merchandise will be on the west side of the Cleveland County Fairgrounds, 615 E. Robinson. Call 405-613-6992 for more info. 07/27/1tc

HELP WANTED
GENERAL LABORER wanted to installing water and sewer mains. Must have valid DL and reliable transportation. Starting pay \$17.50/hr. Call 405-527-3865. 7/20/2tp

HELP WANTED: Annie and Lloyd Tree & Landscape. Call 405-314-3607. 07/13/4tp

HELP WANTED/TRADE OUT for home plus modest salary. PT/FT with hands on and oversight of a farm. Full background & credit check required. Send thorough resume to gvoffice@mpactsquared.net or fax 405-527-0104. 05/18/tfc

LAWN MAINTENANCE Service is looking for dependable help. Must be able to work 40-50 hours per week. Starting pay \$11 to \$13 per hour. Call 405-306-1928. 03/23/tfc

LEXINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS currently has vacancies for Bus Drivers and Substitute Teachers. Earning potential for route drivers can be increased with activity trip driving if interested. Substitute teachers are appreciated and supported by our administrative staff. Substitute rates have increased recently. Non-certified and/or substitute applications are available on our website and should be returned to Jane Hopkins, Administration, 420 NE 4th St., Lexington, OK 73051 or jhopkins@lexington.k12.ok.us. 07/27/1tc

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WANETTE PUBLIC SCHOOLS has open positions for Elementary teachers, Early Childhood teachers and a 7th-12th English/Language Arts teacher. Contact John Sheridan at 918-906-5754 or Erica Owen at 405-287-4598 for more information. 07/20/3tc

LIVESTOCK
THE OKLAHOMA HORSESHOEING SCHOOL will do horseshoeing for \$30; trimming for \$15; and teeth floating for \$20 by appointment. 405-288-6085. 01/02/tfc

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5909 N. MORNING DOVE LN, EDMOND: Luxury Home located in Oak Tree on the 12th fairway of the renowned Oak Tree Nation Golf Course. Approx. 3,907 SF 2-Story Home w/3 Bedrooms & 4 Baths. This beautiful home is nestled in the back of The Oaks at Oak Tree which provides a Private Clubhouse, Pool & Tennis Courts. HOA Dues cover yard maintenance, exterior painting, common facilities and around the clock security. Spacious Living Area w/high ceilings, Generous Kitchen w/Granite Countertops & Large Island. Primary Suite locate downstairs w/Fireplace, Sitting Area, Golf Course View, En Suite w/Double Vanities, Walk-In Shower, Whirlpool Bathtub & Large Closet. Wood Paneled Office w/Full Bath. Patio has Multiple Sitting Areas, Circular Gas Fire Pit, Built-In Grill & Water Feature. Gift Wrapping/Hobby Room, Above Ground Storm Shelter in Garage, Mosquito Misting System and New Roof.

- 4313 ST. AUGUSTINE, YUKON: Located in Canterbury Neighborhood off S. Morgan Rd. Cul-de-Sac Lot. 1761 PORTER ST, GUTHRIE: Located off S. Pine St. between E. Industrial Rd & E. Prairie Grove Rd. Approx. 0.83 Acres MOL.
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Religion



John D. Montgomery • The Purcell Register

Singing praises

Vacation Bible Schoolers learned a new song and had choreography to go along with it at Sunray Baptist Church this week.

Sunray Baptist Church

Pam Kyzer sang "The Refrigerator Door" for the morning special.

Brother John used Hebrews 10:24-25 for his sermon. He said coming together as a body of believers is a great privilege. There is a need and no substitute for this assembly.

One reason that God gave us the church is that we need the church. God created us for a need for others.

The church is a body of people we are connected to. We should look to see how we can serve each other.

We need the assembly to be encouraged. The Lord can do great things through us. Jesus is coming again. The second coming is a reality. We are to draw near to the Lord and hold fast to our belief and faith in

the Lord.

The evening message was from I Corinthians 11: 27-30. The purpose of the Lord's Supper is a picture of our unity, a remembrance to proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

We need to be saved, obedient in church membership and be "right" with the Lord. When we take the Lord's Supper our thoughts should be back at Calvary, remembering the shed blood and broken body of Christ.

We observed the Lord's Supper to end our service.

God has given us another blessing with the improvement and resurfacing of our parking lot.

Also, mortar work is just about completed on our building's exterior and it will be

repainted in the near future.

The busy sounds of Vacation Bible School began at our church on Monday. It will continue, 9 a.m. to noon, until Friday. Some of the children attending will be presenting special music and testimony at this coming Sunday's morning worship service.

Following worship, we will have a youth-sponsored spaghetti lunch. There will be a devotion after lunch and no evening service.

Come be a part of Sunray Baptist Church! Join us for Sunday school, worship and all activities. John Wylie serves as our pastor. We are located at 2223 North 9th Street in Purcell.

For more information call 405-527-6808.

Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church

By Stella Bledsoe

July 30, 2023 is the seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time.

The Gospel reading is Matthew 13:44-52. 'The kingdom of Heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off in his joy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.'

'Again, the kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.'

'Again, the kingdom of Heaven is like a dragnet that is cast in the sea and brings in a haul of all kinds of fish. When it is full, the fishermen bring it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in baskets and throw away those that are no use.'

The first two illustrations

show us that being part of the kingdom of Heaven is so important and wonderful that sacrificing every else to attain it is wise.

The third illustration shows us that God casts a dragnet when gathering his kingdom, but some people will not be of use and will be cast away.

Being wise is reflective back to the Old Testament reading in First Kings Chapter 3. When God asked Solomon what he wanted, Solomon said, "Give your servant a heart to understand how to govern your people, how to discern between good and evil, for how could one otherwise govern such a great people as yours?"

God gave Solomon a heart wise and shrewd as no one has had before, and no one will have after.

To summarize for our benefit here in the 21st century: Ask-

ing God for wisdom instead of stuff will help us discern what is most valuable for our souls. Choosing God's path is the better choice and worth forsaking other pathways.

When we reach judgment day, we will be sorted and chosen as the good fish was chosen and not discarded away from God's eternal dwelling place.

Please join us in celebrating the love of Jesus at Our Lady of Victory parish.

Our Lady of Victory parish is located at 307 West Jefferson.

The church administrative office is located at 501 N. 4th, and it is open weekday mornings. The office number is 405-527-3077.

Weekend mass services are Saturday, 5 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m.; and Sunday, 1 p.m. (Spanish). There are no daily masses this week.

Peace be with you.



• Photo provided

VBS participants

Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church in Purcell held Vacation Bible School last week. Children and helpers gathered for a picture to commemorate the three-days of fun and Biblical teaching.

Church DIRECTORY

DIRECTORY

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

405 W. Grant, Purcell
Rev. Bill Crawford
405-820-8184
Sunday
Worship: 10:45 a.m.
Wednesday
Adult Studies: 7 p.m.

Emmanuel BAPTIST CHURCH
Purcell, OK
2705 N. 9th • 527-2535
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Sunday services 9 am Sunday School 6:30 pm Bible Study 10 am Worship 6:30 pm Awanas & Youth
Wednesday services 6:30 pm Evening worship Youth
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newlife TABERNACLE
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Sunday Morning - 10 a.m.
Revival Service - 11 a.m.
Wednesday Evening - 7:00 p.m.
Pastor: Rev. Mark A. Stacy
Office Ph. 405.527.3045

Westside Church of Christ
401 W. Broadway
Lexington
Sunday Morning 10:30 am
Sunday Evening 3:00 pm
Wednesday Evening 7:30 pm

CALVARY Holiness Church
Pastor David Bittle
403 N. 4th, Purcell
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
10:50 a.m. Morning Worship
6:00 p.m. Sunday Night
7:00 p.m. Wednesday Night
Independent Pentecostal
Holiness Church

Johnson Road Baptist Church
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Sunday School
9:45 a.m.
Worship Service
11:00 a.m.
405-818-8848

CHRISTIAN LIFE
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Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
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Sunday Worship..... 9:15 & 10:55 a.m.
Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

First Baptist Church Purcell
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CORNER OF THIRD & JEFFERSON
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Sunday - 11 am (English)
1 pm (Español)
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Parish Office/Oficina: 527-3077
Priest House/Padre Juan Pedro: 527-4242

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

Goldsby Church
153 W. Center Road
Goldsby, OK 73093
288-2514
Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.
Worship - 10:45 a.m.
Evening - 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Evening - 6:30 p.m.

Trinity United Methodist Church
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Pastor Susan Whitley
211 N. 2nd, Purcell
527-2256 Office

9th & Pierce Church of Christ
1207 North 9th
Purcell, OK 73080
405-527-3176
Sunday Bible Class 9:45 a.m.
Worship 10:45 a.m.
Evening 6 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Class 7 p.m.
Search Ministries Sunday 7:30 a.m. Channel 34
www.searchtv.org

SUNRAY BAPTIST CHURCH
2223 N. 9th, Purcell, OK 73080
Pastor John Wylie
527-6808
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship: 10:50 a.m.
Evening Worship: 5:00 p.m.



Purcell Intermediate School supply list

- Third Grade**
 2 box Crayola crayons, 24 count
 1 small plastic school box (no locks)
 24 #2 yellow pencils (Ticonderoga preferred)
 1 composition book (basic black)
 4 black Expo markers (fine point preferred)
 1 12-pack box colored pencils (Crayola Brand preferred)
 1 yellow highlighter
 4 glue sticks
 1 Fiskar 5" scissors (pointed)
 2 plastic sturdy folders (1 red and 1 green, no brads)
 1 box of tissues.
 Optional - 1 antibacterial wipes or 1 Clorox Wipes
- Fourth Grade**
 24 No. 2 pencils (Dixon, USA Gold or Ticonderoga brands preferred)
 1 7" pre-sharpened colored pencils (12 count)
 1 wide ruled 8x10.5 filler paper (100 count)
 4 black Expo markers
 4 Expo black chisel tip dry erase markers
 5 pocket folders with no brads (1 red, 1 green, 1 blue, 1 yellow, 1 orange)
 2 pink bevel erasers
 1 Crayola crayons (24 count)
- 1 Crayola markers (10 count)
 2 wide ruled black marble composition book (100 count)
 1 zipper pencil pouch
 1 handheld pencil sharpener
 4 glue sticks
 1 box tissues
 Optional - 1 antibacterial wipes or 1 Clorox Wipes
- Fifth Grade**
 1 zipper binder - recommended
 1 zipper pencil pouch (w/ binder rings)
 1 7" pre-sharpened colored pencils (12 count)
 2 Crayola crayons (24 count)
 24 No. 2 pencils (Dixon, USA Gold or Ticonderoga pre-sharpened brands preferred)
 1 handheld pencil sharpener
 1 assorted color pack of highlighters (pink, blue, orange, yellow)
 2 glue sticks
 5 composition books
 1 wide ruled 8x10 filler paper (100 count)
 4 black Expo markers
 5 plastic two pocket folders (red, green, blue, yellow, orange)
 2 spiral notebooks
 1 box tissues
 Optional - 1 antibacterial wipes or Clorox Wipes



John D. Montgomery • The Purcell Register

Yard work

Former Purcell Mayor Alton Dragoo was doing some weed eating in his yard last week trying to keep things tidy.

From page 6A

Beef:

be tested through the local extension office for a small fee.

"The testing of our soil and our forage are two of many resources that our local extension office can provide along with supporting our local Cleveland County Cattleman's Association. We can take samples into the office for a very reasonable cost, and they can show us how to properly take a soil sample and forage sample as well as interpret that information," said Trampas Baker of Moore and Owner of Baker Cattle Services.

Continuing in their mission to serve and assist local beef producers, the Cleveland County Cattleman's Association is partnering with Cleveland County OSU Extension to

host an informative beef event and ice cream social.

The event will feature educational activities for all ages of producers ranging from a cow calving simulator, hay sampling, guessing bale weights, checking out technological tools on tractors, and the importance of collaborating on resources.

Burgers, hot dogs, refreshments, and homemade ice cream will be provided by the Cleveland County Cattleman's Association.

The event will be hosted by Northcutt Farms at 9501 Duffy Road in Lexington on Saturday, August 5. at 5 p.m.

Please contact the Cleveland County OSU Extension office at (405) 321-4774 to register by July 28.

Courthouse News

The following persons have been charged by the State of Oklahoma with traffic or other violations or have filed other court actions in McClain County District Court between July 13-19, 2023.

Traffic

- Tommy L. Johnston, no insurance.
- James G. Borden, speeding, 80/70.
- Christopher A. Jimenez Moreno, speeding, 101/80.
- Mitchell T. Molitor, speeding, 90/80.
- Sean P. Snider, speeding, 80/70.
- Sheryl Williams, taxes due state.

Misdemeanors

- Brittany N. Cameron, unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia.
- Donovan R. Law, trespassing after being forbidden.
- Donovan R. Law, trespassing after being forbidden.
- Donovan R. Law, trespass after being forbidden.
- Maximiliano Vargas Juarez, actual physical control of vehicle while under the influence.
- Leslie O. Moffett, possession of CDS - methamphetamine.
- Travis E. Bryant, obstructing an officer.
- Stacie M. English, assault and battery.

Felonies

- Ryan K. R. Reeves, false declaration of ownership in pawn.
- Robert E. Edwards, possession of firearm after former felony conviction.
- James P. Gardenhire, assault, battery, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon.
- Jaclyn R. Wallis, fugitive from justice.
- Ashley S. Allen, fugitive from justice.
- Devin Hobbs, endangering others while eluding/attempt to elude police.
- Chad R. Jensen, endangering others while eluding/attempt to elude police.
- Stephen T. Layton, false declaration of ownership, AFC.
- Precious S. Martinez, trafficking in illegal drugs - marijuana.

Small Claims

- Carl Bryant vs. Travis Bryant, forcible entry and detainer under \$5000.
- Tri City Mobile Home Park vs. Timothy Hanley, forcible entry and detainer under \$5000.
- Allied Homes, Inc vs. Sherri Rayford, small claims under \$5000.
- Villas at Lions Court vs. Kelli Borsch, forcible entry and detainer under \$5000.

Villas at Lions Court vs. Melissa Betterton, forcible entry and detainer under \$5000.

Civil

- Discover Bank vs. Tyler W. Neal, civil action \$10,000 or less.
- Synchrony Bank vs. Barbara Throckmorton, civil action \$10,000 or less.
- Capital One, N.A. vs. Patricia L. Williams, civil action \$10,000 or less.
- Portfolio Recovery Associates vs. David Orr, civil action \$10,000 or less.
- Midland Credit Management vs. Steven McCormick, civil action \$10,000 or less.
- Capital One, N.A. vs. Justin C. McBride, civil action \$10,000 or less.
- Velocity Investments LLC vs. Aletha Ticer, civil action \$10,000 or less.
- Velocity Investments LLC vs. Phillip Horse, civil action \$10,000 or less.
- Velocity Investments LLC vs. Heather Holmes, civil action \$10,000 or less.
- Jennifer Moore vs. OneOK Inc, civil action \$10,000 or more.
- Discover Bank vs. Sara Neal, civil action \$10,000 or more.
- Onslow Bay Financial LLC vs. Dean Codner, civil action \$10,000 or more.
- Arvest Bank vs. Troy A. Wiloughby, civil action \$10,000 or more.
- Tinker Federal Credit Union vs. Ila S. Kelley, civil action \$10,000 or more.
- Midfirst Bank vs. Darrell D. Kuehl, civil action \$10,000 or more.
- Midland Credit Management vs. Rachel L. Hamilton, civil action \$10,000 or more.
- True Sky Credit Union vs. Gail Tucker, civil action \$10,000 or more.
- Midland Credit Management vs. Darlene Tytgat, civil action \$10,000 or more.
- Ford Motor Credit Co. LLC vs. Andrea Conner, civil action \$10,000 or more.
- State of Oklahoma Ex Rel vs. Michael D. English, civil action \$10,000 or more.

Marriages Filed

- Tyler J. Curtis, 28, and Morgan T. McMullin, 24, both of Bolivar, Missouri.
- Ryan P. Dillow, 24, and McKenzie R. Crim, 24, both of Newcastle.
- Michael V. Glasco, 24, and Peyton S. Corley, 24, both of Purcell.

Divorces Granted

- Robert E. Howeth vs. Amy J. Howeth.

Purcell Senior Citizens

By Val Blackburn

Lots of folks come out and enjoy the music and dancing! Every first, second, third and fifth Friday of the month you all can come from 7 until 9 p.m. to enjoy the music, dancing and refreshments. Entry is \$8 and refreshments will be available to purchase. This event will help support the senior center and provide an evening of entertainment for the community at a reasonable cost. We happily welcome the "Troubadours" back and are looking forward to our future venture with them! Come and enjoy the fun! Family friendly atmosphere!

A big welcome to the new people coming to the center! We love getting to know you and the "More the Merrier!"

The phone number for the center is 405-527-5070. Please don't hesitate to call if you have any questions about anything we offer.

Everyone over 60 has a standing invitation to come visit the senior center. Enjoy new friends, numerous activities, lunch and a few laughs. Our library has a variety of books to take home and enjoy. Coffee, tea and cookies are always available!

Bingo is every Thursday at 10 a.m. New things to do will be added this summer, depending on your interests. We are always open to new ideas from everyone who attends.

The center garage sale is closed as we rearrange and renovate. Sorry for any inconvenience. The sale will have new merchandise and a new look when we reopen! The date we open will be in the article in **The Purcell Register**.

Delta Nutrition provides meals Monday through Friday beginning at 11:30 a.m. They also deliver in-home meals. Any questions you have about obtaining meal service or dining here at the center, can be answered by the kitchen at 405-527-9462. This number is also the one to call when you let them know what days you will be here to dine.

It is becoming more important to remember to make your reservation for meals. That can be done weekly or daily, whatever works for you. The rising cost of food and supplies is making it more essential every day for Delta Nutrition to have a count of the meals. Please let them know you will be here or if you won't. They always want to have plenty of food for all who would like to join us. Thank you for being understanding of their policies.

Menu for July 31-August 4:

Monday—Chicken casserole, peas, carrots, roll, strawberry cake.

Tuesday—Taco salad, corn relish, lime delight.

Wednesday—Chicken fried steak sandwich with lettuce and tomato, coleslaw, fruit, peanut butter bars.

Thursday—Brown beans with ham, oven fried potatoes, tomato relish, cornbread, fruit crisp.

Friday—Swiss steak, baked potato, California mix, roll, gelatin.

One milk per person is served with every meal.

We appreciate everyone who continues to donate and support the senior center. Your donations continue to enhance the lives of our seniors and the operation of our center.



John D. Montgomery • The Purcell Register

Fresh produce

Ripe for the picking was produce for sale in the southern part of Purcell last week.

The Purcell Register

Obituaries

Tommy Eugene Clasey

Tommy Eugene Clasey died July 21, 2023, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, at the age of 65 years 2 months 12 days. Funeral Services are scheduled for 2 p.m. Friday, July 28, 2023, at Wadley's Funeral Chapel. Interment will follow at Lexington Cemetery, entrusted to the care of Wadley's Funeral Service. Online condolences may be made, and service livestreamed at www.wadleysfuneralservice.com.



Tommy was born on May 9, 1958, in Oklahoma City to Donald A.T. and Anita N. (Hammett) Clasey. He spent his formative years in South Carolina and graduated from Sumter High School around 1976 before pursuing further education in Heating and Air Conditioning, as well as refrigeration.

Tommy utilized his skills as a maintenance man in various apartment complexes across Mustang and Oklahoma City, including Pebble Creek Apartments and Waters Edge Apartments. Alongside his professional endeavors, Tommy found joy in playing pool, bowling, and working on cars.

Known for his generosity and compassion towards others, he always sought opportunities to lend a helping hand.

Tommy was preceded in death by his parents, Donald and Anita Clasey; and his sister, Debra Nolan.

Survivors include his brother, Ernest Coker and wife, Shirley; his brother, J.C. Craig; his sister, Brenda Brown; and numerous nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends.

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• Photo provided

New board member

Cynthia Bates was sworn in Monday by County Commissioner Chairman Terry Daniel as a new member of the McClain County Fair Board.

National School Lunch Program announced

Washington, Purcell, Wayne, Dibble, Lexington and Wanette Public Schools have announced their policy for free and reduced-price meals for children served under the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program.

Local school officials have adopted income criteria and household size for determining eligibility.

Children from households whose income is at or below the qualifying levels are eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Application forms are being sent to all homes with a letter to parents or guardians.

To apply for free or reduced-price meals, households should fill out the application and return it to the school. Additional copies are available at the principal's office in each school.

The information provided on the application is confidential and will be used for the purpose of determining eligibility and may be verified at any time during the school year by school or other program officials. Applications may be submitted at any time during the year.

For school officials to determine eligibility, households receiving food stamps, "Temporary Assistance for Needy Families" (TANF), or "Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations" (FDPIR) must list the child's name, his/her food stamp or TANF or FDPIR case number, and the signature of an adult household member.

If you do not list a food stamp or TANF or FDPIR case number for all the children you are applying for, then the application must have the children's names, the names of all household members, the amount of income each person received last month and where it came from, the signature of an adult household member, and that adult's social security number or the word "none" if the adult does not have a social security number.

In certain cases, foster children are eligible for free and

reduced-price meals or free milk regardless of the child's income. If you have foster children living with you and wish to apply for such meals or milk for them, contact the school.

Under the provisions of the policy, a school official will review applications and determine eligibility.

Parents or guardians wishing to make a formal appeal may make a request either orally or in writing to the school for a hearing to appeal the decision. The school's policy statement contains an outline of the hearing procedure.

The household of a child currently certified to receive food stamps, TANF or FDPIR benefits will be notified of the child's eligibility and that the child will be provided free benefits unless the household notifies the school that it chooses to decline benefits.

In accordance with federal law and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) policy, these institutions are prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability.

To file a complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form found online at www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html or at any USDA office or call 866-632-9992 to request the form.

You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed form or letter to USDA by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, fax 202-690-7442 or email program.intake@usda.gov.

Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339 or 800-845-6136 (Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Each school and the office of the superintendent have a copy of the policy which may be reviewed by any interested party.



NEWS from the City of Purcell

Service to Others

There are a lot of people living in the City of Purcell who are elderly or have disabilities that do not allow them to maintain their property as they would like.

The City of Purcell is asking for any persons, churches, clubs or organizations interested in helping the elderly or disabled maintain their property to please contact Code Enforcement at 405-527-4656.

Code will maintain a list of those who can help and contact them when needed.



City of Purcell Employee of the Month

Mike Lewis

Job title: Code Enforcement

How long have you been employed with the City of Purcell? Four years.

Tell us about your family: I have six kids, two grandkids and one Godchild.

What are some of your hobbies? Reading fishing, camping and golfing.

Where did you grow up? Lake Arrowhead, Calif.

What is the best advice you have ever been given? "Give 100 percent no matter what you're doing."

What is a fun fact about you that many people may not know? I was an undercover cop for seven years.



Lewis

Lexington Public Schools enrollment

Lexington Public Schools has announced enrollment information for the 2023-2024 school year. All new and or returning students must enroll.

Enrollment hours will be Tuesday, August 1, from 1:30-7 p.m.; Wednesday, August 2, from 8-11:30 a.m. and 1-3:30 p.m. and Thursday, August 3, from 1:30-7 p.m.

Enrollment for all students will be in the High School Commons area.

• All returning students must

bring the following:

- One proof of residency (utility bill, etc., driver's license will not be accepted).
- Student birth certificate;
- Student Social Security Card;
- An up-to-date Immunization Record.

Please be reminded that enrollment forms are on our website <http://www.lexington.k12.ok.us/> and can expedite the enrollment process when printed and completed.

Purcell Elementary School supply list

Pre-K

**** No supplies needed for pre-k, only a backpack with a change of clothes.**

Kindergarten

- 1 zipper pouch, solid color only
- 2 boxes crayons, 24 count, Crayola brand preferred
- 2 boxes of 8 washable markers (classic colors, broadline) Crayola brand preferred
- 2 sets of watercolors (8 count, classic colors) Crayola brand preferred
- 4 large Elmer's glue sticks
- 2 large pkg. Clorox Wipes
- 1 box tissues
- 1 pkg. of pre-sharpened pencils (12 count)
- 1 pair of over the ear headphones (good quality, no bluetooth)
- 1 4-pack of playdoh (optional)
- 1 pair of scissors

First Grade

- 1 school box, small size only (approx. 8"x5"x2-1/2")
- 2 pkgs. (12 count) #2 pencils (yellow, wood only)
- 2 boxes crayons (24 count)
- 2 boxes 8 washable markers (classic colors, broadline)
- 1 set of watercolors (8 count, classic colors, Prang brand preferred)
- 4 large Elmer's glue sticks
- 1 large pink school eraser (Gum preferred)
- 1 paper folder 3 pronged, color blue
- 1 large pkg. Clorox or Lysol disinfectant wipes

- 1 box tissues
- 1 pair of over-the-ear headphones (good quality)
- Second Grade**
- 1 school box, small size only (approx 8"x5"x2-1/2")
- 2 box crayons (24 count)
- 2 boxes of 8 washable markers (classic colors, broadline)
- 6 small Elmer's glue sticks
- 1 large pkg. Clorox or Lysol disinfectant wipes
- 1 set watercolors (8 count, Prang brand preferred)
- 1 box tissues
- 1 pkg. 12 colored pencils (tall, not short, classic colors)
- 1 large pink school eraser (Gum preferred)
- 1 pair of over-the-ear headphones (good quality, not wireless)
- 1 pair of child scissors, pointed tip
- Optional: 1 box of thin washable markers (classic colors)



FUN FOR ALL AGES

STARTS FRIDAY PG-13

HAUNTED MANSION

HELD OVER PG-13

Barbie

SHOWING MONDAY, JULY 31 & TUESDAY, AUGUST 1 PG-13

SOUND OF FREEDOM

CLOSED MONDAY & TUESDAY 7:30 EVENINGS 2 PM SAT & SUN MATINEES

ANNOUNCEMENT: (405) 238-6358 / 238-7002

PAULS VALLEY Across from Train Depot

ROYAL THEATRE

No. 568-July 27-1 Time

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The McClain County Board of Commissioners will be receiving sealed bids until 4:00 p.m., on August 11, 2023 with the opening of bids on August 14, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. for Rhyolite Chips & Rock.

Invitation to Bid forms are on file in the McClain County Clerk's Office, 3rd Floor, Room 303, McClain County Courthouse, Purcell, Oklahoma or request to be mailed or emailed. Submit bids to McClain County Clerk, PO Box 629, Purcell, OK 73080.

The Board has the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids.

SEAL DATE: 7/24/2023

/s/ Pam Beller

Pam Beller

County Clerk

The Heart of Oklahoma

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Piddling

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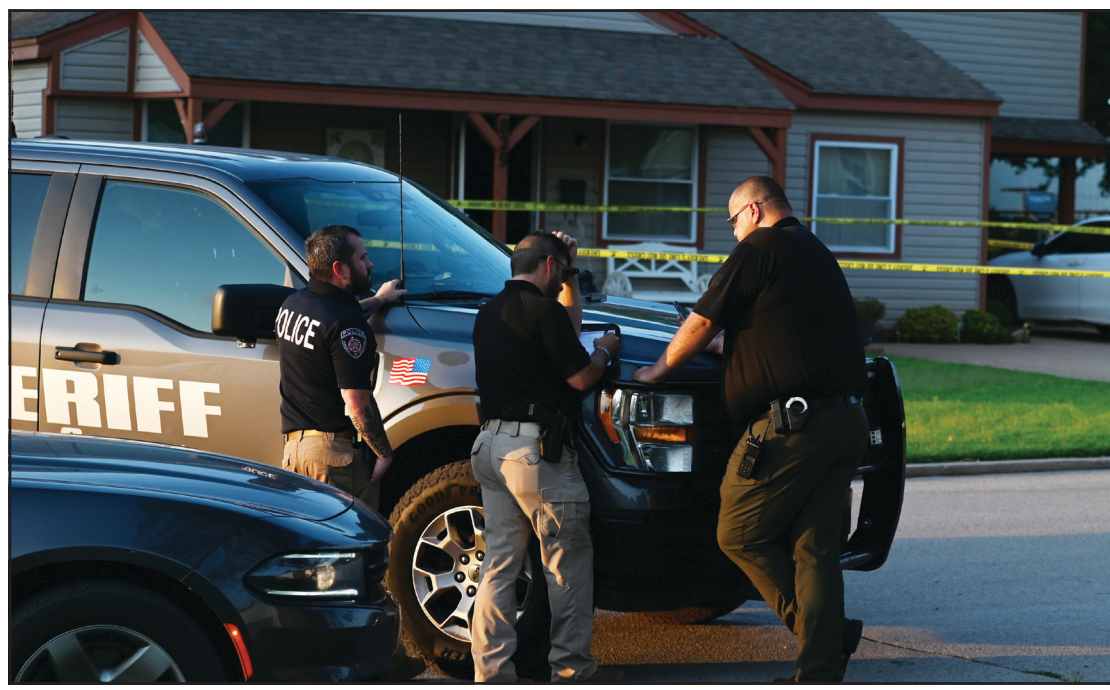
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John Denny Montgomery • The Purcell Register

At the scene

Law enforcement officers with the McClain County Sheriff's office, Purcell Police Department and Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation were on the scene of a fatal officer-involved shooting Monday evening at a home on Apache St. The subject of an eviction notice was shot after brandishing a knife at officers serving the notice.

From page 1A

Tax:

or about the human body and the sales price of the article is less than \$100.

This also includes all sales when shopping online, out of catalogs, or at retail locations.

The sales tax holiday does not apply to the sale of any accessories, special clothing or footwear primarily designed for athletic activity or protective use that is not normally worn except when used for athletic activity or protective use, or to the rental of clothing or footwear.

Oklahoma Tax Commission information states that eligible items purchased during the sales tax holiday using a previously issued rain check qualify for the exemption. If a rain check issued during the sales tax holiday is redeemed after the sales tax holiday, the purchase is not tax exempt.

The OTC further states that if a retailer offers a discount to reduce the price of an eligible item to less than \$100 the item will qualify for the sales tax exemption. This applies to all discounts even if a retailer's coupon or loyalty card is required to secure the discount.

The following is a non exclusive list of clothing that is exempt from sales and use taxes:

- Aprons, household and shop
- Athletic supporters
- Baby receiving blankets
- Bathing suits and caps
- Beach capes and coats
- Belts and suspenders
- Boots
- Coats and jackets
- Costumes
- Diapers, children and adult, including disposable diapers
- Earmuffs

- Footlets
- Formal wear
- Garters and garter belts
- Girdles
- Gloves and mittens for general use
- Hats and caps
- Hosiery
- Insoles for shoes
- Lab coats
- Neckties
- Overshoes
- Panty-hose
- Rain wear
- Rubber pants
- Sandals
- Scarves
- Shoes and shoelaces
- Slippers
- Sneakers
- Socks and stockings
- Steel toed shoes
- Underwear
- Uniforms, athletic and non-athletic
- Wedding apparel

From page 1A

Killed:

The suspect lived with a family member at the residence, who requested the eviction notice.

Deputies attempted to negotiate with the suspect and then called Purcell Police for assistance with "less than a lethal option," Public Information

Officer Scott Gibbons said. Pepper spray and a taser were ineffective, the McClain County Sheriff's Department reported.

Gibbons said the suspect then charged at deputies with a knife and they discharged a firearm.

The OSBI reported life-saving measures were attempted at the scene. The suspect was transported to Purcell Municipal Hospital where he was pronounced deceased.

No one else was injured. The OSBI said this is an ongoing investigation.

From page 1A

Beller:

of a single game.

Q. What is the most gratifying part of your job?

A. Seeing a young man use what they have learned in football and applying it to

their lives.

Q. How exciting was it to win the Gold Ball?

A. The most exciting part was seeing the community flood onto the field and cel-

ebate a win that the team had worked so hard for. The sacrifice and work of the teams from the past and all the hard work of the 2022 team made that moment special.

From page 1A

Rigney:

continued. "As the head principal, he has successfully supervised assistant principals and school staff, developed professional development programs and revised school policies and procedures.

"Mr. Rigney firmly believes in fostering parental involvement and cultivating a positive school culture, emphasizing the importance of strong relationships and academic rigor in the classroom," Reynolds said.

Prior to his administrative roles, Rigney taught Biological Sciences, AP Biology, Anatomy, Physiology and Biology. He also actively

engaged in coaching various sports teams, including high school football, junior high basketball and junior high tennis.

Rigney holds a Master of Education degree from East Central University, specializing in Public School Finance, Curriculum, and Supervision of Instruction. He also earned a Bachelor of Science in Education from ECU. His commitment to ongoing professional development is evident through his participation in various training programs, including Capturing Kids Hearts, FEMA Crisis Man-

agement for School-Based Incidents and the Franklin Covey Organization Training.

Throughout his career, Mr. Rigney has been recognized for his outstanding contributions to education. He has received several awards and honors, including Teacher of the Month at Seminole Public Schools and Teacher of the Year at Konawa High School," Reynolds said.

"I am confident that Mr. Rigney's expertise, dedication and passion for education will greatly benefit Washington High School and our entire school district.

From page 1A

Presley:

then I'll get it eventually."

Q: Do you have any strange superstitions you believe in?

A: "I always do the same warm-ups... I just stretch before and do a couple of the same tricks before going out there."

Q: A lot of people are inspired by another athlete and may kind of structure their game around how that person plays. Do you model your game around any twirler past or present? If not, who would you say your style of performance is most comparable to?

A: "I would say all of the Alabama twirlers. They're beautiful, they're precise, and everybody loves to see them whenever they come out."

Q: How do you set yourself apart from other student-athletes? What makes you special or different?

A: "I think it's because I'm the feature twirler at Washington. A lot of people will come up to me and say they don't

even know anybody who does this. And there are not very many of us nowadays. If I go to competitions, there are only maybe 50 girls and a lot of them travel. I only have like two or three friends from across the state that I know that do it. So I think it's just because I'm the only one and I'm one of the older ones now. I don't know if little girls are doing it in Washington, but I'm the oldest one doing it. And I'm the only one who shows up on Fridays and twirls or does parades or anything like that."

Q: When you have a bad performance or competition, what do you do to take your mind off things or reset from that? Do you have any hobbies that you lean on away from the field?

A: "I usually go and hang out with my friends up to the game and ask them if they saw that I did bad, and they always say no because I don't know what is good and what is bad, and

you looked great."

Q: Obviously, a lot of students look forward to the summer to get away from school. Do you have any plans or are you doing anything this summer? If so, what are they?

A: "I attend a lot of camps. Whether they're FFA camps, church camps, or mainly just leadership ones, I go to a lot of camps during the summer."

Q: On the other hand, you still have to be ready when the season comes around. Are you doing any training or going to any competitions over the summer?

A: "No, but I do have [twirling] lessons that I go to during the summer with my coach Juliann Gustina."

Q: Do you see yourself pursuing twirling at the next level? If not, what are your plans for the future?

A: "I don't see myself twirling at college because my interest in going to college is to get an Agricultural degree. What I would really love to do is livestock judging, so I think I'm going to go to a junior college down in Tishomingo. It's called Murray State and I'm going to do livestock judging there, but they don't offer up a twirler position. So I'll go down there and judge, and then, eventually, after that, I'll go to Oklahoma State. There, I'll probably study Agricultural Communications with a business degree."

Q: What advice would you give to your younger self?

A: "To not care about what others think."

Q: What's one of the biggest challenges you run into as a student athlete?

A: "Not letting myself be the best I can be because I'm worried about what others will have to say."

Q: When you step onto the field and get ready to perform on the sideline, what's your biggest motivating factor? What's your why?

A: "Because I'm the only one, I want to be an inspiration to other people who may be interested in twirling... I think it's just about showing people how fun it can be and how interesting it is."

Kidz Krusade

Wednesday, August 2nd thru Friday, August 4th
Registration 6:00 PM • Services 6:30 PM

Rev. Robert and Rev. Jan Teel will lead the "Kidz Krusade". They have a special gift for ministry to Kidz.

They will be assisted by their friends, Shadrack the Dog, Skittles, Bubba & Babbie Babbles, Moody the Memory Monkey and Mr. Ugly.

For more information call 405-527-2769.

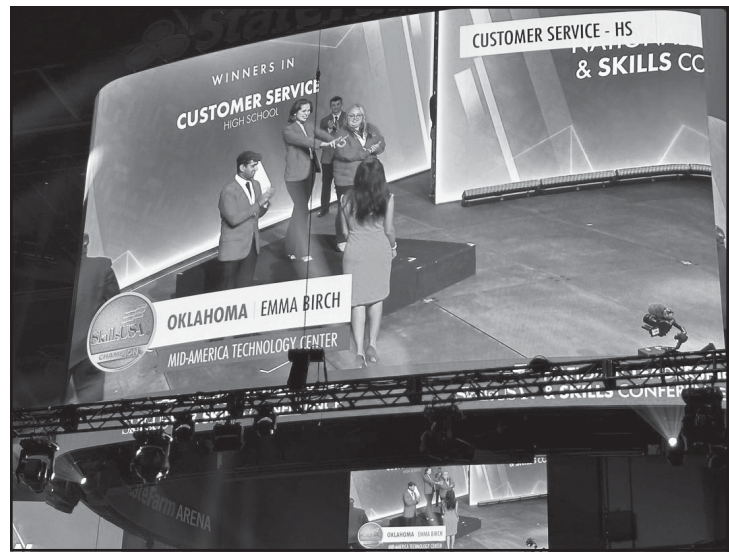
MEMORIAL
ASSEMBLY OF GOD
7th & Monroe, Purcell

Saturday, July 29
9 AM to 1 PM
at Santa Fe Plaza

Fresh, local produce, crafts, artisan food/drinks, books & vintage finds

'Cultivating love through community'
Our focus is to promote healthy living through holistic farming and craftsmanship, with an emphasis on Oklahoma ingredients.

Neighbors



• Photo provided

Nationals win

MATC's Emma Birch on the National SkillsUSA stage accepting her Silver Medal for her win in the Customer Service contest.

MATC SkillsUSA students win at Nationals

Mid-America Technology Center SkillsUSA student, Emma Birch, a Horticulture student from Noble, brought home the Silver Medal in the Customer Service contest at the annual National Leadership and Skills Conference in Atlanta, Ga.

In addition to Birch's big win, MATC placed in four other contests on the national level. Dusti Grossnicklaus, Extemporaneous Speaking, 5th place; Tristen Fleck, Lydia Moore, and Ashlyn Ward,

Engineering Technology, 8th place; Maisy Lewis, Barbering, 11th place; and Kylee Field, Esthetics, 22nd place.

SkillsUSA is a national student organization that improves the quality of the nation's future skilled workforce through the development of Framework skills, that include personal, workplace and technical skills grounded in academics.

Nationwide SkillsUSA serves more than 331,000 students and instructors annually.

Little Cheer Camp set for August 12

Angie Steele

Washington Correspondent

Come learn all things cheer! WHS Cheer Booster will host Little Cheer Camp Saturday, August 12, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the McAlister gym.

Ages four through sixth grade will learn a performance. The group will perform at the Red and White High School scrimmage.

Cost is \$45 per cheerleader which includes a camp t-shirt and bow. Must be registered by July 30.

For more information and a sign up form please contact amandabolser@hotmail.com or text 405-442-0227.

Important Vaccination Requirement for Incoming Washington Seventh Graders

Dear Incoming Seventh Graders and Parents/Guardians,

As you prepare for the new academic year, we would like to remind you about an essential requirement that must be fulfilled before students can begin classes in August.

Proof of TDAP Booster Vaccination or Signed Waiver:

According to the regulations set by the state, all incoming seventh graders must provide proof of receiving the



COME LEARN ALL THINGS CHEER!

LIL CHEER CAMP

HOSTED BY WHS CHEER BOOSTER

SATURDAY AUG 12, 2023

Where: McAlister Gym
10 to 12:30
AGES 4 YRS -6TH GRADE
Performance at Red White Scrimmage

PRICE \$45 INCLUDES CAMP SHIRT AND BOW

WE WILL PROVIDE PIZZA AND DRINKS AROUND 12

DUE DATE IS JULY 30

TDAP (Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis) booster vaccination.

Alternatively, if you wish to exempt your child from the TDAP vaccination due to

personal or religious reasons, you must complete and sign a formal waiver form. The waiver form acknowledges your understanding of the risks associated with not

receiving the TDAP booster vaccination.

You can find the waiver form at <https://oklahoma.gov/.../imm.../certificate-of-exemption.pdf>.

Submission Process:

To ensure a smooth start to the school year, you must provide either proof of vaccination or the completed waiver form to the middle school office before the first day of classes in August. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in a delay in your child's enrollment. The middle school office will be open beginning August 1.

Please email any questions or concerns regarding the TDAP booster vaccination requirement or the waiver process to Robyne Cox, middle school secretary, at rcox@wps-isd.com. She will be more than happy to assist you and provide further guidance.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding in this matter. We look forward to welcoming all our incoming seventh graders and embarking on an exciting academic year together.

Seeking Families Willing To Open Their Home To

Please see **Wash News**, page 10B

Newsmakers

Taylor graduates cum laude

Paige Taylor of Washington graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Journalism from Abilene Christian University in Abilene, Texas.

Taylor was among 833 students who received degrees at ACU's May Commencement.

Students whose GPAs are at least 3.6 graduate cum laude, with honor.

UCO honor roll students

The University of Central Oklahoma recently announced the students named to the university's honor rolls, a distinction given to those who achieve the highest academic standards.

For the spring 2023 semester, 1,414 students were named to the President's Honor Roll, an honor achieved by those who recorded a "straight-A" or 4.0 GPA.

In addition, 1,334 students were named to the Dean's Honor Roll, a list of those who achieved a 3.5 GPA or better for the semester and no grade lower than a B.

To be eligible for the President's or Dean's lists, students must complete at least 12 hours of on-campus class credit for the semester.

Students named to the President's Honor Roll were **Isabelle Amara Meyer** of Lexington; **Carlee Jewel Dismuke**, **Vivian Teresa Steiner** and **Nathan Christopher Willis**, all of Purcell; and **Carson B. Memahon** of Washington.

Named to the Dean's Honor Roll were **Robyn T. Ardery** of Byars; **Zachary A. Kernal** of Goldsby; and **Jaylen R. Cottrell** and **Jessica Ramirez**, both of Purcell.

Election Day laws and reminders

Voters in McClain County are reminded to keep the integrity of the election system in mind, when going to the polls next week.

While ballot "selfies" or taking photographs of a marked ballot are legal, voters may not share or distribute the image through social media or by any other means while inside the election enclosure. Voters must wait until they leave their polling place before posting or sharing the picture with anyone.

Improper use of the photo could result in a violation of the law. Voters may not use the image to coerce, influence, or intimidate another voter.

McClain County Election Board Secretary Karen Haley says voters should be aware that violating the law has consequences.

"While some offenses may seem minor, unlawful activity on Election Day constitutes a serious crime and could result in a misdemeanor or in some cases, a felony conviction. We want all voters to be aware of their actions and be respectful of the rights of others."

Haley said it is illegal to disclose how you voted with anyone while inside the election enclosure. In addition, you

Please see **Election**, page 10B

Still time to plant and enjoy beets

Melinda Myers

For The Purcell Register

Beets are one vegetable you can purchase most months of the year but those you grow yourself taste the best. The good news is there is still time to grow your own this season.

These flavorful vegetables contain fiber, vitamins A and C, calcium, potassium, phosphorous, and more iron than most vegetables. Betalain, the antioxidant and pigment in beets, can be used

as a natural red dye and food coloring. In fact, it inspired the saying "red as a beet" and was used to provide that color in makeup.

Beets tolerate warm temperatures but germinate best during cooler weather. Plant seeds 1/2 inch deep and one to three inches apart every three to four weeks for a continuous harvest. Make your last planting about eight

Please see **Beets**, page 10B



MATC students place at HOSA Leadership Conference

The 2023 International Leadership Conference, held this year in Dallas, is one of the highlights of the year for all HOSA students.

Rebecca Galloway, Colton Ince and Lynlee Tortolini won second place in the Biomedical Debate team competition, and Caleb Hyer placed in the top 10 in Prepared Speaking.

HOSA is an international student organization recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the Health Science Education (HSE) Division of ACTE. HOSA's mission is to promote career opportunities in the health care industry and to enhance the delivery of quality health care to all people.

The HSE-HOSA partnership recognizes the importance of providing students with training far beyond the basic technical skills needed for entry into the health care field.

The rapidly changing health care system needs dedicated workers who, in addition to their technical skills, are

people-oriented and capable of playing a leadership or followership role as a member of a health care team.

For more information about full-time programs, short-term classes, and Business and Industry Services, at Mid-America Technology Center, please visit us at www.matech.edu.



• Photos provided

Leadership Conference winners

Congratulations on your wins at ILC! Rebecca Galloway, Colton Ince and Lynlee Tortolini, left, second place in the Medical Debate competition, and Colton Hyer, right, Prepared Speaking Top 10.

Beets:

to ten weeks before the first fall frost.

Beet seeds are a cluster of seeds. Remove all but one seedling in the cluster soon after the seedlings appear. You will also need to remove any excess seedlings to provide the remaining seedlings the space they need to grow and reach full size.

Take the sting out of this task by thinking of thinning as a form of harvesting. Use the beet greens removed during thinning as sprouts on sandwiches, salads, and in stir-fries, and other dishes.

Reduce the amount of thinning needed with the help of seed tapes. The seeds are secured onto biodegradable tapes at the proper spacing. Just dig a shallow furrow, lay in the tape, and cover it with soil at the proper planting depth. You'll spend a little more money on seed tapes but save lots of time.

Make sure your plantings receive sufficient moisture throughout the growing season. The flavor is best during cooler weather. All leaves and no edible roots may be a problem you have experienced when growing beets, radishes, and carrots.

Thinning and growing root vegetables in well-drained fertile soil at the proper spacing is key to growing success. Improve heavy clay soils by working several inches of organic matter into the top eight to 12 inches of soil. If this hasn't worked in the past, try growing your beets in containers filled with a quality potting mix.

Harvest beets in about 50 to 60 days when the roots are 1 to 1.5" in diameter. Pull or carefully dig the beets with a garden fork or shovel. Place the shovel several inches away from the root crops. Push it straight into the soil to avoid damaging the roots. Wiggle the shovel to loosen the soil and tilt to lift the beets free.

Trim the leaves back to an inch and leave the taproot intact. Rinse off the soil and allow the beets to dry before storing them in a perforated plastic bag in the refrigerator. Wash, and further trim your beets as needed right before using them.

Minimize scraping, cutting, and slicing that will increase the loss of vitamins and flavor.

Most garden centers and mail-order catalogs still have beet seeds available for purchase. You'll find red, purple, golden, and even white beets to grow and enjoy. Select the variety that best suits your gardening and cooking needs.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the recently released *Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition and Small Space Gardening*.

She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated "Melinda's Garden Moment" TV and radio program.

Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and her website is www.MelindaMyers.com.

Wash News:

Host a Foreign Exchange Student For The 2023-2024 School Year

Hosting an exchange student will bring a new culture to your family and will help a young person from another country for a lifetime! It's not about how big your house is or how much money you have, what a host family needs is love for kids and a desire to help. They can share a room with a child of the same sex, and they have their own spending money as well as insurance. We have boys and girls from all over the world with a variety of interests and backgrounds.

If you would be interested in opening your home to an exchange student or if you would like more information, please contact Mikala Pitano at 580-656-0219.

Washington Farm Market this Saturday

The Town of Washington is hosting a Farm Market every other Saturday through September 1.

Local farmers will have their products for sale from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the corner of Main and Morehead behind Washington Nutrition. Come see the local famers this Saturday, July 29.

Make sure and stop by to support local!

Washington Public School Open House

School starts Tuesday, August 15, and Open House will be taking place on Monday, August 14, from 5-7 p.m. For additional information on the 23-24 school year, click on the back-to-school tab located on our website at wps-isd.com. We will update information throughout the summer.

Washington School Supply Lists

Washington School's website has back to school information including school supply lists. They have implemented TeacherLists to place all supply lists online for your shopping convenience.

Check the website for updates at wps-isd.com.

Washington Senior Center

Did you know that you don't have to be a senior to eat lunch at the center? We welcome everyone to come in and eat. Plus, when you come in to eat, it helps us to keep meal deliveries going for our seniors who can't get out.

If you know of any seniors who could benefit with meal delivery in the Washington/Goldsby area give the center a call at 405-288-6404.

Menu for July 27-August 4:
Thursday, July 27—White bean chili with chicken, cornbread.

Friday, July 28—Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans.

Monday, July 31—Taco salad, tortilla chips, chili beans.

Tuesday, August 1—Spaghetti with meat sauce, green beans.

Wednesday, August 2—Smoked sausage, baked beans, corn casserole.

Thursday, August 3—Chicken and noodles, peas and carrots.

Friday, August 4—Pulled pork barbecue, baked potatoes, green beans.

Menu may change at the discretion of the cook.

All meals are served with beverage, dessert and salad bar.

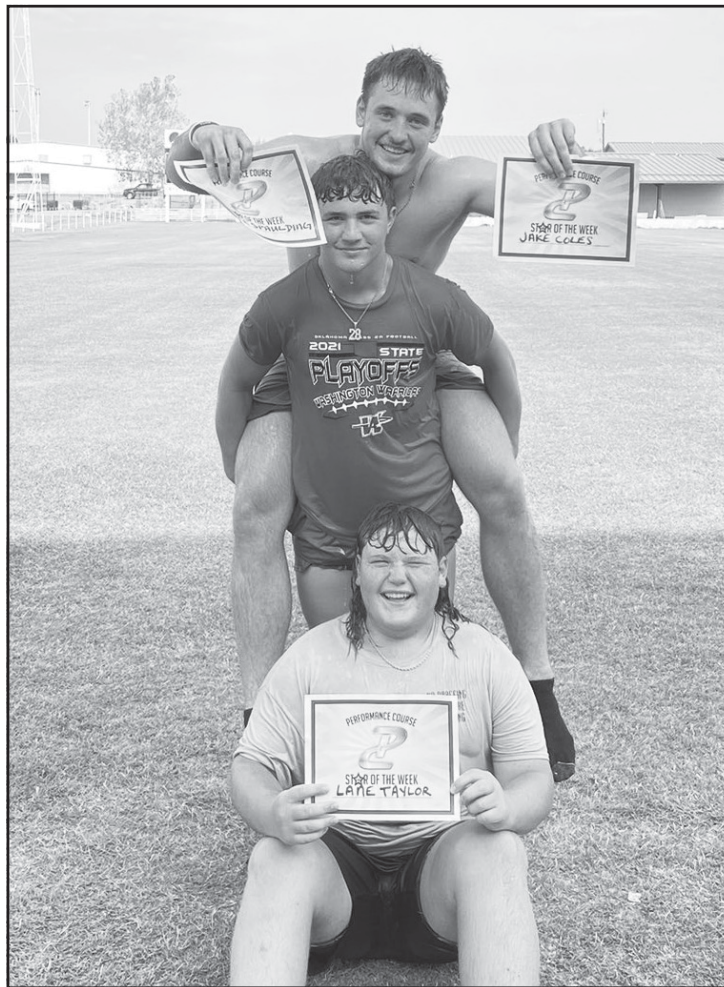
Lunch is served from 11:30 a.m. to 12 noon, Monday through Friday.

Cost per meal: \$3 suggested donation for 60 years old and above and those disabled; \$6 for 59 years and below.

Friday Music Jams start at 10 a.m. until? Anyone is welcome to sit in and sing or play an instrument.

Washington School Board Meeting Schedule

All Washington School Board meetings will be held in the 4/5th Building Library at 6:30 p.m.



• Photos provided

Performance Stars

Washington Performance Course Stars for Week 6 include high school boys Lane Taylor, Nathan Spaulding and Jake Coles and junior high school boys Bo Beard and Jaxon Vanya. These guys absolutely dominate and show up every day and get after it.

Meetings are scheduled for August 14, September 11, October 9, November 6 and December 11.

Washington Public Schools Calendar

August 5—Softball Alumni game.

August 7—MS Fastpitch, home vs. Tuttle.

August 8—HS Fastpitch at Tuttle; MS Fastpitch, at Little Axe.

August 10—HS Fastpitch at Casady.

August 11—HS Fastpitch at Tuttle Festival.

August 14—MS Fastpitch, at Blanchard; Board Meeting - 4/5 Library.

August 15—MS Fastpitch, home vs. Dale.

August 17—MS Fastpitch, at Tuttle Tournament; HS Fastpitch Heart of OK Tournament.

August 18—MS Fastpitch, at Tuttle Tournament; HS Fastpitch Heart of OK Tournament.

Dale K. Graham Veterans Foundation

During the last 20 plus years we have been changing the lives of veterans and their families when we assist them with their claims for VA benefits. The high cost of living today has brought many seniors to our Veterans Foundation to see if they can qualify for any type of VA benefits.

As all of us know everything we purchase is more expensive, which is having a severe impact on those of us who are on a fixed income. We believe that veterans should not have to struggle when it comes to having enough to eat and a place to live.

At our Foundation, volunteers and staff are doing every-

thing we can to assist the men and women who served in the military with their applications for VA benefits. As a VA Accredited organization, we have required training that helps keep us up to date on the changes that are made at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Our drivers who transport veterans to their VA appointments are working extra hours to keep up with the increased number who are asking for rides. Two of their vehicles need replacement as they both have over 150,000 miles on them. Hopefully in the near future, some of the veterans who we have helped will upgrade their vehicles and then donate their old ones to our Foundation to be used transporting other veterans to their VA medical appointments.

One of the biggest changes that is going to affect a very large percentage of veterans is the Pact Act that was enacted last year. This Act gives veterans who served in certain locations during the Vietnam era and Gulf War era presumptive exposure to chemicals during their military service. We recommend that all veterans who served in Guam, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam and Johnson Island visit us about possibly filing a claim for VA benefits.

The Department of Veteran Affairs has a Registry for the Agent Orange, Gulf War, and a Burn Pit registry. We can help veterans to sign up for those registries.

As we get older, I believe that it is important that we do what we can to help veterans and their families who are having a difficult time. Personally, I have never seen so many of our veterans who need a helping hand. We want to help as many families as possible with their VA benefits.

Volunteers are needed to help us to make a difference in the lives of the men and women who served in our country's military. Every day there are more people asking us to help them than we can accommodate on a daily basis. I would like to see more people in our community joining us in our mission.

If you would like to join us as a volunteer helping us to improve the lives of veterans and their families, please visit our website or stop by our Norman Office at 1233 West Lindsay St in Norman. We are in the process of setting up a second location in Nashville, Tenn. As we move forward with this location, we will be looking at adding volunteers who can work there or from home using our digital system.

To start our process, login to dkgvf.org to fill out and scan your information into our Intake Q program. By using our digital system, veterans do not have to stand in line to receive our assistance with their VA claims and questions. Some of the men and women who we assist live in other states or countries.

Using our digital system some of them will not need to visit us in person as we can triage them electronically or by phone. We encourage veterans or surviving spouses who we have previously assisted to register in our dkgvf.org system so we will be able to help their surviving spouse when the veteran passes on.

I would like all veterans to tell their spouse and family members what their service-connected disabilities are. When a service-connected disability is listed on a veteran's death certificate as a primary cause of death or a contributing condition the surviving spouse and dependents will be eligible for VA DIC benefits.

We accept the donation of cars and trucks that can be given to veterans or sold to raise funds to help more veterans and their families. As always, we appreciate all donations that can be

used to make a difference in the lives of our men and women who have served in the military.

The Dale K. Graham Veterans Foundation is honored to host the third annual Helping Heroes Golf Tournament! We are looking for gift basket donations for our raffle and items for our silent auction. The minimum value for gift baskets is \$100. The tournament is Monday, October 9, at 8 a.m. All baskets and silent auction items will need to be received by Friday, September 15.

If you, family, friends, or business are interested in donating a basket, please reach out to our Development Director. If you are interested in sponsoring or playing in the tournament, please message colleen@dkgvf.org your email address.

All of us at our Veterans Foundation are proud to do everything we can to assist the men and women who are serving or have served in the United States Military. We have been making a difference in the lives of veterans and their families for over 20 years. For those of you who would like to join our team, volunteer applications are available on our website.

We are a free service to all veterans and their families. We are open Monday through Friday starting at 9 a.m. Come visit us at 1233 West Lindsay Street in Norman.

Follow us on our YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@AccreditedVSO/featured>.

We are a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization and there is never a charge for the services we provide to veterans and their families. We do accept financial contributions to be used to support veterans and this organization. We also accept donations of wheelchairs and other types of handicap equipment that can be given to other veterans or their families.

We are open to active clients Monday, Tuesday and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to noon.

To donate to our Foundation, you can do so online at dalekgrahamveteransfoundation.org or mail a check to Dale K. Graham Veterans Foundation, 1233 West Lindsay, Norman, OK, 73069. You can contact us on our website or by calling 405-550-8806.

Dale K. Graham, Accredited Claims Agent Dale K. Graham Veterans Foundation Washington Correspondent Contact Information

I would love to share your personal or community news with our readers.

My contact information is angiesteele73@gmail.com or 405-413-2471 if you have any news to share, story ideas, or if you have someone you would like to see a feature article about. Send me birthday, anniversary, or personal news you would like to share with our community.

Angie Steele

Election:

may not remove a ballot from the polling place.

Keep in mind that electioneering is prohibited within 300 feet of any ballot box while an election is in progress. This includes wearing or bringing visible campaign related paraphernalia into the election enclosure.

Haley notes that no one except election officials and voters waiting to vote are allowed within 50 feet of any ballot box on Election Day. Certain exceptions are made for media and those assisting disabled voters.

Voters are reminded that consuming alcohol of any kind or quantity within one-half mile of a polling place on Election Day is prohibited.

The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on August 8.

Visit us at:

purcellregister.com

WASHINGTON SOFTBALL



Alumni Game

RED AND WHITE GAME TO FOLLOW

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5 @ 5:30 PM

WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

FOOD PROVIDED BY FIRST UNITED BANK

\$7 ADMISSION

INCLUDES HAMBURGER OR HOT DOG BASKET