



Lexington voters approve sales tax

33-10 passes sales tax to take place of existing tax

Thanks to a 33-10 vote in the City of Lexington January 9, a one-half cent sales tax will go into affect Dec. 31, 2024.

The tax will not be a new or higher tax only – one to replace the current one going off at the end of December.

Lexington's current tax rate is 8.63 with .13 going to the county.

Mayor Mike Donovan

said the current tax went into affect January 1, 2014 with the new tax also being for 10 years.

The tax shall be used for any lawful purpose to include but not limited to the upgrading of sewer, water and electric facilities, street maintenance, equipment for use in all departments, salaries, payment of lawful debts and the purchase of supplies.



• Photo provided

Chili on the way

The Purcell Rotary Club is hosting its famous chili luncheon Wednesday, Jan. 31 at Trinity United Methodist Church. It is the club's only fund-raiser of the year. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at **The Purcell Register** or through any Rotarian.



Oklahoma's parole rate declines

Keaton Ross Oklahoma Watch

Trisha Fox was optimistic when her husband, Richard Fox, appeared on the Oklahoma Pardon and Parole Board docket in early September.

The 63-year-old prisoner, incarcerated since 1980 on a first-degree murder conviction in Caddo County, had not received a misconduct violation since 1995.

Letters of support poured in from family, friends and prison ministry volunteers assuring board members he would have stable housing and employment if granted parole.



"He never meant to kill anybody, but he also never denied doing it," Trisha Fox said, adding that her husband was 19 at the time of the crime. "He's just someone who deserves a second chance."

In a 4-1 decision that took a few minutes, the board denied Richard Fox's application. Trisha

Fox said her husband would have progressed through the parole process if board members had more time to consider his case and the opportunity to interview him in person.

Please see **Parole**, back page

52ND ANNUAL Heart tips off today

Addition of new teams adds to intrigue of historic event

John D. Montgomery
The Purcell Register

One of Oklahoma's oldest high school basketball tournaments tips off here Thursday.

The 52nd Heart of Oklahoma tournament will tip off at 10 a.m. with Elgin and Byng's girls at The Reimer Center.

In addition to the Dragons, also in the tournament field on the girls side are Bethany, Enid, Dickson, Anadarko and the OKC Knights.

Bethany is No. 1 in 4A, Anadarko is No. 3 and Purcell is No. 11.

Filling out the boys bracket are Anadarko, Dickson, Yukon, Elgin, Byng, OKC Knights and Bethany.

Bethany is ranked No. 3 in 4A while

Anadarko is No. 6.

Purcell's girls will open the tournament with Dickson at 7 p.m. followed by the boys against Byng starting around 8:30 p.m.

"We're looking forward to participating in this tournament," girls' coach Toney Cooper said. "With us moving up to 4A we get a first hand view of some of the best teams in our class including the top ranked team."

"Last year we were able to make it to the championship game. While we were excited to get there the goal was and always is to win the tournament. It's no different this year. We would love to be the last team

Please see **Heart**, back page



John D. Montgomery • The Purcell Register

Pretty frosty

Folks in Oklahoma have been dripping their faucets for the past several days to keep pipes from freezing.

PHS coffee cart on the go

Program started last year expanding to elementary

A program at Purcell School started by Zoe Swift last year is being continued and expanded.

Swift applied for a grant last year to start a coffee cart program.

Although Swift has departed the district, Jenny Allen-Price is continuing the project.

Students, who prepare coffee and hot chocolate once a week for staff and students, will be taking their show on the road this Friday when they prepare the hot beverages for Purcell Elementary's staff.

"We have also opened up volunteer hours to other students in Key Club, Allen-Price said.

"Our students are learning how to serve customers, speak professionally and other customer service skills," the Special Education English teacher continued.

Red Cross has tips to stay safe in cold weather

A winter storm will blow through the region starting late Thursday, bringing freezing temperatures and subzero wind chills that will persist for several days.

The American Red Cross serving Kansas and Oklahoma urges families to take several steps to deal with the cold and heat their homes safely. As with any potential emergency:

Get a kit. Gather food, water and medicine for every member of your household, including pets. Stores may be closed, and it may be unsafe

Please see **Cold**, back page

The Purcell Register

Deadlines

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

Contact us

405-527-2126
purcellregister@gmail.com

Inside

Tournament time

See where your school is playing this weekend.



Sports

Tuesday Night Ticker

High school basketball

Boys


Washington 75	Purcell 69
Lexington 70	Wynnewood 47
Wayne DNP	

Girls

Washington 59	Purcell 41
Lexington 56	Wynnewood 36
Wayne DNP	

Find it...

Opinion	4A
Society	6A
Sports	1B
Obituaries	8A
Classifieds	8B



Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
44° 14°	29° 12°	34° 20°	38° 29°	48° 30°	47° 39°	45° 37°
Mostly Sunny	Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	30% Rain	40% Rain	Cloudy

Key word is Brrrrrrrr

Rain in the forecast for next week

We have seen quite the cold snap last weekend and into the first part of this week. Temperatures will begin to climb back up above freezing over the next seven days. On Thursday, we will see mostly sunny conditions and temperatures

in the middle 40s. On Friday, temperatures will drop into the upper 20s for afternoon highs under sunny skies. Clouds will roll in this weekend and temperatures hold in the middle to upper 30s. Some rain chances will begin starting next Monday

and lingering into Tuesday as temperatures hold in the upper 40s. Rain rolls out by the middle part of the work week as clouds remain and temperatures stay in the middle 40s for daytime highs.

— Hunter Brittingham



John D. Montgomery • The Purcell Register

Paul Harris Fellows

Andy Rieger (center) presented Dr. Bill McCurdy, left, and Dr. Rick McCurdy with non-Rotarian Paul Harris Fellow awards during last week's Norman Rotary Club meeting at the First Christian Church Fellowship Hall. Rieger honored the two physicians for their years of service to generations of patients in Norman and Purcell.

Fighting cold can bring increase in carbon monoxide exposures

As winter weather drags on in Oklahoma and people begin to use their furnaces and fireplaces, calls to the Oklahoma Poison Center about carbon monoxide poisoning will increase.

"People will occasionally attempt to heat their home with grills or stoves," said Poison Center Managing Director Kristie Edelen. This is extremely dangerous; there is no way these attempts at heating can be made safe."

Don't use a generator, charcoal grill, camp stove, or other

gasoline or charcoal-burning device inside your home, basement, or garage or near a window.

Carbon monoxide is found in fumes produced when fuel is burned in gas furnaces, ranges or water heaters, cars or trucks, small engines, stoves, lanterns and grills.

Proper ventilation is essential when any of these are used, and damage to or blockage of chimneys, vents or exhaust can cause carbon monoxide to build up indoors.

The most common early

signs of poisoning due to carbon monoxide are headache, dizziness, weakness, upset stomach, vomiting, chest pain and confusion.

- Severe symptoms include:
- Fainting
 - Irregular heartbeat
 - Coma
 - Seizures
 - Stopping breathing
 - Heart attack

Any person exposed to carbon monoxide who has

Please see **Monoxide**, 3A

Jennifer Palmer Oklahoma Watch

The Parental Choice Tax Credit offers Oklahoma families a refundable tax credit of \$5,000 to \$7,500 for private school tuition and fees. If you will pay, or expect to pay, for a child's private school this year, you can apply for the credit.

Though it's called a refundable tax credit, it functions like a voucher because families can advance the funds from the Oklahoma Tax Commission in a process that's separate from income tax filing.

The program was a major initiative for the Legislature and Governor Kevin Stitt in 2023.

Proponents say the program is needed to help low-income families afford private schools if it's the right fit for their children.

"I think it's going to be a tremendous blessing for our families," said Barbara Ohsfeldt, founder and principal of Community Christian School in Norman.

While the program could make private schools feasible for a few new families, critics say it will mostly cover the costs parents could already afford on their own.

"It was always sold as: for a parent who wants to send their

kids to private school but for the cost, we're going to provide this option," said David Blatt, director of research and strategic impact at Oklahoma Applesseed Center for Law & Justice, a nonprofit organization that advocates for public education.

The application cycle, which opens in December of each



year for the next calendar year, favors parents whose children already attend private school, not those the program was intended to serve, he said.

Folks on both sides of the issue say they will try to work with the Legislature to align the program with the school year.

Who is eligible, and will every family receive the credit?

Any student in pre-K through 12th grade is eligible. Previous

public school enrollment isn't required.

Proponents say the tax credit program will be able to serve about 23,000 in its first year, but there are already 33,000 students attending private schools in Oklahoma, so the funds are likely to run out. Families must reapply each year, and receiving the credit one year doesn't guarantee they'll receive it the following year.

Families of all income levels can qualify for a credit, but those that earn less than \$150,000 per year (based on adjusted gross income) will be prioritized if they apply by Feb. 1. The application deadline is December 31 of each year, or when the cap is met.

Credit amounts are \$7,500 for families with an adjusted gross income of less than \$75,000; \$7,000 for income between \$75,001 and \$150,000; \$6,500 for income between \$150,001 and \$225,000; \$6,000 for income between \$225,001 and \$250,000; \$5,000 for income of \$250,001 and above.

The credits can't be split (say between divorced parents) and only one taxpayer can claim a child, though that person could be a grandparent or other relative if they pay for tuition.

Does the credit cover the cost of tuition at private schools?

For many, it will not cover the full cost.

Private school tuition costs slightly less than \$7,000 per year, on average, in Oklahoma, according to the Education Data Initiative. But there's a wide range within that: as low as \$500 at Cristo Rey Okla-

Please see **Funds**, page 3A



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NEWS In Brief

Community

Meet & Greet

The City of Purcell will have a public meet and greet for the new city manager Sam Demel.

The event will be held from 1-3 p.m. Thursday, January 18, in the City Hall Community Room.

Veteran

Breakfast

All veterans, active-duty military, and descendants are invited and encouraged to attend a free breakfast sponsored by Walmart and American Legion Post 301.

Breakfast will be at 9 a.m. on Saturday, January 20, in the American Legion building located at 104 E. Broadway in Lexington.

The American Legion Post 301 monthly meeting will follow.

Contact Dale Haynes at 405-823-9051 for additional information.

Misty Scott

New Assistant

Director

Misty Scott is the new Assistant to the Director of McClain County Emergency Management.

She will be the assistant to Ron Johnson, taking the place of previous assistant Heather Murrell.

Livestock Show,

Bonus Auction

The 34th Annual Purcell Livestock Show and Bonus

Auction is slated.

The Livestock Show will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday, February 18, at the McClain County Expo Center in Purcell.

The Purcell Bonus Auction will be held Thursday, February 22, at the Purcell Agriculture Education Building.

Twenty-six students will be participating.

The public is welcome to attend.

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.

School

Foundation

The Purcell Public School Foundation will hold an open meeting for the public Thursday, February 22, at 12 noon.

The meeting will be held in the Administration Building multi-purpose room in the building that formerly housed Purcell Intermediate School, behind the library.

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 or online at www.northcare.com.

Senior Dance at Purcell

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

Join your friends for fun and dancing!

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

Proceeds will benefit the Purcell Senior Citizens Center.

Museum News

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

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

From page 2A

Funds:

homa City, where a corporate work-study program picks up most of the cost, to more than \$23,000 annually at a few schools such as Holland Hall in Tulsa and Casady School and Heritage Hall in Oklahoma City.

Families can apply for the credit even if they receive other types of assistance paying for a private school, including the Lindsey Nicole Henry Scholarship Fund or through the Oklahoma Equal Opportunity Education Scholarships.

Do the tax credits guarantee admission to a private school?

To apply, families must already be enrolled in the school their child is attending or planning to attend. An enrollment verification form from the school is required for application, and the school has to be accredited (a list of participating schools will be available at parentalchoice.ok.gov).

Private schools do not have to accept all students. Some reject students with behavioral issues or disabilities, or who don't conform to the school's religious tenets, such as students who are LGBTQ+ (or whose parents are).

If a student has an individualized education program for a disability, does the private school have to provide services?

While private schools can offer disability services to students, they aren't required to. To accept the Parental Choice Tax Credit, parents give up their child's right to disability services under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, or IDEA, according to the new law. Disability services include physical, occupational and speech therapy and para-professional aides.

Are there guardrails around how the tax credits are used by parents?

A family can't claim more than its actual spending on tuition and fees, and uniforms purchased directly from the school.

To reduce fraud, the Oklahoma Tax Commission will mail taxpayers' payments to the school in two installments, half in the spring and half in the fall. Parents will need to go to the school in person and either sign the check over to the school or collect the check if tuition and fees have already been paid.

The Tax Commission said it will audit questionable claims and recapture credits that were awarded on behalf of a student no longer attending a private school or enrolled in a public school.

How does the funding for these tax credits affect local schools?

As a tax credit, the program reduces overall tax collections to the state, but lawmakers

capped that each year so it's limited to \$150 million in 2024, \$200 million in 2025 and \$250 million in 2026 and beyond. Funding for the tax credits does not come from educational appropriations or out of the school funding formula.

If the state experiences a revenue failure, the credits will be reduced proportionately.

What about home-school parents? Can they also qualify?

Yes, home-schooling parents can claim up to \$1,000 per student for curriculum, textbooks, tutoring, testing fees, and other

qualified expenses. Taxpayers may claim that credit on their income tax return starting in 2025. The Legislature capped this program at \$5 million per year.

How will the tax credits work and what do parents need to know to apply for this program?

The application and more information are available at parentalchoice.ok.gov.

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



Bill Breugan • The Purcell Register

Newest reader

Oliver Budd enjoys reading the latest copy of **The Purcell Register**. Oliver is the 11-month-old son of Lindsay and Aaron Budd and the grandson of Mary and Mike Clark, all of Midwest City.

From page 2A

Monoxide:

anything more than minor symptoms should seek medical attention right away by calling 911 or getting to the closest emergency department.

If your carbon monoxide detector sounds or you suspect carbon monoxide poisoning, get to fresh air immediately, and then call the poison center at (800) 222-1222.

Install a battery-operated or battery back-up carbon monoxide detector in your home. If you already have a carbon monoxide detector, now is a great time to check or

replace the battery. A detector should not be placed within 15 inches of heating or cooking appliances or in a humid area, such as the bathroom.

If your detector begins to sound:

- Everyone should leave the house.

- Call 911 or go to an emergency department right away if anyone has moderate or severe symptoms, has a history of heart problems, is pregnant, or if an infant has been exposed.

- Call your local gas company, fire department or appliance repair service to

come and find the source of the carbon monoxide.

- Do not go back inside until the source of carbon monoxide has been identified and shut off or repaired.

Call the Oklahoma Poison Center with any questions or concerns regarding carbon monoxide that arise, and do not forget to save the poison center's phone number, 800-222-1222, in your phone.

Pharmacists and registered nurses at the poison center are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Please do not email the poison center or a member of the poison center staff, as poisoning emergencies are not handled through email.

The Oklahoma Poison Center is a program of the University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy at OU Health Sciences.

For more information, visit OklahomaPoison.org.

PCCC to meet January 23

The Purcell Chickasaw Community Council will meet at 6 p.m. Tuesday, January 23, at the Area Office in Purcell, 1430 Hardcastle Blvd.

Jim VanWinkle, AVP and Mortgage Team Lead at the Chickasaw Community Bank, will be the evening's speaker.

Rob Gown and Dana Ezell will be joining VanWinkle

in providing real estate and mortgage knowledge.

Chili, cornbread, sides and dessert are on the menu for the evening.

We encourage all Native American citizens to attend this meeting.

If you have any questions, call Carolee Maxwell at 405-525-7676 or Angie Wallace at 405-615-8863.

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McCurdy doctors honored

It was my pleasure to attend the Norman Rotary Club's noon meeting last Thursday when it honored two esteemed area physicians, both of whom are Purcell High School graduates.

Introduced by long-time Transcript journalist Andy Rieger, Dr. Rick McCurdy and his cousin Dr. Bill McCurdy were honored by the club as non-Rotarian Paul Harris Fellows.

Rick and Bill were joined at the Rotary Club meeting by their wives, Carole and Anne.

Rick and Bill are two of six McCurdy family members who are or have been physicians dating back to 1903 when Bill's grandfather William C. McCurdy Sr. tackled the profession in Wheatland, OK and later in Purcell.

Bill's father, William C. McCurdy, Jr. practiced in Purcell and was the first to work at the McCurdy Hospital, what is now the McClain County Bank Drive-thru and McClain County Historical Society.

The McCurdy Clinic was constructed in the early 1940s.

Editor's Notebook



John D. Montgomery

Rick's uncle Bob and son, Jay, both practiced in Colorado.

The retired Dr. Bill, a 1957 PHS graduate, was presented the Physician of the Year-Private Practice award in 2019 by The University of Oklahoma College of Medicine Alumni Association.

After Dr. Bill graduated from medical school and residency, he went to Vietnam, where he served as chief of surgery.

Returning home, he established his general surgery practice in Norman and also went to his father's practice in Purcell once a week to perform

surgeries.

Altogether, he practiced medicine 40 years. His cousin, Rick, joined him for 27 of those years and continues that surgical practice today.

The two outstanding physicians have cared for several generations of families in Norman and Purcell.

"He was my hero growing up across the street from him in Purcell," Rick once said.

Rick, a 1961 PHS graduate, is considered by many to be one of the greatest athletes in Purcell High School history.

He was All-State in basketball and football. He played defensive end, tight end and punted for the Oklahoma Sooners under legendary coach Bud Wilkinson.

He was named All-Big 8 Conference for his defensive end play in 1964.

He played in the All-American Coaches game after his senior year and was drafted by the New York Jets.

He still holds the PHS school record in the 880 yard dash with a time of 1:58.2.

Hello from District 43

• Senator Jessica Garvin •



Update from the Capitol

We had a busy week focusing on budget hearings in our various appropriations subcommittees.

Our Health and Human Services subcommittee held two full days of meetings and met with our 13 agencies, commissions, and authorities. These include state entities like the Oklahoma Health Care Authority; the Department of Veterans Affairs; the Office of Disability Concerns; the Oklahoma Medical Marijuana Authority; the Office of Juvenile Affairs; and the Departments of Human Services and Health.

These agencies have accomplished some incredible things in the last year, and I enjoyed hearing about their goals for FY'25.

Altogether our health and human services agencies have re-

quested more than \$3.34 billion for FY'25, compared to their current budgets that total just over \$2.65 billion. This amounts to a nearly \$691 million or 26 percent increase, but with our current revenue picture will be impossible without the creation of new revenue streams.

But I'm hopeful the Legislature can find some innovative ways to best help support these critical state agencies.

Last week, I talked about some of the bills I've filed, and I'd like to share some more. So far, I've now introduced more than 30 bills and may have a few more before our filing deadline this Thursday, January 18.

One of my bills would direct the Office of Juvenile Affairs to develop a pay-for-performance rate plan for youth services agencies and other contractors

to improve accountability and efficiency.

I also have legislation directing the Department of Human Services to develop a universal and user-friendly online eligibility and enrollment application for the State Medicaid program, the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children. Oklahomans need to be able to easily and quickly be able to access state programs.

Another measure would allow a pharmacist to test or screen for and initiate drug therapy for minor, nonchronic health conditions, such as strep throat,

Please see **Garvin**, page 5A

NEWS FROM CAPITOL HILL

Unaffordable America

Congressman Tom Cole

Democrats and the left-leaning media has certainly tried to paint a pretty picture of an economy on the mend over the last several months. However, their misguided reporting could not be further from the truth, and everyday Americans certainly know inflation is eating away at their hard-earned money.

Last month, the Consumer Price Index (CPI), the measure of the average change over time in the prices paid, reached a four-month high at 3.4 percent, much hotter than expected by market experts.

While it is true that the pace which prices are rising has cooled compared to the last two years, they are still rising at a rate nearly tripled than when President Joe Biden took

office, which at the time was 1.4 percent.

And although Democrats like to point to the CPI cooling as a sign of an improving economy, the actual prices on goods and services remain at a 40-year high at a whopping 17 percent increase.

Under Democrats' failed economic policy, American households are paying \$11,400 more on necessities annually. Even every day bills are becoming unaffordable, forcing more and more Americans to turn to second jobs to make ends meet and financing options as their savings are depleted.

In fact, the cost of electricity is up 26.6 percent, food is up 20.2 percent, vehicle insurance is up 20.3 percent and vehicle repairs are up 10.3 percent.

Inflation is not only affecting individual Americans and American families, however. According to the National Federation of Independent Businesses (NFIB), 23 percent of small business owners reported that inflation was their single most important problem in operating their business, up one point from last month.

Also, according to NFIB's most recent monthly jobs report, 40 percent of reported job openings they could not fill in the current period.

Finally, a recent Job Creators Network Foundation Small Business survey revealed that small employers' outlook on the U.S. economy has hit a 14-month low.

The report also showed that of 400 small business owners, 61 percent say the

Please see **Cole**, page 5A

Letters to the Editor Policy

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

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

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

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

Our Views

Cash acceptable

For some fans the notion of going cashless at OSSAA sanctioned events is unacceptable.

State Rep. Rick West of Heavner has recently filed legislation that would require an organization such as the Oklahoma Secondary Schools Activities Association to accept cash for admittance to sporting events or any other activity where payment is required.

He filed the legislation after some of his constituents, like grandparents, who don't have credit cards or cash apps on their phones, complained about not being able to be admitted to some games last year.

West said some of the fans were turned away from tournament games last year because their only method of payment was cash.

West said we don't live in a cashless society and we don't need to give the government that much control over our lives. He may be on the right track.

The Purcell Register

Your Views

Bad memories have long shelf life

By Andy Bowman, CoffeeTime Columnist

Have you ever had a bad day, when everything you touched just soured? Sure, we all have had those kinds of days, nothing new to any of us.

And when you had one, didn't you find that it was difficult to be a sweetheart to everyone around you? After all, living 24 hours in the pits doesn't exactly make you feel like being The Perfect Parent/Spouse/Employee.

Probably, more than likely people avoided you like the plague, to evade getting bombarded by the toxic words spewing out of your mouth.

And even when you came back to normal, your family and co-workers undoubtedly felt like they needed to throw a white flag into the room before they entered, to see if it turned brown before they risked walking in themselves. Not a pretty thought, is it?

And that is my point. When bad days make you act like the south end of a north-bound donkey, you aren't just hurting the people around you.

You are hurting 'the you' that has to live with the long memory of just how badly you behaved. And that is no fun. If by some weird chance you don't believe me, try this.

In your head, create the next 24 hours. A full day when you deliberately let your guard down. When you let yourself act and speak like a complete jerk. When you're unconcerned about your loved one's hurt feelings as you make cruel fun of them.

Carelessly and deliberately damage someone's reputation

by passing along juicy and completely false gossip about them. Yell mercilessly at your kids and watch the stricken look on their faces.

For good measure, kick your kitty or puppy three feet ahead of you as you stomp into the bedroom to pick a fight with your spouse.

Then, when you have mentally destroyed those 24 hours, stop and rethink that daydream. How would you feel if you actually acted it out? Lousy and ashamed, you say? I would agree with you, you jerk.

Folks, being the previously mentioned donkey body-part creates two huge permanent problems.

For the people around you who were treated so callously, as you would have probably caused them emotional scars. And also for the future you, who has to live with the memories of your shame and embarrassment. Because memories, especially the painful ones, have a very long shelf life.

Something about acting like a jerk and a fool has tremendous staying power when it comes to trying to forget.

Even when you beg for forgiveness from the very people you hurt, and they graciously give you what you don't deserve, you can be haunted by a memory that never seems to fade away.

Surfacing in your thoughts when you lay awake at night. Or popping up unexpectedly when that loved one is sitting quietly by your side.

Not worth it, folks. Bad memories live forever, so do your best to make ones that don't hurt.

Sponsored by Cornerstone Baptist Church, Lexington.

Woman and the abortion issue will decide the 2024 election outcome

By Dr. Glenn Mollette

A woman has never told me she felt good about her abortion.

For 39 years I served in pastoral roles in different places. I had numerous women tell me they felt like they had no choice. Some said they felt pressured to abort.

Many were medical emergency situations and it was life or death for the mother.

A dear family I've known for a few years lost their daughter and the baby in what was supposed to be a delightful day of bringing a new baby into the world. Things went terribly wrong and they both died.

Twenty-five years after that event the family still grieves that day. They would give anything to have their daughter and her baby back.

My late wife was very sick when she gave birth to our second son. She and he made it but it was a very treacherous night. Thankfully we had good medical care.

On too many occasions to count, we lost numerous babies. The pregnancy would start failing often times about two to three months into the pregnancy and the doctor would have to do a D and C. The babies had stopped growing or there was some other kind of internal malfunction.

One of the hardest days of my life was when we had a full-term baby who apparently died about a day before the scheduled birth. There

was some kind of kink in the umbilical cord that had cut off oxygen to the baby.

I was on cloud nine watching the birth of my two prior sons. I walked through hell the day I watched them deliver our dead son. For hours I sat in a room holding our him and weeping like I had never wept before.

I put my hand on that baby's face and begged God to let him wake and start breathing. What I wouldn't do today or give to have that child Jesse Caleb Mollette in my life.

The pain of losing that child was devastating to my wife.

The point of all this is most women and men are not crazed baby killers, although abortion statistics indicate we have had a problem in this nation. In 2020 there were 639,898 abortions in America according to Pew Research org.

Were all of those performed to save the life of the mother? Were many of them performed because rape or incest had taken place? I do not have the statistics to answer that question, if really good statistics are even available.

The hard reality is that sometimes a medically necessary abortion has to take place to save the life of the mother. Often, the fetus stops developing or begins to abort on its own and medical care is necessary.

Women should never have to leave their state to obtain the care they need. Our local and federal government should never put women's health in

these kinds of dangerous situations.

Federal and state governments must take a realistic look at what they are expecting of women and try to put themselves in their places.

I think we have too many 75-year-old men determining what should or shouldn't be for young adult women. Or, maybe we have some older women politicians who have never been through a traumatic pregnancy.

If I go to my doctor for an appendicitis procedure, I don't want him having to involve the Attorney General or state supreme court in my healthcare. It should be between my doctor and me. The same should be so for pregnant women. Their care should be between them and their doctors. Keep the politicians out of it.

If one of these old politicians is going to have their hemorrhoids cut out, they must likely don't want the county attorney or judge up there too.

It's a touchy issue. I'm for life all the way. I'm also for common sense.

Something to keep in mind is that regardless of your party affiliation, religious beliefs, or who you know the best person for the job is, women and the abortion issue will decide the 2024 election outcome.

Find books by Glenn Mollette at Amazon.com. Learn more about his books, columns and music at GlennMollette.com.

What path should you take?

By Bryan Golden

We all face decisions throughout life when circumstances change. Deciding what path to take can pose a dilemma. Each of the various options has positives and negatives. How do you determine the best course of action?

There are a number of factors to consider. Your personality traits play a significant role. What do you like and dislike? What's your affinity for risk? How much challenge are you happy with?

The answers to these questions affect what path you will be comfortable taking. For example, someone who is uncomfortable with risk won't be happy with high-risk decisions.

Identifying your goals is essential to choosing the right path. Unless you know your destination, it's impossible to decide which way to go. Not having goals has the same effect as failing to identify them. All paths are equal when you don't know where you want to wind up.

Your degree of preparation impacts which paths are available to you. Success is possible when preparation meets opportunity. It is disheartening when a particular path is unavailable because you are unprepared to travel down it.

There are numerous areas where preparation pays off. Your education is a major one. Having the appropriate skills and knowledge opens up many paths.

The acquisition of knowledge

is an investment in yourself that increases in value over time. Knowing what to do and how to do it enables you to take advantage of many opportunities. Education is a lifetime pursuit. Always keep expanding your base of knowledge.

Another area of preparation is financial. Having a cash cushion and low debt opens up many options. Owing a lot, with little or no money saved, increases the pressure you are under. Without preparation, an unexpected expense or drop in income will have an intensified impact.

Not only does money in the bank and low debt buy you time when dealing with the unexpected, it opens up paths should you want to change direction. There are many opportunities lost to people who don't have adequate capitalization.

Some examples are starting a business, retiring, or taking vacations. Live below your means and only buy things you can pay for.

You chose paths in many areas, often simultaneously. Personal, professional, career, education, and relationships, are just some of them. Pay attention to all of the various options facing you. Don't ignore decisions you have to make in all areas by narrowly focusing on just one.

A key life survival skill is being able to adapt to changes and challenges. Change is the only

constant in life. Each change opens up new paths for you to choose.

Picking the right path involves being able to assess the various options, identify the advantages and disadvantages of each, making the best decision possible with the information available, and taking action.

Don't procrastinate when faced with selecting a path. When you do, the path will choose you. Whenever you are faced with choices, identify the positives and negatives of each option.

Evaluate each path as to which has the greatest advantage or least disadvantage. Always think before you act. Decisions are usually subjective. Your choice will often have both advantages and disadvantages. Your selection should take into account your personality, goals, and degree of preparation.

The path you take must be based on your needs and desires. A different path might be appropriate for someone else. Frustration will follow when your selection is based on satisfying someone else.

So don't let other people unduly influence your decision. Your path must be based on your needs. Take the path that looks the best based on the information you have at the time. Stay open to change. Even when you are on a path, new paths will emerge.

From page 4A

Garvin:

COVID and flu.

One of my bills would prove extremely helpful to Oklahoma homeowners by prohibiting any insurer of a homeowner's policy from canceling, refusing to renew, or increasing the premium of the policy because the policy holder filed a claim relating to a weather-related catastrophe or a major natural

disaster, or because the policy holder has a history of such claims.

Given how many natural disasters we have in our state, we must protect homeowners from these types of unfair actions by insurance companies.

You can learn more about these and the other Senate bills that have been filed on our

website at www.oksenate.gov.

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

Our Blood Institute declares emergency blood shortage

As winter weather moved into the area this past week, blood donors began canceling appointments and blood drives were delayed, forcing an already struggling blood supply to critically low levels. This blood shortage has the potential to impact hospitals and patients in need.

Our Blood Institute (OBI) is asking donors to reschedule appointments and come in to donate as soon as possible as the weather clears.

Right now, OBI only has a one to two day supply of blood, which is well below our safe stock level. For over a week, OBI has been sending out more blood to hospitals than it is bringing in from donors.

If this continues, it could impact treatments for cancer, scheduling of surgeries, and transfusions of all types. OBI is not alone in this blood deficit. In the last few weeks, other blood providers across the nation have also declared emergency blood shortages.

OBI is the primary blood supplier for the state of Oklahoma, exclusively servicing more than 95 percent of Oklahoma's hospitals, medical facilities, and air ambulances, including other local health systems as Saint Francis, OU Health, SSM St. Anthony, Integris Health and Mercy.

"January is always a difficult time, as blood donations are

typically slow during the holidays and in the weeks following, and the winter weather is magnifying the problem," said Dr. John Armitage, Our Blood Institute president and CEO. "Since the start of the year, blood donations are lagging significantly and fewer people are donating. We urgently ask the public to step up and help secure their community blood supply."

Successful donors will receive a short-sleeved, glow-in-the-dark "When I'm Not Hibernating, I'm Donating Blood" T-shirt.

Blood can be donated every 56 days. Platelets can be donated as often as every seven days, up to 24 times a year.

"Blood has no substitute," Armitage said. "Patients across the state rely on blood products to fight cancer, survive trauma and heal after childbirth. Blood donation takes about an hour and can save up to three lives."

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. Photo ID required.

Appointments to donate can be made online at obi.org or by calling 877-340-8777. Walk-ins are also welcome.

From page 4A

Cole:

"Bidenomics" plan is "bad for the economy," and only 26 percent say the president's plan is helpful in the current environment.

Upon assuming the presidency and gaining control of both chambers of Congress, President Biden and Democrats went on an unprecedented

spending spree that continues to have negative effects on our economy.

This certainly has not helped Americans and small business owners get back on their feet and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

A healthy economy is the key to a prosperous America,

and House Republicans passed legislation last year including the Limit, Save, Grow Act and REIN In Inflation Act to move our economy on the right direction.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to continue building on this crucial priority this year.

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Society



PLS and Dolly Parton's Imagination Library provides 109,000 books

The mission of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is to cultivate a love of reading in early life. Enrolled children under the age of five receive one book by mail each month until their fifth birthday.

The program, launched in 1995, promotes early childhood literacy across the world by helping children to become "reading ready" as they enter kindergarten.

The Pioneer Library System first launched its partnership with the program in September of 2022.

In a little over a year, this partnership between Pioneer Library System and Dolly Parton's Imagination Library has distributed more than 109,000 books, serving 42 percent of the 25,000-plus eligible children in the PLS service area.

Tecumseh Public Library Branch Manager Beth Lyle serves as point person on Imagination Library at Pioneer Library System. "Science tells us that 90 percent of brain growth happens before kindergarten, so we know the connections made during the early years of a child's life will be essential to their future development. Taking 20 minutes to read together every day expands vocabulary, boosts mental health, and im-

proves critical-thinking skills for your child and you," Lyle said of the importance of the program's support of early reading.

Dolly herself has shared her thoughts on the program's value as well.

"When I was growing up in the hills of East Tennessee, I knew my dreams would come true," Parton said in a statement. "I know there are children in your community with their own dreams. They dream of becoming a doctor or an inventor or a minister.

"Who knows, maybe there is a little girl whose dream is to be a writer and singer. The seeds of these dreams are often found in books and the seeds you help plant in your community can grow across the world," Parton concluded.

Founded in 1958, PLS today offers full-access libraries in 10 communities throughout Cleveland, McClain, and Pottawatomie counties, as well as additional access locations in smaller communities and outreach services including Business Services and the PLS Mobile Maker Lab.

For more information about PLS and its services and to sign up your child for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, visit pioneerlibrarysystem.org.

It's a Small World

Gracie Montgomery

Doesn't seem possible but we will celebrate our 34th anniversary here in Purcell January 20! We still feel incredibly fortunate to be able to call Purcell our home after all these years! ***

Happy birthday to **The Register's** own David Stull. He celebrates his birthday Tuesday, January 23. ***

A special happy 60th birthday to Mike Berrey! Mike celebrates his birthday Thursday, January 18. ***

Happy birthdays also go out to Darla Delcambre, Chad Anderson, Gus Mathis, Kim Russell, Audri Lukens, Danny Johnson, Michele Schaub, Zack Harris II, Connie Sue Skinner, Luann Harris, Bill Cummings, Earla Tate, Lana Beerhalter, Alexis Cummings, Rachelle Perigo, Danny Matthews, Gustavo Chacon, Patricia Murphy, Daniel Shea, Daniel Estrada, Helen Genz, Terry Black, Laura Wood, Truda Fouch and Bailee McGowen-Martinez. ***

The City of Purcell will have a public meet and greet for the new city manager Sam Demel. The event will be held from 1-3 p.m. Thursday, January 18, in the City Hall Community Room. ***

It's time for the Heart of Oklahoma Basketball Tournament!

The tournament begins today (Thursday) and concludes Saturday.

There will be lots of great basketball, so make plans to attend.

All the brackets and a complete list of competitors is on the sports page. ***

The Purcell Public Library is having its annual Purcell Friends of the Library Book Sale through January 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 "STEAM Kids" Tuesday, January 30, from 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Ignite your curiosity and creativity through this exploration of all things STEAM. The program is designed for children ages 6-11.

Did you know, almost everything we use connects back to STEAM? Discover the elements of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math through hands-on activities and exploration. Boost your problem-solving and teamwork skills in this program.

For more information call 405-527-5546 or online at pioneerlibrarysystem.org. ***

Here's a great recipe you can make in your slow cooker and come home to a delicious meal.

Easy Taco Soup

- 1 pound ground beef
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 4-5 cloves garlic, minced
- 4 cups beef or chicken broth of stock
- 15 oz. can of corn, drained
- 15 oz. can black beans, rinsed and drained
- 15 oz. can chili beans in chili sauce
- 28 oz. can crushed tomatoes
- 4 oz. can chopped green chiles
- 1 TBL chili powder
- 2 tsps. cumin
- 1 tsp. dried oregano, onion powder and garlic powder
- Salt, pepper and cayenne pepper to taste

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

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



School Menus

Week of January 22

Wayne

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| <p>MONDAY BREAKFAST
Bagel topper, cereal, fruit, juice, milk.</p> <p>LUNCH
Chicken noodle, green beans, salad, roll, peaches, milk.</p> <p>TUESDAY BREAKFAST
Cereal, fruit, juice, milk.</p> <p>LUNCH
Beef taco, pinto beans, chips and salsa, pears, milk.</p> <p>WEDNESDAY BREAKFAST
Sausage biscuit, cereal, fruit, juice, milk.</p> | <p>LUNCH
Toasted cheese sandwich, vegetable beef soup, chips, mixed fruit, milk.</p> <p>THURSDAY BREAKFAST
Cereal, fruit, juice, milk.</p> <p>LUNCH
Nachos, pinto beans, carrots, cookie, milk.</p> <p>FRIDAY BREAKFAST
Yogurt, cereal, fruit, juice, milk.</p> <p>LUNCH
Mini corn dogs, french fries, spinach, orange, milk.</p> |
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Purcell

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| <p>MONDAY BREAKFAST
Yogurt and toast or cereal and toast, fruit, juice, milk.</p> <p>LUNCH
Chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes and gravy, side salad, dinner roll, fruit, milk.</p> <p>TUESDAY BREAKFAST
Pancakes with syrup or cereal and toast, fruit, juice, milk.</p> <p>LUNCH
Spaghetti and meat sauce, green beans, baby carrots, breadstick, fruit, milk.</p> <p>WEDNESDAY BREAKFAST
Biscuit and sausage gravy or cereal and toast, fruit, juice,</p> | <p>milk.</p> <p>LUNCH
Barbecue chicken loaded baked potato, cucumber slices, dinner roll, fruit, milk.</p> <p>THURSDAY BREAKFAST
Breakfast calzone or cereal and toast, fruit, juice, milk.</p> <p>LUNCH
Cheeseburger, baked beans, baby carrots, fruit, milk.</p> <p>FRIDAY BREAKFAST
Cinnamon roll or cereal and toast, fruit, juice, milk.</p> <p>LUNCH
Sour cream chicken enchilada, Mexican salad, tortilla chips, salsa, fruit, milk.</p> |
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Lexington

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|---|---|
| <p>MONDAY BREAKFAST
Whole grain cereal or biscuit and gravy, pineapple tidbits, juice, milk.</p> <p>LUNCH
Salisbury steak or yogurt meal, cheesy potatoes, green beans, hot roll, peaches, milk.</p> <p>TUESDAY BREAKFAST
Whole grain cereal or biscuit with breakfast bar, mandarin oranges, juice, milk.</p> <p>LUNCH</p> | <p>Nachos with cheese sauce or chef salad, pinto beans, green salad, pears, milk.</p> <p>WEDNESDAY BREAKFAST
Whole grain cereal or yogurt and crackers, pears, juice, milk.</p> <p>LUNCH
Chicken spaghetti or sandwich, steamed broccoli, steamed carrots, mixed fruit, milk.</p> <p>THURSDAY BREAKFAST
Whole grain cereal or banana bread, applesauce, juice, milk.</p> <p>LUNCH
Frito chili pie or chef salad, English peas, whole kernel corn, mandarin oranges, milk.</p> <p>FRIDAY BREAKFAST
Whole grain cereal or doughnuts, raisins, juice, milk.</p> <p>LUNCH
Cheeseburger or sandwich, french fries, lettuce, tomato, pickles, onions, apple wedges, milk.</p> |
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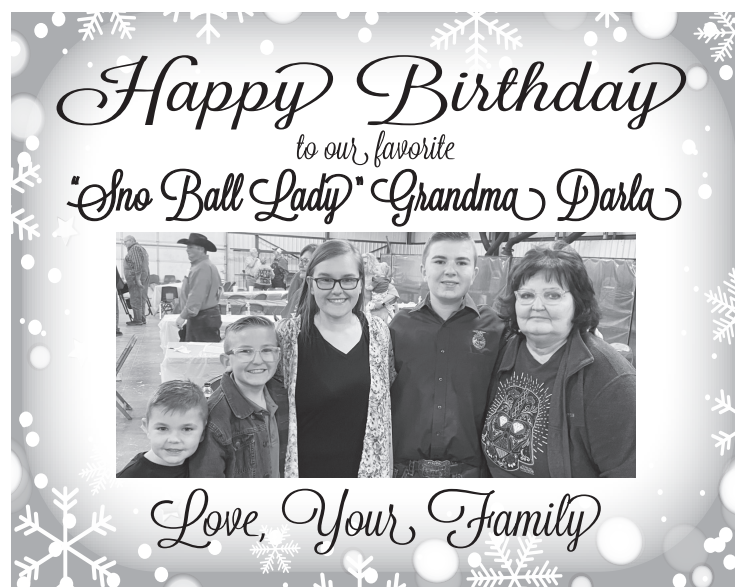
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Elisabeth Baker • For The Purcell Register

Big crowd

A huge turnout was on hand last Thursday afternoon at the Norman Regional Health System ribbon cutting at 2320 N. 9th in Purcell. The full service clinic will have specialty doctors in the future and even offers OBGYN services.

Bowfishing to continue without limits

By Kelly Bostian

Four regional bowfishing representatives used an hour of testimony this week to move the eight-member Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission to spike a proposal to regulate the activity with daily bag limits and outlawing shoot-and-release.

The decision puts the discussion of any bowfishing limits on hold for at least a year, until the department's next round of regulation proposals, according to Ken Cunningham, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation Fisheries Division Chief. "It is tabled until we can come up with more information to help commissioners make a decision," he said. "We are putting our heads together on what that will look like."

State biologists proposed the new rules, saying that continued unlimited take in the face of the

growing popularity of bowfishing could be unsustainable in some water bodies.

The proposals follow a national trend of states recognizing the ecological value of the fish—often considered trash fish or bottom feeders. The department offered as evidence public surveys of archers that showed a 10-fish daily aggregate-species bag limit would not curb interest for most people.

Shoot-and-release, allowed in only a few states, was the subject of a state study that showed nearly all fish shot with an arrow die after they are released.

Commissioner James Barwick said a rules sub-committee discussed the bowfishing proposals at length and considered options with exceptions for tournaments or a higher daily bag limit but, in the end, felt they needed more information. Commissioner Jess Kane said

that, while he is uncomfortable with the idea that "an unlimited amount of these fish can be taken and dumped in a ditch and there's nothing we can do about it," he, too, could benefit from more information, given what he heard in Monday's discussion.

Bowfishers, some of whom helped collect fish for the mortality study, claimed the department's peer-reviewed and published shoot-and-release mortality study was flawed because of poor fish handling and bias due to a perceived anti-bowfishing sentiment in the fisheries division.

The bowfishers said a 10-fish limit would decimate economically important guiding and tournaments in rural areas.

Public comment on the rules was open for over 30 days starting in November. Commissioners said online comments mostly favored the rule changes, but much of it came from out of state. The comment period ended with a public meeting in Oklahoma City the first week of December.

Commissioners allowed four bowfishing representatives to speak at Monday's meeting: Pete Gregoire, national president of the Bowfishing Association of America from Kansas; Steven Whitney, a bowfishing guide and BAA state representative from Missouri; Dennison, Texas bowfishing guide Stephen Banaszak, and Youth World Bowfishing Championship founder Randy Woodward of Coweta.

The commission gave each five minutes to start, but

the four filled the hour with follow-up questions from commissioners. The longest of the presentations was nearly 20 minutes.

Woodward later said bowfishers have a long history of helping agencies with research efforts and want to see healthy populations of non-native fishes like gar and buffalo. They simply do not believe bowfishing has harmed those populations, even with increases in the past decade. Woodward said what he has seen on the water in 40 years of observation shows him the opposite.

"We are only about 1 percent of anglers out there," he said. Even if some bowfishers occasionally have "a night of a lifetime" and kill dozens or hundreds, "we don't take but a minute number of the fish out there," he said.

He said he received a call Thursday to set up a meeting with department officials. They will discuss what research bowfishers believe is necessary.

"All we are asking for is good scientific data," Woodward said. "I told them we'll help 'em, and we will."

The commission passed one bowfishing rule that clarifies

bowfishing equipment consists of a bow and string and a tethered and barbed arrow. It would prevent the use of air bows.

The commission also eyed a list of 18 hunting rule changes and passed all but a proposal to create a late-summer lottery-based hunt to allow the taking of some bucks in velvet. Department officials said public comments were firmly against a velvet-buck season.

The Oklahoma Ecology Project is a non-profit dedicated to in-depth reporting on Oklahoma's conservation and environmental issues. Learn more at okecology.org.



• Photo by Kelly J. Bostian/KJB Outdoors

Tournament weigh-in

Competitors fill tubs with their take at the 2018 U.S. Open Bowfishing tournament weigh-in Bass Pro Shops in Broken Arrow.

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Obituaries

Carolyn May (Embry) Ross

Funeral services for Carolyn May (Embry) Ross, 83, of Pauls Valley were held Monday, January 15, 2024 at the Wilson-Little Funeral Home Chapel. Services were under the direction of the Wilson-Little Funeral Home in Purcell.



Mrs. Ross passed away Tuesday, January 9, 2024.

She was born December 6, 1940, the first of three children born to Merle Edward Embry and Lillie May (Peltier) Embry, in Lexington Oklahoma, in her family home, in the midst of a snowstorm.

Carolyn worked most of her life as a waitress, her favorite places being The Country Cove in Lexington and Chickasaw Hills in Purcell.

She married Cecil Ross in the early 90s and the couple spent several years together before the passing of Cecil in 1999. Carolyn loved Cecil immensely and has missed him so much over the past 24 years. She never let go of his love letters and bright blue jacket.

Carolyn had the absolute best sense of humor and was the most honest person you could ever find. You never had to guess what she was thinking because she would just tell you. Her love was unconditional and if she loved you, she loved you with every part of her being. She was so forgiving, it didn't matter what you had done wrong. She would go out of her way to make sure you knew she loved you.

Carolyn enjoyed puzzles, board games and card games, especially Farkle and Rummy. She was an amazing cook and baker. She was known for her wedding and birthday cakes, peanut butter fudge, bon bons, and her beef tips with noodles (she was the only one who wasn't too scared to use the pressure cooker).

When not working or cooking, Carolyn could often be found digging in the flower beds or spending time with her family. Carolyn was loved so very much and will be missed deeply.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Merle and Lillie (Peltier) Embry; her husband, Cecil Ross; and her brother, Larry Embry.

She is survived by her daughters, Sandra Harding of Purcell and LaVena Perry and husband, Dwight, of Goldsboro, N.C.; her sons, Hank Smith of Pikeville, N.C., and Junior Smith and wife, Theresa, of Fremont, N.C.; her sister, Sharon Rolin of Purcell; eight grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Online condolences may be made at wilsonlittle.com.

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

Kerrigan Marie Seidenfus

Kerrigan Marie Seidenfus passed away surrounded by family on January 13, 2024, at her home, at the age of 22 years 3 months 1 day. Funeral services are scheduled for 2 p.m. Saturday, January 20, 2024 at the Wadley's Funeral Chapel. Interment will follow at the Sunset Memorial Park Cemetery in Norman, entrusted to the care of Wadley's Funeral Service.



Kerrigan was born October 12, 2001, in San Diego, California, to Craig and Celeste (Gordon) Seidenfus. Her formative years were spent in Purcell, where she cultivated a deep sense of compassion and a thirst for knowledge, and where she found her love for horses.

In 2020, Kerrigan graduated from Norman High School before embarking on an academic journey at Oklahoma State University. There, she pursued her passion for Zoology and Ecology, wholeheartedly immersing herself in her chosen field.

Kerrigan's dream was to work in Africa with the endangered Big Five. She wanted to start a mounted patrol on the Conservancy Ol Pejeta in Kenya, to assist in the conservation efforts she so fiercely believed in.

Her indomitable spirit led her to serve as President of OSQ and A (Oklahoma State Queers and Allies), as an ally and an unwavering supporter. Guided by an unwavering commitment to justice and righteousness, she fought tirelessly against injustice while advocating for goodness in every aspect of life.

Beyond academia and activism, Kerrigan dedicated herself to various endeavors that brought joy and assistance to others. She was an active member of the OSU Polo club and generously shared her time as a counselor with Camp Cowboy, where she aided incoming freshmen on their path toward finding belonging at the university. Additionally, Kerrigan volunteered at the Moore animal shelter, pouring love into animal rescue efforts during moments of respite from her own illness. With a deep love for horses and a profound passion for animal advocacy, she found solace in their company.

Kerrigan's versatility shone brightly throughout her life. During her high school years, she discovered her vibrant voice as a member of the Drama Club. Marvel movies, good food, and excellent coffee brought her immense delight. Cherishing the bonds of friendship, Kerrigan held dear those closest to her heart, finding solace in shared moments. Time spent with family was cherished above all else, whether it be embarking on memorable vacations or engaging in exhilarating four-wheeling adventures.

The sanctuary of home provided Kerrigan with solace and allowed her to rejuvenate from the numerous extracurricular activities that filled her collegiate years. Her thirst for knowledge and perpetual desire to learn fueled her every waking moment. Kerrigan leaves behind a legacy that will forever endure within the hearts of those who knew and loved her deeply.

Kerrigan is survived by her adoring parents, Craig and Celeste Seidenfus; her brother, Jonah Seidenfus; her adopted brother, Rex Robbins; her maternal grandmother, Clois Gordon; her paternal grandmother, Kimberly Paylor; her best friends, Michaela McCall and Sierra Rakestraw; her beloved canine companion, Mad Madam Mim; and countless aunts, uncles, cousins and cherished friends who will all miss her greatly.

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

Floyd Harmon "Butch" Fox

Funeral services for Floyd Harmon "Butch" Fox, 78, of Purcell will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, January 18, 2024 at the Wilson-Little Funeral Home Chapel. Interment will be at Hillside Cemetery in Purcell under the direction of the Wilson-Little Funeral Home in Purcell.



Mr. Fox passed away at his home on January 15, 2024.

Floyd Fox was born to Haskell and Reba Mae Fox on April 18, 1945. He was the sixth of 10 children born in Purcell, Okla., where he lived his entire life. Floyd was nicknamed "Butch" by his dad at an early age, most people never knew his real name. Butch attended Purcell schools and loved sports and cars.

After dating for three years he married his high school sweetheart, Patricia on June 29, 1963. In 2023, they celebrated 60 years of marriage. Butch and Pat would continue to work and live in Purcell, where they had four children, one girl and three boys, Pamela, David, Bruce and Danny. Butch was a family man, and that was good 'cause with four kids and many siblings, he stayed busy.

He enjoyed supporting his kids in their activities and did the chains at football games for over 20 years. He recalled making memories with good friend Brent Bacon and others doing this. Butch also had a passion for working on and rebuilding cars. He shared his knowledge with his boys as he worked with them in rebuilding their first trucks.

Butch has had several jobs along the way including Connor's Funeral Home and Ambulance (now Wilson-Little), a full-service gas station, and Bacon's wrecker service where he worked with four generations of the Bacon family, and became like family himself.

He went on to join the Purcell Fire Department and served as a firefighter and fire inspector for 20 plus years. When Butch retired, he continued with his passion for old cars. He would work on, rebuild, and show many over the years. He had many friends that would work along side him in his shop.

Butch and Pat, the love of his life, his best friend, and soul mate, enjoyed doing life together. They shared many memories over the years. The latest being going to estate sales. He said it was fun to see what others treasured and to see what he and Pat would find too interesting to pass up.

Butch had a saying he lived by - Treat others the way you want them to treat you. Butch was a friend to many, and many knew they could count on him to be fair and honest. If you didn't want to hear the truth, don't ask. He said if you do this, then you'll be okay.

Butch was preceded in death by his parents, Haskell and Reba Mae Fox; five brothers, Leroy, James Edward, Jerry, Glen and Darrell and three sisters Francis, Dorothy and Brenda.

He is survived by his wife, Patricia Fox of the home; his children, Pam Fox, David Fox, Bruce Fox and wife, Kim, and Danny Fox and wife, Heather; grandchildren, Tara (Josh) Tyler, Tony (Katie) Shobert, Marisa (Landen) Hendon, Garrett Fox (James), Logan Fox (Kate), D.J. Fox, Dylon Fox (Rylyn) and Sierra Fox; great-grandchildren, Khia, Jett, Shawk, Axel, Evan, Elin, Lyrik, Ryker, Ramsey, Eli, Deakon and Calin. He also leaves behind his sister, Mary, and a host of cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends.

Online condolences may be made at wilsonlittle.com.

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

Willard Mantooth

Funeral services for Willard Mantooth, 84, of Wayne will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, January 19, 2024 at the Emmaul Baptist Church in Purcell. Interment will be at Hillside Cemetery in Purcell under the direction of the Wilson-Little Funeral Home in Purcell.



The family will receive guests and relatives for a visitation from 5-7 p.m. Thursday, January 18, 2024.

Mr. Mantooth passed away unexpectedly on January 15, 2024.

Willard Berry Mantooth was born on December 12, 1939 in Purcell, Oklahoma, the oldest of four children born to Willard Lee Mantooth and Mozelle Gertrude (Garrison) Mantooth. He attended Purcell Public Schools and graduated with the Dragon Class of 1958.

Shortly after graduating high school, he joined his dad running heavy equipment, where they worked side by side for several years. In the mid 1960s, Willard bravely answered the call to serve his country. He joined the United States Army where he served his country honorably and faithfully.

When he returned, it was fate that he was introduced to a young woman named Rena Louise Blackwood. As the story goes, she was a waitress at a restaurant that he was eating at, and he couldn't leave without asking her out on a date. The two quickly fell in love and were married on December 5, 1970. The couple shared 53 wonderful years of marriage together.

Willard was a man of many talents, and he was always venturing into new career opportunities. In addition to construction, he also drove a truck across the country for several years before eventually retiring in 2007. Willard was very independent, driven, and motivated. When he wasn't working, he loved attending auctions. Whether it was for cars, trucks, heavy equipment, or just about anything, he was there! It's been said that, "He never met an auction he didn't like."

More than anything, Willard was a family man. He loved spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren. He truly cherished every moment with them. Willard was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, uncle, and a true friend. He will be dearly missed!

He was preceded in death by his parents, Willard and Mozelle Mantooth; sisters, Brenda Mantooth and Carolyn Wall; brother, Jerry Mantooth; niece, Michelle Mantooth; and nephews, Shane Spencer and Brian Wall.

Willard is survived by his loving wife, Rena Mantooth of the home; sons, Berry Mantooth and wife, Tanya, of Wayne and Chad Mantooth of Purcell; five grandchildren, Caitlin, Joseph, Justin, Ashley and Katie; nieces, Kim Cline and husband, Aaron, of Norman, Teresa Piazza of Wayne, Adrianne Wall of Purcell and Denise Nash of Noble; nephew, Shawn Spencer of Wayne and a host of other family and friends.

Online condolences may be made at wilsonlittle.com.

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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 January 4-10, 2024.

Traffic

Jeffery B. Donathan, no seatbelt.
Jeffrey B. Donathan, no insurance.
Andres C. Chavez, overweight on interstate (bridge formula).
Elizabeth Valadez, speeding, 90/80.
Chad A. Craddock, no seatbelt.
German Padilla-Frias, DUS.
Jeff A. Waters, speeding, 75/65.
Nathan D. Thurman, speeding, 80/70.
Luis C. Balderrama, speeding, 106/75.
Decarlos A. Staples, speeding, 65/55.
Tsenbin Si, failure to reduce speed.
Abbygayle G.M. Baldrige, speeding, 80/70.
Jaycob M. Willis, speeding, 80/70.
Myigenia C. Nelson, speeding, 90/80.
Hunter A. Thompson, no seatbelt.
Michael D. Shepherd, violation of special permit - ST Nolo-Contendre.
Questin D. Carter, DUS.
Raymond M. Brooks Jr., TOC alcoholic beverage.
Raymond M. Brooks Jr., throwing

lighted substance.

Dung T. Nguyen, DUS.
Uriel G. Marquez, failure to stay in lane.
Yang Yong, failure to stop.
Sadie A. Brooks, speeding, 75/65.

Misdemeanors

William M. Gray, possession of CDS - cocaine.
Carolyn M. Wisniewski, obstructing an officer.
Alexandria N. Venegas, DUI.
Jordy Balderrama, person involved in personal injury accident while under influence of alcohol or intoxicating liquor.
Myia L. Jones, petit larceny.
Chad E. McGlocklin, possession of CDS - marijuana.
Gloria B. Castro, assault and battery.
Bryan A. Adams, DUI - aggravated.
Beverly J. Herrera, actual physical control of vehicle while under the influence.

Felonies

Juwen Weng, unlawful possession of controlled drug with intent to distribute - MJ.
Resendiz R. Resendiz, DUI.
Stephanie Ledford, grand larceny.
Mark Blethen, larceny of lost property.
Robert W. Byers, larceny of lost

property.

Thomas J. Lewis Jr., burglary, second degree.
Thomas R. Smith Jr., larceny of lost property.

Small Claims

Dale B. Armstrong vs. Laurie Shannon, forcible entry and detainer under \$5000.
Kristi Russell vs. Isaiah J. Guinn, small claims under \$5000.

Civil

LVNV Funding LLC vs. Leona Walls, civil action \$10,000 or less.
LVNV Funding LLC vs. Kimberly Zamora, civil action \$10,000 or less.
Cavalry SPV I LLC vs. Jerald I. Sturm, civil action \$10,000 or less.
Cavalry SPV I LLC vs. Lauren N. Knipp, civil action \$10,000 or less.
LVNV Funding LLC vs. Ashlee Coleman, civil action \$10,000 or less.
LVNV Funding LLC vs. Devon M. Keck, civil action \$10,000 or less.
LVNV Funding LLC vs. Clinton Beaver, civil action \$10,000 or less.
Citibank NA vs. Shannon N. Dowdle, civil action \$10,000 or less.
Crown Asset Management LLC vs. Chris Cardinal, civil action \$10,000 or less.
Crown Asset Management LLC vs. Stephanie Shepard, civil action \$10,000 or less.

Crown Asset Management LLC vs. Chrystal Murphy, civil action \$10,000 or less.

Citibank NA vs. Misty McMillen, civil action \$10,000 or less.

Rayson Sanchez et al vs. Travelers Personal Insurance Company, civil action \$10,000 or more.

Tinker Federal Credit Union vs. Kathryn L. Jordan, civil action \$10,000 or more.

Robert Smith vs. Wade's RV Supercenter et al, civil action \$10,000 or more.

Navy Federal Credit Union vs. Shane P. McCraw, civil action \$10,000 or more.

Bank of America, NA vs. Deana M. Ripperda, civil action \$10,000 or more.

Bank of America, NA vs. Sergio Sanchez Sr., civil action \$10,000 or more.

Marriages Filed

Randy Hadley, 64, of Purcell and Donna S. Harlow, 63, of Edmond.

Clarence L. L. Daffern, 28, and Alexyss Putnam, 20, both of Purcell.

Christian M. Schlotter, 26, and Scarlett M. Albert, 30, both of Purcell.

Divorces Granted

Rebecca Bruce vs. Brian Bruce.

Kassie N. Taylor vs. Alex D. Taylor.

Karen Weltmer vs. Derek A. Weltmer.

Visit us at:

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Newsmakers

Harris named AAA member

Hunter Don Harris of Dibble is a new junior member of the American Angus Association®, reports Mark McCully, CEO of the national organization with headquarters in Saint Joseph, Missouri.

Junior members of the Association are eligible to register cattle in the American Angus Association, participate in programs conducted by the National Junior Angus Association and take part in Association-sponsored shows and other national and regional events.

The American Angus Association is the largest beef breed association in the world, with nearly 22,000 active adult and junior members. Visit NJAA.info for more information about the National Junior Angus Association.

NWOSU names honor students

Fall semester honor rolls at Northwestern Oklahoma State University have been announced by the office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Those on the President's Honor Roll earned all A's, or a 4.0 grade point average (GPA), in a minimum of 12 undergraduate or nine graduate hours. Those on the Vice President's list had grade point averages of 3.5 or better in a minimum of 12 undergraduate or nine graduate hours.

Undergraduate students on the honorable mention lists had 4.0 or 3.5 GPAs, respectively, in a minimum of three to a maximum of 11 semester hours. Graduate students on those rolls were enrolled in a minimum of three to a maximum of eight semester hours.

To be listed on any of the rolls, students could not have any incomplete work.

Named to the President's Honor Roll, undergraduate students, was **Ella Bryant** of Lexington.

Named to the President's Honorable Mention Honor Roll, undergraduate students, were **Terry Hunt, Alfred Poolaw, Luke Sinclair** and **Ethan Spruill**, all of Lexington.

McCoin named to President's List

Rodrey McCoin of Purcell has been named to Southern New Hampshire University's (SNHU) Fall 2023 President's List. The fall terms run from September to December.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President's List.

Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

SNHU is located in Manchester, N.H.

OG&E Scholarship applications due February 15

The deadline for Oklahoma Gas and Electric Company's (OG&E) 2024 OG&E Positive Energy Scholarship is approaching.

High school seniors in Oklahoma and Arkansas are encouraged to apply before the application closes on February 15.

The OGE Energy Corp. Foundation awards this scholarship to three deserving students and provides them with \$15,000 per year, renewable annually for up to four years, or a total of \$60,000, to cover tuition, books, fees, and on-campus room and board.

The Oklahoma City Community Foundation administers the scholarship on behalf of OGE Energy Corp.

Scholarship winners are selected based on their academic achievements, volunteerism, community service, extracurricular activities and strength of character.

Selection criteria include students who demonstrate a financial need and plan to major in a STEM-related field. Preference will be given to students pursuing a degree that promotes and leads to a future career in the energy field.

"Fostering the future of our communities begins with providing education opportunities for the next generation," said Aaron Cooper, manager of corporate communications at OG&E. "This scholarship enables students of strong character with an interest in STEM to pursue their dreams without the significant financial burden. It's an honor to help these students achieve their full potential while enhancing our region's future workforce and empowering the next generation of leaders."

Established in 2019, the OG&E Positive Energy Scholarship encourages students to pursue a STEM-focused degree in higher education. Eligible students must meet specific criteria to be considered, including:

- Plan to attend a college in the states of Oklahoma or Arkansas;
- Plan to pursue and maintain one of the following STEM majors: accounting, biology, chemistry, computer science, cybersecurity, data analytics, earth science, engineering, finance, geosciences, environmental science, information technology, mathematics;
- Have an unweighted GPA greater than or equal to 3.25; and
- Achieve an ACT score greater than or equal to 25 and/or SAT score greater than or equal to 1200.

The OG&E Positive Energy Scholarship is renewable for up to four consecutive years; an unweighted GPA greater than or equal to 3.0 is required to be considered for renewal.

OG&E knows strong schools build strong communities and gives back in many ways to support students and teachers. In addition to scholarships, the electric company funds teacher projects, offers energy efficiency grants, provides classrooms with energy education materials and partners with educational institutions to cultivate a pipeline of strong industry professionals.

Since launching the program, the OGE Energy Corp. Foundation has awarded 15 Positive Energy Scholarships – totaling \$900,000 – to high school seniors.

To apply for the 2024 OG&E Positive Energy Scholarship, visit occf.academicworks.com.



John D. Montgomery • The Purcell Register

Slushy

With the frigid temperatures the past few days, ice has formed at the Purcell City Lake.



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Ancestry offers insights into autoimmune disease

People with African ancestry are three times more likely than those of primarily European descent to be diagnosed with an autoimmune disease called sarcoidosis, and they often experience more severe symptoms. However, research on the condition doesn't reflect these statistics.

Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation scientist Courtney Montgomery, Ph.D., is working to change that.

"We can't find answers for the people who need it unless we're studying the right people," Montgomery said.

Montgomery studies sarcoidosis, a painful inflammatory disease that causes immune cells to overreact and cluster together, forming tiny lumps. These cell clumps can develop in most organs but most often are found in the lungs.

Montgomery's team recently published the first large-scale genetic study of African American lung fibrosis, or scarring of the lungs. They identified a new variant, or specific form of a gene, that contributes to the condition. It was previously undiscovered because researchers had only examined volunteers with European ancestry.

"We could have studied tens of thousands of European American people and only found one or two instances of this variant because it's almost exclusively found in people with African ancestry," Montgomery said. "This identification is a step toward understanding sarcoidosis progression and a new path for all other lung disease research in this population."

Patrick Gaffney, M.D., who chairs OMRF's Genes and Human Diseases Research Program, said similar differences are true for other autoimmune

diseases like lupus. "Though 98 percent of our DNA is identical, that two percent can mean big differences, especially in complex diseases," he said.

Montgomery's lab also recently published a study that disrupts the previous understanding of sarcoidosis symptom patterns.

"In European Americans, some symptoms go hand-in-hand, which helps guide diagnosis and treatment," Montgomery said. "Our findings showed that people with African ancestry don't follow the same patterns."

People with European ancestry who have sarcoidosis often experience clear clusters of affected organs, like in the liver and spleen, distinct from joint and skin. Montgomery said her lab does not see this same clear clustering in people of African ancestry.

Environment and lifestyle factors have their own influence, Montgomery said, but genetics play a big role in determining disease outcomes. "Our results suggest that ancestry should be a consideration when monitoring a patient's progression and the organs that might become affected," she said.

Highlighting the necessity of demographic-specific research is critical for advancing the partnership between scientists and underrepresented groups. "It's important that we're able to publish research specific to those groups most affected by a particular disease so volunteers know their effort is going to help their children and grandchildren as well as the world," Montgomery said.

For more information about OMRF's sarcoidosis studies, visit omrf.org/sarcoidosis, or contact OMRF at 405-271-2504 or sru@omrf.org.



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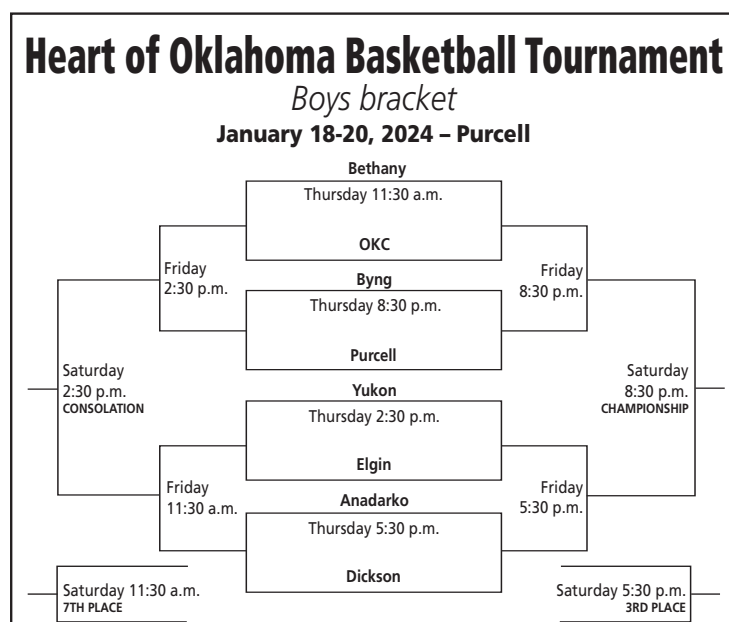
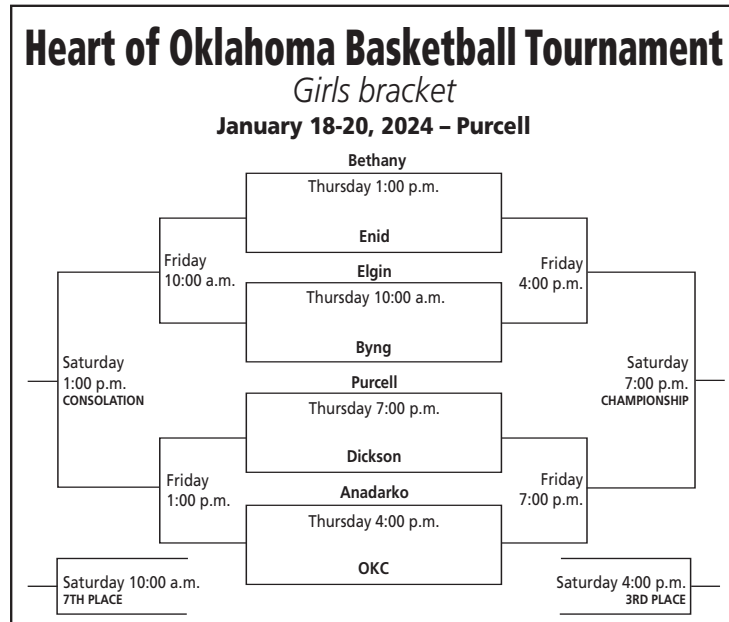
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Heart:

standing,” Cooper concluded. Complete brackets can be found below in this week’s **Purcell Register**. “This year’s HOOT is as deep with quality teams since I have been at Purcell,” boys’ coach Roger Raper said. “Two teams in Bethany and Anadarko are in the top 6 in Class 4A plus we have 6A Yukon, 5A Elgin and 4A Byng. We also have a very athletic 4A Dickson, Home School OKC

Knights and our Dragons. “There will be great competition on both sides of the bracket and this will hopefully help prepare us for the playoffs,” Raper concluded. Last year, Anadarko’s girls topped Purcell in the finals, 63-28 while the Dragons won the boys bracket for the first time since 1995. They out-scored Anadarko 21-4 in the final quarter to win, 50-37.



Cold:

to travel. **Make a plan.** Know where you will go if your power is out or if your home becomes too cold. **Stay informed.** Sign up for free emergency alerts, follow local weather and news, and download the free Red Cross Emergency app. “The safest place to be during a winter storm is indoors, and we encourage people to check on loved ones and neighbors to make sure they are staying warm, especially if older adults and babies are involved,” said Shelly Webb, Regional Disaster Officer for the Red Cross Kansas and Oklahoma Region. **Plan to Stay Warm** Stay warm indoors to prevent frostbite and hypothermia, and bring your pets inside. Follow these tips to stay safe if you need to go outside:

- Dress properly. Keep your nose, ears, cheeks, chin, fingers and toes covered in warm, dry clothing. These areas are the first to be at risk of frostbite. Wear layers of loose clothing, a coat, hat, mittens or gloves, and water-resistant boots. Use a scarf to cover your face and mouth.
- Drink plenty of warm fluids, but avoid caffeine and alcohol.
- Avoid travel if you can.
- Use ice-melting products to keep your walkways safe.
- Know the signs of frostbite and hypothermia. If you or someone you are with is shaking uncontrollably, getting extremely tired, turning very pale or getting numb fingers, toes, ears or nose — get out of the cold immediately.

Heat Your Home Safely Overall, home fires account for most of the 60,000-plus disasters that the Red Cross responds to each year — and

home fire responses are 30 percent higher during cold months than warmer times of year. “Heating equipment is a leading cause of home fires in this country,” Webb said. “But, there are steps people can take to avoid having this happen to them. Help keep your family safe by providing at least three feet of space around all heating equipment, testing your smoke alarms monthly and practicing your two-minute home fire escape plan.” **How to Safely Heat Your Home** According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), space heaters are most often responsible for home heating fires. Follow these tips on how to safely heat your home:

- If you must use a space heater, never leave it unattended. Place it on a level, hard and nonflammable surface, such as a ceramic tile floor. Don’t place it on rugs and carpets, or near bedding and drapes.
- Plug space heater power cords directly into outlets — never into an extension cord. Turn the space heater off every time you leave the room or go to sleep.
- Keep children, pets and anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment.
- Never use a cooking range or oven to heat your home.
- Never leave a fire burning in the fireplace unattended. Make sure any embers in the fireplace are extinguished before going to bed or leaving home.
- Use a glass or metal fire screen to keep embers in the fireplace.
- Have furnaces, chimneys, fireplaces, wood and coal stoves inspected annually by a professional and cleaned if necessary.

Prevent Home Fire Tragedies To help protect your family year-round, test your smoke alarms monthly and practice your home fire escape plan until everyone can escape in less than two minutes — the amount of time you may have to get out of a burning home before it’s too late. **If You Need Help** If you cannot afford to purchase smoke alarms or are physically unable to install one, the Red Cross may be able to help. Contact your local Red Cross for help.

Parole:

“It’s really easy to say no to a piece of paper or a computer,” she said. Oklahoma’s parole rate has plummeted over the past three years, an Oklahoma Watch analysis of docket results found. Prisoners convicted of violent offenses must progress through a two-stage process with gubernatorial approval required. The board has the authority to release nonviolent offenders to the street. In 2021, 36 percent of prisoners who appeared before the board received a favorable recommendation. That percentage dropped to 24 percent in 2023, with 323 fewer nonviolent prisoners granted parole compared to 2021. At least three of five board members must vote favorably for parole to be granted or recommended to the governor in violent cases. The decline correlates with a recent uptick in Oklahoma’s prison population. A Bureau of Justice Statistics report released last month found the state’s prison population rose 2.3 percent from late 2021 to 2022. The trend isn’t unique to Oklahoma. An October analysis from the Prison Policy Initiative, a Massachusetts-based think tank that advocates for criminal justice reform, found that parole rates declined in all but six states from 2019 to 2022. The analysis concluded that political pressures and attitudes often influence board decisions. The makeup of Oklahoma’s parole board has shifted considerably over the past two years. Noting that his beliefs on capital punishment differed from Gov. Kevin Stitt, former board chairman Adam Luck resigned in January 2022. Luck, the chief executive officer of an Oklahoma City nonprofit that supports people facing poverty and homelessness, faced criticism from some district attorneys over his propensity to recommend clemency for death row prisoners. “It is time that we do better,” Grady County District Attorney Jason Hicks said during a March 2021 news conference held weeks after commutation recipient Lawrence Paul Anderson murdered three people in Chickasha. “We don’t want these people on our street.” Kelly Doyle, a trained social worker and leader of a Tulsa-based nonprofit, resigned unexpectedly in March 2022. Similar to Luck, district attorneys criticized Doyle over

a perceived leniency in recommending clemency for death row inmates and parole for prisoners convicted of violent offenses. Of the board’s five current members, four have a background as a district attorney, judge or police officer. The longest-tenured member is Richard Konieczny, a retired Episcopal priest and police officer whom Gov. Stitt appointed to replace Luck in January 2022. Sue Hinton, a retired English professor at Oklahoma City Community College, became interested in criminal justice reform when she started teaching classes at state prisons in the 1980s. After retirement, she began attending Pardon and Parole Board meetings, compiling unofficial data on the board’s decisions. She said the board is much more likely to consider early release if a prisoner personally appears before the parole board. But because the board functions in a part-time capacity and Oklahoma’s prison population has soared since the body was formed in 1944, that’s not feasible in most cases. “Depression is the prevailing state of mind,” Hinton said of parole applicants. “They’re not gang members, not trouble makers, and have a heart of good citizenship, but they don’t feel like there’s a reward.” Hinton said board members face extraordinary outside pressure and are often predisposed to reject an application if they do not have enough information. Making the board full-time could allow members more time to review cases, she said. Oklahoma parole board members are classified as part-time state employees and expected to work about 10 hours per week. Parole board members in neighboring Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Texas and Arkansas are classified as full-time state employees. In Texas, whose state prison population is about five times greater than Oklahoma, board members earn an average salary of well over \$100,000. Richard Fox won’t be eligible to reapply for parole until September 2026. Trisha Fox said she’s hopeful a proposed overhaul of the state’s criminal sentencing code will take effect and make her husband eligible for early release before then, but in that scenario his fate would again rest with the parole board. “When you listen to them and how fast they go, it’s just no, no, no, on to the next one,” she said. “It’s like they already made up their mind when they got there.” Pardon and Parole Board guidelines advise members to consider the nature of a parole applicant’s crime, criminal history, participation in prison programs and misconduct history. District attorneys are also allowed to oppose or protest a parole application ahead of a board hearing. Oklahoma Watch, at oklahomawatch.org, is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news organization that covers public-policy issues facing the state.



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No. 11 Dragons bag 2 wins

Top Marlow and Lexington as HOOT looms

John D. Montgomery
The Purcell Register

Toney Cooper's Dragons out-scored Marlow and Lexington 116-59 in two games last week hiking the No. 11 Dragons to 10-2 on the season. Led by Kenna Esparza's nine points, Purcell topped the Outlaws, 47-36.

"We did not shoot the ball particularly well in that game," Cooper said. "What we did particularly in the first half was play very good defense.

"Marlow slowed the game as much as they could and ran very good motion offenses waiting for a breakdown defensively to get the perfect shot.

"Our kids were extremely disciplined and held them to six points in the first half sending them to the line only once," Cooper said praising his squad.

Purcell had balanced scoring with Jenna Avery and Ella

1/9
Marlow 36
Purcell 47

Marlow	4	2	13	17—36
Purcell	9	10	18	10—47

Player	Points
Kenna Esparza	9
Ella Resendiz	8
Jenna Avery	8
Haven Buchanan	7
Tinley Winters	6
Hadleigh Harp	5
Lili Del Toro	2
Hannah Whitaker	2

1/12
Lexington 23
Purcell 69

Lexington	5	5	9	4—23
Purcell	24	15	13	17—69

Player	Points
Kenna Esparza	19
Alyssa Thompson	12
Jenna Avery	6
Hadleigh Harp	6
Ella Resendiz	6
Haven Buchanan	5
Tinley Winters	4
Hannah Whitaker	4
Emma Renfro	3
Bri Wren	2
Lili Del Toro	2

1/9
Marlow 47
Purcell 46

Marlow	14	14	9	10—47
Purcell	9	10	14	13—46

Player	Points
Kobe Freeman	25
Jaime Resendiz	8
Brayden Tharp	6
Kylen DeFreeze	4
Seth Bunch	3

1/12
Lexington 60
Purcell 71

Lexington ..	19	16	13	11—60
Purcell	21	13	20	17—71

Player	Points
Kobe Freeman	32
Kylen DeFreeze	16
Brayden Tharp	8
Seth Bunch	7
Jaime Resendiz	6
Ryder Ward	2



Greg Gaston • double g images

Turn the corner

Washington sophomore Jack McKimney dribbles away from a Lindsay defender during the Warriors' 58-51 win over the Leopards.

Rocky Clarke Invitational tips today in Washington

John Denny Montgomery
The Purcell Register

The Rocky Clarke Invitational Washington Basketball Tournament begins January 18 at the Warrior Event Center.

Washington's girls tip off at 5:40 p.m. against Casady.

The boys will play Cache at 6:55 p.m.

The tournament runs through Saturday.

Both boys and girls brackets can be found on page 3B of this week's **Purcell Register**.

Girls
The Washington girls notched two more conference wins, defeating Lindsay (50-31) and Marlow (62-33).

Preslee Johnson led the

team in scoring against Lindsay with 14 points.

Despite holding the Leopards to 31 points, head coach Kale Simon didn't think his team defended well in the game.

"We didn't guard great against Lindsay," Simon said. "But give their players credit for some of that. We regrouped afterwards and had a couple good practices to work on things."

Lindsay was held to point totals of 11, 8, 4 and 8 by quarter.

"We know we can guard and we are trying to guard for 32 minutes and not give up any bad stretches," Simon said. "We pride ourselves on responding to mistakes.

We want to shorten the time we don't play well during the game and lessen the bad times."

Marlow
Washington got off to a hyper-fast start in their game against Marlow.

They led by 16 points at the end of the first quarter and extended that lead to 24 by halftime.

"In the first half we played as well as we have all season," Simon said. "We're finding our identity and we're faster paced on offense. Preslee Johnson hit four threes in the second quarter and we were in attack mode."

Please see **Wash**, page 3B



Greg Gaston • double g images

Playing through traffic

Purcell sophomore Kaylin Vazquez (13) battles in the lane January 12 during the Dragons' 69-23 win over Lexington.

Resendiz following Esparza's nine with 8 each.

"We forced them into 25 turnovers and that was the difference for us," Cooper said.

The Dragons turned around and pinned a 69-23 loss on visiting Lexington for the 2024 homecoming tilt.

Esparza's 19 points, including five buckets from beyond the arc, led all scorers. She was joined in double figures by Alyssa Thompson with a dozen. Thompson's big night included being chosen as the 2024 basketball homecoming queen.

"Although we beat Marlow, I was not at all happy with how we played defensively in the second half so coming into the game with Lexington our focus was playing four complete quarters of intense defense," the coach said.

Marlow out-scored the Dragons 30-28 in the final two periods.

Purcell turned up the defensive intensity and held them to 23 total points and forced 30 turnovers.

The Dragons scored 30 points off those turnovers and were clicking on offense from the opening tip.

Esparza had seven steals to go with her 19 points.

Please see **Dragons**, page 3B

Grady Co. tourney this week

Lexington was also at Wynnewood on Tuesday

Emily Montgomery
The Purcell Register

Monday night, in their first game of the Grady County tournament, the Bulldogs avenged their loss to Dibble from last week in the championship game of the Arbuckle Classic. They won 56-33.

"The guys played well. It feels good to get that team win.

"Zeke facilitated the offense well, Drew's eight

rebounds were helpful and Ty had six or seven assists," head coach Kyle Wells said.

Two Bulldogs were in double figures led by Zeke Faulkenberry's 21 and Ty Mixon's 10. Colt Mixon added eight.

According to Wells, the biggest difference was Lexington's defense.

"We stopped them on offense and created a lot of turnovers."

Lexington will play again on Friday night. They await the winner of Tuesday night's game between Minco and Alex.

Last Friday Lexington was in Purcell to take on the Dragons in the Battle of the Bridge. The Bulldogs kept it close, holding a one point lead at halftime. However,

Please see **Lex**, page 3B



John Denny Montgomery • The Purcell Register

Out the gate

Purcell junior Kobe Freeman (2) dribbles away from a pair of Lexington defenders during the Dragons' 71-60 win over the Bulldogs. Freeman scored 32 points in the game.



Greg Gaston • double g images

Battling it out

Lexington senior Ty Mixon (3) dribbles while Purcell sophomore Ryder Ward (4) guards him during the Dragons' 71-60 win. Mixon had 19 points while Ward scored two.



John Denny Montgomery • The Purcell Register

Dragon's court

Purcell's homecoming court Friday night included, from left, Jenna Avery, junior escort Brayden Tharp, Alyssa Thompson and Kylen DeFreeze. The crown bearer was JJ Franco and Alex Blair was the flower girl.



John Denny Montgomery • The Purcell Register

Royals

Purcell senior Alyssa Thompson was crowned queen Friday night while fellow senior Kylen DeFreeze was crowned king at Purcell's homecoming coronation. JJ Franco was the crown bearer and Alex Blair was the flower girl.

Wayne drops two last week

Losses to Davis, Stratford for Bulldogs and Lady Bulldogs

Emily Montgomery
The Purcell Register

Friday night Wayne dropped a tough game with Stratford, 64-57.

"It was a good game that really went to the wire. We got behind in the first when they had some guys on fire offensively," head coach Jackson Embry said.

"We were up 11-2 in the first quarter when their guard hit three threes and went off."

That offensive onslaught changed Wayne's defensive game plan from zone defense to man which, according to Embry, stressed their defense and put Wayne in a bit of a predicament.

However, the coach said after the first quarter Wayne found his groove and it was a tight game the rest of the way.

Wyatt Webster and Ty Kemp were the leading scorers for Wayne with 17 and 13, respectively. Jaxon Dill added nine.

Last Tuesday, Wayne hosted Davis and lost 58-45.

"Davis just has a different aggressiveness to them. They are always big and very physical, which we struggled with," Embry said.

Webster had a team high 17 points. Kemp added 12 and Dill had 11.

Webster and Dill each hauled in five rebounds.

The Bulldogs were down 28-18 at halftime. Their offense warmed up in the second half, outscoring Davis 12-10 in the third, but they could not overcome the deficit.

"When Wyatt fouled out they were able to exploit us on the offensive end with their two

biggs. That put us in trouble."

According to Embry there were 12 lead changes in the first half but after some foul trouble Davis pulled away for the 13-point win.

Tuesday's scheduled game at Asher was moved to next Thursday, January 25.

The Bulldogs will play Ringling on Thursday afternoon in the first round of the Healdton tournament.

Girls

Last Friday Wayne dropped a 55-34 loss to Stratford.

"We like to play our best basketball in the middle 8 minutes - last four minutes of

Please see **Wayne**, page 4B

1/9

Davis 58
Wayne 45

Davis 13 15 10 18—58
Wayne 11 7 12 15—45

Player	Points
Wyatt Webster	17
Ty Kemp	12
Jaxon Dill	11
Ben Fisher	5

1/12

Stratford 64
Wayne 57

Stratford 22 14 7 21—64
Wayne 15 14 14 14—57

Player	Points
Wyatt Webster	17
Ty Kemp	13
Jaxon Dill	9
Bradey Vanschuyver	7
Ben Fisher	5
Cameron Davis	3
Logan Taylor	3

1/9

Davis 57
Wayne 29

Davis 12 11 13 21—57
Wayne 7 11 5 6—29

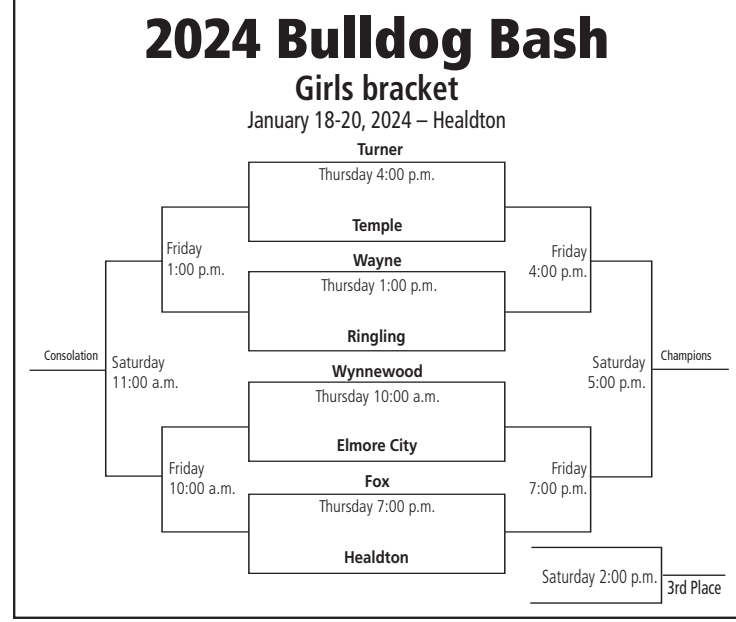
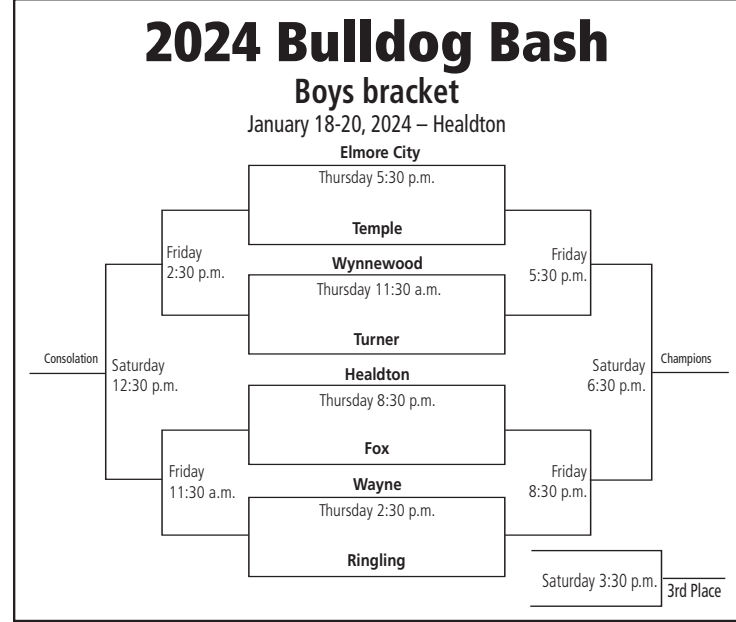
Player	Points
Taelyn Ringwald	14
Audra Watts	10
Faith Brazell	4
Alyssa Hobson	1

1/12

Stratford 55
Wayne 34

Stratford 9 12 19 15—55
Wayne 9 2 13 10—34

Player	Points
Taelyn Ringwald	16
Faith Brazell	5
Audra Watts	4
Addison Keeler	4
Dakota Martin	3
Madi Sharp	2



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TSET HEALTHY LIVING PROGRAM:

Investing in McClain County's Health

Did you know half of all cancers are caused by obesity and tobacco use? It's true — and Oklahoma has some of the highest rates of tobacco use and obesity in the nation. TSET Healthy Living Program (HLP) grants use evidence-based methods to address obesity and tobacco prevention and cessation at a local level.

OBESITY RATE (%)	ADULT SMOKING RATE (%)
U.S. 31.4	U.S. 14.0
OK 36.8	OK 18.9
MCCLAIN 36.0	MCCLAIN 16.1

Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2019

Here are the ways your local TSET HLP grantee is working to improve the health of McClain County:

- Preventing and reducing youth retail access to tobacco and vapes.
- Ordinances that restrict tobacco use indoors and outdoors on city-owned and operated property.
- Policies to restrict tobacco use or smoking indoors and outdoors within multi-unit housing.
- Working with local retailers to increase the availability, quality and affordability of healthy foods.
- To see other ways TSET HLP is impacting your community, visit TSET.OK.GOV/HLP.

To get involved in promoting health in McClain County, contact the TSET HLP Grantee at Norman Regional Health System (405) 515-0071.

TSET HEALTHY LIVING PROGRAM
Serving McClain County

Getting to know the COURTHOUSE EMPLOYEES

Nancy Cearley

How long have you worked for the McClain County Court Clerk's office? 15 months.

What are your duties? Traffic Clerk.

Where is your hometown? Galt, California.

Tell us a little bit about your family? Moved to Oklahoma in 2000 from Texas. Remarried in 2012, together we have 3 children and 9 grandchildren. Yes the grandkids are my favorite!

What do you enjoy doing outside of work? Spending time with family & friends. Attending live music especially outside events. Jumping in the car for a drive and not knowing where we end up.

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Dragons:

“Tinley Winters and Ella Resendiz owned the boards for us,” Cooper said. “I’m happy with our team’s performance and how we locked in defensively. It was definitely the perfect ending for homecoming this year.”

Boys

Both Lexington and Purcell shot out of the gate on offense in their contest with Purcell topping the visitors 21-19 in the opening frame.

Lexington actually took a one-point lead going into intermission, 35-34.

Purcell kept its foot on the gas pouring in 37 second half points while holding the Bulldogs to 24 to win going away, 71-60.

Kobe Freeman’s 32 points led all scorers. He was joined in double digits by Kylen DeFreeze with 16.

The Dragons got off to a slow start in their game earlier in the week and lost a heart-breaker

47-46 at the hands of Marlow. Purcell trailed at halftime, 28-19, before battling back in the final two quarters.

Purcell actually had the lead down the stretch but came up just short.

Freeman’s game-high 25 points paced the Dragons. He burned the nylons for four treys including three in the first period.

After a rough start on Tuesday night against Marlow, we played much better in the second half.

“We had the lead down the stretch and had a few unfortunate things happen. Some things are out of your control and there isn’t much you can do about those. We do recognize what we need to do to improve and I believe this team will do so,” head coach Roger Raper said.

“On Friday against Lexington both teams got off to hot

starts,” the coach said. “We were able to defend better in the second half and slow them down.”

Our offense continued to be on pace and we were able to pull away,” Raper said.

He mentioned the scoring of Kobe Freeman in both games and DeFreeze for his 16 against Lexington.

“Sophomore Jaime Resendiz had six points and nine rebounds in the Lexington game and continues to get better with each outing.

“Also, junior Brayden Tharp is starting to shoot the ball like we think he is capable. We are excited to watch his progress. We’ve got a big week coming up with Washington on Tuesday followed by a very tough HOOT here at The Reimer Center this weekend,” Raper concluded.



Greg Gaston • double g images

Off to the races

Purcell junior Kenna Esparza (5) dribbles down the court while Lexington senior Jordan Hardy gives chase. Purcell won 69-23. Esparza scored a team-high 19 points while Hardy had two.



Greg Gaston • double g images

Playing through contact

Washington sophomore Addy Lanham gets hacked on a play against Lindsay January 9. The Warriors won 50-31. Lanham scored five points.

From page 1B

Wash:

Johnson again led the Warriors in scoring with 19. It was also a game-high total.

Kelby Beller scored 13 points and Shelbie Caveness had 10.

“Kelby is doing a good job of advancing the ball and finding teammates in transition,” Simon said. “Her teammates are running in transition and doing a good job of being there. It’s a team effort. We’ve been in more of an attack mode, which makes us tough to guard.”

The Warriors are scoring on three levels and it puts tremendous stress on opposing defenses. They’re hitting three pointers, making lay-ups and hitting shots from mid-range.

Washington is ranked No. 1 in Class 3A with a record of 12-1.

Boys

Head coach Trevor Smith’s boys team took a win against Lindsay, 58-51.

“We played really well against Lindsay,” Smith confirmed. “We only had eight turnovers and we played a complete game.”

He said his team executed in areas they’ve emphasized in practice.

“We were competing against Lindsay, not ourselves too,” Smith said.

Marlow

The Marlow game was another story.

“We competed against ourselves against Marlow,” Smith said. “We had over 20 turnovers in the game. We didn’t play very well, but give credit to Marlow. We just couldn’t get into a rhythm and we were playing from behind the whole game.”

Washington is 5-8 this season.

1/12 Girls

Washington 62
Marlow 33

Washington 19 17 16 9—62
Marlow 3 9 6 15—33

Player	Points
Preslee Johnson	19
Kelby Beller	13
Shelbie Caveness	10
Breanna Lindert	5
Emma Griffin	4
Addy Lanham	4
Laney Gay	2
Daphne Palumbo	2
Ava Salcedo	2

1/9 Girls

Washington 50
Lindsay 31

Lindsay 11 8 4 8—31
Washington 12 13 13 9—50

Player	Points
Preslee Johnson	14
Shelbie Caveness	8
Emersyn Massey	6
Kelby Beller	6
Breanna Lindert	6
Addy Lanham	5
Jayden Wells	3
Laney Gay	2

From page 1B

Lex:

foul trouble slowed them down in the second half as they dropped the game, 71-60.

“I think the guys played well. We had the lead at halftime but foul trouble got us.

“The guys played well and never gave up,” head coach Kyle Wells said.

Three Bulldogs finished the game in double figures. Faulkenberry led Lexington with 23, Mixon added 19 and Drew Dierking had 11.

Dierking also led the team in rebounds with 10.

Four Bulldogs finished the game with four fouls.

Wells said he was proud of the guys despite the loss, especially Elijah Pearman who comes off the bench and provides a spark for his team.

“Elijah is a big time hustler. He dives for balls and plays great defense. He gives you all he’s got.”

Tuesday night Lexington was scheduled to be in Wynnewood to take on the Savages.

Girls

Monday night, in their first game of the Grady County tournament, Lexington’s Lady Bulldogs lost to Dibble 56-40.

Addi Lippel was in double figures for the Lady ‘Dawgs with 11 points. Abby Sample added 10.

The Lexington offense was off to a slow start down 30-11 after the first half.

The second half was a different story as they outscored Dibble 29-26, but they could not work their way out of the hole from the first half.

Lexington will play on Friday at 4 p.m. against the loser of Tuesday night’s Minco/Rush Springs game.

The Lady Bulldogs struggled offensively against a stifling Dragon defense last Friday as they lost 69-23.

“Purcell came out and jumped on us from the get-go. Coach Cooper had those girls playing at a high level and we did not play to our potential,” head coach Jacobi Couch said.

Sample was Lexington’s leading scorer with six points.

“The girls were not ok with that loss and that is definitely something we can build on. They care and want to bounce back,” Couch said.

Tuesday night Lexington was in Wynnewood for a scheduled game with the Lady Savages.

1/12

Purcell 69
Lexington 23

Lexington 5 5 9 4—23
Purcell 24 15 13 13—69

Player	Points
Abby Sample	6
Landri Bean	3
Addi Lippel	3
Hadley Wilkins	2
Natalie Dickson	2
Charli Moore	2
Marleigh Givens	2
Jordan Hardy	2
Kiely Givens	1

1/12

Purcell 71
Lexington 60

Lexington 19 16 13 12—60
Purcell 21 13 20 17—71

Player	Points
Zeke Faulkenberry	23
Ty Mixon	19
Drew Dierking	11
Skylar Rollins	4
Hunter Olson	3

1/15

Dibble 56
Lexington 40

Dibble 15 15 11 15—56
Lexington 4 7 17 12—40

Player	Points
Addi Lippel	11
Abby Sample	10
Mackenzie Manuel	6
Lexie Torres	3
Ryleigh Markovich	2
Hadley Wilkins	2
Kiely Givens	2
Marleigh Givens	2
Jordan Hardy	2

1/15

Lexington 56
Dibble 33

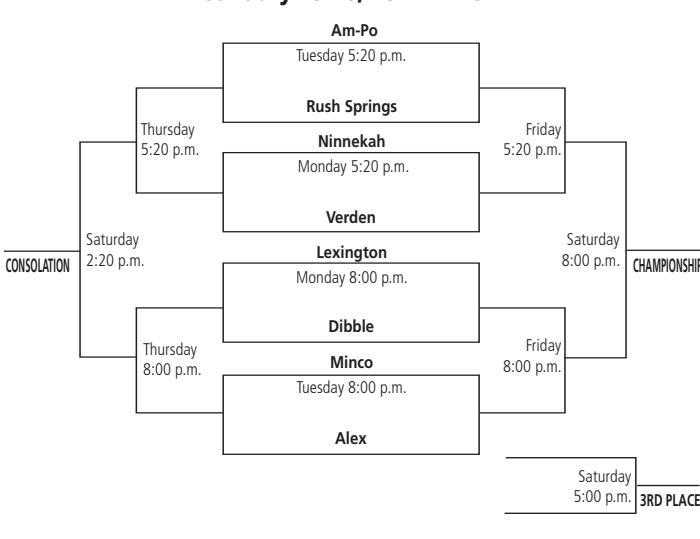
Dibble 11 7 6 9—33
Lexington 14 9 14 19—56

Player	Points
Zeke Faulkenberry	21
Ty Mixon	10
Colt Mixon	8
Skylar Rollins	6
Reagan Smith	5
Drew Dierking	4
Elijah Pearman	2

2024 Grady County Tournament

Boys bracket

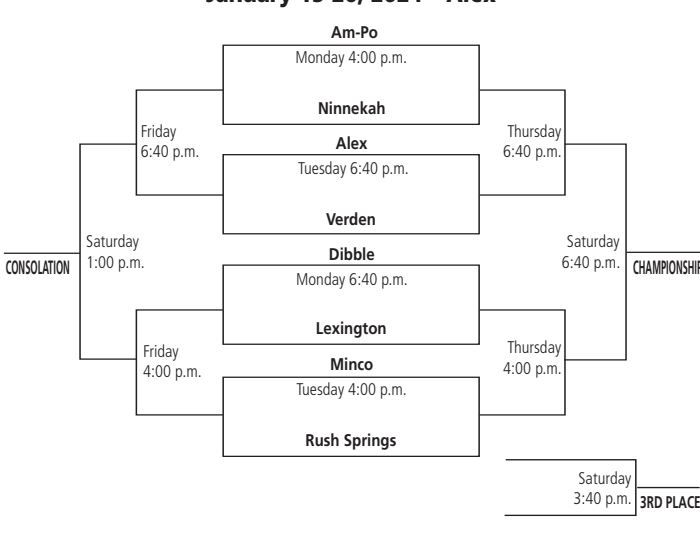
January 15-20, 2024 - Alex



2024 Grady County Tournament

Girls bracket

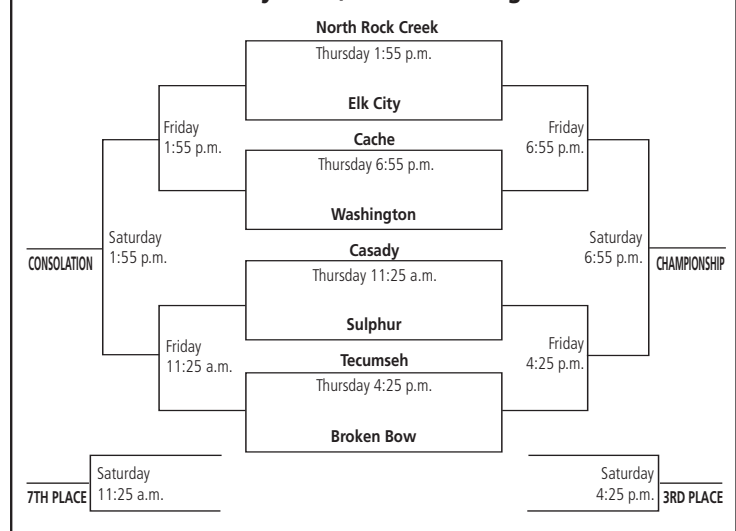
January 15-20, 2024 - Alex



Rocky Clarke Invitational Washington Tournament

Boys bracket

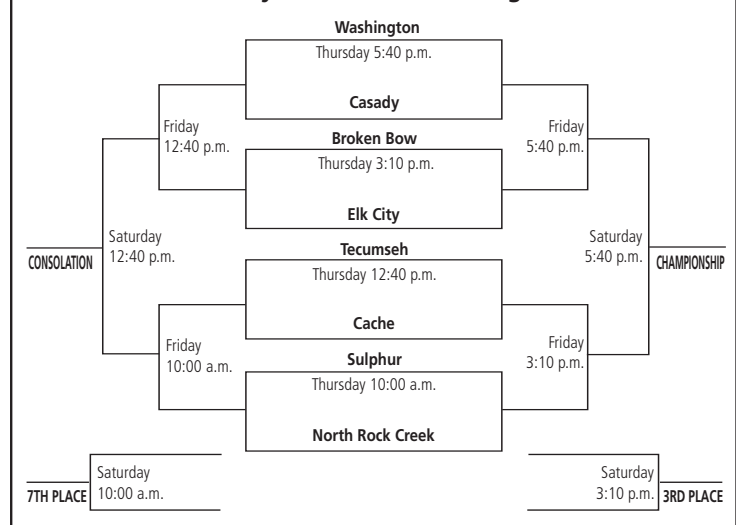
January 18-20, 2024 - Washington



Rocky Clarke Invitational Washington Tournament

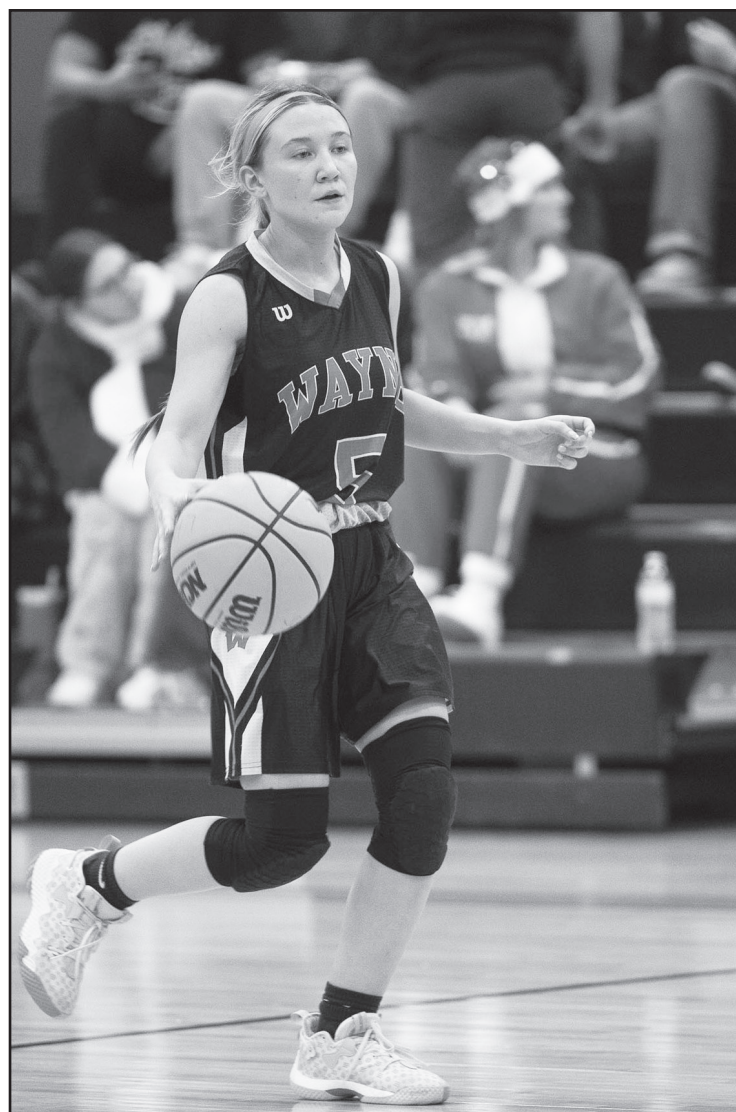
Girls bracket

January 18-20, 2024 - Washington



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Wayne:



Greg Gaston • double g images

Set up

Wayne junior Madi Sharp brings the ball up the floor for the Bulldogs. The Wayne girls basketball team travels to Healdton January 18-20 for the Bulldo Bash Basketball Tournament.

the second quarter and first four minutes of the third quarter - and they hit us in the mouth in the third and coasted to the win," Embry said.

Taelyn Ringwald had a team-high 16 points.

The Lady Bulldogs came up short in a 57-29 loss to Davis last Tuesday.

It was a tale of two halves as Wayne was down just five points, 23-18, at the break.

But, with only 11 points scored through the third and fourth quarters to Davis' 34, Wayne could not dig out of the hole.

"Davis is a top 10 team in 2A. Going into the fourth quarter we were down just four, but we've struggled this season going all four quarters and this game was more of that.

"Our legs got tired and they were able to pull away," Embry said.

Ringwald led Wayne with 14 points while Audra Watts joined her in double figures with 10.

Watts also had nine rebounds.

Tuesday night Wayne was scheduled to travel to Asher, but that game was rescheduled for Thursday, January 25.

The Lady Bulldogs will play Ringling on Thursday in the first round of the Healdton tournament.



1/9 Boys
Washington 58
Lindsay 51

1/12 Boys
Marlow 58
Washington 43

Baby hook

Washington sophomore Miller Orr puts up a shot during the Warriors' 58-51 win over Lindsay.



Greg Gaston • double g images

Mano a mano

Lexington senior Zeke Faulkenberry (0) and Purcell junior Kobe Freeman (2) squared off January 12 during the Dragons' 71-60 win over the Bulldogs. Freeman scored 32 points while Faulkenberry had 23 in the game. Both were team highs.

Beware holiday fraud in January? Yes!

Christmas is over but the fraudsters aren't done trying to steal your holiday cash! Returning items because they don't work for you is normal, so thieves are churning out lots of scams related to returns.

Some of their fake emails and texts pretend to be from Amazon and most major retailers.

"Return those items inside the app you use for purchases," says Mike Van Sickle, chief experience officer at The First National Bank & Trust Co. "Every app you use carries a relationship with it, a relationship you authorized previously. If you get a random text or email saying, 'click here to help with your return,' you could be visiting a fraud site.

"This is tragic, but it's happening, and we want to help our customers stay safe. Instead of clicking that link, we recommend you visit the retailer's app on your phone or desktop and click 'returns' inside the app," he said.

In the past, most fraud happened with paper checks. Today, check fraud represents only one-third of all fraud reported by banks, according to Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN). These days, thieves prefer digital means.

According to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), Americans lost \$330 million to text scams in 2022, reports Andy Zavoina with BankersOnline.com.

Van Sickle warns that fraudsters can appear as family or friends: "Even if you pay another person directly every month with an electronic transfer, if you get an email or text saying their banking information has changed, and you should click some link to 'update your banking information to assist in this monthly transaction,' you should call that person directly to confirm, Van Sickle says.

Digital thieves also send

fake invoices, so if any invoice you receive seems questionable, you should call the service provider immediately if you weren't expecting that bill.

Naturally, you should use a phone number you already know is associated with that business and not the phone number on a suspicious fake "invoice."

At First National Bank, bankers are more concerned than ever with customer security.

"It's another step, but we recommend multi-factor authentication (MFA) when customers access banking services, says Chuck Daye, chief information security officer at FNBT. "MFA creates another layer of difficulty for thieves getting into your money or your business," Daye says. MFA happens when the app or website asks you to receive and enter a special code for authorization. "People should not resent that second security step but appreciate the layers of security built into these points of access. We really do want to protect our customers' money."

In order to avoid fraud, customers are encouraged to ask the following questions:

Do I review my bank statements or at least regularly review their balances and transactions online? You should review your accounts online, at least weekly. You may recognize fraud before any bank or service does.

Do you know to never give out your security code shared by a bank or website? Here's a common scam, shared by Zavoina:

A thief sends thousands of text messages like "XYZ bank - we need to verify your \$5,026 transaction at Big Box, reply 'Y' to accept the charge and 'N' to deny. If you have a question, call the bank at 623-387-6862."

The phone number is a fake. It's a trap. When the customer replies "N," the thief gets verification that this is a fish that

is ready to take the bait. Or, the customer will call the fake number, and the hook will be set. As part of the scam, the bank (thief) will send a six-digit code and the customer needs to give them that number back. The thief empties your account and changes your password.

How to avoid this scam? Don't share codes. Never call back on the number given but call your bank/vendor with a number you know.

Do I use four-digit security codes? You should know that a hacker can break a four-digit codes in seconds with a computer program. Real passwords are better, and biometric safeguards (like fingerprint or face recognition) are the safest.

Scammers are using text and email more than ever, Daye said. "We encourage customers to never click on links in text and email. Even if you see a logo from a company you recognize don't click. If you are reading a message that needs a response - like your account balance is low or you missed a payment, just call the company directly, using a number you already know or get from your monthly bill. You may act on the information in the email if you think you need to, but pretend it has no helpful links or numbers. This can help you avoid being victimized."

The "undeliverable package" is a new favorite tool by scammers, Daye said, especially around the holidays. "People order and receive a lot of packages, so one stray text or email informing us that a package can't be delivered seems pretty normal.

"But in most cases, it's a scam, even if it contains a pasted logo from UPS or other shippers. If the text or email is asking you for address and credit card, etc., think about how unlikely it is for a company to need your information confirmed," he concluded.

Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage programs

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that agricultural producers can now enroll in the Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs for the 2024 crop year.

Producers could enroll and make election changes for the 2024 crop year starting Dec. 18, 2023. The deadline to complete enrollment and any election change is March 15, 2024.

On Nov. 16, 2023, President Biden signed into law H.R. 6363, the Further Continuing Appropriations and Other Extensions Act, 2024 (Pub. L. 118-22), which extended the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Pub. L. 115-334), more commonly known as the 2018 Farm Bill, through September 30, 2024.

This extension allows authorized programs, including ARC and PLC, to continue operating.

"Having the Farm Bill extension in place means business as usual for Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage program implementation for the 2024 crop year - nothing has changed from previous years," said FSA Administrator Zach Ducheneaux.

"These programs provide critical financial protections against commodity market volatilities for many American farmers so don't delay enrollment.

Avoid the rush and contact your local FSA office for an appointment because even if you are not changing your program election for 2024, you still need to sign a contract to enroll," he concluded.

2024 Elections & Enrollment Producers can elect cover-

age and enroll in ARC-County (ARC-CO) or PLC, which provide crop-by-crop protection, or ARC-Individual (ARC-IC), which protects the entire farm. Although changes for 2024 are optional, producers must enroll through a signed contract each year. Also, if a producer has a multi-year contract on the farm it will continue for 2024 unless an election change is made.

If producers do not submit their election revision by the March 15, 2024, deadline, their election remains the same as their 2023 election for commodities on the farm. Farm owners cannot enroll in either program unless they have a share interest in the cropland.

Covered commodities include barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, long grain rice, medium grain rice, safflower seed, seed cotton, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat.

2022 Crop Year Payments

This fall, FSA issued payments totaling more than \$267 million to agricultural producers who enrolled in the 2022 ARC-CO option and the ARC-IC option for covered commodities that triggered a payment. Payments through the PLC option did not trigger for the 2022 crop year.

ARC and PLC payments for a given crop year are paid out the following fall to allow actual county yields and the Market Year Average prices to be finalized. These payments help mitigate fluctuations in either revenue or prices for certain crops.

Payments for crops that may

trigger for the 2023 crop year will be issued in the fall of 2024.

Crop Insurance Considerations

ARC and PLC are part of a broader USDA safety net that also includes crop insurance and marketing assistance loans.

Producers are reminded that ARC and PLC elections and enrollments can impact eligibility for some crop insurance products.

Producers on farms with a PLC election can purchase Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO) through their Approved Insurance Provider; however, producers on farms where ARC is the election are ineligible for SCO on their planted acres for that crop on that farm.

Unlike SCO, the Enhanced Coverage Option (ECO) is unaffected by an ARC election. Producers may add ECO regardless of the farm program election.

Upland cotton farmers who choose to enroll seed cotton base acres in ARC or PLC are ineligible for the stacked income protection plan (STAX) on their planted cotton acres for that farm.

Web-Based Decision Tools

Many universities offer web-based decision tools to help producers make informed decisions using crop data specific to their respective operations. Producers are encouraged to use the tool of their choice.

More Information

For more information on ARC and PLC, producers can visit the ARC and PLC webpage or contact their local USDA Service Center. Producers can also make elections and complete enrollment online with level 2 eAuth.

Religion

Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church

By Stella Bledsoe

January 21, 2024 is the third Sunday of Ordinary Time. While most articles in this column focus on the gospel readings, this week's first reading from Jonah helps us in our Christian journey.

Jonah was an interesting Old Testament figure. Little children may not remember many of the characters they are taught about but they all remember Jonah.

Jonah was swallowed by a big fish, probably a whale, and was vomited back onto dry land. If nothing else, his

body odor would have been disgusting.

The reading is Jonah 3:1-5, 10. First we need to review what happened earlier. God told Jonah to go to Nineveh and tell the people to turn from their evil ways. Nineveh was the capital of Assyria. The Assyrian Empire was one of the most ruthless ever seen.

They practiced scorched earth warfare, slaughtering women and children, beheading enemies and parading through the streets with their heads on pikes (long thrusting

spears). Israel was one of the nations conquered by the Assyrians.

When God first told Jonah to go to Nineveh, Jonah skipped town and hitched a ride on a ship. A violent storm was about to sink the vessel. Jonah realized he was the cause, and the crew threw him overboard.

Jonah could not fathom that his God could be the God of "those" Assyrian people. When he finally did go to Nineveh, he did not say, "Repent and turn to God." He was half-hearted in his attempts and said, "Forty

days more and Nineveh shall be destroyed."

When all of Nineveh repented (120,000), God relented and did not destroy the city. You might think Jonah would have been pleased that his mission was a success. No. He pouted. God dealt with him in mercy and compassion.

What do we learn? If God wants you, he will find you wherever you go. Like the Ninevites, a change of heart is needed as well as asking for forgiveness.

God's grace is sovereign so we may not presume on his

mercy. Even if God plans to punish terribly, he may relent and not do so.

Finally, we must not be righteously indignant when God's mercy, which is from everlasting to everlasting, is not given as we expect. God's mercy is not "us or them." God's mercy extends to all when we call upon his name.

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

All Masses will be in the parish hall while the sanctuary is under renovation.

Our Lady of Victory parish is

located at 307 West Jefferson in Purcell.

The church administrative office is located at 501 N. 4th, and it is open weekday mornings. The office number is 405-527-5077.

Weekend mass services are Saturday, 5 p.m.; Sunday, 8:30 a.m., 11 a.m., and Sunday, 1 p.m. (Spanish).

Daily masses are Tuesday, 9 a.m.; Wednesday, 12 noon; Thursday, 7 p.m. (Spanish), and Friday, 9 a.m. Daily masses will be held in the Juan Diego room in the parish hall.

Peace be with you.



John Denny Montgomery • The Purcell Register

Complete renovation

Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church is undergoing a sanctuary renovation project. The Church, which was built in 1952, will maintain its high altar. Mass is being held in the church hall while construction is underway. Mass times are Saturday at 5 p.m. and Sundays at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. in English and 1 p.m. in Spanish.

Lexington Westside Church of Christ

Front-Porch Gospel (#3 of '24: 'Running Our Race, Today')

Good third week of 2024! Welcome to the "front porch."

Glancing through the Bible reading for this week, one of the first readings that jumped out to me is from January 23's Psalm 19.

Listen to the beauty of this psalm from a paraphrase called The Passion Translation:

"God's splendor is a tale that is told, written in the stars.

"Space itself speaks his story through the marvels of the heavens.

"His truth is on tour in the starry vault of the sky, showing his skill in creation's craftsmanship. Each day gushes out its message to the next, night by night whispering its knowledge to all—

"Without a sound, without a word, without a voice being heard, yet all the world can hear

its echo. Everywhere its message goes out. What a heavenly home God has set for the sun, shining in the superdome of the sky!

"See how he leaves his celestial chamber each morning, radiant as a bridegroom ready for his wedding, like a day-breaking champion eager to run his course.

"He rises on one horizon, completing his circuit on the other, warming lives and lands with his heat" (vs. 1-6).

Ah, what a beautiful paraphrase of this great psalm! And the one lesson that strikes me is that every day as the sun opens its celestial curtain and steps out on heaven's balcony for his powerful work that day, always with the greatest enthusiasm and joy, so do we, below, step out, and so are we ready to run our race like a champion runner!

Great reading! Here's our full schedule:

January 18 ~ Gen. 37:1 - 38:30 ~ Mt. 12:22-45 ~ Ps. 16:11 32 ~ Prov. 3:27-32

January 19 ~ Gen. 39:1 - 41:16 ~ Mt. 12:46 - 13:23 ~ Ps. 17:1-15 ~ Prov. 3:33-35

January 20 ~ Gen. 41:17 - 42:17 ~ Mt. 13:24-46 ~ Ps. 18:1-15 ~ Prov. 4:1-6

January 21 ~ Gen. 42:18 - 43:34 ~ Mt. 13:47 - 14:12 ~ Ps. 18:16-36 ~ Prov. 4:7-10

Jan. 22 ~ Gen. 44:1 - 45:28 ~ Mt. 14:13-36 ~ Ps. 18:37-50 ~ Prov. 4:11-13

Jan. 23 ~ Gen. 46:1 - 47:31 ~ Mt. 15:1-28 ~ Ps. 19:1-14 ~ Prov. 4:14-19

Jan. 24 ~ Gen. 48:1 - 49:33 ~ Mt. 15:29 - 16:12 ~ Ps. 20:1-9 ~ Prov. 4:20-27

So, this week, good friends, let's all run our race well, each day, from the coming up of the sun 'til its going down.

God bless!
coachbowen1984@gmail.com

Nominations open for 2024 Dynamic Woman of the Year

The Chickasaw Nation is accepting nominations through January 21 for the 2024 Dynamic Woman of the Year Award, as well as applications for presenters at the annual conference.

As leaders in education, health care, arts, cultural advocacy, legal professions, policies, social services and community development, Chickasaw women forge new roads that serve as a force of empowerment for people of all ages.

The Chickasaw Nation Dynamic Woman of the Year Award honors women who impact the lives of Chickasaws and contribute to their communities. Since its establishment in 2006, Chickasaw women honored with this award have inspired and opened new possibilities and opportunities for others.

The award will be presented at the 2024 Chickasaw Nation Dynamic Women's Conference.

Chickasaw women ages 35 and older are eligible for the award. Chickasaw Nation em-

ployees and elected officials are ineligible.

Nominations must be submitted electronically to Ethan. Cox@Chickasaw.net by January 21.

The Chickasaw Nation is also seeking speakers and panelists to share valuable skills, talents and community contributions during the Dynamic Women of the Chickasaw Nation Conference. The two-day confer-

Please see **Woman**, page 6B

The Purcell Register

Church DIRECTORY

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
405 W. Grant, Purcell
Rev. Bill Crawford
405-820-8184
Sunday Worship: 10:45 a.m.
Wednesday Adult Studies: 7 p.m.

Emmanuel BAPTIST CHURCH
Purcell, OK
2705 N. 9th • 527-2535
Mike Bailey, Pastor
Sunday services 9 am Sunday School 6:30 pm Bible Study
10 am Worship 6:30 pm Awana's & Youth
6 pm Evening worship
www.ebcpurcell.org

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH LEXINGTON
Connecting People With God and One Another
Children's Activities - Youth Activities
Wednesday Evening - 6:30 p.m.
Sunday School 9:15
Morning Worship 8:15 • 10:15
Rusty Canoy Pastor 527-6758
900 E. BROADWAY • LEXINGTON

newlife TABERNACLE
715 W. Harrison, Purcell
Sunday Morning - 10 a.m.
Revival Service - 11 a.m.
Wednesday Evening - 7:00 p.m.
Pastor: Rev. Mark A. Stacy
Office Ph. 405.527.3045

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

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

Johnson Road Baptist Church
4 mi. N. of Purcell on I-35
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
405-818-8848

CHRISTIAN LIFE
sunday 10:30AM
www.christianlifeok.com

Lighthouse Worship Center
Rev. Nathan Mullins
405.442.0155
2726 N. 9th, Purcell
Sunday Morning - 10:30 am
Sunday Evening - 6:00 pm
Wednesday Evening - 7:00 pm
www.lwcpurcell.com

Memorial Assembly of God
7th & Monroe, Purcell
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Evening Services 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Night Services 6:30 p.m.
We Invite You to Worship With Us.
527-2769

LANDMARK CHURCH
Sunday Worship 8:15, 9:45, 11:15 am
Wednesday Evening 7:00 pm
Pastor Justin Blankenship
1106 W Grant Street, Purcell (405) 527-3342

First Baptist Church Purcell
Growing In Grace
4th & Main 405-527-3327
www.purcellfbc.org
Come worship with us!
Sundays 10:15 a.m. & 5 p.m.
Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.
Activities for all ages & child care provided for all services!

Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church
CORNER OF THIRD & JEFFERSON
Saturday - 5 pm (English)
Sunday - 11 am (English)
1 pm (Español)
Daily Mass
Tues. & Fri. 9 am • Wed. Noon • Thurs. 7 pm (Español)
Parish Office/Oficina: 527-3077
Priest House/Padre Juan Pedro: 527-4242

You Are Always Welcome At 7th & Monroe St. Church of Christ
Purcell, OK
Sunday 10:30 & 1:30
Wednesday Evening 6:30

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

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

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

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

Dibble Senior Citizens

Greetings from the Dibble Senior Citizens.

We pray everyone has gotten through the arctic weather safe and warm. We are so glad to see the forecast for warmer temperatures. When necessary, we will close for the safety of our workers and clients. Please watch for our closure of the center. They will be posted on the Dibble Senior Citizens/Food Pantry page and the Citizens of Dibble FB Group.

We have begun our next exercise class. Richard from the Blanchard Library is leading the class every Tuesday and Thursday at 9 a.m. Everyone is welcome to come exercise with us. The more the merrier.

At Dessie's Diner the menu for the week of January 22:

Monday—Beans and taters.

Wednesday—Fried chicken.

Friday—Steak and shrimp.

Always remember our menu is subject to change without notice but rarely does.

We would like to thank everyone who comes to eat lunch with us. We truly enjoy seeing your faces.

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

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

To donate to the pantry, mail your check or money order to PO Box 32, Dibble, OK 73031 or Cash App - \$dibblesrcitizens.

Until next time,

Dibble Senior Citizens Crew

Purcell Senior Citizens

By Val Blackburn

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 meets on the first and third Monday of each month at 10 a.m.

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 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 22-25:

Monday—Baked rigatoni, salad, garlic bread, fruit salad.

Tuesday—Turkey and cheese hoagie, tomato soup, peaches, cookies.

Wednesday—Chicken pot pie, pickled beets, biscuit, frosted cookie bar.

Thursday—White beans with ham, oven browned potatoes, greens, cornbread, cobbler.

Friday—Cook's choice.

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.

From page 5B

Woman:

ence recognizes the strength and leadership of Chickasaw women from all walks of life.

The theme for the 2024 conference is "Empowering Change."

Ideal speakers will present and discuss ways in which they have positively impacted their communities. Speakers must be First American citizens. Preference will be given to Chickasaw women.

For more information, visit Chickasaw.net/DynamicAward or contact the Chickasaw Nation Literary Arts Division at 580-436-7282.

OERB Refund Notice

Contributors to the Oklahoma Energy Resources Board (OERB) have until March 31, 2024 to file for a refund of the 2023 assessment.

Contributors to the Committee for Sustaining Oklahoma's Energy Resources, or SOER, have until March 31, 2024 to file for a refund of the 2023 fee.

To request the appropriate refund forms, call 1-800-664-1301, ext. 235, or write to 500 NE 4th St., Suite 100, Oklahoma City, OK 73104.

Each refund request must include completed forms, a notarized refund affidavit and documentation of assessments. Requests must be postmarked by March 31, 2024.



NEWS

from the
City of Purcell

Abandonment of Refrigerators and Iceboxes in Places Accessible to Children

Any person, firm, or corporation who abandons or discards in any place accessible to children any refrigerator, icebox or ice chest of a capacity of 1-1/2 cubic feet or more which has an attached lid or door which may be opened or fastened shut by means of an attached latch or who, being the owner, lessee, or manager of such place, knowingly permits such abandoned or discarded refrigerator, icebox, or ice chest to remain in such condition shall be deemed negligent as a matter of law and shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

No. 22-January 11-2 Times ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

The City of Purcell will receive separate sealed bids for Improvements to Sharp Memorial Park Splash Pad. Bids will be received at City Hall, located at 230 W. Main St., Purcell, Oklahoma, 73080, until 11:00 AM, Friday, February 2nd. Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud, at 11:00 AM at City Hall.

Project Description: Improvements to the park spray grounds to include removal of existing pump pit, installation of new pump pit, new pump, and repair of water lines. Site work includes walks, concrete deck, and other site related work.

There will be a pre-bid meeting held at 230 W. Main St. Purcell, OK 73080 on Thursday, January 23rd at 10:30 am. A stie visit will follow. All questions must be submitted in writing prior to Friday, January 26th by 12 pm and will be answered by addendums. Please submit questions to Brian Hill with Water's Edge Aquatic Design at bhill@wedesignpools.com.

All work shall be performed, and all construction and material used and furnished shall be in accordance with the Contract Documents prepared by Water's Edge Aquatic Design, Inc., and on file in the office of the City Clerk, located at City Hall. A complete set of Plans and Specifications to prospective bidders may be obtained at Southwest Construction News & Services.

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

1. City Hall
230 W. Main St.
Purcell, Ok 73080
(405) 527-6561

Each bidder shall accompany their original bid, with a certified or Cashier's Check on a solvent bank located in Oklahoma or a Bidder's Bond, in the amount of five (5) percent of the amount bid, as a guarantee of his ability to perform the contract bid upon, and that they will enter into a written contract with the Owner to

perform said work and/or furnish said materials in accordance with said plans and specifications and furnish the required bonds within seven (7) days after the acceptance of his bid.

The deposit will be retained by the Owner as, and for, liquidated damages in case the successful bidder fails to enter in said contract and furnish the required bonds provided for in the specifications within the time required. Deposit of the unsuccessful bidders will be returned upon the execution of the Contract and required bonds.

Each bidder shall accompany their bid with a sworn statement in writing that the Bidder has not directly or indirectly entered into an agreement, express or implied, with any other bidder or the price or amount of such bid or any bids, the limiting of the bids or bidders, the paying to anyone any money for promotion expenses, the parceling or farming out to any bidder or bidders or other persons of any part of the contract or any part of the subject matter of the bid or of the profits thereof.

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

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

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

No. 6-January 4-3 Times IN THE DISTRICT COURT SITTING IN AND FOR MCCLAIN COUNTY STATE OF OKLAHOMA

First United Bank & Trust Co., Plaintiff,

vs.
Mach 1 Development, LLC, DALLAS DYE, MACH 1 HOLDINGS, INC., UNKNOWN TENANTS OR OCCUPANTS, IF ANY, OF 1416 LAMAR DRIVE, NORMAN, OK 73072,

Case No. CJ-2023-173 AMENDED SERVICE BY PUBLICATION NOTICE STATE OF OKLAHOMA TO: MACH 1 DEVELOPMENT, LLC

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

A tract of land located in the Northeast Quarter (NE/4) of Section Fifteen (15), Township Eight (8) North, Range Three (3) West of the Indian Meridian, McClain County, Oklahoma, more particularly described as follows: Commencing at the Northwest corner (NW/C) of said NE/4; thence N89°39'40"E along the North line of said NE/4

a distance of 1522.23 feet; thence S00°21'25"E a distance of 891.00 feet to the point of beginning; thence N89°39'40"E and parallel to the said North line of the NE/4 a distance of 153.00 feet; thence S00°21'25"E a distance of 213.53 feet; thence S89°39'40"W a distance of 153.00 feet; thence N00°21'25"W a distance of 213.53 feet to the point of beginning. TOGETHER with a 20 foot road easement being 10 feet either side of the following described centerline: Commencing at the Northeast corner (NE/C) of said NE/4; thence S00°23'46"E along the East line of the NE/4 a distance of 1123.90 feet to the point of beginning; thence N82°52'49"W a distance of 402.16 feet; thence N85°42'43"W a distance of 37.06 feet; thence N80°25'17"W a distance of 101.88 feet; thence N77°07'04"W a distance of 292.53 feet; thence N83°11'07"W a distance of 140.94 feet to the point of ending. (Property address: 1416 Lamar Drive, Norman, OK 73072) and barring and enjoining you, the said Defendant, from asserting any right, title, lien, estate, encumbrance, claim, assessment, or interest, either in law or in equity, in or to the real property above described.

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

Court Clerk of McClain County, Oklahoma
By: /s/ Karen Weltmer Deputy (Seal)

BREANNE GORDON, OBA #32508
Of the Firm: STUART & CLOVER
130 N. Broadway, Suite 100
Shawnee, OK 74801
Phone: (405) 275-0700
Fax: (405) 275-6805
Attorney for Plaintiff

No. 12-January 11-2 Times IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF MCCLAIN COUNTY STATE OF OKLAHOMA IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MARGARET MARY TOLBERT a/k/a MARGARET MARY POWELL a/k/a MARGARET TOLBERT a/k/a MARGIE TOLBERT Deceased;

Case No. PB-2023-124 NOTICE TO CREDITORS TO THE CREDITORS OF MARGARET MARY TOLBERT, Deceased;

All Creditors having claims against Margaret Mary Tolbert, a/k/a Margaret Mary Powell, a/k/a Margaret Tolbert, a/k/a Margie Tolbert, Deceased, are required to present the same with a description of all security interests and other collateral (if any) held by each creditor with respect to such claim, to Sean M. Tolbert and Katherine M. Tolbert, duly appointed Personal

Representatives, at:
Sean M. Tolbert and Katherine M. Tolbert, Personal Representatives c/o Legatum Legal Oklahoma, PLLC
3000 W. Memorial Rd. Suite 123, Box 243
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73120

on or before the following pre-shipment date: March 15, 2024, or the same will be forever barred. DATED this 27 day of December, 2023.

/s/ Sarah M. Ventris
Sarah M. Ventris Attorney for Personal Representative

Sarah M. Ventris OBA #33295
3000 W. Memorial Rd., Suite 123, Box 243
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73120
Telephone (405) 654-1390
sarah@legatumlegalok.com
Attorney for Petitioner

No. 14-January 11-3 Times IN THE DISTRICT COURT WITHIN AND FOR MCCLAIN COUNTY STATE OF OKLAHOMA FREEDOM MORTGAGE CORPORATION, Plaintiff,

-vs- THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, DESCENDANTS, TRUSTEES AND ASSIGNS OF HAROLD AKERMAN, DECEASED; SPOUSE, IF ANY, OF HAROLD AKERMAN; OCCUPANT(S), IF ANY, OF THE PREMISES; ASHLEY ALEXANDER; Defendants.

CASE NO. CJ-23-200 NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

TO: the unknown heirs, devisees, descendants, trustees and assigns of Harold Akerman, deceased, and Spouse, if any, of Harold Akerman.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a petition has been filed against you in the District Court of McClain County, Oklahoma in an action entitled Freedom Mortgage Corporation vs. The unknown heirs, devisees, descendants, trustees and assigns of Harold Akerman, deceased, et al., Case No. CJ-23-200, by Plaintiff, Freedom Mortgage Corporation. This summons by publication is specifically directed to the unknown heirs, devisees, descendants, trustees and assigns of Harold Akerman, deceased, and Spouse, if any, of Harold Akerman., whose whereabouts and existence are unknown.

The nature of this suit against you is regarding any title or interest you may have in the following described real estate ("Property")

situated in McClain County, Oklahoma, specifically:

THE EAST 20 FEET OF LOT ELEVEN (11) AND ALL OF LOT TWELVE (12) IN BLOCK FOUR (4) SILVER CITY, MCCLAIN COUNTY, OKLAHOMA, ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED MAP AND PLAT THEREOF

in the amount of \$76,026.28, combined with interest and all abstracting and title costs incurred by Plaintiff to enforce the Note and Mortgage; all late charges; NSF fees; escrow advances; corporate advances; taxes; insurance premiums; property preservation charges; attorney fees; and other fees and costs associated with this action. Unless you answer the petition on or before February 28, 2024, a judgment will be entered, and your interest in the property will be foreclosed.

WITNESS my hand and official seal this 27th day of December, 2023.

McClain Court Clerk
By: Karen Weltmer Deputy Court Clerk

Sally E. Garrison, OBA #18709
Matthew Eads, OBA #35103
Alex S. Rivera, OBA #32269
THE MORTGAGE LAW FIRM, PLLC

421 NW 13th Street, Suite 300
Oklahoma City, OK 73103
Telephone: (405) 246-0602
Facsimile: (405) 698-0007
Sally.Garrison@mtglawfirm.com

Matthew.Eads@mtglawfirm.com
Alex.Rivera@mtglawfirm.com
Attorneys for Plaintiff

4806297 01/11/2024,
01/18/2024, 01/25/2024

No. 23-January 18-2 Times IN THE DISTRICT COURT WITHIN AND FOR MCCLAIN COUNTY STATE OF OKLAHOMA U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, Plaintiff,

-vs- DAVID A. JETER; CAROL M. JETER; OCCUPANT(S) OF THE PREMISES; Defendants.

CASE NO. CJ-2023-37 NOTICE OF SALE

Attention: Defendants and all parties with interest in the listed real property

The McClain County Sheriff will sell the below-described real property to satisfy a judgment for the indicated action.

LOT TWENTY-FOUR (24), IN BLOCK TWO (2), OF SCHWARTZ SUNSET HEIGHTS ADDITION, TO THE CITY OF PURCELL, MCCLAIN COUNTY, OKLAHOMA, ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF

Common Address: 303 Sleepy Hollow Street, Purcell, OK 73080

No. 25-January 18-2 Times TRUE SKY CREDIT UNION, Plaintiff,

vs. GAIL TUCKER A/K/A GAIL S. TUCKER; SPOUSE, IF ANY, OF GAIL TUCKER; JOHN DOE, OCCUPANT; AND UNITED STATES OF AMERICA EX REL. INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE Defendant(s).

Case No. CJ-2023-139 NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

NOTICE IS GIVEN to Gail Tucker; Spouse, if any, of Gail Tucker; John Doe, Occupant; United States of America ex rel. Internal Revenue Service, and their unknown successors and assigns, that on the 27 day of February, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., at Sheriff's Office of the County Courthouse at the County Courthouse in Purcell, McClain County, Oklahoma, the Sheriff of said County will offer for sale and sell for cash at public auction to the highest and best bidder, with appraisalment, all that certain real estate in McClain County, Oklahoma, to wit:

THE WEST HALF (W 1/2) OF LOTS TWENTY-ONE (21), TWENTY-TWO (22), TWENTY-THREE (23), AND TWENTY-FOUR (24), BLOCK FIFTY-ONE (51), IN THE TOWN OF BLANCHARD, MCCLAIN COUNTY, OKLAHOMA, ACCORDING TO THE RECORD-

The property will be sold to the highest cash bidder at the public auction:

Time: 10:00 A.M.
Date: February 27, 2024
Place: Sheriff Office, 121 N.2nd, Suite 121, Purcell, OK

Appraised real value: \$75,000.00
The sale adheres to the Special Execution and Order of Sale issued per the judgment in the District Court of McClain County, Oklahoma, in Case No. CJ-2023-37, titled Plaintiff, v. DAVID A. JETER; CAROL M. JETER; OCCUPANT(S) OF THE PREMISES; all those holding or claiming any interest in the property.

/s/ Landy Oflotter
Sheriff of McClain County
Sally E. Garrison, OBA #18709
Matthew Eads, OBA #35103
Alex S. Rivera, OBA #32269
THE MORTGAGE LAW FIRM, PLLC

421 NW 13th Street, Suite 300
Oklahoma City, OK 73103
Telephone: (405) 246-0602
Facsimile: (405) 698-0007
Anna.Spears@mtglawfirm.com
Kelly.Webb@mtglawfirm.com
Attorneys for Plaintiff

ED PLAT THEREOF. PROPERTY ADDRESS: 217 N.E. 4th, Blanchard, OK 73010 subject to taxes and tax sales, said property being duly appraised at \$70,000.00.

Sale will be made pursuant to an Order of Sale issued upon a judgment entered in the District Court of McClain County, Oklahoma, in Case No. CJ-2023-139, wherein True Sky Credit Union is Plaintiff and Gail Tucker is/are Defendant(s) to satisfy said judgment in the sum of \$15,958.76 together with interest at 6.5% per annum from January 1, 2023, including late charges, a reasonable attorney's fee, and all necessary funds advanced by said Plaintiff accrued or accruing hereafter through completion of this action.

The addresses of the Defendant(s), Gail Tucker, a/k/a Gail S. Tucker and Spouse, if any, of Gail Tucker, and her/his/their unknown successors are unknown to the Plaintiff.

WITNESS MY HAND this 12 day of January, 2024.

BY: /s/ Landy Oflotter Sheriff

LOGS LEGAL GROUP LLP
770 NE 63rd St.
Oklahoma City, OK 73105-6431
(405) 848-1819
Attorneys for Plaintiff
File No. 23-139556



Washington Little League sign-ups now open

Angie Steele
Washington Correspondent

Registration is now open for Little League Baseball and Softball. Please follow this link to register: https://wasasports.demosphere-secure.com/_registration.

This is a new online system, and the league will do their best to help everyone through the process.

Please follow up with any questions or concerns.

Washington Sew-In

On Friday, January 26, from 4-9 p.m. and Saturday, January 27, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Washington Quilters will have a "Sew-In" to make Positive Bags for the Eden Clinic. Bring a covered dish.

Don't sew? No problem. We need ironers too! Come to work, stay for the fun!

Washington Masonic Lodge Breakfast

Join Washington Masonic Lodge #406 for an all-you-can-eat-breakfast on Saturday, January 20. Proceeds benefit FCCLA.

Breakfast will be served from 7 to 10 a.m. \$8 per person, and to-go plates are available. The lodge is located at 206 West Sharp Street right behind Sid's in Washington.

Celebrating School Board Appreciation Month

This month, we extend our deepest gratitude to the dedicated members of our school board who work tirelessly to ensure the success and well-being of our students and educators. Their commitment to education and their selfless service to our community are truly commendable.

From making tough decisions to advocating for resources and policies that benefit our schools, our school board members play a crucial role in shaping the future of our children and the quality of education in our district. Their passion for creating a supportive and enriching learning environment does not go unnoticed.

We want to express our heartfelt appreciation for the countless hours, thoughtful deliberations, and genuine care that our school board members invest in their important work. Their leadership and dedication make a positive impact on the lives of our students and the strength of our educational system.

Let's take this opportunity to express our appreciation to our school board members for their exceptional service and commitment to the betterment of our schools. Your hard work and dedication are truly appreciated!

Washington Senior Center

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

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

Menu for January 18-26:

Thursday, January 18—Potato soup, carrots, cheese toast.

Friday, January 19—Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans.

Monday, January 22—Spaghetti with meat sauce, green beans, garlic bread.

Tuesday, January 23—Chicken pot pie, broccoli/cauliflower salad.

Wednesday, January 24—Taco salad, tortilla chips, chili beans.

Thursday, January 25—Ground beef stew.

Friday, January 26—Chicken and dressing casserole, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans.

News Release: On Friday, January 29, from 4-9 p.m. and

Saturday, January 27, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Washington Quilters will have a "Sew-In" to make Positive Bags for the Eden Clinic. Bring a covered dish.

Don't sew? No problem. We need ironers too! Come to work, stay for the fun!

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

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

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

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

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

Washington School Board Meeting Schedule

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

Meetings are scheduled for February 12, March 11, April 8, May 13, June 10, July 5, August 12, September 9, October 14, November 4 and December 9.

Washington Public Schools Calendar

January 18—BBK Washington Tournament.

January 19—BBK Washington Tournament; HS Powerlifting at Strother.

January 20—BBK Washington Tournament.

January 21—Little League Basketball, McAlister, 3-6 p.m.

January 22—7/8/9 BBK Pauls Valley, Girls Away, Boys home, 5 p.m.

January 23—HS BBK, Commerce, home, Miss/Mr Washington.

January 24—HS Girls Powerlifting at Dibble.

January 25—7/8/9 BBK Lindsay, Girls home, Boys away, 5 p.m.

Dale K. Graham Veterans Foundation

I hope all of you are staying inside during this cold weather we are having. Maybe next week we will see some more of those 70-degree days. I don't know how our homeless veterans and others are able to endure this type of weather without some type of place to stay warm. I'm just glad that most of the veterans who we help are able to have a warm place to stay.

Last week several of us dropped off warm clothing and sleeping bags to be delivered to Food and Shelter in Norman. Their website is <http://www.foodandshelterinc.org>, phone is 405-360-4954 for those of you who need their services.

In these difficult times for veterans and others please consider supporting organizations that are trying to improve the lives of all in our community. All of us at our Veterans Foundation are working diligently to improve the lives of the men and women who have served in the military.

We strive to help with the many types of needs that veterans and their families require. We have people whose main job is to help people to know

where to go for all their needs.

As always, we have more veterans asking for our help than we can accommodate in a timely manner. We are continually training new volunteers to assist us with our mission to improve the lives of veterans and their families.

I have been encouraging those veterans who we have helped in the last 20+ years to register in our www.dkgvf.org site. This would help your spouse and dependents to apply for VA benefits when you are gone.

To this end we would need a copy of your DD-214 and VA rating decisions. Did you know that if a veteran's service-connected disability is listed on the death certificate as a primary or contributing condition to their death that the surviving spouse and dependents would probably be eligible for benefits?

For those of you who would like to file a new claim for benefits with VA, you can start our process by logging into dkgvf.org to fill out and scan your information into our Intake Q program. By using our digital system, veterans do not have to stand in line to receive our assistance with their VA claims and questions.

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

We accept the donation of cars and trucks that can be given to veterans or sold to raise funds to help more veterans and their families. As always, we appreciate all donations that can be used to make a difference in the lives of our men and women who have served in the military.

All of us at our Veterans Foundation are proud to do everything we can to assist the men and women who are serv-

ing or have served in the United States Military. We have been making a difference in the lives of veterans and their families for over 20 years. For those of you who would like to join our team, volunteer applications are available on our website.

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

We are a 501c-3 non-profit organization and there is never a charge for the services we provide to veterans and their families. We do accept financial contributions to be used to support veterans and this organization.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Angie Steele



• Photos by Ron Ladlee

Basketball time

Washington played Marlow January 12. Marlow ended with the win. Players (top photo) huddle up before the game. Cage Morris (bottom photo) takes the ball up the court.

REGISTRATION IS OPEN
WASHINGTON ALL SPORTS ALLIANCE
SPRING SOFTBALL

WHO: OPEN TO WPS STUDENTS, HOMESCHOOL OR PRIVATE SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO LIVE WITHIN THE WPS DISTRICT.
AGES:
• 6U T-ball (5-6), Cannot be 7 years old prior to 01/01/2024.
• 8u Coach Pitch Softball (7-8), Cannot be 9 years old prior to 01/01/2024.
• 10u Softball (9-10), Cannot be 11 years old prior to 01/01/2024.
• 12u Softball (11-12), Cannot be 13 years old prior to 01/01/2024.
COST: First child \$60, Second child \$50, Three or more children \$40ea
PARENT'S MEETING: Sunday, March 3rd @ 3:00 PM (Location Pending)
REGISTRATION: https://wasasports.demosphere-secure.com/_registration
PAYMENTS: *Online Registration (Demosphere)* Cash or Check
Cash or Checks will be accepted at Parent Meeting
Contact Email: Wasasoftball@gmail.com

REGISTRATION IS OPEN
WASHINGTON ALL SPORTS ALLIANCE
SPRING BASEBALL

WHO: OPEN TO WPS STUDENTS, HOMESCHOOL OR PRIVATE SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO LIVE WITHIN THE WPS DISTRICT.
AGES:
• 5U T-Ball (4-5), Cannot be younger than 4 years old.
• 6U T-Ball (5-6), Cannot be 7 years old prior to 01/01/2024.
• 8u Coach Pitch Baseball (7-8), Cannot be 9 years old prior to 01/01/2024.
• 10u Peewee Baseball (9-10), Cannot be 11 years old prior to 01/01/2024.
• 12u Midget Baseball (11-12), Cannot be 13 years old prior to 01/01/2024.
COST: First child \$60, Second child \$50, Three or more children \$40ea
PARENT'S MEETING: Sunday, March 3rd @ 2:00 PM (Location Pending)
REGISTRATION: https://wasasports.demosphere-secure.com/_registration
PAYMENTS: *Online Registration (Demosphere)* Cash or Check
Cash or Checks will be accepted at the Parent Meeting
CONTACT: Washingtonallsportsalliance@gmail.com
IT'S A GREAT DAY TO BE A WARRIOR



• Photo by Karen Gregg

Ready for work

Dale Graham and his service dog, Ginger, are ready to serve veterans at the Dale K. Graham Veterans Foundation.

Legal Publication

No. 24-January 18-1 Time ORDINANCE 2024-001 AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF GOLDSBY, OKLAHOMA, AMENDING SUBSECTIONS A.6 AND A.7 OF SECTION 1-60 OF ARTICLE 4 OF CHAPTER 1 OF THE GOLDSBY CODE OF ORDINANCES INCREASING THE MONETARY LIMIT FOR PURCHASES OF GOODS OR SERVICES WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL OF THE GOVERNING BODY; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

