

John D. Montgomery The Purcell Register Lined up McClain County residents piled into the courthouse in

Purcell and up to the third floor to pay the first half of their taxes Friday afternoon to County Treasurer Teresa Jones.



McClain PURSUIT ends in Maysville

Suspect apprehended and faces charges

John D. Montgomery **The Purcell Register**

A 25-year-old Oklahoma City man has been arrested in Garvin County where he faces charges after a pursuit that began in the wee hours of Christmas morning in McClain County.

Devin Chance Yandell was charged last week in Garvin County District Court on charges of attempting to elude an officer and aggravated trafficking of illegal drugs.

He was being held in the Garvin County Jail on a \$100,000 bond.



Devin Chance Yandell

Please see **Pursuit**, back page

Pauls Valley Opry to have final show February 3

Woodie and Becky Hill of the Pauls Valley Opry announced recently the monthly event will soon be coming to an end.

The event, bringing together so many talented musicians and singers for so long, will hold its final show February 3 after a stretch of 12 years.

The first show was on November 10, 2012 and it's been quite a ride! The Pauls Valley Opry was not only a venue for bringing Branson quality music to our area,

Please see **Opry**, back page

Deadline to request absentee ballot for February 13 election Voters in McClain County



who want absentee ballots mailed to them for the February 13 Board of Education Primary/Purcell Municipal Primary election should apply now, County Election Board Secretary Karen Haley said today.

Absentee ballots are available to all registered voters, provided they are eligible to vote in the election requested. No excuse is needed to vote by absentee ballot.

The deadline for requesting an absentee ballot is 5 p.m. Monday, January 29. Voters can submit a request using the OK Voter Portal at oklahoma.

Please see **Absentee**, back page

Setting it Straight

In last week's Purcell Register a reporter's error said Wadley's EMS transported Herndon to PMH.

It should have read Stanley was transported to the hospital.

The newspaper regrets the error.

Pelican invasion

The Purcell City Lake was invaded by a large flock of pelicans that were captured on camera by The Register last Tuesday morning.

National Guard deployment to Texas border paid for by disaster response funds

KeatonRoss Oklahoma Watch

Oklahoma spent more than \$544,000 for the state's National Guard to help secure the U.S. border with Mexico, money that came from a disaster fund typically used for National Guard response to tornadoes and other extreme weather events.

Republican Gov. Kevin

405-527-2126

purcellregister@gmail.com

Stitt, heeding a call from Texas Gov. Greg Abbott, called up the National Guard for a 30-day state deployment in August. More than a dozen Republican governors, who have criticized President Joe Biden's border security policies, sent National Guard members to assist Abbott's Operation Lone Star.

The deployments drew



criticism from Democrats because border security historically is a federal responsibility and National Guard soldiers and airmen called up for that role had fewer enforcement powers than U.S. Border Patrol agents.

Stitt joined Abbott and Republican governors from Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota at a press conference in Eagle Pass, Texas, on Aug. 21. Stitt said he was concerned about illegal drugs like fentanyl being smuggled across the border and people on terrorism watchlists evading authorities at border crossings.

"Every state is a border state," Stitt said at the press

Please see **Guard**, back page



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

Inside

B-ball tourneys See where Purcell,

Lexington and Wayne are playing this weekend.



Tuesday Night Ti	cker		
High school basketball			
Воу	S		
Bridge Creek 72	Purcell 57		
Lexington 69	Wayne 44		
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Purcell 72	Bridge Creek 29		
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Recycle your Christmas tree into the landscape

MelindaMyers For The Purcell Register

tree to the curb to be hauled away by the trash collectors. Give it a second, even third life, in your landscape. No enjoy watching these visitors live Christmas tree? Don't to your landscape. worry. I'm sure your friends

scape for a bit of added green- to use in their landscapes. ery. Secure it in a snow pile Don't drag that Christmas or use stakes and guy wires in milder climates where the soil is not frozen. The birds will enjoy the added shelter and you will



· Photo courtesy of MelindaMyers.com

Recyle your Christmas tree

Removing the branches from Christmas trees and layering them over bulbs and perennials keeps the soil consistently cold, reducing the risk of early sprouting and winter damage.

the holidays. Avoid trees im- can enjoy. ported from other states that may host invasive insects that popcorn is a fun family activity can infest your landscape and and makes an attractive outdoor nearby Christmas tree farms. garland. Slices of oranges on Your local municipality or De- colorful yarn and homemade partment of Natural Resources bird ornaments can complete has more information on any the adornments. threats and disposal recommendations for your area.

to protect evergreens in your the garden. Place them directly landscape from winter winds on the soil or atop the snow. and sun. They make excellent As the snow melts, the needles windbreaks while shading sen- will be right where they belong.

ward side of rhododendron, add organic matter to the soil. boxwood, and other broadleaf evergreens to reduce problems chipping and shredding your with winter burn. Place it on tree into mulch for trees and the south side of these plants shrubs or pathways in the to shade them from the drying landscape. No chipper? You winter sun.

use them as winter mulch over and other prunings for use as bulbs and perennials. Layer the mulch in your landscapes. boughs over the plants and soil to keep the soil consistently check for recycling resources cold. This reduces the risk in your community. Many of early sprouting and winter municipalities have special

and neighbors will share theirs. food for your feathered visitors. Move your locally grown Decorate the trees with fruits, Christmas tree outdoors after berries, and seeds the birds

Stringing cranberries and

Sweep up the fallen needles that were under your tree in-Use your cut Christmas tree doors and use them as mulch in sitive plants in your landscape. And don't worry, they will not Strategically place your make the soil too acidic. In discarded tree on the wind- fact, as they break down, they

As spring arrives, consider and your neighbors may want Or remove the branches and to rent a chipper to shred these

And, if this is not possible,

Lake communities often sink the discarded trees to the bottom of lakes and ponds to provide habitat for the fish. Another great way to give your tree a second life.

And once you discover the Then consider adding a bit of value of this free resource you may find yourself collecting a few more from the neighborhood.

> However, your family may ask that you wait until dark to drag your evergreen treasures back home.

> 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.

7 Day forecast from 💓 @PurcellRegister @OUNewsCrowd Thu Fri Sat Sun Mon Tue Wed 55° 42° 40° 32° 47° 34° 48° 35° 49° 30° 56° 40° 50° 38° 50% Rain Partly Cloudy Mostly Sunny 60% Rain Partly Cloudy Partly Cloudy Mostly Sunny

Rain chances follow chill

2024, but temperatures will be temperatures slightly cooler in hold in the middle 50s for taking a roller coaster ride head- the upper 40s. Partly to mostly afternoon highs. Temperatures ing into the next seven days. On sunny skies will return for will fall into the 40s for Tuesday Thursday, we can expect mostly the weekend as temperatures and Wednesday under a mix of sunny skies as afternoon highs climb back into the upper 40s clouds and sun. top out around 50 degrees. to middle 50s. Rain chances Some scattered rain chances return for the start of the next

We have seen a chilly start to will appear into Friday, with work week as temperatures

- Hunter Brittingham

Registration deadline nears January 19 for voters in February 13 election

January 19 is the last day to dents of Oklahoma, and at least not be processed until after the tion Primary/Purcell Municipal 18 years old to vote. Primary election

Secretary Karen Haley.

are United States Citizens, resi- time will be accepted, but will

apply for voter registration in 17-1/2 years old are eligible February 13 election. order to be eligible to vote in the to apply for voter registration. February 13 Board of Educa- However, you must be at least

Applications must be re-That's the word from Mc- ceived by the county election Clain county election board board or postmarked no later than midnight January 19. Ap-Haley said that persons who plications postmarked after that

Applications may also be submitted to any motor vehicle agency that is also an official voter registration agency by the submission deadline.

Applicants will be notified in

Please see **Deadline**, page 3A

LEXINGTON SCHOOL MENU Week of January 8 MONDAY BREAKFAST

Whole grain cereal or biscuit and gravy, craisins, juice, milk. LUNCH

Steak fingers or yogurt meal, potatoes and gravy, steamed broccoli, pears, milk

TUESDAY BREAKFAST

Whole grain cereal or breakfast burrito, orange smiles, juice, milk.

LUNCH Sloppy joes or chef salad, french fries, green beans, peaches, milk.

WEDNESDAY BREAKFAST

Whole grain cereal or yogurt and crackers, pears, juice, milk. LUNCH

Vegetable soup and grilled cheese sandwich or sandwich, baby carrots with ranch dressing, pickle spears, mixed fruit, milk.

THURSDAY BREAKFAST

Whole grain cereal or sau-

A look back at 2023



damage that can occur during winter thaws.

Or set the tree in the land- and made available for citizens

pickups for Christmas trees. These are chipped, shredded,



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Ground breaking

After a ground breaking in Goldsby early in 2023 a new First National Bank & Trust Co., is under construction. When completed it will be the 12th location of FNBT (rendition above). From left are builder and entrepreneur Scott Adkins, SVP Lender Brad Duvall, home designer, builder and FNBT Director Tina Adkins, Goldsby Mayor Glenn Berglan, Principal Architect Walter Henry, Board Chairman Pat Brooks, President and CEO John Gorton, EVP and Chief Financial Officer Kyle Abrahams, SWH Construction Operations Manager Justin Robertson, Town Administrator Adam Vossen, VP Lender Jamie Beard and Construction Administrator Danny Choate. The FDIC bank joins a variety of commercial and retail developments underway in Goldsby.

Getting to know the

sage English muffin, mandarin oranges, juice, milk. · Photo provided

LUNCH

Beef taco pie or chef salad, pinto beans, whole kernel corn, frozen juice cup, milk.

FRIDAY BREAKFAST

Whole grain cereal or Dutch waffle, apple wedges, juice, milk.

LUNCH

Hamburger or sandwich, potato wedges, lettuce, tomato, pickles, onions, banana, milk.





Lynda Mauldin How long have you worked for the McClain County Court Clerk's office? I have been with the Court Clerk's office since February 2022. Love it! This however, is not my first time with McClain County. I worked for the MCSO many years ago as a jailer/dispatcher in the old jail and watched them build the new

extension to the courthouse. I am very proud and grateful for my time working for McClain County. What are you duties? In the Court Clerk's office my duties began as the deputy traffic clerk. After the retirement of our special Amy Gray, I took her place as the deputy misdemeanor clerk. I am a firm believer in cross-training, so I am absorbing as much knowledge as I can in all areas. You never know when someone will be gone for vacations or other reasons.

Where is you hometown? This is a challenging question for me in some respects. I spent my last four years of high school and graduated from Velma. I spent the majority of my adult life and raised my sons right here in the Heart of Oklahoma 🖤.

Tell us a little bit about your family? My greatest accomplishment are my three sons raised right here in Purcell. Kenny, having the first two of my perfect grandchildren (Brody & Embree) and his beautiful girlfriend Daria love them so well. Kenny has worked for the refinery for years. Peyton and his precious wife Nikki of many years having my second group of two perfect granddaughters (Gracelyn & Willow). Raising their family in Lindsay with Peyton working in the oil field industry for many years. Kolbi my youngest and his wife Reagan have given me my 3rd set of grandchildren (Sophia & Marshall). Currently living in Tomball, TX after the Marines but encouraging them to find their way to Oklahoma. My best friends, my sister Kim and sister from another mother Jona are definitely my ride-or-die. They know all of my secrets. I could not ask for a better group to spend 5 days a week in the trenches with than these ladies in this office. They are the best!

What do you enjoy doing outside of work? Outside of work I spend with family, friends and being creative in some way. If it's been an extra week I can easily spend it binge watching something great.



NEWS In Brief

Auxiliary Luncheon

Auxiliary Unit 301 bean luncheon will be Tuesday,

It is a variety of good food and desserts, all for only a \$6 donation. We appreciate everyone for supporting your community and having lunch with us. It is always a fun time to meet friends you have not seen for a while.

Donations are used for Unit programs.

Auxiliary membership is open to all spouses, widows, mothers, sisters, daughters, and granddaughters of veterans.

They meet at 5 p.m. on the second Monday of each month and invite all to join them.

The Legion Hall is located at 104 E. Broadway in Lexington, across the street from City Hall.

Lexington Cemetery Board

The Lexington Cemetery Board has raised the lot rate from \$600 to \$700 effective Jan. 1, 2024.

To purchase a lot, or for more information, call Mike Donovan at 405-550-9562.

Rural Fire Vacancy

The Lexington Rural Fire Association has a vacancy on the Board of Directors.

If a member of the Asso-The American Legion ciation is interested in serving, please contact Dale Haynes at haynesfarm192@gmail.com January 9, starting at 11 a.m. or Stella Bledsoe at ronbledsoel@yahoo.com.

New OK Election **Board Website**

The Oklahoma State Election Board has launched a new website making it easier to view candidate information.

Candidates running for county, state or federal office may be viewed on the new website.

Put the filing dates in like 12-04-23 to 12-06-23 and view a copy of the actual candidate declarations.

Go to https://filings.okelection.us.

Celebrate

Recovery

Celebrate Recovery will be held on Monday nights at Landmark Church, 1106 W. Grant, in Purcell.

Big group will meet from 6:30-7:30 p.m. followed by small group from 7:30-8:30 p.m.

Celebrate Recovery is a safe place to find community and freedom from the issues that are controlling your life.

For more information contact Niki Steadman at 405-595-1337 or Mark Rillema at 405-496-5954.

SafeCare

SafeCare, a program of Northcare, is a free, home based parenting support program with the goal of reducing stress for caregivers. SafeCare provides education on parenting,

health, safety and communication skills along with connecting families to community resources.

SafeCare services are provided to caregivers that have at least one child under the age of six and live in McClain or Cleveland counties.

For more information 405-858-2725, call email safecarereferrals@ northcare.com or online at www.northcare.com.

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.

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.



Ring donation

First United Bank sponsored a football camp at Washington to help pay for the Warriors' 2023 State Championship rings. Pictured are, from left, Case Alexander, Max Wilson, Naithen Spaulding, Baylor Haynes, Cooper Alexander, Regan Inglis, Hannah Shea and Nichole Corley.



Camp time

· Photo provided

Deadline: writing when their application

From page 2A

has been processed. Approved voters will receive a Voter Identification Card in the mail.

Some may receive a letter that explains the reason or reasons the application was not approved. Haley said those who do not receive a response within 30 days of submitting their application should contact the county election board office immediately.

The McClain County Election Board reminds voters that Voter Registration Applicaapplications must be approved tion. by the county election board

secretary in order to vote.

moved to McClain County from a different county or state will need to complete a new voter registration application in order to be eligible for elections in McClain County.

If you have moved within the county and need to update your address, you may make changes online using the OK Voter Portal at oklahoma.gov/ elections/ovp or complete a

Voter Registration Applica- elections.ok.gov.

tions can be downloaded from Registered voters who have the state election board website at oklahoma.gov/elections. You may also complete a form at your county election board. Most post offices, tag agencies, and public libraries have applications available upon request.

> The McClain County Election Board is located at 121 Second Avenue in Purcell and is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

> For questions, please contact the Election Board at 405-527-3121 or mcclaincounty@

The Washington football team held a benefit football camp December 28 with funds going towards their 2023 championship rings. First United Bank sponsored the event.

OSU EXTENSION *News*

Let's recycle that Styrofoam

Courtney DeKalb-Myers Horticulture Educator

from your holiday gifting?

Got any packing Styrofoam Education (OHCE) group of or grease in them. Cleveland County will be as-Save it and bring it to the sisting the Foam Recycling fied, is shipped off and used to

homa Community & Home have no remaining food, dirt

The foam, after it is densi-Green Team as we work togeth- make patio furniture and other Let's Recycle that Styro-Organizers ask that you foam, pick up the Styrofoam

Rural Development accepting REAP grant applications

U.S. Department of Agricul- Applicants must submit their more information at: okenergy@ ture (USDA) Rural Development Oklahoma State Director. Kenneth Corn announced that 31, 2024. the Oklahoma State Office is Applications.

rural Oklahoma with energy efficiency improvements or renewable energy projects. Millions of utilized for rural Oklahoma busito apply for up to 50 percent the demand on our energy grid." financial assistance on an energy efficient improvement or renewable energy project.

included LED lighting, energyefficient fans, improved refrigeration, solar power, and

grant package to the Oklahoma usda.gov. State Office no later than March

"Small business owners and ag now accepting Rural Energy for producers in Oklahoma who have AmericaProgram(REAP)Grant utilized this grant program have seen almost immediate returns A REAP grant is designed to for their business because of the aid small businesses or farms in real cost savings from energy these programs can provide," Corn said. "President Biden is committed to not only restartdollars has been allocated to be ing our economy through these programs, but also working to nesses and agriculture producers improve our climate by reducing

To learn more about the REAPprocess visit: https://www. rd.usda.gov/programs-services/ Past uses of the grant have energy-programs/rural-energyamerica-program-renewableenergy-systems-energy/ok.

Stakeholders can also email other energy efficient projects. the Oklahoma State Office for

Joe's Wines and Spirits Fine Wines • Spirits • Beer • Coolers E. Lindsey ..\$7.69 GEKKEIKAN SAKE 750 "JUNMAI RICE WINE" \$-A-L-E MICHAEL DAVID "PETITE PETIT SIRAH" 750......\$-A-L-E\$12.49 ...\$13.99 SVEDKA GIN & STRAWBERRY PINEAPPLE GIN 750.......\$-A-L-E\$7.69 ASBACH URALT *GERMAN BRANDY* 750. ...\$-A-L-E\$26.69 *AGED 3 YEARS IN LIMOUSIN-OAK CASK BARRELS* ** joesplacewines.com & Facebook ** 1330 Alameda Norman • 364-9262

"The Biden-Harris Administration continues to demonstrate that investing in clean energy is an economic winner for the State of Oklahoma," Corn said.

"I would encourage any small business owner or ag producer to contact our State Office."

Styrofoam Recycling Event from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, February 24, at the First Baptist Church of Noble, 330 East Chestnut, in Noble.

The Foam Recycling Green Team will be there with their huge collection truck on location at the church parking lot for collecting and compacting Styrofoam.

Bring packing Styrofoam, take-out food packaging, to-go drink cups, any of your Styrofoam items and let us recycle in the densifier machine. Bring the kids, they will love to see this machine in action.

The Noble Friendship Okla-



100% fresh, never frozen 1/4 lb. ground beef patty topped with lettuce, tomatoes, onions, pickles, mustard and miracle whip.



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er to protect our community in products. this recycling project.

remove tape and paper labels; litter on the roads, and clean and that food serving items up our community.



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Thursday • January 4, 2024

Purcell Register

(USPS 450-620) Established November 23, 1887 Published weekly at Purcell, Oklahoma

by McClain County Publishing **Company, Inc.** 225 W. Main Street • Box 191 Purcell, OK 73080 (405) 527-2126 FAX (405) 527-3299 purcellregister@gmail.com

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Subscriptions Rates Including Postage: McClain, Cleveland and Garvin Counties \$33 Other Oklahoma Counties \$47 Out of State \$64

(No refunds on subscriptions)

Periodicals Postage Paid at Purcell, Oklahoma, 73080

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to: Box 191, Purcell, OK 73080

Reaching Your Lawmakers

Six years down the drain To most veterans, people say, "thanks for your service."

That's apparently not the case for me. John Denny wanted to get my

service records rounded up and organized so any benefits I'm entitled to would be easier to access when the time comes.

Not a problem, I figured, just have Dale Graham or some of his helpers check on it and send me the paperwork.

Turns out, my ship has been sunk.

During the six years I served in the U.S. Naval Reserve at two weeks of training back in Tinker AFB there was never November of 1979. a Russian submarine in Lake Texoma or Lake Thunderbird my Public Affairs Unit for a but apparently that was not noted by the U.S. Navy.

The federal government has no record of me getting a direct commission in Public Affairs as not once but twice before retiring as a Lieutenant.

Editor's Notebook

John D. Montgomery

I once flew to California with weekend training exercise, staying at a Bachelor's Officers Quarters in San Diego on the government's dime.

I drilled monthly at the an Ensign and getting promoted Armed Forces Building just across Douglas Blvd. to the east of Tinker Air Force base only one. The United States I went to Pensacola, Fla., for for six years, even mistakenly Navy is not any better.

A little girl name Hope

By Andy Bowman, **CoffeeTime** Columnist

Grandma lay in the hospital bed, a shadow of the vital, energetic woman she had been just a year ago. Her strong hands that were endlessly involved in her family's life, providing, comforting, and disciplining, now lay listlessly on the bed cover, thin and fragile.

Eyes that always had been sparkling with life and occasionally sparking with irritation when one of her grandchildren had been "acting the fool" now were clouded with pain and fatigue.

hair that she always wore in a say her goodbye to Meemie. short halo around her head? Long gone in the garbage heap

ering. Cancer had walked into who had helped shape the first seven years of her life was not her life 15 months ago. Rudely ignoring any common courlying in that bed. tesy of announcing its arrival, it had quietly and insidiously shadow, a feeble imitation of sneaked in, hiding its presence the lady who had helped to until it had managed to gain surround her with love and a stronghold with tentacles security. snaking throughout her once

indomitable body. The oncologist efforts with chemotherapy and surgery to rein in its reign of terror had proven to be as ineffective as a household water hose against a city-wide fire.

Into her dimly lit room, a grieving daughter led her own tiny daughter. Mom and Dad had agreed last night that it Her famous silver cloud of was time for their little girl to

As they tiptoed toward the boosted herself up on the bed, bed where her grandmother and laid her head down on the

getting paid as a Rear Admiral for a couple of years. That was pay that I had to

drill for two additional years without pay to repay. That's right, I was paid by

the Navy for six years but now they don't have any record of my service.

Clayton Lee, who works for

But much to my chagrin the only thing the Navy has about my service record is when I was in ROTC at OU for a year before opting out of that program.

Hence, those six years in the Naval Reserve were all for naught and John Denny's idea of getting my records together was a failure before launch.

Michael Dillinger always NIL and transfer portal have ruined it used to forget I was a Veteran until I would stand up on Veterans Day for recognition.

Turns out Michael wasn't the

In her place was just a

Tears filled the mother's

eyes as she watched her

daughter quietly lean toward

the bed. Tenderly gazing down

into the beloved wrinkled face,

the child reached out to lightly

stroke the almost transparent

picked up one of the lifeless

hands and held it gently in

on the lowered guard rail,

With her other hand, she

Then she placed a little foot

skin.

her own.

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.



Not the college game

Some folks say change is inevitable.

That may be so, but that doesn't mean it's for the better.

The Name, Image and Likeness program coupled with the transfer portal's ability to change schools at the drop of a helmet and not have to sit out a year have ruined the once awesome game of college football.

Now when recruits sign letters of intent they don't become Buckeyes or Longhorns or Cowboys or Sooners. They merely are pro athletes under the guise of being college students.

According to talking heads, now the going rate for a top-shelf quarterback is north of \$1 million and it's just a bidding war. The rich get richer and the rest suffer.

Players now just look for the best deals and try to find another school when they can't beat out the player in front of them at their first institution of choice.

One good question is, "Why even make them go to class?" I know several graduates of Texas A&M and recently one of them flatly said, "I hate college football now."

That's a sentiment that is going around these days.

The Purcell Register

Wonderful people

Dear John D. and Gracie:

What a wonderful letter recently in The Purcell Register from one of Lexington's most outstanding couples. Muhammed and his wife have been owners of two important businesses in our community for almost a quarter of a century. They have recently sold them but kept a third about 10 miles east of town.

I have been lucky to know them all this time and was invited to their daughter's wedding many years ago. It was an unforgettable experience and I learned so much that evening about their important religion and traditions.

Purcell Register

Opinion

Graham at Veteran's Corner, got the ball rolling for us.

Senator Jessica Garvin (R-43) State Capitol, Suite 529-A 2300 N. Lincoln Blvd. Oklahoma City, OK 73105 (405) 521-5522

Senator Mary Boren (D-16) State Capitol, Room 514.1 2300 N. Lincoln Blvd. Oklahoma City, OK 73105 (405) 521-5553

Senator Rob Standridge (R-15) State Capitol, Room 429 2300 N. Lincoln Blvd. Oklahoma City, OK 73105 (405) 521-5535

Representative Jacob Rosencrants (D-46) State Capitol, Room 509 2300 N. Lincoln Blvd. Oklahoma City, OK 73105 (405) 557-7329

Representative Sherrie Conley (R-20) State Capitol, Room 303-B 2300 N. Lincoln Blvd. Oklahoma City, OK 73105 (405) 557-7308

Representative

Cynthia Roe (R-42) State Capitol, Room 338 2300 N. Lincoln Blvd. Oklahoma City, OK 73105 (405) 557-7365

Representative Merleyn Bell (D-45) State Capitol, Room 539-B 2300 N. Lincoln Blvd. Oklahoma City, OK 73105 (405) 557-7386

Read us on the web at www.purcellregister.com



of life, along with her energy lay, the little girl's eyes wid- pillow next to Meemie. and zest for life.

she had no illusions of recov- fun-loving, outspoken woman Please see **Bowman**, page 5A

ened in shock. The Meemie she Grandma was very ill and had always known, the strong,

Are you beginning 2024 a little fatter?

By Dr. Glenn Mollette

2024 is here and congratulations-you are here to celebrate! This is the time of the year when people are making New Year's resolutions. Typically,

the most common is to lose a few pounds. I suspect you want to lose a

couple of pounds. Maybe you and we lose weight when we need to lose a lot of pounds. Many of us do. From September 1 through December, 27 I gained 15 pounds. I know, that's really bad.

I wasn't bad for four months but I had a few good spells of being bad. On September 1, I weighed 198 pounds. Then on December 27, I weighed 213 pounds.

My trend started when I had my colonoscopy. My doctor didn't want me to eat any salads and a number of other healthy foods in preparation for my procedure. I had some very happy meals and gained almost two pounds leading up

to my test. Acouple of family get togethers, a vacation, Thanksgiving and Christmas added up to 15 pounds. Let me tell you, I can tell the difference when I put my shoes on.

Also, developing plantar fas-

cans deal with this occasional foot issue. During flare ups it really hurts to walk.

The only way I'll be able to shed the pounds is to get real religious on my eating. We gain weight by eating too much cut back the portions and eat much less.

A lot of our eating is habit. We think we have to be eating all the time. Winter months are tough because on cold dreary days and nights we hibernate in front of the TV and think we have to have food going into our mouths.

Consider sane proportional eating. Eat three small meals a day. Women can typically lose weight if they keep the calories to 1,200 a day.

If you are active then maybe 1,400. Aim for three four hundred calorie meals.

Men typically can lose on about 1,700 calories a day. This gives you three meals at just under 600 per meal. Keep in mind that often, food has more calories than we think.

Another option is to graze says he eats six times a day, but com.

ciitis and a sore foot didn't help it's only about 300 calories at a matters either. Many Ameri- time. The upside to this plan is you are always looking forward to your next little meal. If you

like to eat all the time this may be your best plan.

Any activity that you can employ will also help. Winter months are tough so you have to be creative. Walk in place. Clean your house. Do situps while watching television.

Do some toe touches, pushups, squats and anything that will get your heart rate up.

Gym memberships soar at this time of the year. If you have time to go to the gym it might help you get through the winter. Mentally, it might help you to get out of the house.

I'm with you on this. My hope is to lose one pound a week. Maybe by Easter I'll be back to where I want to be.

Drop me a note at GlennMollette.com or gmollette@ aol.com and let me know how you are doing and I'll post more later if I have been able to shed my extra pounds.

Good luck!

Find books by Glenn Mollette at Amazon.com. Learn more about his books, columns all day. A fitness trainer friend and music at GlennMollette.

On other days it was a pleasure to visit with them, the always courteous and kind employees and stay updated on the progress of their children and grandchildren.

In a world filled with too much hated and distrust, we all would be better served to use this amazing family and its members as role models in our daily behavior.

On a personal note, Muhammed always allowed me to put my political signs up in front of his stores and I know it may have cost him some business but he never complained or asked for a single thing from me except to listen to his thoughts and ideas. That was very easy to do because of his wisdom, knowledge and world wide experience.

Best of luck to both in a well earned retirement. I shall always count them as my special and important friends.

> Sincerely written and expressed, Cal Hobson Lexington

News from District 42



• Rep. Cindy Roe •

Preparing for the New Year

Christmas celebrating the real but our deadline to file the bills reason for the holiday. We is January 18. often find ourselves caught up in the commercialization of the holiday and focusing on the material side of Christmas.

However, the real highlight of the Christmas season is the reminder of how many blessings God has given us and the joy of sharing our blessings with our neighbors and loved ones.

As the new year begins, with our new legislative session will as well. Session begins

I hope all of you had a great Monday, February 5, at noon,

Most House members are limited to only carrying eight bills each year, though there are exceptions for members of leadership. With 101 members of the House, we have to limit how many bills we run and set strict deadlines in order to more bills though the legislative process before we sine die at the end of May.

Please see **Roe**, page 5A

From page 4A

about them in a future column.

I also want to take an opporelected officials.

your state representative and state senator are, you can on the House website, but I visit okhouse.gov and click on "Find your legislator" from the homepage. This will prompt you to enter your home address and identify your state legislators.

Most elected officials, myself included, get hundreds if not thousands of emails every day, but I do my best to read every single one and respond to as ing you at the State Capitol! many as possible.

it's not just my job to represent the Oklahoma House of Repyour interest when voting at resentatives, which includes

I'm continuing to work on my my job to assist you with any bills and will share more details issues you may have with a state agency.

In these situations, either mytunity to briefly remind readers self or my legislative assistant, of the best way to contact your Monica, will reach out to the agency and try to get your issue If you're uncertain who resolved as quickly as possible.

You can always contact me strongly urge you to reach out directly via email or phone. It is much easier for me to respond that way!

My email address is cynthia. roe@okhouse.gov, or you can call my office at 405-557-7365. Please let me know if there's anything I can help with. Thank you for the honor of represent-

Rep. Cynthia Roe, a Repub-As your state representative, *lican*, *represents District 42 in* the State Capitol, but it's also *Garvin and McClain Counties*.

From page 4A

Roman:

Mom inched closer to the for a long time. bed, unwilling to disturb what

the ear of her grandmother.

"Meemie, this is Hope. I love you so much. Momma told me I've come to say goodbye, 'cuz we won't be talking anymore Okla.

AREA SCHOOL MENUS

WAYNE SCHOOL MENU Week of January 8 MONDAY BREAKFAST

Biscuit and gravy, cereal, fruit, juice, milk. LUNCH

Steak fingers, mashed potatoes with gravy, broccoli, roll, peaches, milk.

TUESDAY

BREAKFAST Cereal, fruit, juice, milk. LUNCH Chicken fajita, pinto beans, rice, pears, milk.

WEDNESDAY

"But she said that I will see was happening, but yet want- you again. And you'll be able ing to hear what would be said. to play with me like you used In her soft little girl voice, to. And then, you will have the child began whispering in your Hope and God with you forever!'

Never give up on Hope and your God.

Sponsored by Cornerstone you're going to Heaven. And Baptist Church, Lexington,



BREAKFAST Pancakes with syrup or cereal and toast, fruit, juice, milk. LUNCH

Bacon ranch macaroni and cheese, green beans, cucumber constitution more than a censlices, fruit, milk.

TUESDAY BREAKFAST

Breakfast burrito or cereal and toast, fruit, juice, milk. LUNCH Pizza pasta, Italian salad,

baby carrots, breadstick, fruit, milk.

WEDNESDAY BREAKFAST

Biscuit and sausage gravy or cereal and toast, fruit, juice,

LUNCH



Cagle honored

Mike Cagle, Population Coordinator, celebrated 35 years of service with the Oklahoma Department of Corrections. He was presented a certificate for 35 years of loyal and dedicated service by Travis Gray, Administrator of Classification & Population.

THE PURCELL REGISTER, Thursday, January 4, 2024-5A

Applications open for OMRF Fleming Scholar program

search Foundation is accepting applications for its 2024 Sir Alexander Fleming Scholar Program. The deadline is February 1.

The paid, eight-week summer biomedical research internship is open to high school seniors, college freshmen, sophomores and juniors.

To be eligible, students must be 16 or older and an Oklahoma resident at the time of high school graduation. Participants earn \$5,000 and may also qualify for free housing.

Applicants must complete an online application and submit their academic transcripts, two letters of recommendation and a personal statement.

For Makayla Tillett, a junior at Oklahoma City University majoring in cell and molecular biology, serving as a Fleming Scholar last summer provided an introduction to a career in biomedical research.

Tillett made proteins in the lab of OMRF scientist Umesh visit www.omrf.org/fleming.

The Oklahoma Medical Re- Deshmukh, Ph.D., who investigates how viruses and bacteria can activate the immune system, leading to the development of an autoimmune condition called Sjögren's disease.

> "My original plan included medical school, but I learned that I really enjoy doing biomedical research, so now I plan to pursue a Ph.D. following my undergraduate studies," said Tillett, who returned to OMRF this fall to continue her work in Deshmukh's lab.

Founded in 1956 and named for Sir Alexander Fleming, the Nobel Prize-winning scientist who discovered penicillin and in 1949 dedicated OMRF's first building, the program offers students a summer packed with hands-on biomedical research.

Since its inception, more than 600 Oklahoma students have had the opportunity to work alongside world-class scientists at OMRF.

more information or to apply,

Turnover, scandals have some state lawmakers rethinking governor powers

PaulMonies Oklahoma Watch

After several scandals and turnover in agency leadership, some Oklahoma lawmakers are rethinking their efforts to give the governor direct appointment power over the largest

The state's Progressive-era tury ago dispersed executive power across scores of agencies, boards and commissions. But lawmakers seeking more direct accountability for the governor upended that in 2018 and 2019 as they took agency director hiring authority away from six agency oversight boards and gave it to the gov-

The changes, approved by a ing boards at Republican-dominated Legis-

Republican Gov. Kevin Stitt, now in his second and final term, campaigned on expanded gubernatorial powers during his first run for governor in 2018. He touted his business experience as the founder of Gateway Mortgage Group and said he would run the state like a business, which meant the ability to hire and fire top managers at the biggest state agencies.

A Republican-dominated Legislature gave him that ability during the honeymoon phase of his first term.

Separate bills in 2019 changed the composition of governnesses about the Swadley's scandal in August, according to The Oklahoman.

Andy Moore, founder of Let's Fix This, a nonprofit that educates Oklahomans on the political process and civic engagement, said the pandemic scrambled operations at many agencies, making it harder to determine if expanded governor powers over agencies were effective. He said some lawmakers also may have buyer's remorse about the changes.

"In general, I think it's

worked as the governor hoped it would," Moore

The state's multicounty oil and gas industry. That has grand jury heard from wit- sometimes caused friction between the new managers and existing agency staff, as well as lawmakers.

"There's conflict there because the people in the Legislature are used to the way things have run in the past," Spiropoulos said. "That's the only thing they knew. So they were for change in the abstract, but once it became real and they saw how it actually played out, then you were going to have some pushback."

Early in Stitt's first term, Joe Allbaugh resigned abruptly from his position leading the Oklahoma Department of Corrections. Allbaugh had clashed said. "He's been with a new board made up of able to appoint a majority of Stitt appointees people who align for the first time over funding with his plan or needs for prisons.

2017.

state agencies.

ernor.

BREAKFAST

Bagel topper, cereal, fruit, juice, milk.

LUNCH

Hamburger, fries, pickles, lettuce, baked beans, mixed fruit, milk.

THURSDAY BREAKFAST

Cereal, fruit, juice, milk.

LUNCH

Casserole, chips, salsa, corn, cookie, milk.

FRIDAY BREAKFAST

Pop tart, cereal, fruit, juice, milk.

LUNCH

Hot dogs with chili, tots, spinach, orange, milk.



milk.

fruit, milk.

LUNCH Chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes and gravy, baby carrots, dinner roll, fruit, milk.

FRIDAY BREAKFAST

Waffles and syrup or cereal and toast, fruit, juice, milk. LUNCH Taco soup, chili beans, Fritos,

fruit, milk.



It is the responsibility of the home owner and or renter to maintain your property, from the street to the middle of the alley. You are required to keep mowed any grass, weeds, or similar vegetation in that area between the property line and the street. And from the property line to the center of the alley way. This includes keeping trees trimmed.

Vehicles, trailers, tractors etc. are not allowed to be parked in the alley. This is very important for emergency vehicles such as fire trucks, ambulances and police. Keeping the alleys clean and free and open also allow for the city's work trucks to have access to utility poles, water mains, sewer etc.

In cases of emergencies these vehicles need to have quick and easy access for service and to save lives.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call us at 405-527-6561 or 405-527-4656.

lature and signed by Republican governors, were less about Barbecue pulled pork, tater party and more about streamlining the governor's authority. In tots, dinner roll, coleslaw, exchange, the Senate got confirmation power over agency

directors. House and Senate leaders got to choose additional members of the boards, but not a majority.

Law professor Andrew Spiropoulos, director of Oklahoma City University's Center for the Study of State Constitutional Law and Government, said numerous bipartisan studies over the years have shown the executive branch doesn't have enough power to run state government in Oklahoma.

"We have so many separately elected officials who run separate departments, so the governor has no control over huge portions of Oklahoma government," Spiropoulos said. "It's very difficult to coordinate policy when you're dealing with people who are going to have their own agendas. But even the departments that don't have separately elected heads, the way we've run those departments is to have professional executive directors who answer to multi-member boards."

Some, but not all, of the changes to gubernatorial power came after political scandals or legislative frustration with public policy or spending at a particular state agency.

More notable examples include the Swadley's barbecue restaurant contract at state parks under the Department of Tourism and Recreation and State Department of Health in upcoming session.

five agencies and gave the power to pick Oklahoma those agency directors to the governor. Similar changes were undertaken in

ment. Voters in 2012 made the changes at the Department of Human Services when they approved State Question 765.

However, voters in 2018 rejected a state question that would have expanded the governor's powers. State Question 798 had the governor and lieutenant governor run on the same ticket. Voters rejected it by a margin of 54 percent to 46 percent.

'Buyer's remorse'?

A handful of lawmakers now want to pull some authority away from the governor. Sen. Roger Thompson, R-Okemah, filed Senate Bill 4 in the 2023 session to restore the agency director hiring decision to an oversight board for the Tourism Department.

The Senate approved the bill, but it didn't get a floor vote in the House. It is still available to consider in the 2024 session. That proposal would reverse the changes the Legislature approved in 2018 under House Bill 3603.

Swadley's scandal led to Thompson's bill. But as the scandal fades from memory and the Tourism Department has a new executive director, ment experience before be-Shelley Zumwalt, it's unclear missing funds at the Oklahoma if SB 4 will gain traction in the

his desires. But there's been less checks and balances. Less accountability because the agency heads are going to do what he

2018 at the Health Depart- says. And in cases where they don't, they're out."

Stitt's budget secretary, John Laws, sent a series of emails to state agencies in September reminding them of the governor's focus on cost-cutting as the agencies were putting together budget requests for fiscal year 2025, which starts July 1. The governor will submit his executive budget proposal to the Legislature when the session begins in February.

"In his continued efforts to limit the growth of government, the Governor encourages you to analyze your submission to attempt to fund your incremental requests for FY-25 through the identification of efficiencies or other means without "I think by the end of eight an increase to your request for state appropriations," Laws wrote to directors at agencies that included the Department of Human Services, Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services and the Tourism Department.

Management style

Spiropoulos said Stitt has The Tourism Department's prioritized appointing agency directors with extensive management experience ahead of agency operations expertise. Stitt, who had no prior governcoming governor, pulled from his own business networks or recruited managers from the

The board chairman at the time was Steven Harpe, a former Gateway Mortgage chief information officer who later led the Office of Management and Enterprise Services. Stitt selected Harpe to lead the Corrections Department in October 2022.

Harpe is making \$275,000 a year as director at the Corrections Department. His predecessor, Scott Crow, who started at the department in 1996 and worked his way up to chief of operations before becoming director in December 2019, made \$185,000 a year.

Moore said it's less common for agency directors to stay for extended periods of time helming state agencies. That's partly a function of both pay and job stress. State lawmakers, similarly, aren't staying to the end of their term limits, even in safe seats where they are unlikely to face challengers.

"It's a hard job," Moore said. years or whatever, most folks are ready to move on because it's a lot of stress."

Stitt, for his part, has said he typically asks for two-year commitments from agency directors who have come from the private sector.

"I'm proud of the people who we brought into state government because I'm trying to bring a fresh set of eyes, people from all walks of life, from the business world," Stitt told Oklahoma Watch in an interview last year as he ran

Please see Watch, page 15A

Griders celebrate Golden Anniversary



Harry and Kathy Grider

Harry and Kathy Grider of Lexington are celebrating 50 years of marriage.

The Griders exchanged wedding vows Jan. 5, 1974 at the First Baptist Church of Lexington.

The couple has two children, Amber Purtell and her husband, Clinton, and Ashley Lacefield and her husband, Scott.

They also have five grandchildren who include Brooklyn, Jackie and Chip Purtell and Tegan and Jenny Lacefield.

It's a Small World

Purcell Register

Gracie Montgomery

Happy birthday Debbie into action! Quinn Bennett, Blake Western, Matt Croslin, Carolyn Harrison, Joyce Pennington, Matti (Allen) Carlile, Raul Caralampio, Jose Ortiz, Barbara Bruehl, Martin Montelongo, Leslie Arriaga, Eduardo Cruz, Carolyn Hall, Cristian Reyes, Thomas Belfiore and Barbara Gullion.

McClain County Treasurer Teresa Jones reminds property owners in the county that 2023 tax statements were due before January 1.

Property owners can print out their tax statements by going online to oktaxrolls.com.

For more information call 527-3261.

With school having resumed after the Christmas break, drivers should be especially vigilant for pedestrians before and after school hours.

Drivers need to watch out for children walking and biking to and from school which includes those getting out of cars in school parking lots which can be particularly dangerous.

We need to pay special attention to our greatest resource, our children!

If you haven't made your New Year's Resolutions yet, it's time!

Now that we're a few days into 2024, it's time to put them

Most people make the usual resolutions to eat a healthy diet, stop smoking, exercise more and save more.

Whatever yours are, try to stick with them. I've been told that it only takes 90 days to make a change in your life! ***

The Purcell Public Library will present "Eat Smart: Making Sourdough Bread" Tuesday, January 23, from 6-7 p.m. Eating healthy can be easy

and delicious. Join us to learn the art of healthy cooking and eating. In this program we will learn

how to make sourdough starter and bread. Come and explore a variety of healthy culinary techniques and skills through an interactive demonstration.

Participants will learn techniques of breadmaking, taste sourdough bread and take home a starter to make their own loaf of bread.

Discover how small daily actions and nutritional choices can help you eat better and maintain a healthy and sustainable lifestyle.

The program will be presented by Connie Wollenberg from the OSU Extension Office.

The program is designed for adults.

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

Here's a great recipe you can make in your slow cooker and

come home to a delicious meal. **Easy Taco Soup**

1 pound ground beef 1 small onion, chopped 4-5 cloves garlic, minced

4 cups beef or chicken broth of stock

15. oz. can of corn, drained 15 oz. can black beans, rinsed and drained

15 oz. can chili beans in chili

Stealey OHCE

Stealey OHCE held its monthly meeting December 4, 2023 for their annual Christmas celebration at the Happy Camper on Main Street in Purcell.

Members present were Janet Little, Jan Lenard, Bonita Brakefield, Peggy Christian, Charm Kelly, Pat Barrow, Betty Cormany, Deanna Lewis and Cindy Hensley and new member, Sharon McGee.

Members reviewed the upcoming schedule Operation Christmas volunteer times December 11 through 15.

Recycle Projects including used postage stamps for Wounded Warriors and greeting cards reports were turned in to Bonita Brakefield. Member volunteer hours reports for November were completed and turned in to Peggy Christian.

Follow us online at OHCE McClain County Stealey. Anyone interested is welcome to attend. The next monthly meeting will be held on Monday, January 8, at 1 p.m. in the education room at the McClain County Farm and Home Building.

Newsmakers

UCO announces graduates The University of Central Oklahoma celebrated the achievements of approximately 921 graduates during the Fall 2023 Commencement Ceremonies December 15-16 in Central's Hamilton Field House.

Heart of Oklahoma undergraduates include Ashton Robert Lippel, Cum Laude, BAT, Audio Production, Lexington; Mary Caitlynn Huff, Magna Cum Laude, BSED, Early Childhood Education, and Vivian Teresa Steiner, Cum Laude, BS, Nursing, both of Purcell; and Brady Thomas Rangel, BS, Psychology, and Garrett Wilson, BBA, Management, both of Washington.

Receiving her graduate degree was Kaitlyn LeAnne Mannis, MA, History, of Purcell.

For more information about Central's graduation, visit www.uco.edu/commencement.

Dickerson named to Dean's List

Natalie Dickerson of Purcell qualified for Belmont University's Fall 2023 Dean's List. Approximately 52 percent of Belmont's 7,338 undergraduate students qualified.

Belmont is located in Nashville, Tenn.

Belmont Provost Dr. David Gregory said, "The Dean's List achievement reflects the hard work, perseverance and dedication to academic excellence of Belmont's outstanding students. It is my privilege to congratulate these individuals on their semester-long academic efforts. To our most recent graduates receiving this distinguishment, you are hope-inspiring examples to your peers and future colleagues. To the students returning next semester, may this achievement be a stepping stone towards even greater pursuits in your academic journey."

Dean's List eligibility is based on a minimum course load of 12 hours and a quality grade point average of 3.5 with no grade below a C.



YOUR IMPACT with Print & Online ADVER SN(H

BIG impression! Make a Call today to get your business name in front of our audience!



28 oz. can crushed tomatoes 4 oz. can chopped green chiles 1 TBL chili powder 2 tsps. cumin 1 tsp. dried oregano, onion powder and garlic powder

Salt, pepper and cayenne pepper to taste

Place cooked ground beef in the bottom of the crockpot. Add in all other ingredients and stir together.

Cover with lid and cook on high 4-6 or low 8-10 hours.





Legal Notice

No. 1-January 4-2 Times IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF McCLAIN COUNTY STATE OF OKLAHOMA IN THE MATTER OF THE ES-TATE OF ALFORD REX HYDE, DECEASED

Case No. PB-2023-69 NOTICE OF HEARING FINAL ACCOUNT, PETITION FOR DETERMINATION OF HEIRS. DISTRIBUTION AND DISCHARGE

NOTICE is hereby given that KIMBERLY ANN MILLISER and ANDREA ELIZABETH VICKERS, the Co-Personal Representatives of the ESTATE OF ALFORD REX HYDE, Deceased, having filed in this Court their Final Account of the Administration of said estate, and their Petition for Distribution of said estate and for Final Discharge of said Personal Representative, the hearing of the same has been fixed by the Judge of said Court for 9:30 o'clock a.m., on

the 25th day of January, 2024, before Judge Charles Gray in his chambers in the McClain County Courthouse in Purcell, Oklahoma, and all persons interested in said estate are notified then and there to appear and show cause, if any they have, why the said account should not be settled and allowed, the heirs of ALFORD REX HYDE. Deceased, determined, said estate distributed, and the Personal Representative discharged.

WITNESS MY HAND this 22nd day of December, 2023.

CHARLES GRAY ASSOCIATE DISTRICT JUDGE

Judge of the District Court BILL C. LESTER (OBA #5389) Attorney for Personal Representative

212 West Main - P.O. Box 1407 Purcell, OK 73080 (405) 527-5623 blester@lesterlawoffice.com



AWOL nominations close on January 5

AngieSteele

Washington Correspondent

Calling All Community Members AWOL 2024 Nominations Are Now Open!

AWOL (A Week of Love) is a district-wide fundraising drive sponsored by the WHS Student Council.

Do you know someone connected to our community who could use a helping hand during their challenging journey? Nominate them for AWOL 2024!

Whether it's a neighbor, a friend, or a family member, let's rally together and make a positive impact on their lives. To submit a nomination, fill out the nomination form on the Washington School website at https://www.wps-isd. com/296497_2.

Nominations will be accepted until January 5! Let's show our support and make a difference in the lives of those who need it most. Spread the word, share this post, and tag anyone who might be interested.

stronger and more compassionate community. Let's make AWOL 2024 a resounding success!

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 January 4-12: Thursday, January 4—Fish

sticks, coleslaw. Friday, January 5–Beef roast, gravy, mashed potatoes, corn.

Monday, January 8–Baked potato bar, chili, broccoli.

Tuesday, January 9–Ham, sweet potatoes.

Wednesday, January 10-Beef tips/gravy/noodles, peas/ carrots.

Thursday, January 11-Smoke sausage, baked beans, cabbage, applesauce.

Friday, January 12-Meat-

away, 5 p.m. January 12-HS BBK at Marlow.

January 13—Little League Basketball, McAlister, 10

January 14—Little League Basketball, McAlister-2-6 p.m.

January 16-Lyric Theater "Cinderella" & "Oklahoma" Production for elementary school.

Foundation

Today I wanted to write about some of the reasons that we are seeing an increased number of veterans who are filing their first claim for VA benefits.

Last week while interviewing a veteran who was 70 years old and had never filed a claim, I asked him why he had waited so long. His answer was that when he retired 15 years before he had a good retirement and could continue to live as he had when he was employed.

Today he said that all of his living expenses had increased Together, we can create a significantly since retirement and he did not have enough money to pay the difference in the cost of their daily living expenses.

> As my primary job is to triage veterans, to do this I start by reviewing their service medical records for any injuries that occurred or any conditions that were aggravated by their military service. An example could be a pre-existing knee condition that was re-injured during training.

After reviewing each veteran's medical records, a decision is made on which disabilities to ask the VA for service connection. Before we file the actual claim, we request that the veteran obtain medical evidence that supports their claim for benefits.

They can use their medical provider or one that we have listed to obtain a VA Disability Benefits Questionnaire (DBQ) that provides a diagnosis of their condition along with a Nexus linking their condition to an injury that occurred during their military service.



a.m.-8 p.m.

Dale K. Graham Veterans

The VA sends veterans to contract medical providers for an evaluation of their condition using the DBQ. After the VA reviews the veteran's DBQ and the DBQ done by the VA, a decision is then made to either approve or deny the veteran's application for VA benefits. For those of you who would like to file a new claim for benefits with VA, you can start our process by logging into 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 veterans 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. 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. All of us at our Veterans Foundation are proud to do January 6-Little League 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 BridgeCreek,Girlshome,Boys team,volunteer applications are



Football camp

Washington Warriors football camp was a huge success. The Warriors appreciate all the participants and community support.



Runners-up

The Lady Warriors finished second to 5A Carl Albert in the Bertha Frank Teague Mid-America Classic tournament. The Lady Warriors were tournament runners-up and only lost by two points. Washington's Kelby Beller received MVP of the tournament joining Breanna Lindert on the tournament team.

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.

We are a 501c-3 non-profit organization and there is never a charge for the services we provide to veterans and their

organization.

We also accept donations of wheelchairs and other types of handicap equipment that can be given to other veterans or their families. Other items that we accept are cars, trucks, motorcycles, or items that can be given to veterans or sold to raise funds.

We are open to active clients

tion, 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,

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. Accredited Claims Agent Send me birthday, anniversary, Dale K. Graham or personal news you would like

· Photo by Ron Ladlee

Photo provided

loaf, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans.

Menu may change at the discretion of the cook and availability of food.

All meals are served with beverage, bread, 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.

Meetings are scheduled for January 8, February 12, March 11, April 8, May 13, June 10, July 5, August 12, September 9, November 4 and December 9.

Washington Public Schools Calendar

January 4-7/8/9 BBK Comanche, Girls away, boys home, no 9th girls game; 5/6/79th boys at 5 p.m., 7th boys at 6 p,m., 8th boys at 7 p.m.

January 4–Boys Basketball Noble Tournament, 8:30 p.m. January 5-Boys Basketball Noble Tournament.

Basketball, McAlister, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Boys Basketball Noble Tournament.

January 8—Board Meeting. January 9-HS BBK, Lindsay, home.

January 11-7/8/9 BBK

families. We do accept financial contributions to be used support veterans and this

Monday, Tuesday and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to noon. To donate to our Founda- dent Contact Information

Washington Correspon-

Veterans Foundation to share with our community. Angie Steele

Dibble Senior Citizens



Christmas trio

Dale McAskill, Malachi Taylor and Santa, Roy Taylor, holding gifts presented to clients for Christmas.

Greetings from the Dibble Senior Citizens.

We hope everyone had a blessed Christmas and celebrated a Happy New Year.

We were so pleased to be able to give our clients a few surprise gifts for Christmas. We were able to have Santa here and it was a joy to see all the excited faces go through the line.

Our President Dale was given some fire extinguishers to pass out to those in need. We appreciate Gary Krupka with K&M Safety Solutions out of Verden for the donation of the fire extinguishers.

We have enjoyed a muchneeded vacation but now we are ready to get the year started.

We would like to invite all to come by sometime for lunch, sit a spell and enjoy the fellowship on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 12 noon for a good home-cooked meal. Make sure to sign in and donations are welcome but not necessary.

All are welcome at the Dibble Senior Citizens Center located at 12314 State Hwy. 39 in Blanchard, phone 405-344-6789.

To donate to the pantry, mail your check or money order to PO Box 32, Dibble, OK 73031 or CashApp-\$dibblesrcitizens. Until next year,

· Photo provided

Dibble Senior Citizens Crew

Purcell Register Sports

Warriors claim silver at Bertha Teague

JohnDennyMontgomery The Purcell Register

Washington's Lady Warriors nabbed second place at the prestigious Bertha Frank Teague Mid-America Classic Basketball Tournament over the weekend.

They had wins over 2A No. 10 Hartshorne (64-57) and 5A McAlester (43-40) before losing to 5A Carl Albert in the finals (42-40).

Sophomore Kelby Beller was selected as the tournament's Most Valuable Player. Junior Breanna Lindert was also named to the All-

Tournament team. Head coach Kale Simon

was proud of the way his team played defense during the tournament - especially in the finals and semi-finals.

"We haven't been defending very well early this season and Friday and Saturday we defended really well," he said. Hartshorne

Lindert paced the Warriors in scoring in the Hartshorne game with 24.

Sophomore Jayden Wells scored 12 while Preslee Johnson's 11 and Beller's 10 rounded out the Warriors scoring in double figures.

McAlester Beller led the team in scor-

in the win.

the win.

Carl Albert

ing against the Buffaloes with

19 points. Lindert scored 13

Washington led a good part

of the game but a few late

mistakes down the stretch

left them unable to close out

"We had a few turnovers late

and missed a couple rebounds that kept us from winning it," Simon said. "But we have really good girls and we have all the pieces to be really good. We just have to do the little things every day and every possession. We need to do the ordinary things extraordinarily well."

with 14 and 10, respectively. Washington is now 9-1 on the season and ranked No. 1 in Class 3A.

> Tournament box scores Page 9A

Beller and Lindert were again both in double figures

The Washington Warriors were runners-up in the Bertha Frank Teague Mid-America Basketball

Tournament. They defeated Hartshorne and McAlester but fell to Carl Albert in the finals.

Ron Ladlee • The Purcell Register

THE MOTHER ROAD CLASSIC AT VERDIGRIS Boys bracket January 4-6, 2024 Coweta Thursdav 8:00 p.m Verdigris Frida Fridav Purcell 1:30 p.m 8:00 p.n Thursday 1:30 p.m Mannford Saturday Saturday Wagoner 1:30 p.m 8:00 p.m. CONSOLATION CHAMPIONSHI Thursday 5:00 p.m Tecumseh

Washington junior Breanna Lindert dribbles the basketball

during the Bertha Frank Teague tournament. Washington

finished second after losing to Carl Albert in the finals, 42-40.

Lindert was selected to the All-Tournament team.

THE MOTHER ROAD CLASSIC AT VERDIGRIS Girls bracket



Frida

Frida

Frida

Saturday 3:00 p.m.

3rd

7:20 p.r

Saturda

6:00 p.m

4:20 p.r

Saturda

6:30 p.m.

CHAMPIONSHI

3:30 p.n

Runners-up

Sibling trio hot on mat

Cash and Coty Sessions and Jeremiah Harrison

A trio of siblings Cash Tournament, Cash won Sessions. Coty Sessions first, Coty was crowned and Jeremiah Harrison rechampion and Jeremiah cently wrestled their way finished third. to stardom in the Blanchard In the United States Ju-Invitational wrestling tournior Open Championship December 29-30, Coty won nament. That event included outfirst place and was named of-state teams. the Outstanding Female Cash defeated the Louisiwrestler over the field ana 6A State Champion in of 300 girls in all weight the finals to win his weight classes. It was the third year in class. Coty won first place and a row Coty has won that Jeremiah finished third. tournament.

Tahlequah Thursday 12:00 p m



CONSOLATION

12:00 p.m



Headed for the bucket

Ron Ladlee • The Purcell Register





Verdigris

Thursday 6:30 p.m

Coweta

Girls bracket

January 4-6, 2024

Porum

Thursday 4:20 p.m

Wanette

Haskell JV

Thursday 11:00 a.m

Maud

Wayne

Thursday 1:40 p.m.

Macomb

Schulter

Thursday 7:00 p.m

Graham-Dustin







In the recent Lexington



Trio

Coty Sessions, Jeremiah Harrison and Cash Sessions are sizzling on the wrestling mat this season.



Tournament champions

John D. Montgomery • The Purcell Register

The Purcell Dragons won the second grade basketball tournament at Dibble over the holiday weekend winning all four games they played. Pictured from left, back row, Nate Scrivner, Landry Perigo, Owen Page, Nick Smith, Brody Powell and Tyson Black. Front row - Thomas Montgomery and Karter Wilhoit.



Ron Ladlee • The Purcell Register

Handling pressure

Washington sophomore Jayden Wells handles the basketball during the Bertha Frank Teague tournament. Washington finished as runners-up after falling to Carl Albert in the finals, 42-40.

12/28 Girls Washington 64 Hartshorne 57

Washington .. 17 15 13 19-64 Hartshorne 21 6 19 11—57

Player	Points
Breanna Lindert	24
Jayden Wells	12
Preslee Johnson	11
Kelby Beller	10
Shelbie Caveness	8

12/29 Girls Washington 43 McAlester 40

McAlester 10 6 13 11-40 Washington 11 7 16 9-43

Player	Points
Kelby Beller	19
Breanna Lindert	13
Shelbie Caveness	6
Preslee Johnson	4
Laney Gay	1
12/30 Girls	
Carl Albert 42	
Washington 4	0

Carl Albert .	8	1() ′	11	13–	-42
Washington		13	8	12	7–	-4(

Player	Points
Kelby Beller	14
Breanna Lindert	10
Shelbie Caveness	7
Jayden Wells	4
Preslee Johnson	3
Emersyn Massey	2

After slow start, opioid settlement money expected to flow to cities and counties

PaulMonies Oklahoma Watch

Money from legal settlements against opioid manufacturers, distributors and retailers to Oklahoma cities and counafter lawmakers set up a board to administer the funds.

More than 250 local governments told the Oklahoma ney general in both 2018 and Opioid Abatement Board they the grants. The money is supposed to go toward treatment and recovery programs and opioid abuse education and prevention.

The Opioid Abatement Board has about \$27 million available for local communities, school districts and public trusts. The Legislature controls another \$37.6 million sitting in the Opioid Lawsuit Settlement Fund. Additional funds are expected in coming years since some settlements call for multi-year payouts.

Attorney General Gentner Drummond, who chairs the nine-member board, said he's been frustrated with the lack of action in getting money to local communities. Board turnover has also been a problem, with at least five members resignyear alone.

of the management of these funds from previous AGs, and there's just absolutely no the liberality of friends and excuse," Drummond said in families of previous AGs," an interview. "I'm glad that I Drummond said. "We have enhave disciplined professionals riched people that we shouldn't that slow me down because I have, in excess of \$100 million. would like this money deployed That's way more than should immediately, but we need to be have been awarded." careful with these public funds and we need to be impactful." homans died as a result of three distributors-McKesson, prescription opioid overdose AmerisourceBergenCorp.and from 2016 to 2021, according to the Oklahoma Board of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs. painkillers. The state gets 75 deaths accounted for 33 percent remaining 25 percent allocated

of all drug overdose deaths dur- said. "In the field of behavioral ing that same period.

States, tribes, cities, and counties pursued the lawsuits to compensate for the large sums will finally start to trickle out of money spent addressing the opioid crisis in health care ties in 2024, almost four years and law enforcement. Most of the settlements stemmed from multistate actions.

As he campaigned for attor-2022, Drummond criticized his were interested in applying for predecessors for the large attorney fees awarded to outside counsel in the state's lawsuits against opioid-related compa-



nies. More than \$123 million went to private attorneys across various settlements. Almost half of those fees came from the ing frustrated over settlement state's \$270 million settlement with Purdue Pharma. Purdue in 2019 by former Attorney ing at various times in the past later filed for bankruptcy re- General Mike Hunter. Many organization, but that didn't lawmakers thought they should "I've been a large critic affect Oklahoma's settlement have had a say in how the with the company.

"I'm very frustrated with

The state is expected to have \$308 million in settlement More than 1,700 Okla- funds from lawsuits related to Cardinal Health – accused of flooding the market with opioid to cities and counties.

> community and systems initiatives with Tulsa-based Healthy Minds Policy Initiative, told abatement board members Oklahoma is in the fourth wave of opioid addiction. Prescription opioids marked the first wave, which was followed by heroin, fentanyl and now methamphetamine. Many times, those illicit drugs are being combined with prescription opioids. "We have a tremendous amount of co-use happening in Oklahoma, with concurrent use of opioids with stimulants, mainly methamphetamine," Hawkins said at a Dec. 6 board meeting. "This is a nuance that we want communities to understand and the abatement board to hear and think about." Hawkins said the board should give local communities adequate time to develop their abatement plans under grant funding. She urged a "go slow to go fast" strategy that would put most of the work in the next few months for the first round of grant awards by summer 2024.

health and mental health, we do not need to burden local communities that they need to develop their own programs or come up with their own ideas. There are a plethora of best practices that are available out there for the choosing as long as you know what your community's problems are that need to be abated."

Board members discussed hiring Healthy Minds to help with the grant application process and provide educational outreach to local governments. The attorney general's office, which provides administrative support for the board, is interviewing candidates for a grant coordinator position.

Drummond said his office is working with lawmakers to earmark a percentage of settlement funds for the abatement board as it considers grant applications from local governments in the coming years.

Settlement frustrations

Oklahoma lawmakers set up the opioid abatement board in 2020 and seeded it with a \$10.22 million appropriation. They set up the board after beterms with Purdue negotiated Purdue settlement money was distributed.

Just five percent of the Purdue settlement will go to local governments for opioid abatement. Most of it went to Oklahoma State University's National Center for Wellness and Recovery, which was established in 2017.

The center received \$102.5 million from the Purdue settlement in a lump sum. Another \$75 million is being paid over three years, and it got \$20 million in the form of buprenorphine and naloxone, Prescription opioid overdose percent of that money, with the known under the brand name Suboxone.

> The medication is used to Jessica Hawkins, director of treat opioid-use disorder or







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"You'll want to make sure they are selecting evidencebased strategies," Hawkins

withdrawal symptoms.

Neile Jones, communications manager for the National Center for Wellness and Recovery, said the center is tackling the drug crisis through research, outreach and treatment. Its Addiction and Recovery Clinic in Tulsa helps families and individuals fighting addiction.

"We have begun design and construction on important research facilities in Tulsa," Jones said in an email. "We have recruited a team of highly skilled neurobiologists, chemists and Ph.D. students to advance our research efforts and anticipate continued growth. Our collaboration with the University of Arizona includes several vital research projects, including stronger treatments to reverse fentanyl overdose."

The distributor and Purdue settlements are just parts of the almost \$700 million in settlements Oklahoma reached from opioid-related litigation. Others include:

Teva Pharmaceuticals: \$85 million

McKinsey & Co.: \$8.9 mil-

Please see **Opioid**, page 15A







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Purcell Register Religion

Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church

By Stella Bledsoe

January 7, 2024 is the Feast and the gifts, gold, frankincense We are in liturgical year B, so countries. most gospel readings are from Mark (A=Matthew, B=Mark, not kings. Among other sub-C=Luke).

Epiphany is Matthew 2:1-12 because it is the only place the magi are mentioned.

We are not told the country were from, but the scripture happening where it shined. says they came from the east. It is believed they were from day Iran).

not something you could pick of a new king. up at Walmart.

from three different countries rich and poor alike.

of the Epiphany of the Lord. and myrrh, were native to their have or ever will receive.

They were educated men but jects, they studied astronomy However, whichever year we and attached religious signifiare in, the gospel reading for cance to the movement of the stars.

The astrological phenomenon of a spectacularly bright star made them believe someor countries the wise men thing extremely important was

The shepherds in the fields were told by an angel of Jesus' the region of Persia (modern arrival. No angel came to the wise men, but they believed the 11 a.m.; and Sunday, 1 p.m. The gifts they brought were star must be an announcement (Spanish).

Some speculate they were has been loved and adored by

He is the finest gift we ever

What gifts do we have to offer him?

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,

Daily masses are Tuesday, God sent Jesus to us, and He 9 a.m.; Wednesday, 12 noon; Thursday, 7 p.m. (Spanish), and Friday, 9 a.m.

Sunray Baptist Church

Debbie Clark and Donna Stillwell played an instrumental medley of hymns for the things of God. morning special.

Romans 13:11-14 for his sermon. He said we relate to time changes as we go on.

rate for all of us. It is fleeting. We can't stop the changing or passing of time. New Year's is a good time to ponder this.

God is still the same. He vice. doesn't change. His goodness, mercy and grace stay the same. The apostle Paul said we should "know the time" on

God's clock.

It is limited and running out. our quarterly business meet-We need to wake up to the

The day of the Lord is near. Brother John Wylie used Every day is one step closer to the Lord's coming.

We are to cooperate with the Holy Spirit, taking on the like-Time passes at the same ness of Christ. We need to read the Word to be transformed by it. We shouldn't accommodate the flesh to satisfy its lust.

There was no evening ser-

This coming Sunday at our evening service we will be observing the Lord's Supper at 5 p.m.

January 14, we will have call 405-527-6808.

ing, followed by snacks and fellowship.

On January 21, our youth will sponsor our annual Men's Chili Cook Off following morning worship. There will be no evening service that day.

We invite you to Sunday School, worship and all activities in this new year.

We will be celebrating the 77th anniversary of our founding in 2024.

John Wylie serves as pastor. Sunray is located at 2223 North 9th Street in Purcell.

For additional information



www.searchtv.org

Lexington Westside Church of Christ

Front-Porch Gospel (Looking back with a blessing to the Lord!)

Good day to all of you. Welcome to the "front porch"!

By the time you read this, we will be into 2024, Lord willing. I am just glancing back just for a moment at 2023, just reminding myself of the blessings that we can think on as we roll into this new year.

finished our encore year of teaching high school English after having been out of the classroom 11 years.

But, still, to go back and remember what all you learned through the years and how much you loved teaching it to a blessing.

And, of course, the greater blessing is being blessed to be around forty-some-odd seventeen-year-olds made us a little younger than before. I say "odd"-Not that they were odd, that down. but they did keep me on my toes.

me thankful. I won't give her more than when you are out on the nicest things I have heard. It makes it worth giving kiddos everything you have for a year.

I'm thinking back now to our third annual Yellowstone trip and our second time to stand above the lower-falls of the Grand Canyon of Yellowstone with the foaming current splattering in your face as the water Though it was more difficult crashes down a hundred feet. It than I would have thought, we may be one of the most amazing scenes I have ever seen.

> Yes, the heavens declare the glory of God, and the skies show His handiwork, as says the psalmist; but those waterfalls crashing down at your feet rival even the beauties of the heavens.

Even dabbling again in a young people - well, that was little basketball coaching beginning in the Fall was another adventure. I guess 30 years just wasn't enough, and when the boys' high school coach asked us to come in part time and help and consult, I just couldn't turn

You'll remember that bas-

exact words, but it was one of the basketball court is a good thing – and, trust me on this – it reminds me abundantly of how much I owe the Lord.

I say all of that, and we haven't gotten into the year writing our memoirs from the events that started in the summer of 1973 -words, sentences, paragraphs, and sentiments that, even without saying it directly, speak to God's great providential care these last 50 years.

So, today, with those unusual adventures on our minds and a hundred others, we open the year and begin our 2024 Front-Porch visits declaring with the psalmist of old: Bless the Lord, O my soul, all that is within me, bless His holy name!

And, you – you also can and do begin your year just the same, I know, because the Lord has blessed you equally.

So, here again, right here in this place, we do it together, just as we have so many times before.

God bless you in every way

The other day one of the ketball is something that made now and throughout 2024! young ladies wrote me and told me how much she learned with all the writing and other things we covered; and that made you're hardly ever at home any

us what we are in many, many ways. Those stories will have Lord willing, right here ... on to wait. But the reminder that

P.S. See you every week, the Front Porch.

coachbowen1984@gmail.com

Green Avenue Church of Christ

Happy New Year! The first How interesting! services of the year will be this coming Wednesday with our monthly examination of the songs we sing. We just finished up the book of Hebrews last week, and so in a couple of weeks we'll begin a different book of the Bible or perhaps take up a topic.

On Sunday of last week we finished up our general study of the modern issues, and so on the 31st we looked at the flurry of activity by Jesus in Mark 1-4 along with some history of the region of Galilee.

One of the points of interest in the region is the mountain which some hold as the one on which Jesus gave his famous Sermon on the Mount. It is located just outside of Capernaum; it is registered as one of the shortest qualifying mountains in the world and its top is still below sea level! The morning sermon brought

by Keith Shackleford a study of the four defenses Paul gave after his arrest in the temple. The texts came primarily from Acts 22, 23, 24 and 26.

In each case the same basic things were emphasized by Paul: the hope of Israel, and the resurrection of Christ. These were the true reasons he was vilified by his fellow Jews. As he defended himself from the various accusations, we learned he grasped the singular opportunity to preach the gospel and hopefully convert some.

Our Sunday evening sermon was presented by Steve Adams and he began with a reading of Romans 10:1-3. He noted that Paul was sorry the Jews were lost, being ignorant of God's righteousness while trying their own ways instead.

the idea of ignorance. Brother Adams gave three definitions of the word: (1) not knowing, 1 Timothy 1:12, 13; (2) not understanding or comprehending, Mark 9:30-32; (3) an error or sin made by mistake, Hebrews 5:1-3 and Numbers 15:22-24. After discussing these definitions he asked, "Which definition applies to Romans 10?" After studying this portion of the passage, he finished up by looking at the righteousness of God, defining it, showing where to find it, and calling on us to adhere to it.

We invite you to meet with us for Bible study at 7 p.m. Wednesday night and 9:45 a.m. Sunday and our worship services on Sundays are 10:45 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Bible correspondence courses are available, call 405-527-4052.



A look back at 2023



· Photos provided Honoring school board members

Purcell School Board members were honored with bulletin boards and baskets recognizing their contributions to Purcell Schools. Board members were (from left) Kevin Andrews, Tracy Folsom, Holly Baker, Bill Smith and Nicolle Carr.

FNBT earns spot as one of the Top Workplaces in Oklahoma

Trust Co. was named one of said, "and that's why our custhe Top Workplaces in Okla- tomers are loyal. Our sustained homa for 2023 at a statewide growth over the last decade event held at the well-known was achieved by the dedica-Criterion in December

homan, this annual event fine people whose workplace showcases top companies in is The First National Bank & Oklahoma that create energy, Trust Co." opportunity and success for FNBT bankers were proud to their employees. Representing the bank's 160 employees, President & CEO John Gorton proudly gave credit to the dedicated hardworking individuals who make show up in costume or match-FNBT such a success.

The First National Bank & customer success," Gorton tion and loyalty of our teams. Sponsored by The Okla- Iamhonored to represent these

No. 6-January 4-3 Times IN THE DISTRICT COURT SITTING IN AND FOR MCCLAIN COUNTY STATE OF OKLAHOMA First United Bank & Trust Co., Plaintiff,

vs Mach 1 Development, LLC,

DALLAS DYE, MACH 1 HOLDINGS. INC. UNKNOWN TENANTS OR OCCU-PANTS, IF ANY, OF 1416 LAMAR DRIVE, NORMAN, OK 73072, Case No. CJ-2023-173 AMENDED SERVICE BY

PUBLICATION NOTICE STATE OF OKLAHOMA TO: MACH 1 DEVELOPMENT, LLC

You are hereby notified that you have been sued in Cause No. CJ-2023-173, in the District Court of Pottawatomie County, State of Oklahoma, styled "First United Bank & Trust Co. v. Mach 1 Development, LLC, Dallas Dye, Mach 1 Holding, Inc, Unknown tenants or occupants, if any, of 1416 Lamar Drive, Norman, OK 73072"; and that you must answer the Petition therein on or before February 22, 2024, or the allegations of said Petition will be taken as true and judgment will be rendered in favor of the Plaintiff against Defendant Mach 1 Development LLC in said action, quieting title and decreeing that First United Bank & Trust Co. is entitled to foreclose its priority lien on the following described real property, situated in McClain County, State of Oklahoma, to-wit:

A tract of land located in the Northeast Quarter (NE/4) of Section Fifteen (15), Township Eight (8) North, Range Three (3) West of the Indian Meridian, McClain County, Oklahoma, more particularly described as follows: Commencing at the Northwest corner (NW/C) of said NE/4; thence N89°39'40"E along the North line of said NE/4 a distance of 1522.23 feet; thence S00°21'25"E a distance of 891.00 feet to the point of beginning; thence N89°39'40"E and parallel to the said North line of the NE/4 a distance of 153.00 feet; thence S00°21'25"E a distance of 213.53 feet; thence S89°39'40"W a distance of 153.00 feet; thence N00°21'25"W a distance of 213.53 feet to the point of beginning. TOGETHER with a 20 foot road easement being 10 feet either side of the following described centerline: Commencing at the Northeast corner (NE/C) of said NE/4; thence S00°23'46"E along the East line of the NE/4 a distance of 1123.90 feet to the point of beginning; thence N82°52'49"W a distance of 402.16 feet; thence N85°42'43"W a distance of 37.06 feet; thence N80°25'17"W a distance of 101.88 feet; thence N77°07'04"W a distance of 292.53 feet; thence N83°11'07"W a distance of 140.94 feet to the point of ending. (Property address: 1416 Lamar Drive, Norman, OK 73072)

and barring and enjoining you, the said Defendant, from asserting any right, title, lien, estate, encumbrance, claim, assessment, or interest, either in law or in equity, in or to the real property above described.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of said Court this 22 day of December, 2023.

Court Clerk of McClain County

No. 7-January 4-1 Time IN THE DISTRICT COURT IN AND FOR MCCLAIN COUNTY STATE OF OKLAHOMA IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATES

OF JOHN CALHOUN ATKINS

Deceased.

CASE NO. PB-2023-148 NOTICE OF HEARING PETITION FOR PROBATE Notice is hereby given to all persons interested in the Estates of John Calhoun Atkins. Deceased. that there was produced and filed in the District Court of Mc-Clain County, State of Oklahoma, instruments purporting to be the

No. 10-January 4-2 Times ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

The City of Purcell will receive separate sealed bids for Paving Improvements 4th Avenue Turnaround. Bids will be received at City Hall, located at 230 W. Main St., Purcell, Oklahoma, 73080, until 11:00 AM, Thursday, January 25, 2024. Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud, at 11:00 AM at City Hall.

Project to include approximately 585 s.y. of Asphalt Paving, 61 l.f. of new curb and gutter, signage, striping, and appurtenances.

There will be a mandatory prebid meeting held on Tuesday, January 16, 2024, at 11:00 am, at City Hall, located at 230 W. Main St., Purcell, Oklahoma.

All work shall be performed, and all construction and material used and furnished shall be in accordance with the Contract Documents prepared by Glenn Sullivan & Associates, Inc., and on file in the office of the City Clerk, located at City Hall.

The Notice to Bidders, Form of Bid, Form of Contract, Plans and Specifications, Forms of Bid Bond, Performance and Statutory Payment Bond, and other Contract Documents may be examined at the following:

1. City Hall 230 W. Main St. Purcell, Ok 73080 (405) 527-6561 A complete set of Plans and

No. 9-January 4-1 Time

missioners met in regular session on Wednesday, 12/27/2023 at 8:15 a.m. in Room 111 of the McClain County Courthouse. Chairman Glen Murray called the meeting to order and led the flag salute. County Clerk Deputy Rebekah Couch called the roll and those present were: Vice Chairman Glen Murray, Member Wilson Lyles, District One Foreman Joe Southern represented Chairman Terry Daniel

Wilson Lyles moved to approve the meeting minutes for 12/18/2023, Joe Southern seconded. Vote Aye: Murray, Lyles,

Wilson Lyles moved, Joe Southern seconded to approve the following salary, travel, and maintenance & operation claims. Vote Aye: Murray, Lyles, Southern.

Motion carried. CLAIMS FOR FISCAL YEAR

Will of John Calhoun Atkins and there was also filed in the Court the Petition of Pamela M. Hurst praying that the Wills be admitted to probate, Letters of Administration issue to her on all named Estates as Personal Representative, to serve without bond, and for a judicial determination of the heirs, devisees, and legatees of the decedents.

Pursuant to an Order of this Court made on December 28th, 2023, notice is given that January 18, 2024, at 9:30 o'clock a.m., is the day and time that the Petition will be heard in the District Courtroom in the County Courthouse for

Specifications to prospective bid-

ders may be obtained at the office

of Glenn Sullivan & Associates,

Inc., planroom.gsa@gmail.com,

upon receipt of a non-refundable

deposit of \$50.00. An electronic

set of plans and specifications is

his original bid, with a certified or

Cashier's Check on a solvent bank

located in Oklahoma or a Bidder's

Bond, in the amount of five (5)

percent of the amount bid, as a

guarantee of his ability to perform

the contract bid upon, and that he

will enter into a written contract

with the Owner to perform said

work and/or furnish said materials

in accordance with said plans and

specifications and furnish the re-

quired bonds within seven (7) days

the Owner as, and for, liquidated

damages in case the successful

bidder fails to enter in said contract

and furnish the required bonds

provided for in the specifications

within the time required. Deposit

of the unsuccessful bidders will

be returned upon the execution of

the Contract and required bonds.

his bid with a sworn statement

in writing that the Bidder has not

directly or indirectly entered into

an agreement, express of implied,

with any other bidder or the price

or amount of such bid or any bids,

the limiting of the bids or bidders,

Each bidder shall accompany

The deposit will be retained by

after the acceptance of his bid.

Each bidder shall accompany

available at no cost.

homa, and all persons interested may appear and contest same. Witness, the undersigned, Judge of the District Court of Mc-Clain County, State of Oklahoma, this 28th day of December 2023.

McClain County, State of Okla-

/s/ Charles N. Gray JUDGE OF THÉ DISTRICT COURT

Approved: /s/ Kelli Goodnight Kelli J. Goodnight, OBA #34361 Goodnight Law, PLLC 1332 S.W. 89th St. Oklahoma City, OK 73159 405-871-5981 Attorney for Petitioner

the paying to anyone any money for promotion expenses, the parceling or farming out to any bidder or bidders or other persons of any part of the contract or any part of the subject matter of the bid or of the profits thereof.

A Performance, Maintenance and Statutory Bond in the amount of 100% of the contract price with a Corporate Surety licensed in Oklahoma and approved by the Owner and Engineer, will be required for the faithful performance of the contract, and the bidder shall state in the proposal the name and address of the Surety or Sureties who will sign this bond in case the contract is awarded to him. The Maintenance Bond required will guarantee the repair of all damage due to improper materials or workmanship for a period of one (1) year after the acceptance of the work by the Owner.

All bids shall remain on file at least forty-eight (48) hours. Bids received more than ninety-six (96) hours prior to the Bid Opening will be returned.

Contract to be awarded to low responsive responsible bidder. The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities in the bidding and the right to reject any and all bids in accordance with the Oklahoma Competitive Bidding Act. Conditional bids shall not be accepted.

Board of McClain County Comwho was absent.

Southern. Motion carried.

Lease Purchase; 992, SNB Bank, 919.62, Lease Purchase; 993, The Stock Exchange Bank, 1131.42, Lease Purchase; 994, Welch State Bank, 2215.98, Lease Purchase; 995, Okla Dept Of Transportation, 1439.58, Lease Purchase; 996, Okla Dept Of Transportation, 1233.25, Lease Purchase; 997, Quill, 203.71, Office Supplies; 998, SteelCo 322.56, Metal; 999, Givens Heat & Air, 17800.00, Heat & Air System; 1000, Lindsay Auto 321.55, Supplies; 1001, O Reilly 106.93, Parts & Supplies; 1002, Sheehy Signs, 140.00, Decals; 1003, Warren CAT, 1416.00, Service; 1004, Haskell Lemon, 8906.70, Type C; 1005, ONG, 354.91, Service; 1006, Warren CAT, 1576.06, Service; 1007, Warren CAT, 1558.66, Service; 1008, Warren CAT, 1673.52, Service; 1009, Warren CAT, 1777.27, Service; 1010, Warren CAT, 1105.50, Service; 1011.

Rental of County Property

following Resolution to Dispose of Equipment: Sheriff: B-331.51,2011 Ford F150 Pickup serial #1FTEX-1EM7BKE15858, \$22,931.25, acquired on 10/21/2011 from Bob Moore Ford, Oklahoma City, OK sold to Purple Wave Auction for \$3,300.00; B-331.45, 2004 Ford Crown Victoria serial #2FAFP71W74X170869,\$100.00, acquired on 8/01/2010 from Purcell Police Department, Purcell, OK, sold to Purple Wave Auction for \$2,800.00. Vote Aye: Murray, Lvles, Southern. Motion carried.

Wilson Lyles moved, Joe Southern seconded to approve of Resolution No. 18-2023-2024 to set the filing period beginning 1/8/2024 and ending 1/12/2024 for Office Two Director of Fair Association Board, should there be a need of election it will be held on 2/1/2024. Vote Aye: Murray, Lyles, Southern. Motion carried.

Wilson Lyles moved, Joe Southrn seconded to acknowledge and confirm the appointment of Sandra Logan by Oklahoma Tax Commission to the McClain County Excise/Equalization Board. Vote Aye: Murray, Lyles, Southern. Motion carried.

"Our team of bankers are committed to our mission of

end the evening hearing their name called for the final award of the night, the coveted Spirit Award.

Teams are encouraged to

Please see **FNBT**, page 14A

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 December 21-27, 2023.

Traffic

Thomas L. Chavers, taxes due state. Brittani S. A. Oliver, speeding, 88/80, Construction zone, ST - Guilty plea

Paulina Juarez, speeding, 110/80. Julio Morales, TOC alcoholic beverage

Misdemeanors

Tuyet N. Pham, larceny of lost property

Ashli N. Cann, larceny of merchandise from a retailer.

Marcelino Martinez, protective order violation.

Alton L. Murphy, petit larceny. Frankie P. Gabaldon, loiter in/ injure/molest motor vehicle/joy ride. Nicholas M. Orr, larceny of merchandise from a retailer.

Chaeton R. Jines, assault and battery

Samuel J. Castro, possession of CDS - methamphetamine. Roger N. Bowring, assault and

battery

Felonies

Marquie Watson, grand larceny. Marquie Watson, kidnapping. **Small Claims** Cook 01 LLC vs. Erin Anthony, forcibl entry and detainer under \$5000. Terry's American HVAC, Inc dba vs. Bo Johnson, small claims under \$5000.

Portfolio Recovery Associates vs. Shannon N. Dowdle, civil action \$10,000 or less.

LVNV Funding LLC vs. Khrystin Hamilton, civil action \$10,000 or less. Conn Appliances, Inc vs. Lorna Stoker, civil action \$10,000 or less. CKS Prime Investments, LLC vs. Kelly D. Cox, civil action \$10,000 or less

LVNV Funding LLC vs. Elsa Jackson, civil action \$10,000 or less. Snap-On Credit LLC vs. Dale V. Sanders, civil action \$10,000 or less. United States Department of Ag vs. Abigail J. Deblase et al, civil action \$10,000 or more.

Martin Flores et al vs. United Services Automobile et al, civil action \$10,000 or more.

Summer Wall vs. Randy Lane, civil action \$10,000 or more.

Pennymac Loan Services, LLC vs. Holly M. Hill, civil action \$10,000 or more.

Marriages Filed

Austin A. Ryan, 32, and Teagan J. Tully, 31, both of Newcastle. Cal E. Andrews, 30, and Hannah M. Davis, 28, both of Washington. Wyatt L. Speaks, 27, and Ashley B.

Adams, 25, both of Purcell. Tyler J. Grayson, 23, of Noble and Raina K. Wilson, 23, of Norman. Ethan A. Rossow, 24, of Oklahoma City and Gema C. Diaz Robles, 23, of San Antonio, Texas.

ChynaC.Anderson,23, and Amanda M. Morton, 36, both of Lindsay. **Divorces Granted** None filed.

By: /s/ Karen Weltmer Deputy

(Seal) BREANNE GORDON, OBÁ #32508

Of the Firm: STUART & CLOVER 130 N. Broadway, Suite 100 Shawnee, OK 74801 Phone: (405) 275-0700 Fax: (405) 275-6805 Attorney for Plaintiff

No. 8-January 4-1 Time NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The McClain County Board of Commissioners will be receiving sealed bids until 4:00 p.m., Januarv 19th, 2024 with the opening of bids on January 22nd, 2024 at 8:30 a.m. for Rental of Uniforms for McClain County Employees to be delivered to (3) different locations.

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

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

DATE: 1/2/2024 /s/ Pam Beller Pam Beller County Clerk



2023-2024 AS FOLLOWS:

Em Mgmt-ST-60, Atwoods, 69.98, Supplies; 61, Verizon, 240.06, Wireless Devices; 62, PSO 63.22, Service.

Fair Main-ST-53, Sheehy Signs, 64.00, Banners; 54, XYLO, 475.00, Supplies; 55, XYLO, 237.50, Supplies;

General-876, Amazon, 134.97 Shirts; 877, Optimum, 214.96, Service; 878, Purcell Register, 141.30, Minutes; 879, Rockys Professional Plumbing, 387.50, Service; 880, Symmetry Energy Solutions, LLC, 765.40, Natural Gas Commodity; 881, ONG, 308.39, Service; 882, Davison Fuels & Oil, 3473.12, Fuel; 883, Daniel, Terry 15.36, Reimbursement; 884, Express Services, 1656.00, Contract Labor; 885, Hilton Garden Inn - Midtown, 416.00, Lodging; 886, Midcon Data Service, 22.50, Service; 887, Sacchieri, Kendal 119.21, Meeting; 888, Total Assessment Solutions, 7625.00, Contract Services; 889, Clearfly, 288.22, Service; 890, Cintas, 162.98, Supplies; 891, Health 123, Amazon, 2156.53, Supplies; 124, Clifford Power Systems 622.00, Service; 125, Diagnostics Direct 355.00, Supplies; 126, Firetrol Protection Systems, 125.00, Service; 127, ONG, 172.64, Service; 128, ONG, 168.67, Service; 129, Pioneer 492.28, Service; 130, PSO, 260.44, Service.

Highway-978, Welch State Bank, 2443.85, Lease Purchase; 979, Security National Bank, 1189.18, Lease Purchase; 980, Security National Bank, 1149.03, Lease Purchase; 981, Okla Dept Of Transportation, 1655.36, Lease Purchase; 982, Welch State Bank, 2443.85, Lease Purchase; 983, The Stock Exchange Bank, 1188.14, Lease Purchase; 984, The Stock Exchange Bank, 1467.75, Lease Purchase; 985, Armstrong Bank, 872.00, Lease Purchase; 986, Prosperity Bank, 1598.25, Lease Purchase; 987, Welch State Bank. 2443.85, Lease Purchase; 988, Welch State Bank, 2443.85, Lease Purchase; 989, Security National Bank, 931.45, Lease Purchase; 990, Okla Dept Of Transportation, 980.95, Lease Purchase; 991, Security State Bank, 996.11, Expo-113, Express Services 1080.00, Contract Labor.

Rural Fire-ST-111, OEC, 55.00, Service; 112, Sids, 444.65, Fuel & Supplies; 113, RWD 8, 35.31, Service; 114, REC, 60.76, Service; 115, Triple J Tools 1750.00, Battery Charger; 116, AT&T 225.18, Service.

Sheriff Service Fee-155, ImageNet 294.57, Service; 156, Optimum, 567.54, Service; 157.

SR Cit-ST-194, Ben E Keith, 1956.39, Supplies; 195, Classic Paper 384.78, Supplies; 196, Pioneer Telephone, 102.89, Service; 197, Classic Paper 361.49, Supplies.

The preceding warrants were initialed by County Clerk First Deputy Rebekah Couch due to the County Clerk Pam Beller and BOCC Chairman Terry Daniel both being absent from this meeting.

Wilson Lyles moved to approve Blanket Purchase Orders as on file in the County Clerk's Office, seconded by Joe Southern. Vote Aye: Murray, Lyles, Southern. Motion carried.

Wilson Lyles Moved to approve of the following Transfers of Appropriations: Sheriff Commissary: \$3,000.00 from 1223-2-0400-2005 to 1223-2-0400-4110, seconded by Joe Southern. Vote Aye: Murray, Lyles, Southern. Motion carried.

Wilson Lyles moved, Joe Southern seconded to approve of the following Cash Fund Estimate of Needs and Requests for Appropriations: Assr Rev Fee, CBRI, Highway, Jail, ML Fee, Mtg Cert, Preservation, Rental of County Property, Sheriff Commissary, Sheriff Service Fee, Trash Cop, Eco Dev-ST, Em Mgmt-ST, Extension-ST, Fair Main-ST, General Govt-ST, Rural Fire-ST, Sheriff-ST, Sr Cit-ST. Vote Aye: Murray, Lyles, Southern. Motion carried.

Wilson Lyles moved, Joe Southern seconded to approve of the following Road Crossing Permits: Harcon LLC, starting in Section 22, T6NR2W and ending in Section 22 T6NR2W in District Two. Vote Aye: Murray, Lyles, Southern. Motion carried.

Wilson Lyes moved, Joe Southern seconded to approve of the

Wilson Lyles moved to approve of Circuit Engineering District Auction Policies, Joe Southern seconded. Vote Aye: Murray, Lyles, Southern. Motion carried.

Wilson Lyles moved to approve of the continuation of agreements for the McClain County Health Department and Pitney Bows, Inc, Joe Southern seconded. Vote Aye: Murray, Lyles, Southern. Motion carried.

Wilson Lyles moved, Joe Southern seconded to approve of contract between JD Oasis LLC and McClain County BOCC on behalf of McClain County Assessor. Vote Aye: Murray, Lyles, Southern. Motion carried.

Wilson Lyles moved, Joe Southern seconded to accept and approve of Interstate 40 Crosstown Steel Beam Transfer Form for McClain County District Two for the following: 36"x96.10' Beam Serial # W 23.1, W 23.2, W 23.3, W 23.4, W 23.5, W 23.6 and W 23.7; 36"x96.11' Beam Serial # W 23.8; and 36"x99.1' Beam Serial # W 30.4. Vote Aye: Murray, Lyles, Southern. Motion carried.

Wilson Lyles moved, Glen Murray seconded to approve and authorize the ARPA Expenditure Document for OEC Fiber for a county-wide phone system for McClain County for \$233,867.56. Vote Aye: Murray, Lyles, Southern. Motion carried.

With no further business Wilson Lyles moved to adjourn at 9:15 a.m., Glen Murray seconded. Vote Aye: Murray, Lyles, Southern. Motion carried. Attest:

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS McCLAIN COUNTY, **OKLAHOMA** Terry Daniel, Chairman Glen Murray, Vice Chairman Wilson Lyles, Member Attest:

Pam Beller County Clerk

OK 73080.

Legal **Publications**

No. 882-December 28-2 Times IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF MCCLAIN COUNTY STATE OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MARY ANN BUTCHER BROWN, Deceased.

Case No. PB-2023-147

COMBINED NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND NOTICE OF HEARING To: All persons interested in the Estate of Mary Ann Butcher Brown, deceased

You are hereby notified that on the 21st day of Deceember, 2023, the Petitioner, Daniel J. Kemper, as Vice-President & Trust Officer for First Community Bank of Batesville, by and through his attorney, Omar D. Zantout of Evans & Davis, PLLC, filed its Petition for Summary Administration Pursuant to 58 O.S. §245 and for Appointment of Special Administrator in the District Court of McClain County.

The Petitioner has alleged that Mary Ann Butcher Brown, age 84, departed this life, testate, on or about the 29th day of June, 2022, in the City of Little Rock, Pulaski County, State of Arkansas, and at the time of her death was a resident and citizen of Pulaski County, State of Arkansas. Moreover, Petitioner has alleged that Mary Ann Butcher Brown left an estate in the State of Oklahoma, consisting of real property, the probable value of which is less than \$200,000.00. Accordingly, Petitioner has asked this Court for summary proceedings pursuant to 58 O.S. §245, et seq.

The names, ages and last-known addresses of Decedent's administrators, executors, non-petitioning co-nominees, heirs, legatees and devisees, as set forth in the Petition, are as follows:

NAME/ADDRESS	AGE	RELATIONSHIP
William Francel Brown 11725 Crusselle Dr. Jacksonville, FL 32223	Legal	Son/Heir-at-law
Jennifer Lynn Brown 131 Indian Trail Little Rock, AR 72227	Legal	Daughter/ Heir-at-law
Heather Renee' Brown aka Heather Renee' Postema 4047 Quanton Road Norton Shores, MI 49441	Legal	Daughter/ Heir-at-law
Daniel J. Kemper, as Vice-President & Trust Officer for First Community Bank of Batesville, Trustee of the Mary Ann Butcher Brown Trust Share Created Under the Gerald F. Brown, Jr. and Mary Ann Butcher Brown Joint Revocable Trust Declaration dated February 28, 2005 2401 W. Beebe Capps Expy. P.O. Box 857 Searcy, AR 72145	Trust	Sole Devisee/ Legatee

In an Order for Combined Notice and Order Appointing Special Administrator entered on the 21st day of December, 2023, the Court found that it should dispense with regular estate proceedings prescribed by law, order notice to creditors and issue an order for hearing upon the Petition for Summary Administration, the Final Accounting and Petition for Determination of Heirs, Devisees and Legatees and Distribution.

Pursuant to the Order for Combined Notice and Order Appointing Special Administrator, all creditors having claims against Mary Ann Butcher Brown, deceased, are required to present the same with a description of all security interests and other collateral, if any, held by each creditors with respect to such claim to Daniel J. Kemper, as Vice-President & Trust Officer for First Community Bank of Batesville, Special Administrator, at Evans & Davis, PLLC, 211 N. Broadway, Edmond, Oklahoma 73034, addressed to Omar D. Zantout, attorney for Special Administrator, on or before the following presentment date: 2024. If no is filed on or before the pr date, such claim will be forever barred. Notice is also hereby given that a hearing will be held on the 15th day of February, 2024, at 9:30 am, in the District Courthouse of McClain County in Purcell, Oklahoma. At the hearing, the Court will decide whether to approve the Petition for Summary Administration, the Final Account and Petition for Determination of Heirs, Devisees and Legatees and Distribution of the Petitioner. You are hereby advised that you may file objections to the Petition for Summary Administration, the Final Account and Petition for Determination of Heirs, Devisees and Legatees and Distribution at any time before the final hearing and send a copy to the Petitioner in the care of his attorney, Omar D. Zantout of Evans & Davis, PLLC, 211 N. Broadway, Edmond, Oklahoma 73034, or you will be deemed to have waived any objections. If you have no objections, you need not appear at the hearing or make any filings with the Court If an objection is filed before the hearing, the Court will determine at the hearing whether summary proceedings are appropriate and. if so, whether the Estate will be distributed and to whom the Estate will be distributed

No. 2-January 4-1 Time

Board of McClain County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, 12/18/2023 at 8:15 a.m. in Room 111 of the McClain County Courthouse. Chairman Terry Daniel called the meeting to order and led the flag salute. County Clerk Deputy Rebekah Couch called the roll and those present were: Chairman Terry Daniel, Vice Chairman Glen Murray, and Member Wilson Lyles.

Wilson Lyles moved to approve the minutes of the 12/11/2023 meeting, Glen Murray seconded. Vote Aye: Murray, Lyles, Daniel. Motion carried.

Wilson Lyles moved to approve the following maintenance and operation claims, seconded by Glen Murray. Vote Aye: Murray, Lyles, Daniel. Motion carried.

CLAIMS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 AS FOLLOWS:

CBRI-12, Okla Dept of Transportation, 23369.35, Signage; Okla Dept of Transportation, 23369.35, Signage.

Em Mgmt-ST-59, Fleetcor, 82.03, Fuel.

Extension-ST-63, Amazon, 467.11, Supplies; 64, CashSaver. 366.37, Supplies; 65, Office Depot, 133.56, Supplies; 66, Windstream, 304.75, Service.

General-845, Comdata MasterCard, 675.55, Fuel, Service & Auto Supplies; 846, Classic Paper, 1018.87, Supplies; 847, Amazon, 159.89, Supplies; 848, Davison Fuels & Oil, 3518.59, Fuel; 849, Top Tier Tactical, 618.30, Vest; 850, Valir, 35.00, Drug Testing; 851, Valir, 35.00, Service; 852, Valir, 35.00, Service; 853, Best 1123.98, Computers; 854, Buy, Purcell Register, 135.25, Minutes; 855, Rockys Plumbing, 995.00, Service; 856, Strobes-N-More, 317.80, Supplies; 857, Newcastle Pacer, 500.00, Publication; 858, ONG, 101.53, Service; 859, Purcell Public Works, 816.90, Service; 860, Verizon, 160.04, Service; 861, Windstream, 307.03, Service; 862, Blanchard News, 390.00, Publication; 863, Classic Paper, 1529.25, Supplies; 864, Cross Point Data, 100.00, Service; 865, Elliotts, 847.34, Service; 866, J&J Cleaners, 30.40, Service; 867, Midcon Data, 22.15, Service; 868, ODP Business Solution, 394.42, Supplies; 869, Patrick, Elizabeth, 184.85, Travel; 870, Purcell Register, 500.00, Publication; 871, Robbins Ace, 19.31, Supplies; 872, Windstream, 528.87, Service; 873, Sheehy Signs, 770.00, Graphics; 874, Cleveland County Sheriff's Office, 5833.92, Detention Services; 875, Community Works Cleveland Co, 318.50, Juvenile Service.

Health-121, AT&T, 132.28, Service; 122, Garrett, Sarah, 224.67, Travel.

Highway-927, Fleet Pride, 17.70, Parts; 928, Inland Truck, 736.02, Parts; 929, Pioneer, 248.63, Service; 930, Advanced Workzone, 386.00, Barricades; 931, Bruckner's, 44.49, Parts; 932, Cintas, 111.21, Service; 933, Dub Ross, 1224.36, Tinhorns; 934, Dill Oil, 21777.59, Fuel; 935, Gill Express, 450.00, Service; 936, Hales Overhead Door, 4625.90, Door; 937, J&K Auto, 30.39, Supplies; 938, James Supply & Rental, 1166.00, Lease; 939, 940 LA Jacobson, 1516.55, Concrete; 941, Mid-Continent Truck, 396.55, Service;942, Mid-Continent Truck, 1019.70, Service; 943, NAPA, 154.24, Parts; 944, ONG, 290.44, Service; 945, Postmaster, 72.00, Post Office Box Rental; 946, Postmaster, 186.00, Service; 947, PikePass, 9.15, Service; 948, PikePass, 1.20, Service; 949, P&K Stone, 1013.33, Granite; 950, Quill, 130.21, Supplies; 951, Windstream, 375.50, Service; 952, Windstream, 78.63, Service; 953, Amazon, 54.97, Office Supplies; 954, Amazon, 79.93, Supplies: 955, Chickasha Industrial & Welding, 16.80, Parts; 956, Choate's Trailers, 22000.00, Trailer; 957, Cintas, 510.07, Service; 958, DJ Trailers, 500.00, Tires; 959, Daves Small Engine, 196.70, Parts & Labor; 960, Dolese Bros., 4980.53, Chips & Rock; 961, Dolese Bros. 9584.43, Chips & Rock; 962, J&K Auto, 39.85, Parts & Supplies; 963, KellPro, 1213.00, Computer; 964, Lindsav Auto, 375.00, Batteries: 965, OMUSA/MESO, 90.00, Drug Testing; 966, Robbins Ace, 121.87 Supplies; 967, Rolling Coal Diese Repair, 4250.95, Parts & Labor; 968, Robbins Ace, 82.95, Supplies: 969. Robbins Ace. 64.99 Supplies; 970, Robbins Ace, 79.90, Supplies; 971, United Ag & Turf, 904.34, Filters; 972, WW, 30.00, Tires & Tubes/Service & Supplies; 973, WW, 140.00, Service; 974, Warren CAT, 115.78, Parts: 975. Warren CAT. 4205.75 Service; 976, WW, 36.47, Tires & Tubes/Service & Supplies; 977, Webb Oil, 90.00, Service. ML Fee-23, Midcon Data, 46.00, Service. Mtg Cert-20, Windstream, 164.53, Service. Rental of County Property Expo-104, Locke, 148.30, Fire Hydrant; 105, Locke, 142.46, Supplies; 106, WW, 15.00, Service; 107, Windstream, 334.53, Service; 108, ONG, 372.84, Service; 109, James Supply & Rental, 53.00, Lease; 110, ONG, 173.91, Service; 111, Purcell Public Works, 1292.65, Service; 112, Purcell Public Works, 1756.81, Service. Rural Fire-ST-108, AT&T 240.24, Service; 109, Roberts, Gregory, 200.00, Pump Testing;

110, Municipal Emergency Services, 18169.20, Bunker Gear.

Sheriff Commissary - 20, Amazon, 30.20, Supplies.

Sheriff Service Fee-151, Amazon, 138.57, Supplies; 152, MTM, 42.00, Badges; 153, Bennetts. 184.60, Supplies; 154, Goins, James, 7.75, Travel.

SR Cit-ST-188, Spencers, 926.49, Supplies; 189, CashSaver, 666.01, Supplies; 190, Pioneer, 101.05. Service: 191. Axis. 90.00. Service; 192, ONG 60.69, Service; 193, Compsource, 630.00, Workers Comp Insurance.

Wilson Lyles moved to approve Blanket Purchase Orders as on file in County Clerk's Office, seconded by Glen Murray. Vote Aye: Murray, Lyles, Daniel. Motion carried.

Wilson Lyles moved, Glen Murray seconded to approve the following Transfers of Appropriations: Highway: \$300.000.00 from 1102-6-4300-2005 to 1102-6-4300-4110; and General: \$62,075.21 from 0001-1-2000-2005 to 0001-1-2000-1110. Vote Aye: Murray, Lyles, Daniel. Motion carried.

There were no Road Crossing Permits requested.

Wilson Lyles moved to approve contributing funds from the Board of County Commissioners to purchase curtains to divide the west show area from the arena at the Expo Center contingent upon Fair Board approval for the remainder of the cost, seconded by Glen Murray. Vote Aye: Murray, Lyles, Daniel. Motion carried.

Terry Daniel moved to accept a monetary donation of \$75,000.00 from Chickasaw Nation for the McClain County Drug Court to the Donation Fund, seconded by Glen Murray. Vote Aye: Murray, Lyles, Daniel Motion carried

Terry Daniel moved, Glen Murray seconded to accept monetary donations from Heisman Homes LLC, Nicholas Dixon Attorneys and Road To Recovery Foundation, INC totaling \$800.00 for McClain County Drug Court for the Drug Court Participant Christmas Party Vote Aye: Murray, Lyles, Daniel. Motion carried.

Wilson Lyles moved, Glen Murray seconded to approve of the Amended Memorandum of Understanding for the 2023-2024 school year with Dibble, Washington, Blanchard, Mid-America Technology Center for on-campus security to be provided by McClain County Sheriff. Vote Aye: Murray, yles, Daniel. Motion carried.

Wilson Lyles moved to approve of the 2023-2024 fiscal year Amended Interlocal Agreement For Police Service between Mc-Clain County Sheriff and the Town of Wayne and Town of Goldsby, seconded by Glen Murray. Vote Aye: Murray, Lyles, Daniel. Motion carried.

Wilson Lyles moved, Glen Murray seconded to approve of Plat for Selah Addition Phase 1E. Vote Aye: Murray, Lyles, Daniel. Motion carried.

Terry Daniel moved, Glen Murray seconded to approve of Lease Agreements and ODOT Form 324a between McClain County BOCC and Oklahoma Department Of Transportation regarding the lease purchase of (1) 2024 Kenworth T880 Tractor in the amount of \$178,950.00 with ODOT to fi-\$168,600,00 and (1) 2024 nance

THE PURCELL REGISTER, Thursday, January 4, 2024-13A

awarded Hot Mix/Hot Laid As-

phalt, other bidders were Paving

Material LLC., Pavers Inc., and

Paving Material of Southern

*Haskell Lemon Group, LLC.,

First Water Contracting, LLC., and

Silver Star Construction Company,

Inc were awarded Asphalt Laid In

Bros. Co. were awarded Concrete,

Corrugated High Density Polyeth-

lene Tinhorns N-12 Pipe, other

bidders were The Railroad Yard,

Cat were awarded Grader Blades.

other bidders were Kirby-Smith

Sunbelt Equipment & Supply Inc.

was awarded I-WF Beams and H-

Beams-New & Used, Interlocking

With no further business, Wilson

Lyles moved to adjourn at 8:57

a.m., Glen Murray seconded. Vote

Aye: Murray, Lyles, Daniel. Motion

BOARD OF

OKLAHOMA

COMMISSIONERS

McCLAIN COUNTY,

Terry Daniel, Chairman

Wilson Lyles, Member

Glen Murray, Vice Chairman

No. 3-January 4-2 Times

IN THE DISTRICT COURT

OF MCCLAIN COUNTY

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE

OF LYNN MCNALL, DECEASED.

Case No. PB-2023-134

NOTICE OF CONTINUED

HEARING ON PETITION FOR

SUMMARY ADMINISTRATION.

THE FINAL ACCOUNT

AND PETITION FOR

DETERMINATION OF

AND DISCHARGE

to all persons interested in the

Estate of Lynn McNall, Deceased

22, 2023, Rene McNall-Knapp,

Administrator of the Estate of Lynn

McNall, filed in the District Court

of McClain County, Oklahoma, a

Motion praying that the Court con-

tinue the hearing currently set for

January 18, 2024, to such date as

the Court determines appropriate.

Court, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

that the hearing originally sched-

uled for January 18, 2024, at 9:30

a.m. is continued to 9:30 o'clock

A.M. on the 15th day of February,

2024, with the hearing said Peti-

tion for Summary Administration

and the Final Account and Petition

Pursuant to an Order of said

"Decedent"), that on December

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

Sheet Piling, no other bidder.

*Dub Ross Co. Inc, and Warren

*The Railroad Yard, Inc., and

*L.A. Jacobson, Inc. and Dolese

*Dub Ross Co. Inc. was awarded

Place, no other bidders.

Inc., and Core & Main LP.

no other bidders.

Machinery.

carried.

Attest:

Attest:

Pam Beller

County Clerk

Oklahoma.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT IN AND FOR McCLAIN COUNTY

STATE OF OKLAHOMA In the Matter of the Estate of FLORENCE HISAW BRADLEY, Deceased

> Case No. PB-2023-149 COMBINED NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND NOTICE OF HEARING

TO: All persons interested in the Estate of Florence Hisaw Bradley, Deceased

You are hereby notified that on the 29th day of December, 2023, Sharon E. Bradley (the "Petitioner"), by and through Susie Bolin Summers of Summers & Files, PLLC, Attorney for Petitioner, filed, in the District Court of McClain County, a Petition for Summary Administration, Appointment of Special Administrator, and Admission of Will to Probate (the "Petition").

The Petitioner has alleged that Florence Hisaw Bradley, deceased (the "Decedent"), departed this life testate on June 29, 2003, at the age of 92 years, domiciled in and residing in Porterville, Tulare County, State of California, and that the total value of the Decedent's property in Oklahoma is \$28,000.00. Attached to the Petition is an instrument purporting to be the Last Will and Testament of the Decedent. Petitioner has asked this Court to admit the Will to probate and for other summary proceedings pursuant to Section 245 et seq. of Title 58 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

In an Order for Combined Notice entered on the 29th day of December, 2023, the Court found that it should dispense with the regular estate proceedings prescribed by law and order notice to creditors and issue an order for hearing upon the Petition for Summary Administration and Admission of Will to Probate, the Final Accounting, and Petition for Determination of Heirs, Devisees and Legatees and Distribution.

The names and addresses of the heirs or devisees of the Decedent are as follows:

Sharon E. Bradley Joel Bradley HEIRS-AT-LAW, DISTRIBUTION,

- Paul Bradlev
- Tony Bradley

The Bradley Family Trust, dated April 23, 1999

c/o Summers & Files, PLLC, Post Office Box 846, Ada, OK 74821

Pursuant to the Order for Combined Notice, all creditors having claims against Florence Hisaw Bradley, deceased, are required to present the same with a description of all security interests and other collateral (if any) held by each creditor with respect to such claim, to Sharon E. Bradley, Special Administrator, at the law offices of Susie Bolin Summers, Summers & Files, PLLC, Attorney for the Personal Representative, on or before the following presentment date: January 26, 2024, or the same will be forever barred.

for Determination of Heirs-at-Law, Notice is also hereby given Distribution, and Discharge to that a hearing will be held on the take place in the Courtroom of the 14th day of March, 2024, at 9:30 undersigned Judge, in the County o'clock a.m. at the McClain County Courthouse in the City of Purcell, Courthouse, Purcell, Oklahoma. McClain County, Oklahoma, when At the hearing the Court will decide and where all persons interested whether to approve the Petition may appear and contest same as for Summary Administration and Admission of Will to Probate and the Final Account and Petition for Determination of Heirs, Devisees and Legatees, and Distribution of the Petitioner. The Final Account and Petition for Determination of Heirs, Devisees and Legatees and Distribution will be filed herein on or before the 31st day of January, 2024. You are hereby advised that you must file objections to the Petition for Summary Administration and Admission of Will to Probate and the Final Account and Petition for Determination of Heirs, Devisees and Legatees, and Distribution at any time before the hearing and send a copy to the Petitioner in care of her attorney, Susie Bolin Summers, Summers & Files, PLLC, Post Office Box 846, Ada, Oklahoma 74821-0846, or you will be deemed to have waived any objections. If you have no objections, you need not appear at the hearing or make any filings with the Court. The Court will determine at the hearing whether the Will attached to the Petition shall be admitted to probate and whether summary proceedings are appropriate and, if so, whether the Estate will be distributed and to whom the Estate will be distributed. /s/ Susie Bolin Summers Susie Bolin Summers, OBA #22069 SUMMERS & FILES, PLLC Attorneys at Law Mailing Address: Post Office Box 846 Ada, Oklahoma 74821-0846 Physical Address: 121 South Broadway Avenue Ada, Oklahoma 74820 Telephone: (580) 436-6500 ssummers@summersfiles.com Attorney for Petitioner

No. 5-January 4-2 Times *Haskell Lemon Group, LLC. and Trinitas Material LLC. were

/s/ Charles Gray JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

By: /s/ Omar D. Zantout Omar D. Zantout, OBA #30305 Evans & Davis, PLLC 211 N. Broadway Edmond, OK 73034 Telephone: (405) 286-2335 Fax: (405) 286-2770 E-mail: omar@evansdavis.com Attorney for Special Administrator

No. 883-December 28-2 Times IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF MCCLAIN COUNTY STATE OF OKLAHOMA IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JACK W. HARNSBERGER, DECEASED.

Case No. PB-23-94 NOTICE OF HEARING FINAL ACCOUNT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE, PETITION FOR DETERMINATION OF HEIRS, DISTRIBUTION OF ESTATE AND DISCHARGE JACK RANDAL HARNSBERG-ER, having on this day presented for settlement and filed in this Court his Final Account of the administration of the Estate of JACK W. HARNSBERGER, Deceased, and having filed with his account a Petition for Distribution of the Estate of JACK W. HARNSBERGER, Deceased, and Discharge as Personal Representative.

NOTICE is hereby given that the 18th day of January, 2024, at the hour of at 9:30 o'clock A.M. of said date in the Courtroom of the undersigned Judge, or the

Judge to whom this cause is assigned on said hearing date, in the County Courthouse in the city of PURCELL, McClain County, Oklahoma, has been duly fixed and appointed by the Court for the hearing thereon, at which time and place any person interested may appear, and show cause, if any they have, why said account should not be approved, the heirs of said Decedent should not be determined, the distribution of said Estate should not be made as prayed for, and said JACK RAN-DAL HARNSBERGER discharged as Personal Representative.

/s/ Charles Gray CHARLES GRAY JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT DON FRANKENBERG, 3095

FRANKENBERG LAW FIRM 502 S MAIN

LINDSAY, OKLAHOMA 73052 Telephone: (405) 756-2000 Facsimile: (405) 756-4316 dfrankenberg@aol.com Attorney for Personal Representative

Kenworth T8800 Dump Truck in the amount of \$214,250.00 with ODOT to finance \$184,900.00 for District Three. Vote Aye: Murray,

Lyles, Daniel. Motion carried. Glen Murray moved to approve of opening the section in reserve status as follows (aka) SE 40th within the City of Newcastle contingent upon Newcastle Planning Commissions approval, seconded by Terry Daniel. Vote Aye: Murray, Lyles, Daniel. Motion carried.

Wilson Lyles moved, Glen Murray seconded to accept and award the following compliant Six Month Bids as listed on file in the County Clerks Office and to re-bid Limestone Chips & Rock and Granite Chips & Rock with bids to be received by 4:00 p.m. on January 5, 2024 and opened at 8:30 on January 8, 2024: Vote Aye: Murray, Lyles, Daniel. Motion carried.

Only Bidders:

*Dub Ross Co Inc was awarded Corrugated Steel Pipe Arch 2-2/3 x 1/2" & 3 x1 Corrugation Spiral & Aluminized.

and Round Corrugated Steel ipe 2-2/3 x " & 3 x 1" Corru-Pipe 2-2/3 x gated - Spiral & Aluminized.

*Heidelberg Materials was awarded Rhyolite Chips & Rock Low Bids:

*Logan Co Asphalt Co. was awarded All Weather Asphalt Patching Material, other bidder was Pavers, Inc.

*Ergon Asphalt was awarded Asphalt Emulsion, other bidders were Vance Brothers, Inc., Wright Asphalt Producer Co., and Costal Energy Corp.

*The Railroad Yard, Inc was awarded Bridge Decking, Channel & Angle Iron Various Sizes, Steel Pipe – New & Used, other bidder was Sunbelt Equipment & Supply, Inc.

*4C Dozer Service, LLC. was awarded Concrete Crushing, other bidder was Diverse Recycling, LLC

*4C Dozer Service, LLC. was awarded Crushed Concrete, other bidder was Haskell Lemon Group, LLC.

Due to availability, high quality, able to provide all materials, and/ or location:

provided by law.

DATED this 22nd day of December, 2023. CHARLES GRAY

ASSOCIATE DISTRICT JUDGE JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT APPROVED FOR ENTRY: /s/ Lacy Jennings Kendra Robben, OBA No. 21792 Lacy Jennings, OBA No. 35648 ROBBEN LAW PLLC 2123 N. Classen Blvd. Oklahoma City, OK 73106 (405) 757-0225 phone (405) 212-4083 facsimile lacv@robbenlaw.com Attorneys for Administrator

No. 4-January 4-1 Time NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the filing time for three members. one from each Commissioners district for Office Two, to serve for a three (3) year term to the McClain County Free Fair Board will be from January 8 through January 12, 2024 at the McClain County Clerk's office during the office hours of 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. each day. Only registered voters of the county are eligible to file as a candidate. The person must reside in the Commissioners district they seek to represent. If more than one candidate files for Office Two in each district an election of the candidates will be held at the Wayne Agriculture Barn, Washington Agriculture Barn and the Blanchard Agriculture Barn on Thursday, February 1, 2024 from 3:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. SEAL

Date: 12/27/2023 /s/ Pam Beller Pam Beller

McClain County Clerk



Purcell Register Obituaries

Naomi Ruth Faulkenberry

Naomi Ruth Faulkenberry died December 30, 2023, in Norman, Oklahoma, at the age of 79 years 1 month 2 days. Funeral Service are scheduled for 11 a.m. Thursday, January 4, 2024, at the Wadley's Funeral Chapel, entrusted to the care of Wadley's Funeral Service.

Naomi was born November 28, 1944, in Oakdale, Oklahoma, to Edward and Odie Mae (Cottrell) Bell. She was raised in the Oakdale community until she was 15, and then moved to just outside Purcell.

In the embrace of Purcell's charm, Naomi united her life with that of R.C. Faulkenberry on February 10, 1960. Together they created a haven of love and warmth within their home. As dedicated partners in life's journey, Naomi and R.C. worked on a dairy farm for many years.

With an unwavering commitment to care for others, Naomi pursued a career as a Certified Nurse Aide later in life. She showcased her compassion by serving in various nursing homes across the Oklahoma City area until her well-deserved retirement in 2008.

Beyond her professional path, Naomi enjoyed indulging in crossword puzzles and finding solace in doodling. The sight of blooming flowers filled her heart with joy, while moments spent watching wrestling matches and cooking shows provided her with a sense of entertainment.

Naomi was deeply fond of cats, but she cherished the company of her little dog, "Boomer". She relished baking delectable chocolate pies as a treat for all. Her true happiness emanated from spending cherished moments with her beloved family. Naomi's devotion to her loved ones was immeasurable and her role as a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother brought immense fulfillment to her life.

Her unwavering faith in God anchored her spirit, providing strength throughout every step of her journey.

Naomi was preceded in death by her parents, Edward and Odie Mae (Cottrell) Bell; her son, Richard Lee Faulkenberry; her son, Bryan Leon Faulkenberry; her brother, Troy Milton; her brother, Willis Bell; and her mother and father-in-law, Ruby and Robert Faulkenberry.

Survivors include her husband, R.C. Faulkenberry; her daughter, Rita Wiggins and husband, Rick; her daughter Melinda Ramsey; her nine grandchildren, Jammie Reilley and spouse, Clinton Wood, Dean Mitchell, Schelina Armstrong and husband, Dusty, Justin Faulkenberry, Bryant Faulkenberry, Erica Anglin, Tommy Anglin, Kody Faulkenberry and spouse, William Treadway, Jr. and Ricky Wiggins; her six great-grandchildren; her daughter-in-law, Shirley Faulkenberry; and numerous other relatives and friends.

Madley's Funeral Service, Inc. 303 W. Washington • P.O. Box 903 • Purcell, OK • (405) 527-6687

Gena Reese

Gena Reese, 58, of Wanette passed away on January 1, 2024. Gena Joyce (Moon) Reese was born on June 20, 1965 in Culver City, California, the youngest of three children born to Jackie Harvey Moon and Janice Marie (VanKeuren) Moon.



When Gena was just six weeks old, the Moon family made the move to Oklahoma. Gena was primarily raised in the Wanette area,

Ricky Lee Trammell

A Celebration of Life Service for Ricky Lee Trammell, 77, of Washington, Oklahoma, was held Saturday, January 6, 2024 at the First Baptist Church in Washington, Oklahoma, with Pastor Mike Stewart officiating. Services were under the

direction of the Wilson-Little Funeral Home in Purcell.

> To view the livestream service, you can go to the Washington First Baptist Church Facebook page.

Mr. Trammell was born on July 26, 1946 in Holdenville, Oklahoma. His parents were the late Leroy Varance and Imogene Carlisle

Trammell. He was a graduate of Holdenville High School and after graduation attended Eastern State College in Wilburton, Oklahoma from 1964 to1966, also playing on the basketball team. There he received an Associates Degree. He then attended East Central University located in Ada, Oklahoma, where he graduated in 1969 with a Bachelor of Science in Education.

He served our country in the United States Navy from 1969 to 1973 where he worked as an avionics electronics technician. Ricky retired from General Motors Corporation after working nearly 30 years. He was a Product Engineer and Vehicle Testing Coordinator.

Ricky was a very active member of First Baptist churches in Moore, Oklahoma, FBC Washington, Oklahoma, and FBC Bainbridge, Georgia. He enjoyed attending church, playing golf, OU sports, billiards and travelling with his wife Elaine, the love of his life, to whom he had been married for 50 plus years. Ricky was a selfless person and friend to many. There are not enough words to express the servant's heart and selfless person Ricky was to his family and friends.

Survivors include his wife, Evelyn Elaine Trammell of Washington, Oklahoma; children, Glenn Edward Trammell of Bainbrige, Ga., and Shelia Malaine Trammell Leverette of Washington, Oklahoma; six grandchildren, Laura Trammell of Apalachicola Fla., Cory Thomas and wife, Kate, of Tempe Ariz., Kyle Thomas and wife, Morgan, of Marietta, Georgia, Christa Bryant and husband, Brandon, of Columbiana, Alabama, Ashley Trammell of Montevallo, Alabama, and Derek Vance Trammell of Washington, Oklahoma; his sister, Charlotte Clements and husband, Mark, of Marana, Ariz.; five greatgrandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his son, Rocky Vance Trammell; his parents; brothers, Pete Trammell and Richard Trammell; his sister, Shirly Tonne; his maternal grandparents, Eugene and Mamie Carlisle; his paternal grandparents, John and Mary Trammell; nephew, Kirk Clements and niece, Vickie Hoover. Online condolences may be made at wilsonlittle.com.

Wilson-Little Funeral Home • 127 S. Canadian • Purcell • 527-6543

Terry Scott Stephens

Terry Scott Stephens died December 27, 2023, in Purcell, Oklahoma, at the age of 62 years 2 months 28 days. Funeral



services were held Tuesday, January 2, 2024, at the Wadley's Funeral Chapel. Interment was at Hillside Cemetery, entrusted to the care of Wadley's Funeral Service.

A look back at 2023



John D. Montgomery • The Purcell Register

Pole setting

City of Purcell crews continued to set light poles for the Green Avenue Light Project.



John D. Montgomery • The Purcell Register

Honor guard

A combined honor guard from the McClain County Sheriff's Department and Purcell Police fired off a salute at the annual Memorial Day Ceremony at Hillside Cemetery in May. Taking part in the salute were Sheriff Deputy Justin Rowe, Det. Brayden Bulliver and officers Kyle Mobley, Jerry Pittman and Daniel Fumi.

OMRF scientists help identify cause of brain disorder In 2020, as the search grew Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation scientists, and a lot to identify other cases, the reof tiny fish, were instrumental search team asked Varshney to test the effects of that mutation in a worldwide effort to pinin a zebrafish model. point the cause of a rare, severe The ACBD6 gene is crucial neurodevelopmental disorder in certain cellular and prothat shares some characteristics with Parkinson's disease. Their tein-modification processes. Research has shown that work could lead to greater insights into Parkinson's. disruptions of these processes can cause degenerative brain Following seven years of research, an international team diseases. determined that a specific Varshney and Lin's zebrafish genetic mutation was responmodel confirmed suspicions about the cause of the human sible for causing the disorder in 45 people, representing 28 condition. families on several continents, During three years of study, including 11 people from six the team found the affected families in the U.S. zebrafish exhibited the same The unnamed disease begins clinical symptoms as their human counterparts. early in life and progresses to significant motor and cogni-The team's findings were tive deterioration as the person published in the journal Brain. reaches adulthood. "Zebrafish are the perfect OMRF scientist Gaurav model to study genetic diseases Varshney, Ph.D., and his team because the larvae are transled by postdoctoral researcher parent and grow externally," OMRF's Lin said. "This allows Sheng-Jia Lin, Ph.D., helped determine the cause by matchus to easily monitor their brain development and behavior." ing patient symptoms with those of a paperclip-sized Next, the international team zebrafish model sharing the will try to identify a way to same genetic variant. They block that genetic variant to created the model at OMRF prevent or treat the condition. Further studies may shed light using gene-editing technology called CRISPR. on genetic causes and pathways Varshney's lab studies huleading to this and other neuroman disease through zebrafish. developmental diseases. More than 80 percent of human "With the knowledge gained genes associated with disease by generating this zebrafish have a counterpart gene in the model, we hope to better understand how this genetic mutation species. Varshney's collaborator relates to disease progression," Varshney said. "While this in London, Reza Maroofian, research involved a rare disor-Ph.D., identified three memder, we may discover that our shared a mutation on the gene findings have applicability to the much more common and related disease of Parkinson's."



where she attended school and graduated with the Tiger Class of 1983.

Her two greatest accomplishments after high school were her daughters, Dawnnie and Shyla. By chance, she later met a young man

named, Neal Preston Reese, and the two quickly fell in love. Gena and Neal were married on April 10, 1995 and the two shared many years of marriage together.

She worked in a variety of industries, doing odd jobs and raising her girls until she decided to go back to school to further her education. Gena attended Oklahoma City Community College graduating with her Nursing Degree in 2007. Immediately after, she transferred to Southwestern Oklahoma State University to finish up her Bachelor's degree in Nursing. Gena worked in a variety of departments and settings as a nurse, including Encompass Home Health and Norman Regional for a combined total of 17 years.

She truly had a servant's heart, which is what fueled her love and passion for her career. Gena was also a devoted caregiver to her mother, Janice, for several years, and she did so lovingly and tenderly.

She was one of a kind, very stubborn and spunky, in all the best ways. More than anything, Gena was a family woman. She loved spending time with them, especially her children, grandchildren, and her two fur babies, Sugar and Jax. Gena was a beloved wife, mother, Gigi, sister, and a true friend. She will be dearly missed!

She was preceded in death by her father, Jackie Harvey Moon and infant baby, Preston Scott Reese.

Gena is survived by her husband, Neal Reese of Washington; daughters, Shyla Beason and Nick of Cole; Dawnnie Ross and husband, Jerry, of Lexington; son, Joshua Reese and wife, Connie, of Norman; mother, Janice Moon of Wanette; sister, Tina Lamascus of Okotoks-Alberta, Canada; brother, Scott Moon of Wanette; seven grandchildren, Charlie, Cooper, Ryker, Rayln, Rendyn, Claire and Ace; and a host of other family and friends.

Online condolences may be made at wilsonlittle.com.

Wilson-Little Funeral Home • 127 S. Canadian • Purcell • 527-6543



Terry was born September 30, 1961, in Lindsay, Oklahoma, to Bill and Diane (Carruth) Stephens. He was raised in Shawnee until high school. He then moved to Spencer where he

graduated from Star Spencer High School in 1979.

Terry was raised by his grandparents, Edith and Tom Carruth. During his lifetime, Terry held various jobs and gained experience in different fields. Notably, he worked as a machinist at Tinker.

Terry married Dana Suits, and spent three decades together, and they shared a son named Caleb who brought immeasurable joy into his life.

Terry had a passion for outdoor activities such as hunting and fishing. He possessed a remarkable skill in whittling and took delight in creating intricate wooden masterpieces. Terry enjoyed watching college and professional football and whenever possible, he indulged himself by listening to the engaging discussions on the Sports Animal radio.

Terry was preceded in death by his parents, Bill and Diane Stephens; his grandparents, Tom and Edith Carruth; and a brother, Ray Stephens.

Survivors include his son, Caleb Stephens; the mother of his son, Dana Stephens; his siblings, Anthony Stephens and wife, Judy, Gay Stephens, Erica Sillivan, David Ringer and Paul Ringer; his close nephew, Tyler Stephens-Jorski; and numerous nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends.

Madley's Funeral Service, Inc. 303 W. Washington • P.O. Box 903 • Purcell, OK • (405) 527-6687

From page 12A FNBT:

earning the Spirit Award ers in Oklahoma."

ing attire and bring spirit to add was the perfect way to end to the celebration of earning the night," Gorton said. "Our their spot as one of Oklaho- bankers work hard every day ma's Top Workplaces. Show- – and being able to celebrate ing up in classy black-tie attire their achievements and what with party horns and spinning they do for this company was lights, the FNBT banker spirit really a humbling experience. was contagious throughout the Our people are what make event and earned FNBT the FNBT one of Oklahoma's final spot on stage for the night. Top Workplaces. I couldn't "It was an honor to be be more proud or honored to among the best of the best work for this great company from around the state, but among some of the best bank-

bers from the same family who ACBD6 and exhibited similar neurological symptoms.

for re-election.

Meanwhile, frustration with a Stitt-directed, \$5 billion plan for turnpike expansion led to a new state law taking away the governor's power to appoint all the members of the board for the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority. House Bill 2263, by Rep. Danny Sterling, R-Tecumseh, took effect November 1 after lawmakers overrode Stitt's veto.

Because board members serve eight-year terms, it's unlikely to cause any immediate changes since current board members can serve the remainder of their existing terms. The new law splits appointments between the executive and legislative branches.

full state constitutional convento Oklahoma's gubernatorial the changes from the last 10 makes \$287,657 per year. to 15 years.

"I think most of the big Authority reforms will stay in place for the most important agencies," Spiropoulos said. "There may be a push and pull here and there on an agency or two when the Legislature sends a message to the governor: 'Don't go too far. We can pull back on this.'A new governor, whatever party they're from, is not going to want to give up this power. nor; two by the Senate President an ex officio board member and

a honeymoon period."

Here's a look at the agencies where the governor gained powers to hire and fire agency directors in the last dozen years:

Oklahoma Department of Corrections

Fiscal Year 2024 appropriation: \$552.6 million

Current director: Steven Harpe

Number of directors since 2018: Three (Joe Allbaugh; Scott Crow; Harpe)

Board composition: Nine (five appointed by the governor; two by the Senate President Pro Tempore; two by the House Speaker)

Notes: Harpe previously served as the state's chief op-Spiropoulos said outside of a erating officer and director of the Office of Management and tion, which is highly unlikely, Enterprise Services. As director lawmakers may continue to of the Corrections Department, tinker statutorily with changes Harpe's salary is the secondhighest in the region, second powers. He said it's doubtful only to Brian Collier, director they will pull back many of of Texas' prison system, who

Oklahoma Health Care

Fiscal Year 2024 appropriation: \$1.49 billion

Current director: Ellen Buettner

Number of directors since 2018: Three (Rebecca Pasternik-Ikard; Kevin Corbett; Buettner)

Board composition: Nine (five appointed by the gover-

And they always come in with Pro Tempore; two by the House only votes in case of ties Speaker)

> Notes: Stitt named Buettner CEO in August. She faces Senate confirmation in the 2024 legislative session. Buettner was chief of staff under Corbett. The state's Medicaid program, SoonerCare, will transition from a fee-for-service payment model to a managed-care payment system in 2024.

Oklahoma Department of Transportation

Fiscal Year 2024 appropriation: \$791.4 million

Current director: Tim Gatz Number of directors since 2018: Two (Mike Patterson; Gatz)

Board composition: Nine (five appointed by the governor; two by the Senate President Pro Tempore; two by the House Speaker)

Notes: Gatz is Transportation Secretary and executive director of the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority.

Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

Fiscal Year 2024 appropriation: \$359 million

Current director: Vacant

Number of directors since 2018: Two (Terri White, Carrie Slatton-Hodges)

Board composition: Nine (five appointed by the governor; two by the Senate President Pro Tempore; two by the House Speaker); the commissioner is Notes: Slatton-Hodges re-

signed in November and took a job with the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors. **Oklahoma Office of Juve-**

nile Affairs Fiscal Year 2024 appropria-

tion: \$100.9 million Current director: Jeffrey Cartmell

Number of directors since 2018: Three (Steven Buck; Rachel Holt; Cartmell)

Board composition: Nine (five appointed by the governor; two by the Senate President Pro Tempore; two by the House Speaker)

Notes: Stitt appointed Cartmell in October and he will serve pending Senate confirmation in the 2024 legislative session.

Oklahoma State Department of Health Fiscal Year 2024 appropria-

tion: \$71.5 million Current director: Keith Reed Number of directors since 2018: Six (Preston Doerflinger (interim); Brian Downs (act-

ing); Tom Bates (interim); Gary Cox; Dr. Lance Frye; Reed) Board composition: Nine

(advisory only; all appointed by the governor for nine-year terms)

Notes: Lawmakers changed the agency director qualifications in April 2022, allowing Reed to take the helm permanently after Senate confirmation. He had been serving on an interim basis since October 2021 and has worked for the department for more than 20 years.

Oklahoma Department of Human Services

Fiscal Year 2024 appropriation: \$766.7 million

Current director: Dr. Debo-

rah Shropshire

Number of directors since 2018: Three (Ed Lake; Justin Brown; Shropshire)

Board composition: No general oversight board; instead, there are four advisory panels of five members each for aging services, developmental disabilities services, children and family services and administration.

Notes: Voters in 2012 passed State Question 765, a constitutional amendment that put the appointment of the director under the governor, subject to Senate confirmation. Stitt appointed Shropshire in January, and the Senate confirmed her in May.

Oklahoma Department of Tourism and Recreation

Fiscal Year 2024 appropria-

tion: \$24.1 million Current director: Shelley facing the state.

homa Medical Research Foun-

dation \$5.8 million to work

toward easier diagnosis and

better treatment options for

Sjögren's disease, an autoim-

In Sjögren's, immune cells

attack moisture-producing

glands, causing painful dry

eyes and mouth. It can result

in irreversible tissue damage,

neurological problems, lung

disease and cancer. There is

no known cure, and current

treatments address only the

mune condition.

OMRF receives \$5.8 million for autoimmune disease research

The National Institutes of symptoms. Health has awarded the Okla-

OMRF scientists Joel Guthridge, Ph.D., Darise Farris, Ph.D., and Christopher Lessard, Ph.D., received a four-year grant through the Accelerating Medicines Partnership in Autoimmune and Immune-Mediated Diseases Program (AMP AIM).

The team's goal is to develop less invasive clinical tools to diagnose patients more effectively and identify new targets

Please see **OMRF**, page 16A





Grant opportunities discussion

Paul Monies/Oklahoma Watel

Zumwalt

Number of directors since

Board composition: Nine

(advisory only; all appointed

by the governor with Senate

confirmation, except the lieu-

Notes: Stitt appointed Zum-

walt in October 2022. She

previously led the Oklahoma

Employment Security Com-

mission and held various roles

before that at the Office of

Management and Enterprise

Services, the Health Care

Authority and the governor's

office under Gov. Mary Fallin. **CONTRIBUTING:** Staff

Oklahoma Watch, at okla-

homawatch.org, is a nonprofit,

nonpartisan news organization

that covers public-policy issues

Reporter Keaton Ross

tenant governor)

2018: Three (Dick Dutton; Jerry Winchester; Zumwalt)

Oklahoma Attorney General Gentner Drummond discusses local grant opportunities during a meeting of the Opioid Abatement Board in Oklahoma City on Dec. 6, 2023.

From page 9A

lion

Endo Pharmaceuticals: \$8.75 million

Mallinckrodt: \$5.1 million Missing from those totals is the \$465 million judgment against Johnson & Johnson that Hunter and outside attorneys won at trial in 2019. The Oklahoma Supreme Court overturned that on appeal in November 2021.

Nationwide, more than \$52 billion will be paid to states over the next 18 years from settlements with opioid manufacturers, distributors and retailers."

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

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The P.O. Box 191 • 225 W. Main St. Purcell • CRegister Purcell, OK • (405) 527-2126 P.O. Box 191 • 225 W. Main St. From page 1A

but it allowed the public to be ver and British Columbia), introduced to the best talent London, England, and New anywhere!

Guests have made their way to perform on the Pauls Valley Opry stage from Alabama, Texas, Kansas, Virginia, Louisiana, California, Massachusetts, Indiana and all over folks who supported the Pauls Oklahoma.

The Opry has drawn in advertising dollars. over 34,000 people from 95 Oklahoma towns. Patrons have visited from 25 states (including Oklahoma) including Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New York, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, Washington, private benefactors, federal Wyoming, as well as other and/or state funds, but not the countries - Canada (Vancou-

Zealand.

The Pauls Valley Opry has been a huge success and tourist attraction, thanks to the patrons of the Pauls Valley Opry and to the wonderful Valley Opry through their

The Opry would also like to express gratitude to the Pauls Valley Schools for giving us a home and support.

The Pauls Valley Opry has done more with less than any other Opry type show in the state of this caliber and that again, speaks volumes of the local support. All or most of the other Opry's are subsidized by foundations, tribal nations, Pauls Valley Opry.

"It was your Pauls Valley Opry and you allowed us to guide the ship! Thank you!" Woodie Hill said.

Please join the fun on Saturday, February 3, for the last show of the Pauls Valley Opry. It's going to be a great time of reminiscing, awesome music, outstanding guests and fellowship.

The Pauls Valley Opry is located at the Pauls Valley Junior High School Auditorium at 302 North Willow Street in Pauls Valley. The doors open at 5:30 p.m. and the show will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Guests will include Mike Deviney, April Davis and Cathy Lake. There will also be featured songs from all of the talented and gifted Memory Makers Band members.

As always, we'll see you at the Opry!

From page 15A

for future treatments.

"This disease is notoriously difficult to diagnose," said Lessard, who's been studying Sjögren's at OMRF since 2007. "It shares features with many autoimmune diseases and lacks effective diagnostic markers, which makes studying it challenging. This grant provides us with technology to analyze the salivary glands of people with Sjögren's in a way that wasn't possible previously."

From page 1A

Department, a McClain County Deputy was responding to a prowler call in Goldsby just after 4 a.m. Christmas morning.

That's when the deputy obarea and heading southbound on Interstate 35.

in pursuit of the van which had exited off the interstate onto SH 74 headed toward Maysville.

From page 1A **Guard:**

conference, echoing talking points from fellow Republican governors.

Lt. Col. LeeAnn Tumblson, a spokeswoman for the Oklahoma Air National Guard, said during the August mission a 50-person contingent of Oklahoma's National Guard helped with 969 detections that resulted in 23 apprehensions by law enforcement. They successfully turned back 1,183 migrants without incident, she said.

Costs for the deployment are complicated. The Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security typically pays for state active-duty National Guard deployments out of that agency's State Emergency Fund, said spokeswoman Keli Cain.

Because the Oklahoma deployment used equipment state active duty status. Texas funded by the federal govern- did not reimburse Oklahoma the country's southern border ment, the state will have to for the costs. Unlike federal with Mexico stems partly from turn around and reimburse the deployments domestically or federal government for those internationally, Guard memcosts, Tumblson said. was under the governor's pow- federal Veterans Administraers to deploy the Guard under tion care if they get injured.

and biopsy tissue samples donated to OMRF by people with Sjögren's to better understand different patient sub-groups' genetic and molecular characteristics.

"This knowledge should help clinicians diagnose the disease more easily and determine who may benefit from different potential therapies,"Guthridge said.

Most studies of Sjögren's have fo AIM is a nationwide publicprivate partnership aimed at developing more effective treatments for autoimmune diseases.

The researchers will use blood

According to a report from stop sticks to cut off the van he was riding a red all-terrain the McClain County Sheriff's on 74 near the Washita River. vehicle that had no mud on it, However, the pursuit didn't which he found suspicious.

end there. Officers couldn't locate the suspect, who had fled into a wooded area along the river served a white van leaving the bottom on foot, despite the use of a K9 and drones.

Later, a resident on the north Garvin County officers were side of Maysville reported a 19. The all-terrain vehicle was notified McClain County was man matching the suspect's description had asked for gasoline before heading south into town.

Although the resident noted stolen van, suspected to be The report said officers used the man was covered in mud fentanyl.

The partnership involves the NIH, Foundation for the National Institutes of Health, nonprofit disease foundations, biopharmaceutical and life-science companies and 52 research institutions.

OMRF Executive Vice President & Chief Medical Officer Judith James, M.D., Ph.D., is chair of the more than \$60 million program.

For more information about ongoing Sjögren's research at OMRF, visit www.omrf.org/ sjogrens.

Turns out the all-terrain

A Garvin County Deputy

vehicle he was riding and the

located Yandell exiting a

convenience store at the in-

tersection of SH 74 and SH

also found at the Maysville

Deputies reported finding

about 30 grams of pills in the

van were both stolen.

convenience store.

From page 1A Absentee:

gov/elections/ovp. Request and those who care for physioklahoma.gov/elections and at the County Election Board Avenue in Purcell.

Haley reminds voters to allow time for an absentee ballot to be received, completed, and returned by mail to the county election board.

"With some exceptions, all absentee ballot affidavits must be notarized before being returned. Voters should give themselves plenty of time to make sure all steps have been followed and that the ballot is returned on time in order to be counted," Haley said.

Voters exempt from having notarized include those who Consulate. are physically incapacitated

forms are also available at cally incapacitated individuals that cannot be left alone.

Voters who request a "physoffice located at 121 N Second ically incapacitated" ballot must have the signature on their absentee ballot affidavit witnessed by two people.

Military personnel and residents living overseas, along with their spouses and dependents are also eligible for certain allowances. Military personnel should contact the Voting Services Officer in their unit for an Absentee Ballot Application.

Residents living overseas may obtain Absentee Ballot Applications from any United States military installation an absentee ballot affidavit or United States Embassy or

Military personnel and elections.ok.gov.

overseas citizens who are already registered voters in Oklahoma may apply for absentee ballots using the OK Voter Portal at oklahoma. gov/elections/ovp. Those who need to complete a new Voter Registration Application should apply through the Federal Voting Assistance Program at FVAP.gov.

All completed absentee ballots must be in the hands of the county election board no later than 7 p.m. on election day.

The McClain County Election Board is located at 121 N Second Avenue in Purcell and is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. For questions, please contact the election board at 405-527-3121 or mcclaincounty@



· Sgt. Reece Heck/Oklahoma National Guard Troops deployed

Oklahoma Army National Guard Soldiers, Spc. Blake Morgan (left), member of the 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, and Sgt. Chance Minter (right), member of the 45th Field Artillery Brigade, perform border operations along the Rio Grande in El Paso, Texas, on Aug. 16, 2023.

> The influx of migrants at the expiration of a Trump-era Remain in Mexico policy that had asylum seekers wait in Mexico as their cases progressed through the U.S. immigration court system. A separate pandemic-related health emergency that limited migrant crossings expired in May, putting further pressure on immigration authorities at the southern border. Abbott launched Operation Lone Star in the spring of 2021 with thousands of state Department of Public Safety troopers dispatched to the Texas border. They were followed by thousands more members of the Texas National Guard. To date, Texas has spent more than \$5 billion on the initiative, with some of the money diverted from its prison budget. Abbott recently signed a Texas law that made illegal immigration a state crime, allowing police to arrest people they suspect crossed the Rio Grande between ports of entry. That law, which takes effect in March, likely sets up a legal challenge from the federal government. Stitt's call up of the Oklahoma National Guard to help with Operation Lone Star included a provision to go back in 2024 with another 50 Guard members if the need arises, Tumblson said. Stitt's office said there are no plans for a second deployment to the Texas-Mexico border. Oklahoma Watch, at oklahomawatch.org, is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news organization that covers public-policy issues facing the state.



bers deploying under state The deployment to Texas active duty aren't eligible for

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