



John D. Montgomery • The Purcell Register

## Officer of the Year

**Purcell Policeman** Brayden Gulliver was presented a plaque for being named Purcell's 2023 Police Officer of the Year during the January 2 city council meeting at the Community Room of the Purcell Police Service Building. Making the presentation were Police Chief Bobby Elmore and Assistant Chief James Bolling.

## Gulliver named officer of the Year

"A mentor to younger officers": Chief Bobby Elmore

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

Purcell's January City Council meeting was the first with new city manager Sam Demel.

Due to Tuesday being his first day, Demel's city manager's report was fairly short.

"I'm happy to be here," Demel said. "It is a good move for all of my family."

During the course of the meeting at the Community

Room of the Purcell Police Service Building, Purcell Police Officer Brayden Gulliver was named the 2023 Officer of the Year.

Police Chief Bobby Elmore and Assistant Chief James Bolling presented Gulliver with a plaque.

"Brayden has served both as a patrolman and criminal

Please see **Gulliver**, back page

## Dem candidates to speak at event

Pair in primary for U.S. House

A chili cookoff, planned for January 16 at the Purcell Multipurpose Center, 1400 Chandler Road, to raise funds for the McClain County Democrat Party and to hear two congressional candidates has been postponed.

Due to a forecast of an

artic blast the cookoff has been postponed to February 20.

The Betty McElderry Memorial Chili Cookoff will get underway that day and dining begins at 6:15

Please see **Dems**, back page

## Purcell city council candidates speak out

Election looming for mid-February

The race for city council in Purcell is a choice between Greg Wheat and Chris Hurt.

They have answered some questions by **The Purcell Register**.

1. What prompted you

**to run for City Council?**

The reason behind my decision to run for Purcell City Council is straightforward.

Please see **Council**, back page

# Purcell HOMECOMING Friday

Coronation at 6 p.m. at The Reimer Center

Purcell High School's 2024 Basketball Homecoming will be held at The Reimer Center Friday at 6 p.m.

After the coronation, the Dragons will host Lexington

with the boys game played first at 6:30 p.m. followed by the girls game.

This year's queen candidates are senior basketball players Jenna Avery and

Alyssa Thompson.

The senior king candidate is Kylan DeFreeze and the

Please see **Dragons**, back page



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## Dragons on high

**Purcell's basketball** homecoming coronation will be held Friday, January 12 at 6 p.m. at the Reimer Center prior to the Dragons' games against Lexington. Members of the court include, from front left, crown bearer JJ Franco, Jenna Avery, Alyssa Thompson and flower girl Alex Blair. In the back are junior escort Brayden Tharp and king candidate Kylan DeFreeze.

## Holiday

MLK Jr., Day observed Monday

Martin Luther King Jr., Day will be observed Monday, January 15, with several closings across the area.

Among offices that will be closed are federal and state offices, as well as the McClain County Courthouse.

There will be no mail delivery on Monday.

City offices in Purcell, Lexington, Goldsby, Washington and Wayne will be closed, along with McClain Bank and First United Bank.

The day will also be a school holiday for students, teachers and staff in Purcell, Lexington, Washington and Wayne. Mid-America Technology Center will also be closed.



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## "They're Baaack"

**StreetScape** crews were back in town late last week ripping up concrete and repouring portions of the previous work.

## Short school board meeting

Stephanie Knowles made a presentation about healthy schools at the Purcell Board of Education January meeting at the Administration building last Monday.

"She has actually been through training and has become an ambassador for them," Superintendent Dr. Sheli McAdoo said. "She made a great presentation and has brought a lot of great ideas to the PE classroom."

Also at the meeting the

Please see **School**, back page

## Meet the new city manager

The City of Purcell will be holding a public meet and

greet for new City Manager Sam Demel next week.

City Clerk Andie Mill-sap reported the event will be from 1-3 p.m. Thursday, January 18, at the City Hall Community Room.

Everyone is invited to attend.



Sam Demel

**The Purcell Register**

**Deadlines**

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



**Contact us**

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

**Inside**

**Bridge battle**

Lexington travels to Purcell Friday night.

Pg. 1B

**Tuesday Night Ticker**

**High school basketball**

**Boys**

Marlow 47	Purcell 46
Washington 58	Lindsay 51
Davis 60	Wayne 44
Lexington DNP	

**Girls**

Purcell 47	Marlow 36
Washington 50	Lindsay 31
Davis 57	Wayne 29
Lexington DNP	

**Find it...**


Opinion .....4A

Society.....6A

Sports.....1B

Obituaries .....10A

Classifieds .....8B





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**Drawing winner**

**Emily Dillard** was the winner of the 50-50 drawing sponsored by the Purcell Public School Foundation as a fund-raiser for the organization. She was recently presented a check by Foundation President John D. Montgomery.

Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
61° 19°	38° 18°	38° 14°	31° 10°	26° 12°	30° 11°	43° 21°
Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Sunny	Sunny

**Deep freeze headed our way**

We have started off the week with very rainy and very chilly temperatures. We will see a warmup before a strong cold front works its way across our region heading into Thursday night. On Friday, we will see mostly sunny skies with temperatures in the upper 30s. Temperatures will remain in the upper 30s for Saturday as clouds clear out. A few clouds will return for Sunday as temperatures fall into the lower 30s. For your Monday, we will see cooler temperatures in the middle 20s for daytime highs under a mix of clouds and sun. Sunshine will persist into Tuesday and Wednesday of next week, with afternoon temperatures in the 30s and 40s.

- Hunter Brittingham

**In their own words: Oklahomans on proposed commutation eligibility changes**

**Keaton Ross Oklahoma Watch**

The Oklahoma Pardon and Parole Board will vote next month on proposed rule changes that would add eligibility requirements for prisoners seeking to argue their sentence is excessive or unjust.

The rules, created in response to a May 2022 Oklahoma County Grand Jury report critical of the state's commutation processes, would require state prisoners to meet the following criteria to file a commutation application with the Pardon and Parole Board:

- The sentencing range for one or more of a prisoner's current offenses has statutorily changed.
- The prisoner does not have a projected release date and has served at least 30 years.
- The prisoner has received a favorable recommendation from a trial official, such as a district attorney or judge.
- The prisoner has received a favorable recommendation from the governor.

The board may vote to adopt the rules as proposed, vote on a modified version of the rules changes or table the proposal altogether. The board is scheduled to meet February 5-7 at the Oklahoma Health Care Authority building in Oklahoma City.

More than two dozen speakers, all opposed to the proposed rule changes, addressed the board during a public comment period on Monday.

Here's a sampling of what commenters had to say. Statements were edited for length and clarity:

**Kara Chapman**, commutation recipient: "I was given a year of life that I wouldn't have otherwise. That may not seem like a lot, but when you have four small children, a year counts."

"I got to spend Christmas with my children, I saw my

**William "Trey" Livingston III**, commutation recipient: "There are a lot of people in this room that are sitting in the same seat I am. If these rules were passed years ago, I would not have been eligible to be here and to be doing the work I am doing."

"To be with my family and to do the things I'm doing in the community to give back for my actions when I was younger. My case was one where my sentence was not statutorily excessive, but the board could see I'd do better outside. I'd ask this board to see people for more than their crime and more than their worst mistake. There are so many good people in there. I have so many friends who are still behind those fences that deserve a chance."

"A sentence may be legal, but it's still like the Wild West in many ways in those courtrooms. And you all have the power to look in those courtrooms and see the individuals who are doing the right thing."

**Aaron Cosar**, commutation recipient: "When I think about the commutation process, I would not want your job. But I do believe there are men and women throughout the Department of Corrections who are so grateful to have a second chance. Because of commutation I've been given that privilege to be a good, tax-paying citizen."

"I now work inside a prison as a program manager and I get the opportunity to work with men who are struggling with violence. I pray that you will look at these considerations and remember that there are a great number of people who committed crimes, are guilty, but would love the opportunity for a second chance."

**Kris Steele**, former House speaker and criminal justice reform advocate: "When a person feels they've been treated unfairly in a court of law, we should immediately look into it. These cases should be looked at



oldest turn 13. Since I've been released I've found a full-time job and become a volunteer in the Heather's Hope program. If these rules had been in place earlier I would not have been released. I come to you not with legal expertise or not with a lot of knowledge, but as a human being who has been affected by commutation.

"I am someone who can serve as an example of positive change. Thank you for your work and please remember the humans affected by these cases."

Please see **Course**, page 3A

**OSU EXTENSION News**



**Forage Foundations Course**

**Justin McDaniel**  
Extension Ag Educator

Forage Foundations is a seven-course program developed by OSU Extension that covers all aspects of forage management and production across central and eastern Oklahoma.

The course covers Oklahoma Forages, Soil Fertility and Plant Nutrition, Pasture Renovation and Restoration, Pest Management, Forage Quality and Graz-

ing Animal Nutrition, Grazing Management, Hay Production and Forage Budgeting.

The primary goal of the Forage Foundations Program is to educate producers on forage production and management principles to improve the sustainability of profitability of their livestock operations.

The Forage Foundations classes will be hosted by Cleveland, Garvin and McClain County Extension Offices and

is open to the public.

The classes began January 9 and will be held every Tuesday evening until February 20.

Classes will begin at 6 p.m. and last until 8 p.m. each evening at the McClain County OSU Extension Office, 1721 Hardcastle Blvd., in Purcell.

The fee to enroll is \$50 per person and includes a copy



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When kids are exposed to secondhand smoke in a car, the health risks increase. Kids in other states are protected, but in Oklahoma, smoking in cars is still legal.

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# NEWS In Brief

## Community Coffee

The Heart of Oklahoma Chamber of Commerce Community Coffee will be held at 9 a.m. Tuesday, January 16, hosted by the C.A.R.E. Coalition.

The coffee will be held at the OSU Extension Office, 1721 Hardcastle Blvd., in Purcell.

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

## C.A.R.E. Coalition

The monthly C.A.R.E. Coalition meeting will be held Tuesday, January 16, from 8:30 to 10 a.m.

The meeting will take place at the McClain County OSU Extension Office, 1721 Hardcastle Blvd., in Purcell, OK and via the Zoom platform.

## 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.

## 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 call 405-858-2725, email [safecarereferrals@northcare.com](mailto:safecarereferrals@northcare.com) or online at [www.northcare.com](http://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.

From page 2A

## Watch:

post haste. I think the premise of these proposed rule changes is well-intentioned.

But if you feel you don't have enough time to screen cases, there are remedies. Please maintain your responsibility, maintain accountability and perpetuate hope by allowing people to seek relief for excessive and unfair sentences."

**Lisa Brown**, mother of a state prisoner serving life without the possibility of parole: "I feel like 30 years to be eligible for commutation is excessive, but also to have an exceptional institutional record, that should be reviewed on a case-by-case basis so it's not eliminating everybody.

"Thirty years is a long time. My son was 23 when he was convicted. I don't want it to be 53 until he's eligible. He's a good kid and I don't want him to have to wait that long."

**T. Sheri Dickerson**, executive director of Black Lives Matter Oklahoma City: "Mercy and compassion must be part of this process. The rules proposed remove those things. I say that as the mother of a son whose life was taken by an 18-year-old man who is currently serving a triple life sentence.

As the daughter of a man whose life was taken in 1996. As the sister of a brother who was murdered. It is just, it is fair, and it should be considered. Please have mercy."

**Francetta Mays**, Tulsa NAACP Chapter President and pastor of the Vernon AME Church: "When you start putting people in a position to lose hope, and that's what I believe this is, you are adding gasoline to the fire that's already burning. We all have made bad decisions and have made mistakes. How many times do

we reflect on one sin we made? We have to improve the process by listening to the people, and the people are the ones who are incarcerated."

**Glynn Simmons**, wrongfully convicted man who spent 48 years in Oklahoma prisons: "I would like to suggest this board have kind of oversight for people who have a claim of actual innocence, instead of those who are guilty. Everything is geared towards the guilty man.

"I've done time with men who plead guilty to all kinds of heinous crimes and they appeared before you, and they were granted parole. And they came back to prison within six

to 18 months. The prosecuting attorney sent letters alluding to my innocence, and the victim's family sent letters alluding to my innocence.

**Colleen McCarty**, executive director of the Oklahoma Applesseed Center for Law and Justice: "Wrongful convictions and prosecutorial misconduct continue to plague Oklahoma's courts. Limiting the rules in this way ensures that those who received an unjust or excessive sentence will be the least likely to gain relief."

*Oklahoma Watch*, at [oklahomawatch.org](http://oklahomawatch.org), is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news organization that covers public-policy issues facing the state.



• Whitney Bryen/Oklahoma Watch

## Commutation eligibility

The Oklahoma Pardon and Parole Board could vote on proposed commutation eligibility requirements in February.

# Tips for safer winter generator usage

Winter is here and if your electricity goes out due to snow and ice a generator can keep power flowing to your home or business.

The Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI), an international trade association representing manufacturers and suppliers of outdoor power equipment, small engines, battery power systems, portable generators, utility and personal transport vehicles, and golf cars, reminds home and business owners to keep safety in mind when using generators this winter.

"Not having power when you need it is frustrating, so a generator can provide emergency backup power at a reasonable cost," says Kris Kiser, President and CEO of OPEI. "It's important to follow all manufacturer's instructions, and never place a generator in your garage or inside your home or building. It should be a safe distance from the structure and not near an air intake."

More tips include: Take stock of your generator. Make sure equipment is in good working order before starting and using it. Do this before a storm hits.

Review the directions. Follow all manufacturer's instructions. Review the owner's

manuals (look manuals up online if you cannot find them) so equipment is operated safely.

Install a battery operated carbon monoxide detector in your home. This alarm will sound if dangerous levels of carbon monoxide enter the building.

Have the right fuel on hand. Use the type of fuel recommended by the generator manufacturer to protect this important investment. It is illegal to use any fuel with more than 10 percent ethanol in outdoor power equipment. (For more information on proper fueling for outdoor power equipment visit [www.LookBeforeYouPump.com](http://www.LookBeforeYouPump.com)).

It's best to use fresh fuel, but if you are using fuel that has been sitting in a gas can for more than 30 days, add fuel stabilizer to it. Store gas only in an approved container and away from heat sources.

Ensure portable generators have plenty of ventilation. Generators should never be used in an enclosed area or placed inside a home, a building, or a garage, even if the windows or doors are open. Place the generator outside and away from windows, doors, and vents that could allow carbon monoxide to drift indoors.

Keep the generator dry. Do not use a generator in wet con-

ditions. Cover and vent a generator. Model-specific tents or generator covers can be found online for purchase and at home centers and hardware stores.

Only add fuel to a cool generator. Before refueling, turn the generator off and let it cool down.

Charge & use battery-powered generators/inverters properly. Recharge only with the charger specified by the manufacturer. A charger that is suitable for one type of battery pack may not be compatible with another battery pack.

Follow all charging instructions and do not charge the battery pack or equipment outside the temperature range specified in the instructions. Charging improperly or at temperatures outside the specified range may damage the battery.

Plug in safely. If you don't yet have a transfer switch, you can use the outlets on the generator. It's best to plug in appliances directly to the generator.

If you must use an extension cord, it should be heavy-duty and designed for outdoor use. It should be rated (in watts or amps) at least equal to the sum of the connected appliance loads. Make sure the cord is

Please see **Tips**, page 5A

From page 2A

## Course:

of the Forage Foundations Manual.

To enroll, contact the McClain County Extension Office at 405-527-2174

### Beekeeping Course

The McClain County Extension Office will be offering a free beekeeping course on Saturday, January 13, from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m. It will be at the McClain County Extension Office, 1721 Hardcastle Blvd, in Purcell.

Topics to be covered will include The Honeybee, Beekeeping Clothing & Tools, Setting Up A Hive, Feeding The Bees and Harvesting The Honey.

The presenter will be Trudy Mills with Oklahive from Ada, Okla.

Please call 405-527-2174 to reserve your spot.

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# COME WELCOME

## Sam Demel

Purcell's New City Manager

Join us for a

## MEET & GREET

Thursday, January 18

### 1 PM to 3 PM

at the **City Hall Community Room**  
230 W. Main St./3rd St. Entrance

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# NEWS FROM CAPITOL HILL

## Lack of leadership at the border

### Congressman Tom Cole

The national security threat and humanitarian risk posed by the crisis at the U.S.-Mexico border has brought our country to an important crossroads.

It is far past time that we address President Joe Biden's self-made border disaster, support our customs and border patrol (CBP) agents and provide reasonable reforms to a broken immigration system.

Several of the president's first executive actions included dismantling policies put in place by the previous administration that significantly eased a stressed immigration system.

These actions included halting construction of the border wall, ending the Migrant Protection Protocols or "remain in Mexico" program and restarting the dangerous "catch and release" program.

In order to uphold the principles of a secure and prosperous nation, the Biden Administration must reverse course.

These ill-advised policies

evidently encouraged a surge of migrants to swarm the border.

In fact, since President Biden took office, there have been nearly eight million illegal border crossings, including more than 6.7 million southern border encounters and 1.7 million known "gotaways" who evaded U.S. border patrol.

In November 2023 alone, there were 242,418 migrant encounters at the southern border, more than a 200 percent increase from November 2020. Furthermore, criminals have unfortunately exploited the situation at the border to the detriment of American citizens as well as other migrants.

So far under President Biden's open border policies, hundreds of individuals whose names appear on the terrorist watchlist were stopped trying to escape into the U.S., including 169 in fiscal year 2023 alone, an all-time record.

And so far in fiscal year 2023, CBP has arrested 35,433 aliens with criminal convictions or

outstanding warrants nationwide, including 598 known gang members, 178 of those being MS-13 members.

The unchecked flow of individuals, including those with criminal intent, endangers the safety of Americans and we must prioritize the protection of our homeland.

Those trafficking dangerous and deadly drugs have also taken advantage of the situation at the southern border.

During President Biden's tenure, the flow of fentanyl into our country has increased at a nearly uncontrollable rate, leading to hundreds of thousands of overdoses across the U.S.

Moreover, there were more fentanyl seizures in fiscal year 2023 than in fiscal years 2021 and 2022 combined. This alarming statistic is reason enough to establish full control of the southern border.

Finally, the humanitarian toll

Please see **Cole**, page 7A



• Photo provided

### Purcell's School Board

In appreciation for their service, Purcell Board of Education was recognized with a group photo during last Monday night's regular monthly meeting. Pictured, from left back row, are Nicolle Carr, Mary Webb and Tracy Folsom. On the front row are Kevin Andrews and Holly Baker. It is School Board Appreciation Month.

## No more donations at Trinity

Officials at Trinity United Methodist Church in Purcell have announced they are no longer accepting donations for the Lil' Dragon Food Pantry. "We are excited for the Lil'

Dragon Food Pantry and the important step they have taken for continuing the ministry of feeding the children of this area.

"They have incorporated into a 501(c)(3) non profit or-

ganization which means they are autonomous and have full control of their funds and mission," the church said.

All donations can be sent directly to them at 303 W. Adams in Purcell.

From page 4A

### Bowman:

willingly.

People, what a missed opportunity! A chance to praise, to affirm, and to be gracious. And because I am meddling in another family's business (and I do realize that fact) I'm going to say something else, and here it is: "Mom, maybe it's time for somebody else to also volunteer, to help in providing and cooking some of the dinner."

Sometimes as times goes by, we family members just fall

into habits. "So-n-so always brings the meat for our get-togethers," so nobody else even thinks about helping in that area.

Well, maybe someone needs to ask ol' so-n-so if he still wants to buy, cook, and bring the meat year after year. Or if he would like a break or some help.

My point is this; Just make certain, every once in a while,

that so-n-so still wants to play that role, so that resentment doesn't rear its ugly head and ruin what was once a good thing for your family.

Common courtesy and common sense combined with open communication goes a long way to having family times that everyone enjoys.

Sponsored by Cornerstone Baptist Church, Lexington, Okla.

From page 3A

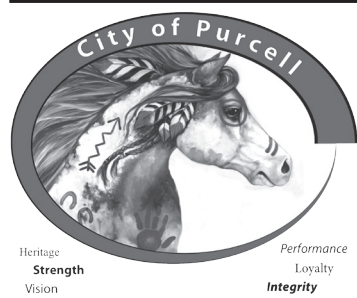
### Tips:

free of cuts, and the plug has all three prongs.

Install a transfer switch. A transfer switch connects the generator to the circuit panel and lets you power hardwired appliances. Most transfer switches also help avoid overload by displaying wattage usage levels.

Do not use the generator to "backfeed" power into your home electrical system. Trying to power your home's electrical wiring by "backfeeding" — where you plug the generator into a wall outlet — is dangerous.

You could hurt utility workers and neighbors served by the same transformer. Backfeeding bypasses built-in circuit protection devices, so you could damage your electronics or start an electrical fire.



## City of Purcell Employee of the Month

### Scott Stephens

**Job title:** Detective Sergeant

**How long have you been employed with the City of Purcell?** Twenty-five years.

**Tell us about your family:** Son and step-daughter, seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

**What are some of your hobbies?** Summer time- yard and garden, winter time - reading.

**Where did you grow up?** Born in Shawnee, but have lived in Ada, Oklahoma City, Altus and Norman.

**What is the best advice you have ever been given?** "You can disagree without being disagreeable."

**What is a fun fact about you that many people may not know?** I'm pretty much an open book to anyone who knows me. However, it might surprise some to know I attend church every Sunday and every special service for Christian holidays.



# Real Life

# Real Local

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## The Purcell Register

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# Society



## It's a Small World

Gracie Montgomery

Happy birthday to my sister-in-law, Chris Evans of Venice, Fla.

She celebrates her birthday Monday, January 15.

Happy birthday to Edita Salmeri of Easton, Mass.

She celebrates her birthday Friday, January 12.

Happy birthday to **The Register's** own Janie Allen.

Janie celebrates her birthday Monday, January 15.

Happy birthdays also go out to David Stanton, Celeste Clary, Chardee Carpenter, Dale Richardson, Jacob Sheehy, Crew Montgomery, Dede Page, Adam Wells, Seth Rollins, Tara Anderson, Kevin Wren, Laura Harris Rodriguez, Adam Johnson, Austin Johnson, Emily Cudd Harwell, Mildred Urbina, Leon Stejskal, Mike Horoho, Dolores McQuerrey, Zachary Stanton, Monica Perez, Arcadio Chavez, Doug Wilkinson, Mary Black, Charles Edward Braden, Brenda Diaz, Karen Clay, Kassandra Prier, Roy Donald Howard and Megan Murray-Konrade.

The Purcell Public Library is having its annual Purcell Friends of the Library Book Sale January 12-22.

The sale is open during regular library hours.

Hours of the library are Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-7 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, 1-5 p.m.

For more information call 405-527-5546.

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.

With the weather expected to turn really cold, this would be a good dish to fix when you get home.

### Chili Mac

- 1 lb. ground beef
- 15.5-oz can chili beans
- 1/2 tsp. garlic powder
- 1 onion, chopped
- 14.5-oz. can tomatoes, petite
- 8-oz. can tomato sauce
- 1-1/2 cups macaroni noodles, small
- 1.25-oz. packet chili seasoning
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. pepper
- 1/2 tsp. cumin
- 8 oz. Cheddar or colby jack cheese
- 1 cup milk

Season ground beef and onion with salt, pepper and garlic powder and brown in a large skillet (or pot) until meat is cooked through. Drain fat then return to skillet.

Add remaining ingredients except half of the cheese (reserving one cup for later). Stir well, cover and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to low and cook, covered, for 15 minutes; stirring occasionally.

Turn off heat and let skillet rest, covered, on the burner for 15 minutes or until liquid is absorbed and noodles are tender.

Stir again then top with remaining shredded cheese to serve.

## Stealey OHCE

Stealey OHCE Club met for its monthly meeting January 8 at the McClain County Farm & Home Building in Purcell.

Members present were President Janet Little, Bonita Brakefield, Peggy Christian, Betty Cormany, Cindy Hensley and Sharon McGee.

The meeting was called to order by President Janet Little. Inspiration thought for the day was presented by Vice President Peggy Christian.

Secretary Bonita Brakefield read the minutes from the December meeting.

Janet Little gave the lesson on "Flour Power."

The group decided to authorize Peggy Christian to purchase more fabric to make pillowcases for the Childrens Cancer Center. Suggestion was made to donate funds to help Delta Community Action Food Pantry to fill an urgent need and all agreed.

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 is at 1 p.m. Monday, February 12, at the McClain County Farm & Home Building in Purcell.



Mr. and Mrs. Snow - 1954



Mr. and Mrs. Snow - 2024

## James and Vera Snow to celebrate 70th anniversary

James and Vera Snow of Purcell will celebrate their 70th Wedding Anniversary Jan. 16, 2024.

The Snows were married Jan. 16, 1954 in the Purcell area.

They have a son, David Snow and his wife, Tammie, of Dibble; four grandchildren, Reanna, Jennifer, Jill and Rebecca and 14 great-grandchildren, Megan, Caleb, Abby, Charlotte, Emma, Levi, Anna, Cole, Christopher, Leah, Erin, Clayton, Cooper and Brealeigh.

## School Menus

Week of January 15

### Wayne

**MONDAY**  
No School.

**TUESDAY BREAKFAST**  
Cereal, fruit, juice, milk.

**LUNCH**  
Beef taco, pinto beans, chips and salsa, pears, milk.

**WEDNESDAY BREAKFAST**  
Breakfast pizza, cereal, fruit, juice, milk.

**LUNCH**  
Barbecue sandwich, french fries, broccoli, tropical fruit, milk.

**THURSDAY BREAKFAST**  
Cereal, fruit, juice, milk.

**LUNCH**  
Spaghetti, green beans, carrots, garlic bread, cobbler, milk.

**FRIDAY BREAKFAST**  
Muffin, cereal, fruit, juice, milk.

**LUNCH**  
Pizza, corn, spinach, apple, milk.

### Purcell

**MONDAY**  
No School.

**TUESDAY BREAKFAST**  
Scrambled eggs and toast or cereal and toast, fruit, juice, milk.

**LUNCH**  
Personal pizza, Caesar salad, cucumber slices, fruit, milk.

**WEDNESDAY BREAKFAST**  
Biscuit and sausage gravy or cereal and toast, fruit, juice, milk.

**LUNCH**  
Ham and cheese melt, baby carrots, green beans, fruit, milk.

**THURSDAY BREAKFAST**  
Kolache or cereal and toast, fruit, juice, milk.

**LUNCH**  
Corndog, french fries, baby carrots, fruit, milk.

**FRIDAY BREAKFAST**  
Oatmeal and cinnamon toast and syrup or cereal and toast, fruit, juice, milk.

**LUNCH**  
Chicken soft taco, refried beans, tortilla chips, salsa, fruit, milk.

### Lexington

**MONDAY**  
No School.

**TUESDAY BREAKFAST**  
Whole grain cereal or breakfast bagel, pineapple tidbits, juice, milk.

**LUNCH**  
Chicken and noodles or yogurt meal, steamed carrots, green beans, applesauce, milk.

**WEDNESDAY BREAKFAST**  
Whole grain cereal or oatmeal chocolate chip bar, peaches, juice, milk.

**LUNCH**  
Beef stroganoff with noodles or sandwich, steamed broccoli, English peas, peaches, milk.

**THURSDAY BREAKFAST**  
Whole grain cereal or breakfast stick, orange smiles, juice, milk.

**LUNCH**  
Mexican burrito or chef salad, pinto beans, whole kernel corn, strawberry cups, milk.

**FRIDAY BREAKFAST**  
Whole grain cereal or blueberry doughnut holes, apple wedges, juice, milk.

**LUNCH**  
Pizza or sandwich, green salad, mixed vegetables, pineapple tidbits, milk.

Thank You Mid-America Board Members

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#SCHOOLBOARDMONTH

Michael Dillinger, Doyle Greteman, Mike Hancock, Donna Stokes, Joe Ray

School Board RECOGNITION MONTH • 2024

## MATC School Board Leaders recognized

"During School Board Recognition Month, we hope you will join us as we take the opportunity to acknowledge and say thank you to our local board of education," MATC Superintendent Mike Eubank said.

January is School Board Recognition Month, providing local schools and communities the chance to honor Oklahoma's more than 2,500 elected school board members for their dedication and service.

These individuals are dedicated to public education and are committed to providing every opportunity possible to students in their communities.

Mid-America Technology Center currently has five school board members: Michael Dillinger, Doyle Greteman, Mike Hancock, Joe Ray and Donna Stokes.

"Our school board members not only share their time but their vision and voice to shape the direction of Oklahoma public education," Superintendent Eubank said. "We are proud of our school board members and the dedication they have to making our district the best it can be."

MATC school board members develop policies and must make tough decisions on complex educational and social issues impacting the entire Mid-America Technology Center district.

For more information, visit [matech.edu](http://matech.edu).

## Purcell Senior Citizens

By Val Blackburn

Delta Food Service will not be working on Monday, January 15. The center will be closed due to no lunch being served on this day.

Beginning this month, a dance and live music will be held every Friday night. The Dance is from 7 until 9 p.m. Entry is \$8 and refreshments are available to purchase. This event helps support the senior center and provides an evening of entertainment for the community at a reasonable cost. Come and enjoy the fun and good times! Family friendly atmosphere!

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

The ever-popular bingo is every Thursday at 10 a.m. If a situation occurs where we cannot have it one day, all who attend will still get a prize for attending.

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

New things to do are being added this year. We are always open to new ideas for activities from everyone who attends.

The Grief Support Group will meet on Tuesday, January 16, at 10 a.m. Everyone over 60 is invited to attend.

The Center Garage Sale is open. Come this Thursday from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m., and enjoy the bargains. We have a large selection of used items for the home including appliances, clothing, shoes, kitchenware and lots of miscellaneous. All sales directly benefit

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# Board of Trustee members receive DGC and CCD certificates

Rural Electric Cooperative's Board of Trustees members Brent Bacon of Purcell and Sonny Harrison of Cox City received certificates for completing coursework to expand their knowledge base.

Bacon was recognized for completing his Director Gold Credential certificate and Harrison is now a Credentialed Cooperative Director.

The Director Gold program was created to recognize directors committed to continuing their education beyond the Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate and the Board Leadership Certificate and who demonstrates their on-going commitment to advancing their knowledge.

All the director certificate programs are specifically designed to help electric cooperative directors, at every stage of their service, understand their roles and responsibilities.

These programs help the directors stay-up-to-date on key issues and trends in the electric industry and prepare them to meet the challenges facing electric cooperatives today and in the future.

To earn this certificate, Bacon had to complete both the Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) and the Board Leadership Certificate (BLD) and three additional credits from the BLC series of courses.

"The Director Gold Credential certificate is geared towards directors who are committed to continuing their education beyond CCD and BLC and who desire a tangible credential reinforcing their stature as part of an experienced and educated group of directors," said Dusty Ricks, CEO.

"Director Gold also demonstrates to co-op members those directors' ongoing commitment to advancing their knowledge and performing their fiduciary duty to the best of their ability," he said.

For Bacon to maintain his Director Gold certificate he will continue education requirements including earning three credits of approved coursework and/or attend conferences every two years.

For Harrison to receive this certificate he was required to attend and demonstrate understanding of the basic competencies contained in five core courses: Director Duties and Liabilities, Understanding the Electric Business, Board Operations and Process, Strategic Planning and Financial Decision Making.

"I am encouraged by our Board's desire to continue to learn and seek additional education about the electric industry which only makes our Cooperative better," Ricks concluded.



• Photo provided

## Certificate presentation

Gary Jones, REC Board of Trustee's President, presents Board of Trustee member Brent Bacon with his Director Gold certificate at a recent board meeting.



• Photo provided

## Director certificate

Gary Jones, REC Board of Trustee's President, presents Board of Trustee member Sonny Harrison with his Credentialed Cooperative Director certificate.

From page 5A

## Cole:

of this crisis cannot be overstated. Vulnerable migrants, including unaccompanied minors, face perilous journeys that often result in human trafficking or harm.

The administration's inaction only leaves those seeking a better life in the shadows of a broken system. This shows the need for balanced reforms that address the root causes of immigration and work with our neighboring countries to create an orderly immigration system, but also respect the rule of U.S. law.

The unprecedented flow of migrants to the border, the uptick in dangerous and deadly drugs such as fentanyl into our country and the humanitarian crisis is a reminder of the consequences of misguided policies and lack of leadership.

Congress must get serious about passing further legislation to address this crisis and hold the Biden Administration accountable for its failures. The well-being of our nation and safety of our citizens depends on a strong border.



# NEWS from the City of Purcell

## Section R319 Site Address

R319.1 Address numbers. Buildings shall have approved address numbers, building numbers or approved building identification placed in a position that is plainly legible and visible from the street or road fronting the property.

These numbers shall contrast with their background. Address numbers shall be Arabic numbers or alphabetical letters. Numbers shall be a minimum of four inches (102mm).

Where access is by means of a private road and the building address cannot be viewed from the public way, a monument, pole or other sign or means should be used to identify the structure. This will allow emergency crews to locate the house number.

# Come out of hibernation to save lives this winter

Our Blood Institute needs you to come out of hibernation and help save lives as we welcome in the New Year!

Give blood during the month of January at an Our Blood Institute donor center or mobile drive to receive a glow-in-the-dark "When I'm Not Hibernating, I'm Donating Blood" T-shirt.

January is historically a challenging month for blood donations as many people are staying indoors due to the weather or post-holiday fatigue.

Unfortunately, these factors have a negative impact on the blood supply. OBI needs 1,200 donors a day to maintain an adequate blood supply.

"Our donors continue to answer the call and help ensure the local blood supply is able to meet the demand of our hospitals," said Dr. John

Armitage, president and CEO of Our Blood Institute. "As we begin the New Year, we need to start off strong by getting units on the shelf if accidents or emergencies are to happen. We appreciate all our donors who continue to brave the cold and get out to donate blood during this time."

Anyone who is healthy and 16 years old or older can give blood. Sixteen-year-olds must weigh at least 125 pounds and provide signed parental permission; 17-year-olds must weigh at least 125 pounds; 18+ year olds must weigh at least 110 pounds. A photo ID is required. Donation typically takes only about an hour, and one donation saves up to three lives.

Appointments to donate can be made online at [obi.org](http://obi.org) or by calling 877-340-8777. Walk-ins are also welcome.

# 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 28, 2023-January 3, 2024.

### Traffic

None filed.

**Misdemeanors**

Otoniel T. Perez, driving a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol.

Cody R. Clingman, aggravated driving under the influence of alcohol.

Ronald K. Crawford, obstructing an officer.

Corey J. Holmes, protective order violation.

Kurt W. Judkins, trespassing after being forbidden.

Shane E. France, driving a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol.

### Felonies

Marquie Watson, stalking.

Maria E. Morales, acquire proceeds from drug activity.

Michael D. Jackson, burglary, first degree.

Matthew K. Downey, domestic abuse/battery by strangulation.

Benjamin E. Tappan, battery/assault and battery on police office.

Kobi L. Bryant, burglary, second degree.

Daniel Cruz, assault, battery or assault and battery with a dangerous weapon AFC.

Chelsi M. Martin, burglary, second degree.

Andra D. Keeton, larceny of auto-

mobile/aircraft/other motor vehicle.

### Small Claims

RentKing LLC vs. Lelan W. Woods et al, forcible entry and detainer under \$5000.

Wilson Little Funeral Home vs. Susan Cain, small claims under \$5000.

Wilson Little Funeral Home vs. Ed Overstreet, small claims under \$5000.

### Civil

Discover Bank vs. Jewelee Martin, civil action \$10,000 or less.

State of Oklahoma Ex Rel vs. Rickey Jones et al, civil action \$10,000 or less.

Portfolio Recovery Associates vs. Craig Ellenberg, civil action \$10,000 or less.

CKS Prime Investments LLC vs. Lionel Munos, civil action \$10,000 or less.

U.S. Bank National Association vs. Dustin J. Smith et al, civil action \$10,000 or more.

### Marriages Filed

David Porras Jr., 20, and Olivia K. Greene, 19, both of Blanchard.

Jordan T. Birch, 32, Amber R. Fought, 23, both of Noble.

Cody S. Dawkins, 29, and Sierra A. Koerner, 29, both of Blanchard.

Jesus Munoz-Olguin, 23, of Purcell and Pilar C. Chavez-Olguin, 19, of Lexington.

### Divorces Granted

Luz L. Mercado vs. Juan F. C. Mendez.

Tracy R. Wedel vs. Eric J. Wedel.

Aaron G. Zike vs. Sherri L. Zike.

Katherine M. Thomas vs. Gary L. Thomas.

# Wayne Senior Citizens

By John Webb

Hello again, everyone, and Happy New Year! I hope your holidays were filled with lots of fun, food, laughter and love.

There will be no WSCC garage sale in January as we prepare for inclement weather and also to rearrange and clean up from the last couple of months. Donations are coming in faster than they are going out, so reorganization is the first order of business.

Delta Nutrition provides a delicious meal, served promptly at 11:30 a.m., every Monday through Friday, excluding holidays and business or weather related closures. We are currently serving about 33 meals per day, which is significant increase from this time last year.

If you would like to know how to qualify for the Delta lunch program, please call me at 405-527-9462 and I will be happy to tell you how to get started. There's always room for more!

Here is the menu for January 15-19:  
Monday—Closed for the Martin Luther King Jr. federal holiday.

Tuesday—Hamburger steak with brown gravy, baked potato with butter and sour cream, blackeyed peas, sliced bread or hot roll, simply super cake.

Wednesday—Chicken spaghetti, tossed salad, broccoli, garlic bread, gelatin with fruit.

Thursday—Chili with beans, pickle spear and onion, coleslaw, crackers or cornbread, harvest bars.

Friday—Meatloaf, mashed potatoes and gravy, peas and carrots, sliced bread or dinner roll, chocolate pan pie.

Milk is available with every meal. One per person, please.

We are expecting extreme cold and wind in the next several days so please be weather aware. Bundle up and stay warm or stay home if you don't have a reason to be out.

I appreciate my staff and wonderful volunteers for their hard work and dedication to feeding and helping our local seniors.

Again, if you would like to find out how to join us, or need to reserve your meal, call me at 405-527-9462 in Purcell.

Until next time...

From page 6A

## Purcell:

the senior center. Occasionally, the sale is unable to open. Unforeseen circumstances may occur making it a necessity to close. We apologize for this, but sometimes things happen beyond our control. Please be understanding when this situation arises.

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

It is becoming very important to remember to make your reservation for meals. That can be done weekly or daily, whatever works for you. The rising cost of food and supplies is making it more essential every day for Delta Nutrition to have a count of the meals. Please let them know you will

be here or if you won't. They always want to have plenty of food for all who would like to join us. Thank you for being understanding of their policies.

Please be aware the menu may have to be changed at times due to unavailability of items or delivery issues.

Menu for January 15-19:  
Monday—The center is closed today.

Tuesday—Chicken spaghetti, salad, broccoli, garlic bread, gelatin.

Wednesday—Participant's choice.

Thursday—Chili with beans, pickle, onion, coleslaw, cornbread, harvest bars.

Friday—Meatloaf, mashed potatoes with gravy, peas and carrots, roll, chocolate pan pie.

One milk per person is served with every meal.

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



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# Atlanta International Airport displaying 'This Land Calls Us Home' exhibit

Dustin Mater and Maya Stewart are among the 26 First Americans exploring their personal and collective relationships with their ancestral Homeland. These shared experiences between artists and their traditional Homeland are the focus of "This Land Calls Us Home: Indigenous Relationships with Southeastern Homelands," an exhibit that opened Nov. 6, at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL Airport).

"I am extremely proud to have a part in this extraordinary exhibit," Mater said. "It (the Homeland) flavors everything I make. While others may think of Rome weekly, the Homeland is on my mind daily."

Artists selected to participate in the exhibit were required to have a shared heritage of belonging to First

American tribes of the Southeastern United States. "This Land Calls Us Home" features the work of contemporary First American artists and designers as they display how their ancestral Homeland is integral to their present lives through visuals and literature.

"It sets my heart aflutter to be in those holy lands, like finding a missing loved one. There is creative inspiration in every square inch of those lands," Mater said.

Featuring more than 60 works by First American artists and designers, the exhibit is presented by the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church (Global Ministries), in collaboration with the church's Native American Comprehensive Plan, which supports and amplifies the voices of Indigenous peoples

to promote increased public understanding about contemporary First American identity and experience.

"This Land Calls Us Home" is presented as part of the ATL Airport Art program. The show will be on display in the gallery space of Concourse T North, near gates T12-T15 for the next year. The ATL Airport is one of the first airports in history to serve more than 100 million passengers annually.

"While it's not a traditional space, it does open a conversation with an audience who may have never heard of the Chickasaws or even interacted with an Indigenous person," Mater said. "It is a wonderful opportunity to share a part of our story with the world."

The art exhibit's title reflects the contemporary

relationships First Americans have with their regional roots. It encourages them to return to their origins, spiritually and literally, to reconstruct an identity fragmented by history.

Five basic relationship categories are included within the pieces on display: community and autonomy, communication and expression, heritage and legacies, identity and diversity, and nature and nurture. The project was led by the Rev. Chebon Kernell, (Seminole/Muscogee) scholar and educator. The collection of artists and their works took years to complete. In 2020, with the support of Global Ministries and its related First American programs, Rev. Kernell led a team of museum professionals and other First American scholars to develop an exhibit that would convey the ongoing ties First American tribes maintain with their Homeland in the Southeastern United States.

"This Land Calls Us Home" features art and artists primarily selected for how effectively they address contemporary issues pertinent to Native American relationships with their ancestral Homeland in the Southeastern United States," Rev. Kernell said. "The artists and works express contemporary issues, while they also parallel historical themes."

"The artists and subject matter were also chosen with consideration for the exhibit audience and setting, which calls for art objects that can be enjoyed for their simple visual power and beauty," Rev. Kernell said.

View the exhibit website at [umcmmission.org/thisland](http://umcmmission.org/thisland).

**About the Chickasaw artists**

**Maya Stewart**

Maya Stewart is a



Maya Stewart's designs are influenced by the geometric lines of Southeastern tribes. Stewart's designs have been featured in Vogue, GQ, Elle, Harper's Bazaar and The New York Times.



Dustin Mater grew up in Ada, Oklahoma. Mater creates striking portraits of First Americans. Mater's work has been featured in books and magazines, as well as organizations such as the United States Air Force and the National Park Service. His artwork can also be seen in the Smithsonian Institution.

citizen of the Chickasaw Nation. She is also of Muscogee and Choctaw descent. Stewart is the daughter of artist Jimmie Carole Fife who, along with her sisters, collaborate on The Fife Collection, an innovative Indigenous fashion brand that began in the 1970s. Her designs are influenced by the geometric lines of Southeastern tribes. Stewart's work is inspired by many years spent in London, New York and Los Angeles. She is a graduate of the London College of Fashion and was the recipient of several honors, including the prestigious Professor Jimmy Choo Award. Stewart's designs have been featured in Vogue, GQ, Elle, Harper's Bazaar and The New York Times.

**Dustin Illetawahke Mater**

Dustin Mater, a citizen of the

Chickasaw Nation with Choctaw and Muscogee ancestors, grew up in Ada, Oklahoma. After pursuing a career in graphic design in Los Angeles, he returned to Ada in 2011 to work for the Chickasaw Nation.

Inspired by the lack of representation of his family and community in fine art, Mater creates striking portraits of First Americans. His paintings aim to capture the radiance of the creator and the humanity of his subjects. Mater's work has been featured in books and magazines, used by prestigious organizations like Pendleton, Mahota blankets, the United States Air Force and the National Park Service, and showcased in performances at Carnegie Hall. Some of his artwork can also be seen in the Smithsonian Institution.

## Chickasaw woman pens book with positive message

DALLAS - A 29-year-old woman is in the middle of a joyful juggling act as she begins to earn her doctorate in education while managing the business affairs of a children's book she wrote and published Nov. 24, 2023.

Hailey Robinson, a Chickasaw citizen, has already earned a cosmetology license from The Paul Mitchell School of Cosmetology, two bachelor's degrees from Arkansas Tech University, Russellville, Arkansas, in speech communication and sociology, as well as a master's degree in educational leadership from Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma. She has applied to complete her doctorate from two schools and will make a selection by the time classes begin in the fall of 2024.

Being the author of a children's book is a first for Robinson after a three-year journey to complete it.

"Malashia's Magical

Twists" is available online at Amazon, Apple Books and Barnes and Noble. It was inspired by her sister, Malashia Spencer, who is a citizen of the Muscogee Nation.

"The book is about a little girl who discovers the beauty of her natural hair through washday when she realizes her hair has magical powers and a mind of its own," Robinson explained. Her sister inspired "Malashia's Magical Twists" when she had a few "not so good conversations in school about her natural hair."

"Once I found out about it, I had to figure out how to change her frame of reference when she thinks about herself and her own hair," said Robinson.

"I told her 'Why don't we sit down and write a story.' The book not only talks about self-care and hair care but also addresses bullying, diversity and inclusivity, self-esteem, and self-acceptance. When kids read it, they will be able to acknowledge

their differences and understand they are perfectly fine.

"As a licensed cosmetologist, I also wanted to add a natural hair glossary and washday steps on how to care for one's hair. It was really important for me to bridge the gap between entertainment and education. I wanted to make sure parents and children alike knew how to take care of their hair," she explained.

She enjoyed collaborating with her sister on the book and enjoyed writing it, too. "I hired an editor to make suggestions and to clean everything up," Robinson said with confidence. "That was the easiest part of the book for me. The most difficult part was working with my illustrator. It is difficult to explain your vision to someone when there are cultural barriers present," the author explained.

In fact, illustrations and decisions concerning fonts, color and typeface colors proved to be the

biggest time consumers for Robinson, who said her initial conversation with Malashia occurred when her sister was around 9 or 10. Now she is 13 and will enter school as a freshman in Tulsa County next year.

Born and reared in Okmulgee, Oklahoma, Robinson works in Dallas, Texas, for a government contractor where she recruits top-notch students from various universities. She recruits in Oklahoma, Texas, Kansas and Louisiana. She stepped into the job after being laid off from Microsoft and after working as a cosmetologist.

"I am in the process of starting my doctorate, and I'm a newly published author, so I am taking small steps and staying focused on the new job, my education and the book," Robinson said.

A second book may be in her future as well, Robinson said since writing "Malashia's Magical Twists" she has pondered writing a book

about hair care for young boys.

Robinson acquired her Chickasaw heritage from her mother. Her great-grandmother, Liller (Anderson) Douglas, signed the Dawes

Commission rolls, and their homestead is near voodford, Oklahoma. Her maternal grandmother, Alma Jean Douglas, currently lives in Milo, Oklahoma.



Hailey Robinson poses with her book "Malashia's Magical Twists," which is available on Amazon, Apple Books and at Barnes and Noble.





# Obituaries

## Isaac Lemuel "Lem" Andrews

Graveside services for Isaac Lemuel "Lem" Andrews, 81, of Purcell will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, January 11, 2024 at the Washington Cemetery. Services will be under the direction of the Wilson-Little Funeral Home in Purcell.

Mr. Andrews passed away Monday, January 8, 2024.

Lem was born October 19, 1942 in Washington, Oklahoma, to Jasper and Elsie (Madden) Andrews. He was the fifth of ten children born to the couple. Lem graduated with the Warrior Class of 1960.

He owned several full-service gas stations throughout his life and he spent a number of years driving a truck. Lem retired after 17 years from McClain County District 2.

He loved playing the guitar and he taught his son how to play. Some of the family's fondest memories were of him playing and singing, "You are my Sunshine." He loved riding horses with his daughter and granddaughter. His grandson thought his PaPa was the toughest guy around, and taught him many life lessons that he still values today.

Lem was also a great mechanic and loved helping his son, "soup up" his cars. Lem's passion was driving race cars. He won multiple championships and loved every minute of it. Lem was a celebrity to all of his fans at the race track. Lem loved giving away his trophies that he won to his young fans. Many family memories were made every weekend at the race track. Memories that the family will cherish for a lifetime. Lem was loved deeply and will be greatly missed.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Jasper and Elsie Andrews; his granddaughter, Kylie Andrews; and siblings, Junior Andrews, Luke Andrews, Audrey Nelson, Norma Blair, Jim Andrews, Carolyn Cheek and Lois Cox.

He is survived by his children, Brent Andrews and wife, Clenda, of Del City and Melanie Andrews of Norman; his grandson, Collin Andrews of Idaho Falls, Idaho; his siblings, Bill Andrews of Goldsby and Mary Dover of Purcell along with a host of extended family and friends.

Online condolences may be made at [wilsonlittle.com](http://wilsonlittle.com).

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## Brenda Annette (McHam) Rousey

Funeral services for Brenda Annette (McHam) Rousey, 73, of Norman were held Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at the Wilson-Little Funeral Home Chapel. Interment was at the Lexington Cemetery were under the direction of the Wilson-Little Funeral Home in Purcell.

Ms. Rousey passed away on January 3, 2024. Brenda was born, the second of eight children, to John Luther McHam and Oleta Ruth (Odom) McHam on May 17, 1950 in Denton, Texas. Her family made their home in Lexington, Oklahoma, where Brenda attended school and graduated with the Bulldog class of 1968.

Brenda attended cosmetology school and made it her life's work. She spent her career at various salons making her customers look and feel their best.

Over the years, Brenda honed her entrepreneurial and creative spirit owning an antique store, and storage units while living in Purcell and Norman. Brenda was also a collector of antique furniture and had a vision for the potential each piece held.

Above all else, the light of Brenda's life was her family. She cherished her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews and siblings deeply and never missed a chance to spoil them. Brenda will be dearly missed by all those who knew and loved her.

She was preceded in death by her parents, John McHam and Oleta Nelson; sister, Sandra Stark; granddaughter, Shawn Stansbury Rousey; and her dear friend Sue Morris.

Brenda is survived by her children, Terry Mark Rousey and wife, Jennifer, of Norman and Reni Hanley and husband, Kevin, of Norman; her siblings, Marcella Tiger of Sapulpa, Reba Keffer and husband, Paul, of Arcadia, Charles McHam and wife, Beverly, of Paoli, Vondale Amend and husband, Kenny, of Houston, Texas, Tim McHam and wife, Tammy, of Purcell, Angela Ring and husband, Ray, of Weatherford, and brother-in-law, John Stark. She also leaves behind her grandchildren, Aaron Rousey, Andrea Stansbury Rousey and Camden Lampkin and her great-grandchildren Caleb Rousey, Connor Rousey and Sebastian Schoenfelt, as well as many beloved nieces and nephews.

Online condolences may be made at [wilsonlittle.com](http://wilsonlittle.com).

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## Helen Campbell

A Celebration of Life service for Helen Campbell, 79, of Washington will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, Jan. 15, 2024 at the Goldsby Church. Services will be under the direction of the Wilson-Little Funeral Home in Purcell.

Mrs. Campbell died Jan. 1, 2024.

Helen Louise Campbell was born on Aug. 17, 1944 in Fort Cobb, Okla., the oldest of three children of Wallace James Hoelscher and Nettie Marie (Gage) Hoelscher.

Survivors include her husband, Gerald Campbell of the home; sons, Keith Lewis and Kevin Lewis, both of Washington; daughter, Diane David and husband, Jerry, of Pilot Point, Texas; brother, Wallace James Hoelscher Jr.; four grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; two stepchildren, Cory Cambell and Robyn Griffith; three step-grandchildren and three step-great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Dibble Public Schools, Spirit of Service (SOS).

Online condolences may be made at [www.wilsonlittle.com](http://www.wilsonlittle.com).

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## Shirley Kaye Coker

Shirley Kaye Coker passed peacefully surrounded by her family on January 6, 2024, in Lexington, Oklahoma at the age of 74 years 2 months 29 days. Funeral services are scheduled for 2 p.m. Friday, January 12, 2024, at the Wadley's Funeral Chapel. Interment will follow at Lexington Cemetery, entrusted to the care of Wadley's Funeral Service.



Shirley was born on October 8, 1949, in Purcell, Oklahoma, to loving parents Jimmie and Wanda Louise (Franks) Jones. She began her education at Washington Elementary and continued at Foster Elementary and then Southeast High School. Ultimately, Shirley completed her schooling at Capitol Hill.

On June 4, 1966, Shirley entered into marital bliss with Earnest Coker Jr., a union that blessed them with three daughters and a son.

During her professional career, Shirley contributed 32 years as a System Tester for Western Electric, which in time became AT&T, before embracing retirement. Her compassionate nature led her to work in home health care as well as becoming a devoted caregiver for her beloved parents.

Her spiritual journey began at Ridgecrest Baptist Church before eventually joining 40th Street Baptist Church. Ultimately, she found solace and community as a devoted member of Corbett Baptist Church. Shirley even embarked on a missionary trip to Mexico that allowed her faith to flourish.

Deeply committed to her faith and driven by an unwavering desire to serve others, Shirley found immense joy in various ministries. She taught Sunday School and Vacation Bible School for several years. Her voice soared as she sang soprano, a gift that enriched both the AT&T choir and her church choir. She also brightened the lives of countless individuals through her endearing portrayal of "Happy" the clown during visits to nursing homes and children's hospitals.

Shirley continuously sought opportunities to support those around her. She always donated blood and plasma and giving generously to the United Way. She also sponsored children through Children's International. Shirley also possessed creative talents which she expressed through crocheting and cross-stitching. She created many beautiful Afghan blankets for her children and grandchildren.

Above all else, Shirley cherished the time spent with her adored family. They brought immeasurable joy to her life, and their love was reciprocated wholeheartedly.

Shirley was preceded in death by her parents, Jimmie and Wanda Jones; her son, Ernie Z. Coker III; her sister, Diana Pearl Sharratt; and her grandson, Brandon J. Williams.

Survivors include her husband, Ernie Coker Jr; her daughter, Chrystal Lippe and husband, Dean; her daughter, Shirlene Coker-Adams; her daughter Tina L. Coker-Boyd; her grandchildren, Cassidy Kay Lippe, Cadence Mae Lippe, Derrick Lippe, Dillon Lippe, Shelby Adams, Madeline Adams, Brandon Boyd, Blake Boyd, Bradly Coker, Christian Galegor and husband, Austin, Chloe Coker and Rylee Coker; her brother, Jimmie Jones and wife, Karen; her sister, Teresa Poe and husband, Larry; her brother-in-law, Paul Sharratt; and numerous nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends.

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

## Douglas "Doug" Elliott Butler

Funeral services for Douglas "Doug" Elliott Butler, 85, of Purcell will be held at 1 p.m. Friday, January 12, 2024 at Brown's Funeral Service in Durant, Okla. Interment will be at Highland Cemetery in Durant. Services will be under the direction of Brown's Funeral Service.

Mr. Butler died on January 4, 2024 at Norman Regional Hospital.

Doug was born January 24, 1938 to Douglas L. Butler and Helen (Craig) Butler in Waynesboro, Va. He had one sister, Patsy.

At the age of one he and his family moved to Charlottesville, Va. After graduating from high school he joined the Navy in August of 1955 at only 17 years old. He attended boot camp and teleman school in Bainbridge, Md. His Navy years took him to Coronado, Calif., Brooklyn, N.Y., Long Beach, Calif.

He served in Korea, Japan and four tours in Vietnam. His last stop in the Navy was in Alameda, Calif., where he met the love of his life, Patricia Nelson. They married in October 1967. He was honorably discharged from the Navy in 1971.

Pat came from a large family so Doug also said he gained a family when he married her.

They made their home in California where they enjoyed attending Oakland A's baseball and the Oakland Raiders football games. Doug and Pat loved spending time with their nieces and nephews in California and going camping in the "high country."

In 1994 they decided to moved to Oklahoma where Pat had more family. Doug loved to hunt and fish with his nieces and nephews in Oklahoma. Another favorite pastime was going to the casino with Pat.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his wife, Pat. Doug is survived by one sister-in-law, Mary Jane Fadely of Senora, Calif., and nieces and nephews, Bobby and Vickie Foraker of Maysville; Ron and Sandy Newby of Marlow, Okla., Diane Hall of Maysville and Phil Foraker of Purcell.

## Deborah Sue Morrison

Deborah Sue Morrison gained her angel wings and joined her heavenly father on January 3, 2024, at her home, surrounded by her family at the age of 65 years 11 months 19 days.



Memorial services are scheduled for 2 p.m. Saturday, January 13, 2024, at Wadley's Funeral Chapel, entrusted to the care of Wadley's Funeral Service.

Deborah was born January 15, 1958, in Norman, Oklahoma, to William Lee and Barbara Jean (Duffy) Morrison.

Debbie, as she was affectionately known by her family and friends, grew up and lived in Norman, Oklahoma, until the age of nine. She then went to live at the Pauls Valley State School, where she received care and instruction throughout her youth and teen years. Debbie then moved into a transitional housing situation in her late teens/early 20s. She finally returned home to live with her mother in the 80s, where she resided the remainder of her years.

During her years in Pauls Valley and Ada, Debbie was employed with various work centers where she gained labor skills and a sense of purpose and productivity. She made many friends along the way as she never met a stranger. Debbie loved the simple things in life: eating every hour, listening to music, singing, coloring, collecting things, being outdoors, and animals. She was known to have tamed an angry neighborhood dog or two, as well as the hateful cat, "Little Bit" that guarded their house for a good 20 years or so.

Debbie loved all things shiny and would collect them, with or without your permission. It was not uncommon to have her empty that giant purse of hers and find everything but the kitchen sink in there. She really enjoyed gambling, especially playing the slots at the casino and bingo with her mom and sisters.

Debbie loved colorful things as well, and it was the highlight of her birthday yearly to get some new colorful Skechers shoes. She was the family peacekeeper and would become very upset anytime there was any disagreement between the sisters. Debbie was forever wanting to be the boss of someone, and she finally got that chance in her later years as she had the opportunity to take care of her precious Mama.

Debbie doted on her mother and catered to her when she came home from the hospital on hospice care. She did not miss the chance to tell her to "drink your protein shake," and "eat all your food." Debbie was the very best caretaker and nurturer. She was a pure and innocent person with nothing but the best of intentions and the biggest heart, and her presence will be dearly missed.

Debbie was preceded in death by her father, William Lee Morrison; her stepfather, Gerald Craig; her brother, Billy Morrison; her sister, Denise Williams; and her brother-in-law, Dennis Williams.

She is survived by her mother, Barbara Craig; her sister, Donna Walsh and husband, Chris; her sister, Mary McGee and husband, Ronnie; her sister, Pam Morrison and partner, Mike Williams; and countless nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews.

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

## Don Winslyn Payton

Don Winslyn Payton died January 2, 2024, in Antlers, Oklahoma, at the age of 60 years 23 days. Graveside services were held Saturday, January 6, 2024, at Arlington Memory Gardens in Midwest City, Oklahoma, entrusted to the care of Wadley's Funeral Service.

Born on December 10, 1963, in Clovis, New Mexico, Don was the cherished child of Lonzo Kevin and Betty Jo (Stewart) Payton. He spent his formative years in Choctaw, Oklahoma, where he received his education and laid down roots in our close-knit community.

A hardworking individual who embraced a diverse array of occupations throughout his life, Don dedicated himself to various commendable endeavors. His passion for our environment was visible through his work at the National Forestry division where he played an instrumental role in replenishing our forests for future generations.

Additionally, Don showcased his talents as a skilled concrete finisher. His dedication and tireless work ethic were evident in every project he undertook. With an unwavering zest for life, Don filled his days with various interests and hobbies.

An artist at heart, he found solace and joy while sketching intricate drawings. The tranquility of fishing delighted him greatly as did the art of wood carving. Don's love for physical activity often saw him engaged in running around with boundless energy.

Don was preceded in death by his father, Lonzo Kevin Payton; his mother, Betty Jo Polson; his siblings, Linda Boland, Lathin "Buzzy" Payton, Jimmy Payton and Billy Payton; his niece, Heather Gilbert; his nephew, Chris Gilbert; and his great-niece, Alvia Gilbert.

Survivors include his sister, Twila Heidelberg and husband, Steve; his daughter, Elana Lynn Thompson and boyfriend, Nathan Vance; his son, Michael Don Payton; his grandchildren, Christopher Skaggs and Remington Bowden; his nieces and nephews, Kathy Murray, Kevin Elsworth, Keenan Elsworth, Rachel Musgrave and spouse, Roy, and Travis Heidelberg and spouse, Miranda; his special cousins, David Payton, Bill Payton and Kim Payton; and numerous other relatives and friends.

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purcellregister.com

# Artists praise Hushtola' Art Market

A husband and wife jewelry making team from the New Mexico Pueblo of Zuni tribe were awarded "Best of Show" by judges at the Chickasaw Nation's Hushtola' Art Market. More than 100 artists contributed works to the show, conducted at WinStar World Casino and Resort December 9 and 10.

Raylan and Patty Edaakie took Best of Show and also finished first in the 3-D competition with jewelry pieces reflecting their Southwestern tribal roots.

Many Chickasaw artists finished in top places in categories, including Norman-based artist Billy Hensley for a mixed-media painting and Chickasaw artist Jimmy Dean Horn, from California, finished in third place in mixed media.

"The selection of artists was great, and there was a wide variety of fantastic artworks available to art patrons," Mr. Hensley noted. "The show is new and has the potential to be a wonderful holiday shopping experience. I know I purchased a number of wonderful things from other artists from beadwork to pottery as gifts this year.

"The piece I won with is called 'Finding My Way to the Past,' mixed media acrylic painting embellished with handstitched glass beadwork and gar scales," he added.

Hensley has expanded his offerings to include alligator gar scales on paintings, jewelry and leather works.

Both Hensley and Horn have displayed their talents in art galleries located in the United Kingdom and Portugal, respectively.

Chickasaw artist Brian Landreth said he enjoyed Hushtola' Art Market and praised the show's management.

"The culture and humanities department did a wonderful job with the market, and the location was beautiful. The department did a great job providing direction to the market in WinStar. I sold a few small works and prints, and got to network with my fellow artists, which is something I always enjoy. WinStar staff were also excellent in providing support to the artists," Landreth noted.

The art show also saw Landreth become acquainted with a relative.

"A cousin's wife saw (an



• Photo provided

## Best of Show

**Chickasaw Nation** Governor Bill Anoatubby, center, congratulates Raylan Edaakie, left, and Patty Edaakie, right, for winning "Best of Show" at the recent Hushtola' Art Market. Mr. and Mrs. Edaakie are New Mexico Pueblo Zuni tribal members.



• Photo provided

## First place winner

**Norman artist** Billy Hensley took first place in Mixed Media category with "Finding My Way to the Past."

article) in the Chickasaw Times and wanted to connect with me about our family and its history. I'll be sending her some photos I have of our elders for her husband and family to have access to," he said.

Tribes from vastly different locales graced the show. Two Southwestern tribes, Pueblo of Zuni and San Felipe Pueblo, joined the juried art show, as did Caddo, Navajo and Coushatta Nation of Louisiana tribal artists.

Chickasaw artists were

awarded first place in 10 judged categories. They include Jennifer Hicks, pottery; Mary Wilds, handwoven textiles; Melissa Freeman for general textiles and traditional dress and regalia; Glenda Dewbre, miniatures; Michael Corneliuss, instruments; Marcella Yepa, traditional pottery; Jim Keel, cultural diversity; Regina Free, drawing and sculpture; and Hensley, mixed media.



John D. Montgomery • The Purcell Register

## Intern

**OU Physicans'** Assistant student Amanda Charles is currently doing some internship work at the offices of Dr. Rick Schmidt in Purcell at Schmidt's clinic on north Green Avenue.

## Deadline is February 1 to apply for OMRF's Fleming Scholar program

Applications are due February 1 for the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation's 2024 Sir Alexander Fleming Scholar Program.

The summer program is open to high school seniors and college freshmen, sophomores and juniors. Students must be Oklahoma residents at the time of high school graduation to qualify.

The eight-week internship allows the state's top science students to enhance their research skills by gaining hands-on experience in a lab setting alongside some of the leading researchers in their fields.

"This is an incredible experience for students who are excited about science and want to get some meaningful, hands-on research experience," said Ashley Cheyney, Ph.D., OMRF's assistant director of scientific training & outreach.

"Being a Fleming Scholar provides the opportunity to make lifelong connections and contribute to work that makes a difference," Cheyney said.

The application process includes submission of an essay, letters of recommendation and academic transcripts. Students must be 16 or older to qualify.

Fleming Scholars are paid at least \$5,000 and may be eligible for provided housing.

The program is named for Nobel Prize-winning scientist Sir Alexander Fleming, who discovered penicillin and also dedicated OMRF's first building in 1949.

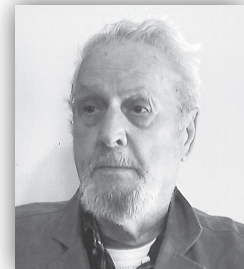
Former Fleming Scholars include OMRF Executive Vice

President & Chief Medical Officer Judith James, M.D., Ph.D.; OMRF Distinguished Career Scientist Rod McEver, M.D.; and OMRF assistant professor Heather Rice, Ph.D.

For application information, visit [omrf.org/fleming](http://omrf.org/fleming).

## WASHINGTON ELECTION

**I, Clayton Colley,** am announcing my candidacy for **#4 seat on the Washington Board of Education**, and would appreciate your vote.



We have a long family history in our school, having 3 generations attending. 3 children, and 2 grandchildren have graduated, and 3 great-grandchildren are attending.

Personally, I have been a temp/sub several years ago. I am a Navy vet (1960-1966). Some of my work history includes working several years as a youth care specialist in a diagnostic evaluation, and O.J.A. facilities.

I also studied criminal justice, and police science at Rose State College. Graduated from the police reserve academy, and worked for McClain County for approximately 2 years as a transport officer, field deputy and court security.

For 20 plus years worked as a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) volunteer.

I also graduated from 1999-2000 class at OAAAL (Oklahoma Aging Advocate Leadership Academy).

**Primary election will be held TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2024**

*Paid for by Clayton Colley.*

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From page 1A

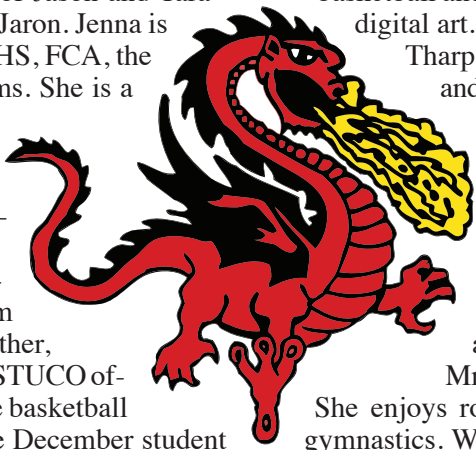
## Dragons:

junior escort is Brayden Tharp.

Avery is the daughter of Jason and Tara Avery. She has a brother Jaron. Jenna is a member of STUCO, NHS, FCA, the track and basketball teams. She is a state qualifier in track. After high school, she plans to attend college for nursing and play basketball.

Thompson is the daughter of Barry and Kim Thompson. She has a brother, Alec. She is an NHS and STUCO officer and a member of the basketball team. Thompson was the December student of the Month. After high school, she plans to attend ECU and major in education.

DeFreeze is the son of Erik DeFreeze and Angelica Brooks. He is a member of the basketball team and was named Student of the Month and is in gifted and talented in art.



After high school, Kylan plans to play college basketball and major in graphic design and digital art.

Tharp is the son of Wesley and Alexandria Tharp. He plays basketball and runs track. He was on the All-State basketball team and a Letter P recipient. He wants to become a physical therapist.

The flower girl is Alex Blair. She is the daughter of Brent and Stephanie Blair. She is in Mrs. Chase's first grade class.

She enjoys roller skating, basketball and gymnastics. When she grows up she wants to be an actress.

The crown bearer is JJ Franco, the son of Joseph and Rebecca Franco. He has a sister, Arabella. He enjoys baseball, basketball and reading. When he grows up he wants to be a major league baseball player.

From page 1A

## Dems:

p.m. for \$15 each. Special guest speakers are Kody Macaulay and Mary Brannon, both Democrats running for Congressional District 4 U.S. Representative.

Everyone is invited to at-

tend.

The winner of the Democrat primary will face Republican incumbent Tom Cole in the general election.

Those wanting to enter the chili cookoff can register by

emailing mcclaindemocrats@gmail.com. Cash prizes will be awarded to the best crock-pot of chili and best chili wannabe (taco soup, Frito pie, white bean chili, etc.).

From page 1A

## School:

board, comprised of president Tracy Folsom, Mary Webb, Nicolle Carr, Kevin Andrews and Holly Baker, were recognized for their service to the district.

The board approved out-

of-state travel for Amy Stone to attend the Texas Computer Education Association Conference in Austin February 3-7. Stone is the school's high school and junior high media specialist.

Waiting on additional information, the board tabled the evaluation of the superintendent. They also approved certain items as surplus to the district.

From page 1A

## Gulliver:

investigator in 2023," Elmore told the council and those in attendance. "He has often led in traffic stops, arrests and has been a mentor helping younger officers. In his short time as an investigator he has already closed eight cases."

The council approved rezoning of lots eight through 12 in block 60 to C-1 or light commercial.

The board approved funding of a new fence at Hillside Cemetery at a cost of \$82,752. Funds used will be taken from

the cemetery fund.

They tabled awarding of a landscaping bid for the Main StreetScape project.

In the Public Works Authority portion of the meeting the board approved the purchase of 486 Smartpoint Sensus Meters for the water department at a cost of \$82,620.

And finally, the board gave its stamp of approval to accepting a \$10,000 reimbursement from the Chickasaw Nation for work by the city in a project at their complex.

The council met in an executive session at the end of the evening but no motions were made in the public portion of the meeting.



• Photo provided

## Cutting the ribbon

The Flat Armadillo Trading Co. celebrated three years in business with a ribbon cutting and joining the Heart of Oklahoma chamber family. Cutting the ribbon was owner Ashley Huff.

# Assault in Lexington

Lexington Police Officer Greg Lindsey was called to Pearson's Lumber at 116 NW 4th just after 4 p.m. January 4.

That's where he made contact with Krissi Shane Bumpas who reported she had jumped out of a vehicle driven by Jeremy Monroe Bumpas, 45.

Lindsey said Krissi Bumpas and Jeremy had gotten into an argument while they were riding around in Lexington.

When she jumped out of the car she ran into Pearson's Lumber and locked herself in a bathroom.

Krissi Bumpas reported to officer Lindsey that Jeremy Bumpas wrapped her seat belt around her neck and choked her with it.

Lindsey reported Mr. Bumpas chased her into the lumber company but left when employees called the police.

Lindsey said Ms. Bumpas had signs of recent physical injury to her neck consistent with asphyxiation. His report also stated she had recent injuries to her abdomen and leg and scrapes below her knee both consistent with jumping out of a car.

Ms. Bumpas reported she had a Victims Protective Order against Mr. Bumpas acquired out of Pontotoc County.

From page 1A

## Council:



Greg Wheat

I have no hidden agenda other than a deep affection for this community, which my family and I have proudly called home for over 20 years. Additionally, I hold to the conviction that in our consumer-oriented world, it is essential to strive for a balance where we give back as much as we take.

I recently retired after serving 24 years as the Sr. Pastor in a Church within this community. During that time, I did my best to find ways to meet the needs, give back, and serve my Purcell community in every way possible. I've also served Purcell through the Chamber Of Commerce as a member, board member, and currently the President. I also volunteer my time at Leadership Mid-America, as a Board Member, and current Vice President. In addition, I'm a member of the Purcell Rotary Club, and was also given the honor of Citizen Of The Year in 2023.

I say all of that to say, serving, and giving back, is part of who I am. Serving on Purcell City Council would just be one more way of giving back to a city and community that has been so good to me and my family over the years.

**Greg Wheat**  
I was raised in Purcell, graduated from here. This is and always has been home. My family has been in Purcell for almost 50 years. My parents were both very active in the community when I was growing up, and I want to continue that legacy. I have spent the last two years on the parks board and I would like to do more to serve the community that I love.

**Chris Hurt**  
**2. Where do you see deficiencies in the City of Purcell?** I think Purcell has a lot of opportunities. I feel our infrastructure is an area which needs to be addressed. We have aging utilities. Our city employees do an amazing job, but we have issues that need to be looked at proactively not reactive.

### Chris Hurt

I wouldn't necessarily use the term "deficiency" to describe Purcell. Much like each of us are a work in progress, so is the city we call home. Similar to the way individuals should continuously strive for self-improvement, as a city, we must adopt the same mind set—never hesitating to engage in the process, even if it demands extra effort and dedication from all of us.

**Greg Wheat**  
**3. What do you think are the positives about Purcell?**

First and foremost the community. Growing up, we all helped each other. You could count on your neighbors and friends when you needed them. This is a value I was taught growing up not only from my parents, but also from the people of Purcell. We care about our city and want to make it the best it can be.

### Chris Hurt



Chris Hurt

Purcell boasts numerous strengths, making it an exceptional place to live, raise a family, conduct business, stop and rest, or stop and stay. It offers many new and existing places to eat, shop, stay, and do business. Its commitment to public safety is also evident through outstanding fire, police, emergency, and health services staffed by professionals who genuinely care about the well-being of the citizens, ensuring Purcell remains a secure and welcoming community. Moreover, city employees consistently excel in maintaining the order and beauty of our beautiful lake, parks, streets, and the overall city environment.

These are just a few of the things that set the stage for sustained growth, expanding opportunities for commuters, tourists, attracting new businesses, and providing an appealing destination for those seeking a fresh place to call home.

**Greg Wheat**  
**4. If you could change one thing about the city what would that be?**

There's an old saying that says, "most people hate change unless it's in their pocket". I understand that and also understand that everyone finds comfort in familiarity. However, we must balance that with the idea that says if we aren't moving forward, we are falling behind. As a community, it is imperative that we continually enhance ourselves in the present while advancing ourselves for the next generation. This involves being transparent, open to new ideas, fostering development, promoting growth, and encouraging tourism—all while preserving the core values that make Purcell truly unique.

**Greg Wheat**  
I want to see growth for our community and small businesses. Well, I'm not against corporate growth, but as a community, we need smart growth that protects these small businesses that our city was founded on. These businesses not only serve our community, but support it as well. Money spent at local business stays in our community. I would like to see more local jobs to help strengthen our economy.

**Chris Hurt**  
**5. What do you think you bring to the table for the betterment of Purcell?**

Relationships with the people and businesses in Purcell. I'm honest, trustworthy, current chairperson of the Parks board, assist with Veterans Day celebration, cooked for Parks and Rec events. Willingness to talk with the community and address problems. I support all of our first responders and our city employees.

**Chris Hurt**  
I believe that I bring a wide range of strengths to Purcell. First, I am a loyalist and will always put my country and community first. Secondly, I work well with others, and enjoy working together to reach goals. Third, I'm also a visionary that possesses the ability to bring a blend of innovative ideas mixed with practicality, contributing to a well-rounded yet balanced forward-thinking perspective.

**Greg Wheat**

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# Champs & Runners-up at Chieftain Classic

Five Wayne cagers named to All-Tournament teams



• Photo provided

## Tournament winners

The Wayne Bulldogs beat Porum 53-41 in the championship game of the Graham-Dustin tournament to come home with the hardware. They also beat Wetumka JV (70-49) and Maud (71-42). Wyatt Webster, Ty Kemp and Jaxon Dill were named to the All-Tournament team.

**Emily Montgomery**  
 The Purcell Register

The Wayne Bulldogs were in Graham starting last Thursday for the Chieftain Classic. They won all three games and came away champions after a 53-41 win over Porum in the championship game.

Wyatt Webster, Ty Kemp and Jaxon Dill were named to the All-Tournament team.

Dill also hit 1,000 career points at Wayne in the championship game.

**Porum**  
 Behind Webster, Kemp and Dill, Wayne beat Porum 53-41 in the championship game of the Chieftain Classic.

Webster (15, 15) and Kemp (12, 12) had double-doubles in the game.

Wayne jumped on the Panthers quick and held a 20-10 lead at halftime.

"This was a game of runs and we did a good job of controlling their runs and were more aggressive on the boards," head coach Jackson Embry said.

Things got interesting in the third quarter when Porum outscored Wayne 17-11 to chip



• Photo provided

## 1,000 points

Wayne junior Jaxon Dill hit 1,000 career points Saturday night in Wayne's win over Porum in the Graham-Dustin championship game. Wayne won the tournament with a 53-41 win over Porum.

away at the Bulldogs' lead.

"We didn't hit a three-pointer all game, but at halftime we talked about attacking the hoop."

But Wayne turned it on in the final stanza, putting up 22

to Porum's 11. Twelve of Dill's team high 16 points were scored in the fourth quarter, including going 6-8 at the charity stripe.

"Jaxon was consistent the whole game for us. And, Ty

really came out of his shell during this tournament. He has gained confidence in his starting role this past week."

## Maud

In their second game of the tournament, Wayne beat Maud, 71-42.

Nine Bulldogs scored in the win. Webster led all scorers with 22, Dill had 19 and Kemp had 12.

Bradey VanSchuyver added four and Ben Fisher, Ashton Norton, Casey Kane and Logan Taylor had three.

Max McGlory was 2-2 from the free throw line for two points in the win.

## Wetumka JV

To kick off the tournament, Wayne beat the Wetumka JV 70-49.

Webster had a double-double with 28 points and 14 rebounds. Dill added 15 and Kemp had 13 and 8 rebounds.

Wayne held a 37-27 halftime lead and continued the offensive onslaught in the second half to pick up the 21 point win.

Please see **Wayne**, page 3B



Stephanie Knowles  
 For The Purcell Register

## Up the floor

Purcell junior Kenna Esparza pushes the ball up the court for the Dragons. Esparza and the Lady Dragons host Lexington Friday night.

# Dragons third at Verdigris

Homecoming Friday night  
 at The Reimer Center

**John D. Montgomery**  
 The Purcell Register

Kobe Freeman has been on a scoring tear since the Christmas break pouring in 58 points in three games in the Verdigris Tournament leading the Dragons to two victories last weekend.

Purcell knocked off Mannford 70-43 in the opening round before dropping a close game in the semifinals to Coweta, 55-51.

The Dragons bounced back for a 57-43 victory over Wagoner when four players finished in double digit scoring.

Freeman led the point parade with 15 with Kylen DeFreeze right on his heels with 14. Seth Bunch, who scored 41 in the tournament, finished with 13 and Jaime Resendiz added 12.

Purcell actually trailed at halftime, 28-25 but outscored the Bulldogs 32-16 in the final two periods to post the victory.

That leveled coach Roger Raper's club at 5-5 on the season.

Resendiz scored 28 points in the three games of the tournament while DeFreeze finished with 26 for the weekend.

Freeman torched the nylons for 29 in a 72-57 setback at Bridge Creek to open the post-Christmas portion of the schedule.

"After going into Bridge Creek, who is a very good team, and playing extremely soft these guys bounced back strong," Raper said.

"We really challenged them to play tougher and more aggressive on both ends going into the Verdigris Tournament. I was extremely proud of how they responded.

Winning third place and being just a few mistakes away from playing in the finals, we had several kids step up," the coach continued.

Freeman was named to the All-Tournament team. His seven game streak of scoring at least 20 points came to an end versus Coweta where he finished with 19.

"Seth Bunch, Kylen DeFreeze, Brayden Tharp and Jaime Resendiz all showed how they are capable of playing in this tournament," Raper said.

"Tharp was a defensive menace throughout the tournament, the coach said. "We also out rebounded our opponents throughout the tournament something, we have been lacking as of late."

"I am super proud of their improvement and we look for even more as we gain experience," Raper concluded.

Coach Toney Cooper's Dragons got off to a blistering start coming back from Christmas torching Bridge Creek 72-39.

Purcell had three players in double figures led by Kenna Esparza's 15. Jenna Avery cut the strings for a dozen while Ella Resendiz

Please see **Dragons**, page 3B

1/4  
**Purcell 70**  
**Mannford 43**

Purcell	.....	21	21	21	7—70
Mannford	....	4	16	13	10—43

Player	Points
Kobe Freeman	24
Seth Bunch	19
Jaime Resendiz	7
Kylen DeFreeze	6
Alex Rojo	5
Kyler Rangel	3
Ryder Ward	2
Brayden Tharp	2
Aaden Troxel	2

1/5  
**Purcell 51**  
**Coweta 55**

Purcell	.....	13	9	13	17—51
Coweta	.....	9	18	16	12—55

Player	Points
Kobe Freeman	19
Jaime Resendiz	9
Seth Bunch	9
Brayden Tharp	8
Kylen DeFreeze	6

1/6  
**Purcell 57**  
**Wagoner 43**

Purcell	.....	14	11	14	18—57
Wagoner	....	12	16	11	5—43

Player	Points
Kobe Freeman	15
Kylen DeFreeze	14
Seth Bunch	13
Jaime Resendiz	12
Brayden Tharp	3

# Battle for the Bridge Friday in Purcell

**Emily Montgomery**  
 The Purcell Register

The Lexington Bulldogs fell to Dibble 55-45 in the championship game of the Arbuckle Classic on Saturday to finish Runners-Up.

Zeke Faulkenberry and Ty Mixon had 12 points apiece. Drew Dierking added eight and Colt Mixon had six.

Scoring was tight in the first

quarter as Dibble led 11-10.

The Demons outscored Lexington 17-5 in the second to increase their lead at halftime.

Lexington chipped away in the second half, outscoring Dibble 31-27, but it was not enough to pull out the win.

## Davis

Lexington won a tight contest with the Davis Wolves in their second game of the

tournament, 50-49.

In a back and forth game, Lexington outscored Davis in the final two quarters to pick up the one-point win and advance to the championship game.

Faulkenberry led all scorers with 19 points. Mixon had 16.

Lexington was a perfect 6-6 from the free throw line.

## Little Axe

In their first game of the Arbuckle Classic, Lexington beat Little Axe 71-53.

Faulkenberry and Mixon had 23 and 20, respectively. Skylar Rollins joined them in double figures with 10 and Colt Mixon had nine.

Lexington was hot offensively, holding a 46-24 halftime lead.

Things slowed down in the second half, but Lexington still outscored Little Axe in the final quarter 14-12 to solidify their 18-point win.

## Wayne

Last Tuesday Lexington hosted Wayne and got a 69-44 win over the other Bulldogs.

Ten Bulldogs scored in the win led by Mixon's 24 points. Faulkenberry added 18.

Lexington's size and speed proved to be a problem for Wayne as they jumped out to a 40-18 halftime lead.

Offense evened out in the second half, but Lexington extended their lead outscoring Wayne 29-26 in the final two



• Photo provided

## Third place

The Lexington Lady Dawgs beat Roff 55-47 to nab third place in the Arbuckle Classic over the weekend in Davis.

Please see **Lex**, page 2B

# Warriors in Conference play

**JohnDennyMontgomery**  
The Purcell Register

Washington's girl's basketball team defeated Pauls Valley 58-35 January 2 to extend their record to 10-1.

The No. 1 ranked team in Class 3A got off to a slow start in the game and trailed at the end of the first quarter.

"We weren't getting stops and they were scoring on us," said head coach Kale Simon. "We were having to pull the ball out of our own net too much."

Washington blew the game open in the second quarter and outscored the Panthers 21-3 in that stanza.

"We decided to change gears and we got it going," Simon

said. "We quit fouling as much in the second quarter. We fouled too much in the first quarter and it made the game choppy. We had a good flow the rest of the game."

Breanna Lindert had a game-high 16 points.

Kelby Beller scored 12 points and Shelbie Caveness had 10.

Simon said once his team dug its heels in during the second quarter the pace picked up in a positive way.

"We forgot that being great takes effort," he said.

**Boys**  
The Washington boys played in the Noble Basketball Tournament Jan. 4-6.

They opened with Class 4A's

No. 8 ranked team, Blanchard. The Lions defeated the Warriors 77-65.

"Blanchard is a really good team," head coach Trevor Smith confirmed. "They have a 6'7" guy who has really good moves and soft touch around the rim. He's a tough match up for us - for anyone really."

The game was a back and forth affair and it was a one-possession game in the final minutes.

A late missed rebound on a free throw down the stretch hurt their comeback.

"That killed momentum,"

Please see **Warriors**, page 5B

1/2 Girls

<b>Washington</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>Pauls Valley</b>	<b>35</b>

Washington	.....	13	21	16	7-58
Pauls Valley	.....	14	3	8	10-35

Player	Points
Breanna Lindert	16
Kelby Beller	12
Shelbie Caveness	10
Jayden Wells	5
Preslee Johnson	4
Ava Salcedo	4
Aubri Clary	2
Laney Gay	2
Daphne Palumbo	2
Raelee Adkins	1

1/2 Boys

<b>Pauls Valley</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>Washington</b>	<b>44</b>

Washington	.....	13	9	10	12-44
Pauls Valley	.....	9	9	18	13-49

Player	Points
Jeremiah Tontz	12
Teagen Foster	11
Mason Adams	8
Tatum Wilk	5
Miller Orr	4
Kade Norman	3
Jace Myers	1



Greg Gaston • double g images

### Three ball

**Washington senior** Kade Norman shoots a three pointer for the Warriors. Norman and Co. travel to Marlow January 12 for a showdown with the Outlaws.



John D. Montgomery • The Purcell Register

### Tournament champions

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.



Greg Gaston • double g images

### Distribute the ball

**Lexington senior** Zeke Faulkenberry (0) passes the ball while being defended by Wayne's Bradey VanSchuyver. Lexington defeated Wayne 69-44. Faulkenberry scored 18 points in the win.

From page 1B

## Lex:

quarters.

Lexington is scheduled to play in Purcell on Friday and travel to Wynnewood on Tuesday.

### Girls

The Lexington Lady Bulldogs beat Roff 55-47 to finish

third in the Arbuckle Classic over the weekend.

Addi Lippel had the hot hand for Lexington, scoring 21. Abby Sample and Mackenzie Manuel added nine apiece.

Lex held a 35-20 halftime lead. Despite Roff outscoring

Lexington 18-11 in the third quarter, Lexington held on to pull out the eight point win.

### Dibble

The Lady 'Dawgs dropped a 50-46 loss to Dibble in their second game of the tournament.

Sample and Lippel were Lexington's leading scorers with 14 and 12, respectively. Manuel added seven.

Lexington was down by 10 at halftime, 30-20.

The Lady 'Dawgs chipped away and outscored Dibble in the fourth quarter, but that wasn't enough to pull out the win.

Kiely Givens had four points, Ryleigh Markovich had three. Natalie Dickson and Charli Moore had two each and Lexie Torres and Landri Bean each added one.

Box Scores  
Page 5B



Greg Gaston • double g images

### Scoring mentality

**Lexington junior** Addison Lippel (22) goes to the bucket against Wayne while Ryleigh Markovich (0) and Abby Sample (24) look on. Lippel scored 10 points in Lexington's 59-38 win.

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2731 N 9TH LARGE lot w/2450 SF (living space) and 580 SF garage slab already poured. Plumbing groundwork is complete as well. \$45,000 #1088819  
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