



Five seeking house seat

When Newcastle Republican Sherrie Conley decided not to seek re-election to her District 20 State Representative seat several area residents took notice.

Already five people have announced they are tossing their hats into the ring to run for the vacated House seat including Republicans Mike Fullerton, Lonnie Burns, Jonathon Wilk and Mike Whaley.

So far, the lone Democrat in the race is Mitchell Jacob.

The primary election for the seat will be June 18 with the runoff election, if necessary, set for August 27.

The general election will be November 5.

SURPRISING DECISION

Council rejects bids for old Purcell Municipal Hospital

John D. Montgomery
The Purcell Register

In a surprising 3-2 decision Monday night, Purcell's City Council turned down bids to purchase the dilapidated former Purcell Municipal Hospital facility at 1500 N. Green Avenue.

A motion by Jay Tate and seconded by Alan Eubanks to decline the offer of

\$505,000 from Landmark Church Holdings, LLC was narrowly passed.

After Eubanks and Tate voted in favor of the motion, Ted Cox and Theda Engert voted against the measure. Mayor Graham Fishburn cast the deciding vote.

Eubanks said he wants city manager Sam Demel to form a committee with a 90

day window to have a plan so as to not have an empty, "building sitting there a year from now.

"We need to take a step back and do the assessment and look for what we could do with the property," Eubanks continued. "Maybe a customer service center or a library."

"We need more informa-

tion," Fishburn said.

Auctioneer Brent Wellings told the council the land appraised for \$666,000 and that it would take an estimated \$480,000 for demolition.

"You can't piece meal this thing back together,"

Please see **Council**, page 11A

5 questions with Katie Midkiff



Katie Midkiff

Editor's note: Answering The Purcell Register's five questions this week is Purcell CPA Katie Midkiff.

Q. What got you interested in accounting?

A. Growing up, I always had an interest in numbers and been

Please see **Katie**, back page

Lex homecoming tonight

Thursday, February 1 at 6 p.m.

The 2024 Lexington Winter Homecoming will be February 1 at 6 p.m.

Due to the coronation, the Bulldogs will play first at 6:30 followed by the girls.

Homecoming candidates include Zeke Faulkenberry, Natalie Dickson, Adam Sample, Cilee Turner, Avin Morgan, Jordan Perry, Ty Mixon, Emilee Pierce, Drew Dierking, Marisa Northrup, Gage LaGace, Jordan Hardy, Regan Boatwright, Landri Bean, Skylar Rollins and Abby Sample.

The flower girls are Noelani Rollins and Lilyth Bertolozzi.

Faulkenberry and Natalie Dickson



are representing basketball. Faulkenberry is the son of Stephen Faulkenberry and Selina Lefors.

He has been All-District in baseball twice and was Grady County All-Tournament selection. He enjoys playing sports and hanging out with his friends. He plans to go to college to play sports and study to be a coach.

His favorite quote: "Control what you can control," Kyle Wells. Dickson is the daughter of Eugene and

Please see **Lex**, back page



Halle Andrews • For The Purcell Register

Royals of Washington

Washington High School will hold homecoming coronation Friday at 5:55 p.m. at the Warrior Event Center. Members of the homecoming court, from front left, include Kelby Beller, flower girl Jentrie Simon, Brinley Thomas, Shelbie Caveness, crown bearer Tucker Scholz and Bella Andrews. On the back row, from left, are Kade Norman, Jace Cole, Jeremiah Tontz, Noah Ladlee and Cole Beller. Cage Morris is not pictured.

Warrior homecoming Friday

Coronation ceremony begins at 6 p.m.

Prior to their games with Pauls Valley on Friday night, Washington will crown the 2023-24 basketball king and queen.

The coronation will be held at 6 p.m. prior to the tip off of the boys game, which will be played first followed by the girls game.

Queen candidates are senior Brinley Thomas, junior Shelbie Caveness,

sophomore Kelby Beller and freshman Bella Andrews.

The senior king candidates are Kade Norman, Jace Cole, Jeremiah Tontz, Noah Ladlee, Cole Beller and Cage Morris.

The flower girl is Jentrie Simon while Tucker Scholz will serve as

Please see **Warriors**, back page



John Denny Montgomery • The Purcell Register

Bulldog royalty

Lexington High School will hold homecoming coronation tonight (Thursday) at 6 p.m. at the high school gym prior to the Bulldogs' games against Davis. Members of the homecoming court, from left, include flower girl Lily Bertolozzi, Jordan Hardy, Landri Bean, Jordan Perry, Natalie Dickson, Emilee Pierce, Cilee Turner, Abby Sample and flower girl Noelani Rollins. On the back row, from left, are Drew Dierking, Gage LaGace, Regan Boatwright, Avin Morgan, Zeke Faulkenberry, Ty Mixon, Adam Sample and Skylar Rollins. Marisa Northrup was not pictured.

Inside

More honors

Purcell Detective Brayden Gullivar received another award.



Pg. 2A

Tuesday Night Ticker

High school basketball

Boys	
Pauls Valley 66	Purcell 53
Casady 83	Lexington 62
Wayne 66	Wynnewood 53
Washington DNP	
Girls	
Purcell 51	Pauls Valley 38
Lexington 56	Casady 55 or
Wayne 55	Wynnewood 47
Riverside 62	Washington 46

Find it...

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Obituaries	10A
Classifieds	10B



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

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68° 49°	66° 49°	60° 40°	54° 35°	53° 38°	56° 34°	57° 38°
Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	60% Rain	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy



• Photo provided

Detective honored

Purcell Detective Brayden Gulliver, third from left, was recently honored by the Sons of the American Revolution for his extremely successful year in 2023 on the police force here. From left are Mark Atterson, the Norman Chapter President, Gulliver's supervisor Lt. John Idlett, Gulliver and Phillip Hunt, the State President of the Sons of the American Revolution.

Accolades continue for Gulliver

Sons of the American Revolution recognizes detective

Detective Brayden Gulliver was recently recognized by the Purcell Police Department as Officer of the Year for 2023.

Detective Gulliver was presented the award at the city council meeting in January.

The Norman Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, a group that maintains historical record of the Revolutionary War, heard of Detective

Gulliver's work and reviewed his merits.

After review, they determined Det. Gulliver should be awarded their Law Enforcement Commendation Medal for Outstanding Achievement and Dedication to the Maintenance of Law and Order.

January 20 Detective Gulliver was presented this medal at the monthly Sons of the

American Revolution chapter meeting.

The Sons of the American Revolution is a group comprised of direct descendants of soldiers who fought in the American Revolution. Their purpose is to preserve the legacy and history of the American Revolution and those who fought for the freedom of the United States.

Temperatures climb higher

Finally some above average numbers

We finally saw our temperatures climb above average earlier in the week, with mild temperatures expected throughout the remainder of the week before a cold front will cool things off slightly and bring a chance for scattered showers and storms. On

Thursday afternoon highs will top off near 70 degrees under mostly sunny skies. Temperatures will drop off slightly in the middle 60s on Friday. The first half of the weekend will offer up scattered showers and isolated thunderstorm or two as temperatures fall into

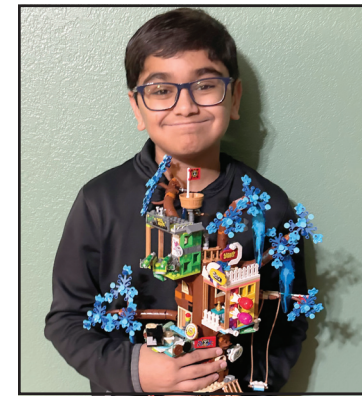
the lower 60s. Showers and storms clear out for Sunday, but temperatures will fall back into the middle 50s. Lower to middle 50s will remain for afternoon highs heading into the next work week under partly to mostly cloudy skies.

— Hunter Brittingham

Purcell Junior High Teacher/Staff and Students of the Month



Tara Anderson



Sixth graders Aryan Marfatia and Spencer Stone



Purcell Junior High School recognizes a teacher/staff and six junior high students, a boy and girl from each grade, as Faculty and Students of the Month.

The January faculty and students include:

Tara Anderson - Teacher of the Month

Tara Anderson is a seventh and eighth grade pre-algebra and algebra-I teacher.

Mrs. Anderson said, "I have been teaching for 19 years. I was born and raised in Purcell. My mom owns the famous snowball stand! I also love to read. I always enjoy getting to know all of my students and to see them be successful in their activities and school achievements."

Mrs. Anderson's favorites include:

Hobby: Anything with my boys

Sport: Basketball

Book: All kinds of books

Movie: "Dumb & Dumber"

Game: Any. I hate to lose!

Subject: Math

Aryan Marfatia - Sixth Grade Boy of the Month

Aryan is in the sixth grade. He lives with his parents, grandparents and brother. He likes building Legos and also loves playing Fortnite.

Aryan's favorite movie is "Lego Movie," his favorite TV show is "Lego Ninjago," his favorite animal is a chameleon



Seventh graders David Fraire and Juliet Lambert



Eighth graders Jace Klein and Alexis Jurado



and his favorite food is jalapeno pizza.

Aryan really likes building Legos because he likes making them. He also enjoys playing with Legos.

Spencer Stone - Sixth Grade Girl of the Month

Spencer is 12 years old and in the sixth grade. She has two younger siblings. She plays softball and basketball and she's also on the sixth grade Academic Team.

Spencer's favorite movie is "The Hunger Games," favorite TV show is "Fuller House," her favorite animal is a flamingo and her favorite foods are Chick-fil-A and Texas Roadhouse rolls.

Spencer likes to play team sports like basketball and softball. She said it teaches her teamwork and leadership.

David Fraire - Seventh Grade Boy of the Month

David is 12 years old and in

the seventh grade. He has one sibling and he is the youngest in his family. He has two dogs and one cat and he plays competitive soccer.

His favorite movie is "Jurassic World," favorite TV show is "The Suite Life of Zack and Cody," his favorite animal is a Tyrannosaurus Rex and his favorite food is scrambled eggs.

David enjoys playing outside because it is fun. He also likes spending time with friends and family. He also likes sports!

Juliet Lambert - Seventh Grade Girl of the Month

Juliet is in the seventh grade and in TSA. She has one dog and two guinea pigs currently. She lives with her brother and mom. She is not really into sports but she really enjoys learning about technology.

Juliet's favorite movie is

Please see **PJH**, page 3A

OSU EXTENSION News

Let's recycle that Styrofoam

Courtney DeKalb-Myers
Horticulture Educator

Got any packing Styrofoam from your holiday gifting?

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

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



Styrofoam.

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

The Noble Friendship Oklahoma Community & Home Education (OHCE) group of Cleveland County will be assisting the Foam Recycling Green Team as we work together to protect our community in this recycling project.

Organizers ask that you remove tape and paper labels; and that food serving items have no remaining food, dirt or grease in them.

The foam, after it is densified, is shipped off and used to make patio furniture and other products.

Let's Recycle that Styrofoam, pick up the Styrofoam litter on the roads, and clean up our community.

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NEWS In Brief

LHS Show Choir Dinner

The Purcell Masonic Lodge #27 is sponsoring a baked potato dinner fundraiser for the Lexington High School Southern Accents Show Choir.

The dinner is set for Thursday, February 1, from 5-8 p.m. in the Lexington High School Commons Area.

Proceeds will help the show choir with expenses including Missouri Invitational Competition.

Tickets are \$8 and can be purchased by calling 405-365-7026.

Purcell Ladies

Golf Association

The Purcell Ladies Golf Association 2024 kickoff meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. on Wednesday, February 7, at the golf course clubhouse.

New members are welcome to attend.

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.

New OK Election Board Website

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

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

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

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

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 safecare referrals@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.

Voter tips

Taking the stress out of elections

Voters will head to the polls on February 13 to decide a number of issues. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

McClain County Election Board Secretary Karen Haley recommends voters with questions about their eligibility or polling place call before Election Day.

"We provide a number of additional services to voters on Election Day, so it can get very busy. If you have any questions, we strongly suggest you call or come by the week before Election Day if possible. If you find that you do have a question on Election Day, however, don't hesitate to call."

Haley says the State Election Board's OK Voter Portal is the easiest way for voters to verify their registration, locate their polling place, and view a sample ballot. The OK Voter Portal can be found at oklahoma.gov/elections/ovp.

The County Election Board reminds voters to bring a current federal or Oklahoma state-issued photo ID, or federally-recognized tribal ID to their polling place. An official Voter Identification Card can also be used as proof of identity.

If you forget your ID, you may still cast a provisional ballot by signing an affidavit. Provisional ballots will be verified and if valid, will be counted after Election Day and before the election is certified.

Some voters may need assistance to vote because they are blind or visually disabled, physically disabled, or infirmed, or illiterate. Such individuals may request to have



• Photos provided

Sew-In

The Washington OHCE had their annual Sew-In January 26 & 27 at the Washington Senior Center. They were able to complete 256 Positive Bags to donate to the Eden Clinic an information center for pregnant mothers. Seamstresses were Alice Brooks, Karen Olson, Darlene Brantley, Karen Reichert, Diane Burnett, Sheila Vercher, Alice Williamson, Julie Burgess, Windy Sabin, Rebecca Zimmerman, Tim Ramsey, Olivia Yazzie, Stephanie Stephens, Lois Stephens, Cindy Self, Diane Fox, Janice McConnell, Lorie Burton and Cynthia Buchanan.

Please see **Vote**, page 7A

Mitchell Jacob announces candidacy for House District 20



Jacob

Oklahoma native, proud father, devoted husband, and Army

veteran.

Jacob has five legislative priorities when elected: 1) invest in education; 2) improve infrastructure; 3) lower taxes; 4) promote small business; and 5) create jobs.

Jacob believes that education is the most important issue facing District 20 and Oklahoma. Jacob argues that we must stop

bills like Senate Bill 863 from being signed into law. SB863 seeks to reject all federal funds for all K-12 public schools in Oklahoma.

As a father of children attending Newcastle Public Schools, Jacob believes that all children have the right to a quality education. Further, Jacob advocates for repealing the Parental Choice Tax Credit Act. This bill takes funds from your local school district and transfers public taxpayer dollars to private schools.

While it is certainly every parent's choice how to best educate their child, taxpayer dollars should never be used to fund private schools and private education.

Jacob advocates for the reintroduction of Senate Bill 1283

From page 2A

PJH:

"Top Gun," her favorite TV show is "Gravity Falls," her favorite animal is a wolf and her favorite food is steak.

Juliet enjoys reading and learning about technology. She feels as if she is in another world. It helps her understand everything around her.

Jace Klein - Eighth Grade Boy of the Month

Jace is 13 years old and in the eighth grade. He loves playing baseball and going to watch the Sooners...BOOMER SOONER!

Jace's favorite movies are "Grown Ups" and "Talladega Nights," favorite TV show is "Duck Dynasty," favorite animal is a dolphin and favorite food is steak.

Jace's favorite thing to do is play baseball and basketball. He also enjoys going to OU games

Alexis Jurado - Eighth Grade Girl of the Month

Alexis was born in January and she is going to be 14 years old soon. She has one sister and six animals. She plays softball, participates in track and has a 4.0 GPA. She wants to become a nurse.

Alexis's favorite movie is "She's the Man," favorite TV show is "The Summer I Turned Pretty," favorite animal is a cheetah and favorite food is chicken alfredo.

Alexis likes to play Fortnite because she feels happy when she plays. She also enjoys reading.

Please see **Jacob**, page 7A



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Read us on the web at
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That's nacho valve

Don't do this at home. That applies to your home water valve – which as it turns out is property of the city of Purcell and not you, the home owner.

That's the word from Purcell Water Department Superintendent Michael Minor.

"We've had a growing number of incidents where people are shutting off their water and breaking the valves," Minor told me this week.

"Since the valves are property of the city if they are broken we are forced to bill the customer for the damage which includes parts and labor," he said.

So leave those water cutoff keys in the garage and call the city if you need your water turned off.

Editor's Notebook



John D. Montgomery

jdm

Are you ready for two full weeks of Travis Kelce and Taylor Swift leading up to the January 11 Super Bowl?

Some folks are ready and others are not looking forward to the continued Swift-Kelcegate

being beamed right into their living rooms.

Buckle up football fans there's more Swift to come even though she's going to be doing shows in Japan through February 10.

jdm

Three McClain County municipalities are getting grants from the county to upgrade water and sewer infrastructure.

County commissioners granted Washington \$300,000, Goldsby \$500,000 and Wayne \$350,000 from funds from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

Commissioner Wilson Lyles stated McClain County received \$7.8 million of the billions granted across the country.

Hello from District 43

• Senator Jessica Garvin •



Update from the Capitol

Approximately 840 new Senate bills have been filed for the 2024 legislative session that begins February 5 at noon with the governor's State of the State Address.

He'll present his executive ideas and proposal for the Legislature to consider. Constitutionally, it is our duty, however, to craft and pass a balanced budget.

As I mentioned before the State Board of Equalization met last month and their initial estimate was that we'll have more than \$13.8 billion to appropriate this session. When we remove apportionments and other statutory spending, however, we'll be left with just over \$11.2 billion to spend, which is around \$264 million in new revenue for FY'25.

At the end of February, the Board will review all revenues and certify the actual amount we're constitutionally required to use to craft the state budget.

This session, I ended up filing just over 60 new bills. Be sure to check out my Facebook page @SenatorJessicaGarvin if you missed any of my recent

columns as I went over several of my bills.

I've filed 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.

I also have legislation directing 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.

Another one of my measures seeks to protect the privacy of journalists and reporters by adding them to the list of the State Election Board of registered voters whose residence and mailing address are kept confidential.

Currently, this includes members of the judiciary; district attorneys; assistant district attorneys; Uniformed Services

members; law enforcement personnel and their immediate family members; correctional officers; the secretary, assistant secretary, employees, and members of a county election board or the State Election Board; persons who are protected by victim's protection orders; and the spouses and dependents of these various individuals, along with others who are certified by the Secretary of State as participants in the Address Confidentiality Program.

Journalists have an important job of keeping the public informed about various issues and topics, and sometimes their work can put them in danger. We need to ensure they can do their work without fear of retribution.

I'll discuss more of my bills next week. We'll be convening in special session Monday at the governor's request to consider a .25 percent income tax decrease. This is unnecessary as both chambers have numerous tax relief plans that will be considered during the regular

Please see **Garvin**, page 5A

NEWS FROM CAPITOL HILL

Lessons from the past

Congressman Tom Cole

This past Saturday, the world came together to observe Holocaust Remembrance Day and remember the 11 million innocent lives lost, including six million Jewish victims, during this incredibly dark time in history.

This evil genocide carried out by the Nazi regime serves as a stark reminder of the horrors unleashed when hatred and prejudice go unchecked. As antisemitism and attacks on Jewish communities increase today, reflecting on this atrocity becomes more crucial than ever.

From 1941 to 1945, six million Jewish people and millions more who were targeted for ethnicity, religion, political beliefs and much more, fell victim to the most brutal genocide the world ever witnessed.

Concentration camps located across Europe became haunting manifestations of the unimaginable suffering endured by millions of innocent lives.

As we reflect on the collective failure to prevent such atrocities, this remembrance day also served as an emphasis of the continued commitment to prevent future acts of discrimination and violence.

The recent resurgence in antisemitism was certainly exacerbated by Hamas' invasion of Israel and the deadliest attack seen in 15 years.

The results have been nothing short of devastating with countless innocent lives lost, kidnapped and taken hostage or seriously injured, far worse than the United States' own September 11th.

Israel has been an indispensable ally and partner to the U.S. for decades.

There is no room to sympathize with Hamas and its outright hatred of the Jewish people.

The U.S. must do its part to stand with Israel and against quickly spreading antisemitism.

Moreover, we must provide aid to our ally in its desperate time of need and ensure Hamas' most significant backer – Iran – does not have access to money that can be used on weapons, training, rockets and weapons of mass destruction.

Those who do not remember history are doomed to repeat it. We cannot forget the putrid evil that was the Holocaust so that it may never happen again.

As we remember the victims, we must also strive to build a future where the lessons of the Holocaust shape a world that embraces the inherent dignity of every individual.

Letters to the Editor Policy

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

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

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

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

Your Views

New Hampshire 1988 'The Kid'

rescues

Bush 41s campaign

By Joe Guzzardi, Society for American Baseball Research member

Baseball fans recognize Ted Williams as one of the sport's all-time Cooperstown Hall of Fame legends, a fearless pilot who served in the United States Navy and the United States Marine Corps during World War II and in Korea.

Less well-known is that Ted is also a Fly Fisherman Hall of Fame inductee. Williams caught black marlin in New Zealand and tiger fish in the Zambezi River in Mozambique. In Ted's opinion, only three fish were worthy of true sportsmen - tarpon, bonefish and Atlantic salmon. Considered by Williams the triple crown of fishing, he had caught and released over 1,000 of each by 1982.

"The Kid's" inner circle - his family and close friends - knew that Williams had another passion. Williams was a political junkie. Born in 1918 in San Diego, Williams grew up in conservative California.

Beginning in 1890, and lasting for about a 100-year period, Republicans consistently occupied Sacramento's Governor's Mansion, and the state's voters consistently sent Republicans to the U.S. Congress.

Williams most admired President Calvin Coolidge, the former Massachusetts governor who favored tax cuts and limited government spending.

No surprise then that when Vice President George H.W. Bush called on Williams to campaign on his behalf in the 1988 New Hampshire primary, Ted accepted, and thereby changed America's presidential history.

Setting the scene, President Ronald Reagan's two-terms were up, and Bush was part of a crowded GOP primary card. The Iowa caucus' outcome had been a shock to the Bush campaign. The Vice President finished a distant third to Kansas Senator Bob Dole and televangelist Reverend Pat Robinson, the newly formed Christian Coalition's favorite.

With only a week between Iowa and New Hampshire, Bush was floundering. The Manchester-Union Leader, a powerful conservative New Hampshire voice, labeled Bush "a wimp," and endorsed Delaware governor Pierre S. du Pont. Jack Kemp, the Buffalo Bills' former quarterback, was also vying for the GOP

nomination.

Although Bush had done his legwork and visited the Granite State frequently during 1988, when primary week began, he polled five points behind Dole. Another failure would have put Bush permanently out of the running.

John Sununu, former New Hampshire governor and Bush's campaign reached out to Williams. Neither Bush nor Sununu personally knew Williams, but they had heard of his strong political opinions.

A liberal on social policy, Williams was a conservative on fiscal and foreign policy. Although he distrusted all politicians, he particularly hated the Kennedys and consistently voted the GOP ticket.

Sununu phoned Williams and persuaded him to fly to New Hampshire from Florida where he had been fishing. Williams' presence with Bush, who played second fiddle to "The Kid," changed the game, and helped put Bush in the White House.

Voters turned out in droves to get a glance at their beloved Boston Red Sox hero. One gifted Williams an antique bamboo fishing rod. Ted signed autographs, and introduced his new friend, Bush, as "the next president of the U.S."

In the end, Bush ended up with 59,290 votes; Dole, 44,797; and Kemp, 20,144. Campaign donations returned, and Bush was on his way to the White House.

Bush, a World War II pilot and Yale University baseball standout, and Williams became friendly. Bush kept his old first baseman's glove at the ready in his desk drawer, a quirk that endeared him to Williams.

Now Bush's chief of staff, Sununu organized two major events that included Williams. First, a 1991 Rose Garden lunch on the All-Star game's afternoon with Joe DiMaggio to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Joe's 56-game hitting streak and Ted's .406 average.

After lunch, they flew Air Force One to Toronto to watch the game, a 4-2 win for the American League. Second, also in 1991, Bush presented Williams with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, one of the rare times Ted agreed to wear a tie.

Historians acknowledge that Williams was the key factor

Please see **Guzzardi**, page 5A

People are freezing to death in America while the church doors are locked

By Dr. Glenn Mollette

Numerous people have frozen to death in America this winter. They literally died from exposure to the cold.

In nearby Evansville, Ind., a homeless man was found in his routine sleeping spot after a night of frigid temperatures. He was dead. Like any of us, he could not survive trying to sleep in the sub-zero temperature.

Police reportedly told the homeless man that he needed to seek shelter or he wouldn't survive. I do not know why he was homeless.

I do not know why he wasn't in the local homeless shelter. With any such tragic death there are always questions, speculation, and seldom not enough answers.

Possibly there wasn't enough room in the shelter. Maybe he just ignored reason and thought he could survive.

I do know it's easy to tell someone "you need to eat," but maybe they don't have any money to buy food. Or we tell a homeless person, "You need to get off the street and seek shelter."

What if he or she has no place to go? Homeless shelters have limitations and maybe some wear out their welcome.

I see a homeless person and can't keep from thinking, "This is someone's father or son. This is someone's mother or daughter. This could be me or someone I know."

All of us are one bad decision from being homeless. By the grace of God, I hope no one reading this column is without a place to sleep or food to eat.

I have to wonder why some

churches aren't unlocked on these frigid nights? Churches talk about ministry, caring, love, reaching out, helping others, and other religious talk. For the average church in America, it will be a cold day in hell before they ever unlock their doors and let a bunch of homeless people sleep on the pews.

Of course, we can't be too hard on our churches. Homeless people can be scary. They are very needy. They need money, food, and clothes. They need everything. They may have mental issues. They may have criminal records. Who knows?

There is always the consideration of who would monitor the church and the crowd sleeping in the church? They need access to bathrooms. They need food. The whole idea scares most churches.

The average church would rather send their money to their denominational headquarters in the big city. Many churches give up to 20 percent and sometimes more to the denominational state headquarters.

Often the state level headquarters send a large amount on up to the national headquarters. These entities tell local churches about how much good their money is doing to help others across the state, nation and around the world.

They pat the local churches on the back. Recognize the pastor at state meetings. Print the church name on the denominational website or publication. The local church and local pastor sit back and think, "We are really special because we send

all this money out of town to do such great ministry."

At the state denominational headquarters and national headquarters, the big dog people are collecting \$150,000 to \$250,000 a year while on the national level there are reported salary packages of over a half million dollars a year. This is of course all done in the name of the Lord and service to Christ.

Back at home, the homeless sleep on the sidewalks while the church doors are locked. Kids go to school with inadequate coats and shoes. Families in the community can't afford to keep their utility bills paid or buy groceries.

So many of these same churches send their money out of town every month while paying their own pastor a minimal income. They can't afford to pay their custodial care or take very good care of their own staff because they are sending money down to the state office.

I hope we will wake up in this country and in our local churches. We have severe needs and opportunities to do a great service right in front of us.

It's not wrong to send money out to help others but we need to see what and who are right in front of us and do ministry at our own front door.

Learn more at GlennMollette.com. Dr. Mollette was a senior minister for 39 years and served as President of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

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



• Photo provided

Wayne FFA attend speech workshop

Wayne FFA members attended the Stand and Deliver 2024 Workshop January 24th to start the speech season off. The speakers were former Oklahoma FFA State Officers, Rhett Laubach and Kelly Barnes. This workshop helped prepare our members how to give a speech the best they can at the upcoming contests. They learned how to develop confidence with public speaking, picking good topics, practicing effective body language, memorizing quickly and easily and suggestions on controlling nerves. Those attending were FFA Advisor Drew Hardaway with (back, from left) Adam Lee, Jaxon Dill, Addison Keeler, Jenna Fielder, Raedyn Saunders, Colt McGee, (front) Aidan Mills, Kimber Reaves, Cylie Jones, Taelyn Ringwald, Kamber Evans, Beatriz Perez and Audra Watts.

Tips for selecting the best tomatoes for your garden

Melinda Myers
For The Purcell Register

Whether you enjoy tomatoes sliced, sauced or cooked in your favorite recipe, they taste best when grown and harvested from your garden or container. With more than 10,000 varieties available it can be difficult to select the best ones to grow in your garden.

Start by looking for those varieties best suited to the intended use whether for slicing, cooking, preserving, or snacking. Most seed catalogs and websites as well as plant tags

and garden centers provide recommendations.

Bite-sized tomatoes are great for salads, relish trays, and snacking. Trailing varieties like Lizzano, Tumbling Tom, Litt'l Bites Cherry, and Red Robin also grow well in hanging baskets and even window boxes.

Paste and sauce tomatoes have meatier fruit making them perfect for sauces, soups, and preserving. Roma is the traditional favorite with an egg-shaped fruit that has thick walls and few seeds.

The All-America Selections

Early Resilience Roma has excellent disease and blossom end rot resistance and does not require staking. Use paste tomatoes during the growing season for sauces, chop and add them to an omelet, can or freeze them for future use.

Grow a few slicing tomatoes to enjoy on sandwiches, grilled, or on their own. Beefsteak and Better Boy are longtime favorites while Iron Lady, Galahad, and the colorful Chef's Choice series are more recent additions

Please see **Tips**, page 7A

The opposing thumb guy

By Andy Bowman,
CoffeeTime
Columnist

Take a good look. It's always there, part of a healthy, whole hand. Hold up your hand and you'll see it. The one digit that is pointing the opposite of the other four fingers, every time.

Oh yeah, you can force it to go along with all the others, but you do have to work at it.

Usually, it just naturally sticks out to the side, like "a sore thumb." It's always just a little different and obstinately curving away from all the others - but it sure serves a great purpose.

Try this. Tuck away the thumb on your hand, and try to do any small physical task with your remaining four fingers. Write, pick up anything, or stir with a spoon. Doable, but a lot more difficult, huh?

Because the thumb has the responsibility of creating an opposing force to the fingers, it allows us to grab an object. Its very nature is to be in opposition, and it's very good at what it does.

Same thing seems to occur in human groups. Put more than two people together and you sooner or later you will spot "the thumb."

The one who just naturally seems to be different from everyone else in their ideas and beliefs. As if it's their job to be the opposition in most situations, and believe me, they are totally up for it.

But just like the real thumb on a hand, "the thumb" on a committee, or at a party, or in any kind of work or social group usually serves a purpose.

And it's not to sound good, or act pretty, or likable - that really isn't their focus. In fact, they can come across as the very opposite of pretty.

But still, the thumb of the group does have a practical function.

Just like the thumb on your hand, an opposing force is created. And ideas that have been easily accepted by everyone else get challenged.

Though that may get irritating, it can serve the group well. When 'The Thumb's' new

opposing ideas get tossed into the mix they may undoubtedly create animosity - but at the same time those new ideas start people to actually thinking. And that is never a bad thing.

Because it causes those accepted ideas to be defended and developed better than the original.

Just like the Creator had a great idea when the thumb was designed to be in opposition, The Thumb in your group is probably a good addition.

Sure, I realize that the sore thumb always seems to stir up trouble and cause friction...but he or she may be exactly what your committee or workplace needs, to keep from becoming run-of-the-mill and stale.

After all, it's the spices you add to your soup that prevent it from being bland.

And bland soup is rarely in demand.

So learn to thank God for that sore thumb of your group. And learn to be patient.

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The Purcell Register

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From page 4A

Guzzardi:

in putting Bush on the presidency's path.

On November 8, 1988, Bush won a landslide against the Democrat candidate, Mas-

sachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis, 426 electoral votes to 111, an impossible outcome without Teddy Ball Game's intervention.

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

From page 4A

Garvin:

session but unfortunately, we are constitutionally required to answer his call, which will cost taxpayers additional money. I'll keep you posted as we move

forward.

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 calling (405) 521-5522.

Society



• Photos provided

Pauls Valley Opry

April Davis (top) and **Cathy Lake** (bottom) will be performing at the final Pauls Valley Opry show on February 3 at the Pauls Valley Junior High auditorium beginning at 6:30 p.m. **Mike Deviney** is also scheduled to perform.



It's a Small World

Gracie Montgomery

A special happy birthday to **The Register's** own **John D. Montgomery**.

He celebrates his birthday Saturday, February 3.

Happy birthdays also go out to **Suzanne McAuley**, **Mary Ford**, **Joshua Keeler**, **David Woods**, **Patty Dumas**, **Sydney Dye**, **Kyle Frasier**, **Vivian Steiner**, **Fabiana Trejo**, **Pat Bruehl**, **Aaron Dumas**, **Lucio Ocampo**, **Jestin Wright**, **Beverly Hodges**, **Henry York**, **Isaac Keeler**, **Elizabeth Pacheco** and **Miguel Cruz**.

The **Purcell Masonic Lodge #27** is sponsoring a baked potato dinner fundraiser for the **Lexington High School Southern Accents Show Choir**.

The dinner is set for Thursday, February 1, from 5-8 p.m. in the **Lexington High School Commons Area**.

Proceeds will help the show choir with expenses including **Missouri Invitational Competition**.

Tickets are \$8 and can be purchased by calling 405-365-7026.

The **Purcell Ladies Golf Association** 2024 kickoff meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. on Wednesday, February 7, at the golf course clubhouse. New members are welcome to attend.

Have some styrofoam you're wanting to get rid of? Now's your chance!

The **Purcell Public Library** is sponsoring a styrofoam recycling event from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Saturday, February 10, at the library, 919 N. 9th St., in Purcell.

Let's help create positive change in our community by collecting and densifying styrofoam for recycling.

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.

Here's a quick and easy recipe to have on the table fast.

One Pot Mexican Rice Casserole

1 lb. ground beef
1 small onion, diced
Salt and pepper, to taste
2 tablespoons taco seasoning
1 teaspoon garlic powder
1 cup long grain white rice
1-1/2 cups beef broth
15 ounce can corn, drained
8 ounces tomato sauce
1/2 cup salsa
1 cup shredded cheese

Cook the ground beef and onion together with salt and pepper to taste in a large skillet over medium high heat until beef is no longer pink. Drain grease if necessary.

Return the pan to the stove and sprinkle the beef with the garlic powder and taco seasoning.

Stir in the rice, broth, corn, tomato sauce, and salsa.

Bring mixture to a boil. Cover, reduce heat and simmer for 18-20 minutes until rice is tender.

Top with cheese and return the lid to the pan for 2-3 minutes until cheese is melted.

MISSOULA CHILDREN'S THEATRE
A PRODUCTION OF MCT, INC.

THE PRINCESS AND THE PEA

Auditions for "The Princess and the Pea" February 5

Audition will be held for the **Missoula Children's Theatre (MCT)** production of "The Princess and the Pea" from 3:30-5:30 p.m. Monday, February 5, at the old junior high school auditorium located at 201 Lester Lane in Purcell.

Those auditioning should arrive at 3:30 p.m. and plan to stay for the full two hours. Some of the cast members will be asked to stay for a rehearsal immediately following the audition.

Among the roles to be cast are the **Princess**, the **Pea**, **King** and **Queen** Size of **Riverdom**, **Storm King** and **Snow Queen** of **Glacierdom**, the **Prince**, the mischievous **Jack Frost**, the citizens of **Riverdom** and **Glacierdom**, the **Dust Bunnies**, some wannabe **Princesses** not to mention some meddling **leprechauns**.

All students, ages kinder-

garten through 12th grade, are encouraged to audition. No advance preparation is necessary. Assistant Directors will also be cast to aid in rehearsals throughout the week and to take on essential backstage responsibilities. Not all who audition are guaranteed to be cast.

The **Missoula Children's Theatre** touring productions are complete with costumes, scenery and props.

MCT Tour Actor/Directors will conduct rehearsals throughout the week from 3:30 to 7:45 p.m. each day.

"The Princess and the Pea" will be presented on Saturday, February 10, at 3 p.m. at the old junior high auditorium.

The **Missoula Children's Theatre** residency in Purcell is sponsored by **Purcell Public Schools**.

For more information, call **Cindy Stone** at 405-442-0099.

McClain County owners receive Centennial Farm Award

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer **Lynda Ozan** announced that an **Oklahoma Centennial Farm** award has been presented to the owners of a **McClain County farm**.

Catherine Heller and **Lynn Greenleaf** own **Pybas Farm** located in the vicinity of **Washington**. The family has grown wheat, soybeans, alfalfa, corn and cotton and raised cattle on the land since great-grandmother **Dora Pybas** settled the land in 1899.

To qualify for a **Centennial Farm or Ranch Award**, a property must be occupied by a family member for at least 100 years and currently be operated or occupied by a family member or leased out by a family member.

The property must include a minimum of 40 acres and gross annual sales of at least \$1,000.

The **Oklahoma Historical Society** and the **Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry** have sponsored the **Centennial Farm and Ranch Awards** for 34 years, in which time eight awards have been

"My grandma has thrived here. She raves about the food, having friends around to talk with, plenty of activities to participate in, and the staff has been nothing but kind." — **Jydonne B.**



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Please see **Award**, page 11A

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• Photo courtesy of All-American Selections

Growing tomatoes

Lizzano is a semi-determinate tomato great for hanging baskets.

The Lindsay Library Story

Storytelling at Pikes Peak School Museum in Erin Springs on Sunday, February 11 at 2 p.m. will feature the story of the Lindsay Public Library.

Jody Holden, Lindsay librarian and local historian, will be speaking about the importance of our local library, and the value of researching our hometown history. Finding your own family history and sharing this knowledge with your young people will give you the joy of keeping those stories alive. This library is more than

just books. Our city library has many other services to offer the community and the librarians are ready to assist.

Take this opportunity to learn and appreciate the value of the Lindsay Public Library located at 112 W Choctaw.

This storytelling is sponsored by the Lindsay Community Historical Society.

The 2024 LCHS Calendar of historic businesses may be ordered at the library or call LCHS at 405-919-6146 for more information.

From page 5A

Tips:

to this category.

Perhaps you are looking for an heirloom tomato, one that has been grown for more than 50 years and maintained its original traits and popularity. Cherokee Purple's rich flavor constantly rates high in taste tests. Brandywine, Black Cherry, Chocolate Stripes, Amana Orange, and Black Krim are also gardener favorites.

Coax reluctant veggie eaters of all ages to give tomatoes a try with some of the sweeter varieties like Sun Sugar often called the candy of the garden. Consider having a taste test after growing a variety of super sweet tomatoes like Sungold, Super Sweet 100, Suncherry, and Sunrise Bumble Bee.

Boost your success by selecting disease-resistant varieties and growing your tomatoes in full

sun and moist well-drained soil.

Plant tags, internet sources, and catalog descriptions usually highlight this and other helpful information.

Look for tomato varieties suited to your growing conditions. Check with your University Extension for a list of recommended varieties for your area. You will also find helpful information on the best time to start tomato seeds indoors and when to place transplants in the garden.

Start enjoying the harvest sooner with fast-maturing tomatoes. These are perfect if you have a short growing season or are just anxious for your first garden-fresh tomato.

Early Girl is a longtime favorite, Bush Early Girl produces more fruit on a compact plant, and New Girl produces

bigger fruit and has better disease resistance. Glacier, Alaska, and Juliet are a few of the many others to consider. Check the catalog description or plant tag for the number of days to harvest.

Select plants with the growth habit that best works with your garden space and gardening style. Determinate tomatoes are perfect for small space gardens and containers. They grow a certain height, stop growing, and produce their fruit over a relatively short time.

Indeterminate tomatoes continue to grow throughout the season producing flowers and fruit until you prune out the tip or frost kills the plant. Stake or tower the plants to save space, reduce disease and insect problems, and make harvesting more convenient.

Gather your family and favorite recipes. Make a list of longtime favorites and new tomato varieties to include in this year's garden.

Be sure to save some space as you are likely to find a few additional varieties you just can't resist planting this year.

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

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

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

Early voting begins February 8

Early voting begins Thursday, February 8, for voters in McClain County. Voters who will not be able to make it to the polls on Election Day, have the option of voting early at the McClain County Community Center, 1721 Hardcastle Blvd., in Purcell.

McClain County Election Board Secretary, Karen Haley, said early voting is open to all voters.

"You do not need to provide an excuse to vote early. Oklahoma allows early voting for all elections conducted through the State Election Board - from school board and municipal elections to state and federal elections. This is a great option for those who will be out of town on Election Day or who want to avoid long lines," Haley said.

Early voting is available

Thursday, February 8, and Friday, February 9, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the McClain County Community Center. Haley reminds voters that early voting is not available at polling locations.

Some voters may need assistance to vote because they are blind or visually disabled, physically disabled, or infirmed, or illiterate. Such individuals may request to have an

assistant or vote privately and independently using the ATI device attached to the voting device.

Those who require assistance should talk to their precinct official or contact the County Election Board directly for instructions.

For questions, please contact the Election Board at 405-527-3121 or mcclaincounty@elections.ok.gov.



NEWS from the City of Purcell

Working together we can beautify our community!

The City of Purcell may issue a citation in the amount of \$249 if you are in violation of any of the following:

1. Trash and or debris on your property
2. Tall weeds or grass (including edging along the street and sidewalk)
3. Inoperable and/or junk vehicles
4. Trailers and autos in alleyways
5. Tree limbs over hanging the street with less than "eight" foot clearance
6. Failure to trim trees, grass and weeds in the alley
7. Leaving grass clippings in the street after mowing
8. Setting bulk trash to the curb sooner than three days before pick-up. (Bulk pick-up is the last Monday of every month)

OBA seeks award nominations

The Oklahoma Bar Association is accepting nominations for its annual awards presentations.

Nominations must be received by 5 p.m. Friday, March 1. Awards will be presented to recipients at the OBA Annual Meeting July 9-12 at the Embassy Suites in Norman.

Awards are open to lawyers, non-lawyers and legal organizations that have positively impacted the community.

Edmond attorney LeAnne McGill chairs the statewide committee that will review the nominations and select the award winners.

Mail the nomination to OBA Awards Committee, Oklahoma Bar Association, P.O. Box 53036, Oklahoma City, OK 73152 or email to awards@okbar.org.

More information and a list of award categories are available at <https://www.okbar.org/awards/>.

From page 3A

Jacob:

which would eliminate sales tax on food purchased at a grocery store. Every Oklahoman must eat, and every Oklahoman will benefit lower food prices.

While Jacob recognizes that we must take steps to combat inflation, he argues that we can

start by lowering your bill at the grocery store.

Jacob resides with his wife and children in Newcastle,

where they attend Victory Family Church. Jacob has five children, all boys, and they range from a baby born in 2023

to a nineteen-year-old.

Learn more about Jacob's campaign at <https://mitchell-jacob.com>.

From page 3A

Vote:

an assistant or vote privately and independently using the ATI device attached to the voting device. Those who require assistance should talk to their precinct official or contact the County Election Board directly for instructions.

For questions, contact the McClain County Election Board at 405-527-3121 or mcclaincounty@elections.ok.gov.

The McClain County Election Board is located at 121 N. Second Ave. in Purcell. Office hours are from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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Getting to know the COURTHOUSE EMPLOYEES

Karen Weltmer

How long have you worked for the McClain County Court Clerk's office?
I have worked at the Court Clerk's for 9 months.

What are your duties?
My duties are civil.

Where is your hometown? My hometown was OKC, but I consider Purcell my hometown now.

Tell us a little bit about your family?
I live with my best friend and partner Greg Moerlins and my beautiful mother-in-law Susan Murray. We have 2 dogs, Molly and Lola, and 2 cats, Bella and Jack.

What do you enjoy doing outside of work?
I enjoy swimming, fishing and kayaking. I would prefer to hibernate during the cold months.

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MATC student excels at Competition

Planview, Texas, was the place to be for John Turnpaugh, Mid-America Technology Center Diesel instructor, and three of his first-year students, Cutter Dobbles from Blanchard and Peyton Standridge and Wyatt Woods, both from Lexington.

These students participated in the Western Equipment Ag Tech Invitational, showcasing their skills against approximately 180 other students.

During the contest, each student not only had to complete a written exam but also had to perform tasks at four different stations: critical thinking, electrical, parts ID, and tool ID.

The MATC students faced tough competition, but Cutter Dobbles was able to place at every contest station, and he also emerged as a contest standout by securing second place overall.

Cutter's success was rewarded generously, with a prize package that included a \$15,000 scholarship, a top-of-the-line toolbox, and a set of high-quality tools. These winnings not only recognize his achievements but also serve as an investment in his future career.

Due to Cutter's outstanding performance, he was offered an internship at Western Tech Equipment in Weatherford this summer. Upon completion of his internship, Cutter will continue in his Diesel Technology



• Photo provided

Scholarship check

Cutter Dobbles proudly displays his \$15,000 scholarship check, toolbox and some of his tools that he received from his winning ways at the Western Equipment Ag Tech Invitational.

program at MATC in the fall, where he is slated to complete the class in May 2025.

The Western Equipment Ag Tech Invitational, held annually, is a place for students to show off their skill level in today's high-tech, fast-paced

field of agriculture mechanization.

During this contest, students had the opportunity to use their mechanical knowledge, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills and interact with industry professionals.

Cook is a two-time State Ambassador of Music, and as a jazz musician has performed with Dennis Chambers, Quincy Davis, Christian McBride, Marcus Miller and Victor Wooten.

Shayna Steele is an eight-time Tony and Grammy winning artist. She was on the original cast of the Broadway production of

at the following Delta Community Action locations:

- Lindsay, 308 SW 2nd;
- Purcell, 122 W. Main;
- Pauls Valley, 225 W. McClure.

For more information about services provided by Delta Community Action Foundation, Inc., please visit deltacommunityaction.org.

Norman Public Library West hosts Taylor Swift's musical director David Cook and Shayna Steele

Norman Public Library West invites all music fans to the library at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 8, to hear from accomplished musicians and husband-wife duo David Cook and Shayna Steele and learn more about their careers in the music industry.

David Cook is a 15-time Grammy and Emmy winning artist who, for the last 12 years, has been the musical director and pianist for Taylor Swift.

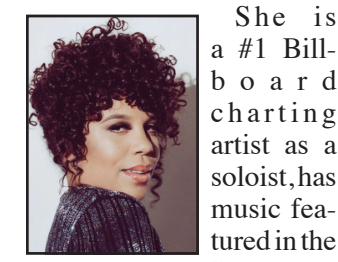
He has helped shape Taylor's career, having written and arranged music with her, toured the world for performances and has led her band for over a decade.

He has also served as the pianist or musical director of NSYNC, Keshia, Jennifer Hudson, Thomas Rhett, Ben Platt, Maren Morris and many others.

Cook is a two-time State Ambassador of Music, and as a jazz musician has performed with Dennis Chambers, Quincy Davis, Christian McBride, Marcus Miller and Victor Wooten.

Shayna Steele is an eight-time Tony and Grammy winning artist. She was on the original cast of the Broadway production of

"Hairspray" and has performed on Broadway for many other hits including "RENT" and "Jesus Christ Superstar."



Steele

She is a #1 Billboard charting artist as a soloist, has music featured in the "Bourne Identity" and "Sex and the City" soundtracks, and has recorded and performed with Moby, Chris Botti, Rihanna, Kelly Clarkson and Bette Midler.

Steele won a Grammy for being featured with Snarky Puppy on their *Family Dinner - Volume 1* album.

Musicians and music programs have enjoyed a steady presence at the library located at 300 Norman Center Court.

"When we first opened Norman Public Library West, feedback from customers was that they wanted us to have music," said Branch Manager Mike Pierson.

"Being in the former Borders building, Borders would have live music in their café, and that's what our customers requested from us as well. So, we've been hosting music programs since opening 10 years ago," he concluded.

"In My Experience: Shay-

na Steele and David Cook" is open to all ages and is presented in partnership with the OU School of Music's Resonance Series, which is created and hosted by Administrator Coordinator and Adjunct Professor Eric Walschop.

The Resonance Series is a guest lecture series that works in collaboration with the Recording Academy and the Oklahoma Film and Music Office, which brings world-class musicians to campus and connects them with students.

Since 2020, 37 guests have appeared on the series including 19 Grammy winners, Pulitzer Prize Winners in Music, Oscar Winners, Emmy Winners and many others.

Panelists range from Grammy winners to Professors, Directors, and Deans of Music or Colleges of Fine Arts from OU and surrounding universities.

Founded in 1958, the Pioneer Library System 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.

To learn more and to register, please visit the PLS Events Calendar at pioneerlibrarysystem.org.

Spread the Love this February

Delta Community Action Foundation, Inc. is calling on the public to help "Spread the Love" during the month of February.

Delta is having a peanut butter and jelly food drive to help "Spread the Love" to local citizens in need of food.

The agency's 2020 Community Needs Assessment revealed the need for food ranked fourth

in overall need. The Spread the Love Peanut Butter & Jelly Drive, sponsored by Delta Community Action Foundation, Inc., will continue through the end of February.

Delta Community Action Foundation, Inc. is under the direction of Karen Nichols, Executive Director.

Donations can be dropped off

PMH Foundation Spotlight



Marjorie Panter, Jimmie Crossland, Teresa Dumler, Pat Foster, Carol Powell & Jan Dye

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Gov. Stitt declares February Career & Technical Education Month

Mid-America Tech celebrates local workforce impact

Mid-America Technology Center is proud to join the statewide celebration of Career and Technical Education Month in Oklahoma. Governor Kevin Stitt declared February CTE Month in recognition of the crucial role that the Oklahoma CareerTech system plays in shaping the future workforce and contributing to the economic growth of the state.

Oklahoma CareerTech serves as a crucial link between workforce development and local industry, fostering a talent pipeline to meet the state's workforce needs.

"Mid-America Tech's mission is to enrich economic growth by providing quality education and training," Mike Eubank, superintendent of Mid-America Tech. "Ca-

reerTech centers are integrated into the communities we serve, and CTE Month is the perfect time to celebrate the special relationships we have with our K-12 districts as well as community and business leaders.

"Identifying workforce needs and tailoring our course offerings to ensure our students are set up for success and are equipped to handle the job when they graduate our programs is at the core of what we do," he concluded.

According to statewide statistics released by the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technical Education, the Oklahoma CareerTech system achieved a record number of pre-K through 12 enrollments for a second consecutive year, indicating a growing demand

for the services it provides.

In the 2023 fiscal year, there were an impressive 489,635 enrollments in CareerTech programs across the state, with over 42 percent of Oklahoma students in ninth through twelfth grades enrolled in at least one CareerTech class during that period.

"Preparing students for careers has become a higher priority for more Americans," said CareerTech State Director Brent Haken. "The need for educational opportunities that emphasize career readiness is growing, which means our mission to provide Oklahomans career training has never been more relevant."

As Career and Technical Education Month unfolds, Mid-America Tech encourages everyone to recognize and celebrate the invaluable contributions of the Oklahoma CareerTech system to its students, our communities, and Oklahoma businesses. Oklahoma is powered by CareerTech.

"The skills obtained in CareerTech programs enable students to become immediately employable," said Haken. "For us, the goal is to get students career and college ready and to create a talent pipeline big enough to meet the workforce needs of every Oklahoma industry."

To learn more about the impact of CareerTech in Oklahoma and in your community, follow Mid-America Tech on Facebook, X (Twitter), and Instagram throughout the month of February.

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Purcell Intermediate School honor roll students announced

Purcell Intermediate School Principal Tina Swayze has announced honor rolls for the first semester of the 2023-2024 school year.

Superintendent's Honor Roll students have no grade lower than an A.

Students named to the Principal's Honor Roll have no grade lower than a B.

Fifth Grade Superintendent's
Sophia Beasley, Cora Booker, Bryleigh Burson, Pedro Diano, Keeley Dobbins, Huxlyn Featherston, Zayn Holder, Kyleigh McClung, Brooklyn Moore, Haylee Nichols, Emily Peltzer, Graci Pollard, Kyndall Price, Allison Ramirez-Munoz, Phinley Rhodes, Evan Shobert, Brayden Stewart, Ella Tyler, Colter West, Cooper Whitaker, Raegan Wilson and Sterling Woods.

Principal's
James Arnold, Mason Balvantin, Aiden Best, Madalynn Clay, Aria Dixon, William Escobar Gallegos, Gunner Ferguson, Brooklyn Finch, Gage Forbes, Bryson Frizell, Kevin Garcia, Hollis Gillen, Eli Haneline, Kirklynn Holt, Gage Mathis, Jace McAnally, Arabella Mendiola, Paige Miller, Gabriella Miranda, Charles (Crew) Montgomery, Emmagrace Montgomery, Aiden Moore, Hailey Ramirez, Maria Ramirez Reyes, Paislie Richmond, Xavier Steele, Gary (Karter) Stokes, Aurora Teague, Spencer Thompson, Lane Webb and Tylie Winters.

Fourth Grade

Superintendent's
Jessie Blue, Roxanne Byrne, Joseph Englehorn, Jerrette Haynes, Fiona Macleod, Lane Montgomery, Bentlee Nicklas, Danahe Olguin, Lyla Rhodes, Asher Stone and Colin Woods.

Principal's
Lilyann Ayer, Madai Baraza, Jackson Barrett, Dallas Black, Cooper Bookout, Tyler Brewer, Angelique Carrillo Alamos, Arianna Carrillo Alamos, Kameron Celaya, Ulies Espinoza Guardiola, Aubrey Forbes, Petra Fraire, Ethan Guinn, Gentry Klein, Lexi Little, Kallie Madden, Kambree Martin, Silas Mathis, Bentley Miller, Yeraldin Montes, Armando Olguin Mejia, Jaiden Patel, Leigha Peltzer, Bentlee Perigo, Madelyn Phillips, Ember Reed, Finley Reed, Ivan Resendiz, Janelly Resendiz-Munoz, Dominik Rodarte Miranda, Paisley Rogez, Karim Sanchez, Noah Simmons, Avery Staggs, Sandra Suarez Richardo, Shawk Tyler, Addilyn Vaughn, Jarik Watt, Kyston Watt, Corbin Weaver, Tripp Webb and Augustin Williams.

Third Grade Superintendent's
Luciana Adame, Londyn Anderson, Trigg Anderson, River Ardery, Alyssa Bertucci, Sabrina Blevins, Cooper Brown, Karrina Cardenas, Ellie-May Cardona O'Neal, Cora Cheatwood, Raymond Coble, Dakota Conder, Kilian Cox, Lincoln Doty, Bryntley Duke, Sophie Elmore, Makeyla Espinoza, James Folsom, Easton Gleckler, Ledger Gray, Logan

Guerra, Kache Hines, Kynzee Holder, Maevry Hopkins, Isaac Huitron, Scarlett Jackson, Kimber Johnston, Eli Killman, Kayden Klein, Ashley Landeros, Autumn Leonard, Easton Lizana, Isaiah Lopez, Aydan McGee, Emmanuel Montes, Adrian Nunez, Jared Parker, Gatlin Perigo, Dean Ramirez, Zaid Ramirez, Jolee Ratchford, Adalyn Scales, Jordyn Schupp, Kipton Selman, Seth Smith, Emory Sims, Talen Snow, Titus Snow, Illiana Swartz, Josue Talamantes Reyes, Samuel Tate, Avie Tyler, Indy Venegas, John (Jr.) Walker, Irelynn Weatherford, Kynndralee Willis and Langston Womack.

Principal's
Arley Bennett, Colt Bowen, Boston Campbell, Katherine Dalton, Madilyn Deveraux, Cobie Deviney, Zeppelin Elledge, Gunner Finch, Xavi Fraire, Raylon Frizell, Adaleena Garver, Natilie Gil-eland, Malachi Gray, Lane Griffith, Nathalia Gutierrez, Kloe Heck, Shrey Kamdar, William Keeler, Adaline Kerschner, Kamron Leatherman, Alanis Leon-Diaz, Wesley Lindsey, Wyatt Marion, Braxton McClung, Jayden McNeill, Titus McNutt, Evans Nichols, Esmeralda Ocampo, Janki Patel, Karstyn Rangel, Alexander Rendon, Dani Renfro, Gabriel Reyes, Brooklyn Sabatino, Hunter Skinner, Marlee Smith, Lynlee Snow, Mason Spurlin, Berkeley Stapleton, Auraya Teague, Naomi Walden, Ad-disyn Ward, Abram Webster and Thomas Womack.

WAYNE SCHOOL MENU
Week of February 5
MONDAY BREAKFAST
Pancake on a stick, cereal, fruit, juice, milk.
LUNCH
Chicken noodles, carrots, peas, applesauce, milk.
TUESDAY BREAKFAST
Cereal, fruit, juice, milk.
LUNCH
Fajita, pinto beans, Spanish rice, mixed fruit, milk.
WEDNESDAY BREAKFAST
Sausage biscuit, cereal, fruit, juice, milk.
LUNCH
Hot ham and cheese sandwich, whole grain chips, pickles, baked beans, pear, milk.
THURSDAY BREAKFAST
Cereal, fruit, juice, milk.
LUNCH
Italian bake, green beans, carrots, bread, cake, milk.
FRIDAY BREAKFAST
Biscuit and gravy, cereal, fruit, juice, milk.
LUNCH
Pizza, corn, romaine salad, oranges, milk.

From page 6A

Award:

given in McClain County. For further information about the Centennial Farm and Ranch Program, contact Shea J. Otley at 405-522-4485 or shea.otley@history.ok.gov.

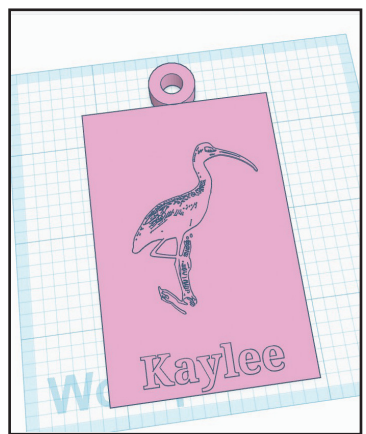
The State Historic Preservation Office is a division of the Oklahoma Historical Society. The mission of the Oklahoma Historical Society is to collect, preserve and share the history and culture of the state of Oklahoma and its people.

Founded in 1893 by members of the Territorial Press Association, the OHS maintains museums, historic sites and affiliates across the state. Through its research archives, exhibits, educational programs and publications the OHS chronicles the rich history of Oklahoma.

For more information about the OHS, please visit www.okhistory.org.

THE PURCELL REGISTER, Thursday, February 1, 2024-11A
PURCELL SCHOOL MENU
Week of February 5
MONDAY BREAKFAST
Oatmeal and cinnamon toast or cereal and toast, fruit, juice, milk.
LUNCH
Corndog, french fries, green beans, fruit, milk.
TUESDAY BREAKFAST
Kolache or cereal and toast, fruit, juice, milk.
LUNCH
Pizza pasta, green beans, baby carrots, breadstick, fruit, milk.
WEDNESDAY BREAKFAST
Biscuit and sausage gravy or cereal and toast, fruit, juice, milk.
LUNCH
Pulled pork loaded baked potato, cucumber slices, dinner roll, fruit, milk.
THURSDAY BREAKFAST
Yogurt and toast or cereal and toast, fruit, juice, milk.
LUNCH
Breaded chicken sandwich, baked beans, baby carrots, fruit, milk.
FRIDAY BREAKFAST
Pancakes with syrup or cereal and toast, fruit, juice, milk.
LUNCH
Beef taco, Mexican salad, tortilla chips, salsa, fruit, milk.

LEXINGTON SCHOOL MENU
Week of February 5
MONDAY BREAKFAST
Cereal or banana bread, mandarin oranges, juice, milk.
LUNCH
Chicken nuggets or sandwich, cheesy potatoes, steamed carrots, rosy applesauce, milk.
TUESDAY BREAKFAST
Cereal or breakfast burrito, peaches, juice, milk.
LUNCH
Beef taco pie or chef salad, pinto beans, whole kernel corn, mandarin oranges, milk.
WEDNESDAY BREAKFAST
Cereal or yogurt and crackers, applesauce, juice, milk.
LUNCH
Sloppy joes or sandwich, pork and beans, french fries, lime pears, milk.
THURSDAY BREAKFAST
Cereal or breakfast pizza, pears, juice, milk.
LUNCH
Chicken spaghetti or chef salad, steamed broccoli, English peas, apple wedges, milk.
FRIDAY BREAKFAST
Cereal or doughnuts, orange smiles, juice, milk.
LUNCH
Hamburger or sandwich, french fries, lettuce, tomato, onions, pickles, Jell-O with fruit, milk.



• Photos provided

3D art project

Becky Roberts from the Pioneer Library System gave an informative demonstration using a 3D digital printer to Lexington Middle School students. Students from Kathy Gladden-Morris' class have been writing essays over the symbolism used in the short story "The Scarlet Ibis." Ms. Roberts gave the students information on how to make a keychain with a Scarlet Ibis. The project was very informative, as well as a token for a memory of the writing experience.

Council:

Cox told the council. "It would take \$10 million to bring it (the building) up to code."

Wellings told the council McClain County Commissioners looked at the property with the idea of building a courthouse but walked away. Groups from Oklahoma City and Tulsa also looked at the property but walked away.

"One group that wanted to make it a rehab center walked away calling it functionally obsolete," Wellings said.

Other bids for the property were \$200,000 from JR Bain Properties LLC and \$185,000

from Curtis James Carwile. Fishburn labeled the bidding as, "very disappointing."

"It appraised for \$1.7 million," the mayor said. "The numbers were much lower than we expected. The sealed bid process did not meet the intent which was to bring in additional bidders.

"We want to get the community involved in the process for what we do next," Fishburn continued. "That's important to us and we intend to do that."

In other business at the meeting at the Community Room of the Purcell Police

Service Building, the council voted 5-0 to adopt the code of the City of Purcell, the first amendment to the Southbrook residential subdivision reimbursement and accepted the bid by Pruitt Investments LLC of \$101,111.21 for lots one and two of block two in the Northern Winds Heights addition.

The other bid in the process came from Cristo Es Rey Church, Inc, Oklahoma for \$80,105.

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John Denny Montgomery
The Purcell Register

Take baseline

Purcell junior Hadleigh Harp dribbles baseline during the Dragons' 50-29 win over the Leopards. Harp scored 10 points in the win.

Lindsay, Comanche dispatched

Raper's Dragons on four-game winning streak

John D. Montgomery
The Purcell Register

Coming off the Heart of Oklahoma Tournament, Purcell's cage teams showed no signs of weariness topping Lindsay at home last Tuesday and pocketing road victories at Comanche last Friday night.

Coach Toney Cooper's No. 15 Dragons improved to 14-4 with the 50-29 victory over Lindsay and their 60-30 shellacking of Comanche. The Dragons have been playing tight defense.

In that 30-point victory over the Indians, Purcell had a trio of players in double figures led by Alyssa Thompson's game-high 16 points.

Joining her in double digits were Haven Buchanan and Tinley Winters with 12 each.

Buchanan led the offense in the Lindsay victory dropping in 11 points. Joining her in double figures was Hadleigh Harp with 10.

"We knew coming in that it would be a slower paced game since they exclusively run a zone defense," Cooper

said of the Comanche victory.

"Our goal was to still push the pace and exercise patience against their zone but not simply settle for long jump shots.

"Our guards did a much better job of attacking gaps creating opportunities for our bigs. Tinley was a beneficiary of getting in the right areas of their zone to capitalize offensively," the coach said.

"It was a good road win for our team as we get better and better against zone defenses. Defensively we were consistent throughout the game holding them to single digits each quarter. Great production from our bench.

"Our goal the remainder of the season is to find consistency both in our starters and our bench. To make a deep run in the playoffs we will need contributions from both," Cooper concluded.

Sharp shooter Kobe Freeman cut the strings for 33 in Purcell's 54-50 victory over

Please see **Dragons**, page 3B

1/23

Lindsay 29
Purcell 50

Lindsay	3	3	15	8—29
Purcell	5	18	19	8—50

Player	Points
Haven Buchanan	11
Hadleigh Harp	10
Kenna Esparza	8
Ella Resendiz	7
Hannah Whitaker	6
Tinley Winters	3
Alyssa Thompson	3
Jenna Avery	2

1/26

Purcell 60
Comanche 30

Purcell	15	21	14	10—60
Comanche	8	5	9	8—30

Player	Points
Alyssa Thompson	16
Haven Buchanan	12
Tinley Winters	12
Jenna Avery	8
Ella Resendiz	6
Kaylin Vazquez	2
Hadleigh Harp	2
Bri Wren	2

1/23

Lindsay 50
Purcell 54

Lindsay	11	12	16	11—50
Purcell	12	9	13	20—54

Player	Points
Kobe Freeman	33
Jaime Resendiz	8
Brayden Tharp	7
Kylen DeFreeze	4
Alex Rojo	2

1/26

Purcell 56
Comanche 48

Purcell	16	16	11	12—56
Comanche	12	7	18	11—48

Player	Points
Kobe Freeman	24
Kylen DeFreeze	7
Jaime Resendiz	6
Kyler Rangel	5
Seth Bunch	5
Brayden Tharp	4

Homecoming Thursday night

Lexington hosts Davis, ceremony starts at 6 p.m.

Emily Montgomery
The Purcell Register

Lexington came out on the winning end of an overtime thriller with Little Axe last Friday night. The Bulldogs won 74-72.

Zeke Faulkenberry's 18 points led the Bulldogs. Drew Dierking (16) and Ty Mixon (15) joined him in double figures.

Colt Mixon added eight. Dierking was a "monster on the boards" with 18 rebounds for Lexington.

"The Little Axe game was hard fought by both teams. The score was back and forth for the majority of the game," said head coach Kyle Wells. Lexington held a 29-25 halftime lead.

According to the coach, Lexington would pull ahead and each time Little Axe re-

sponded with three-pointers.

The second half was more back-and-forth action. With the score knotted at 63-all at the end of the fourth quarter, the game was sent to overtime.

Ty Mixon got a quick six points to start the extra quarter and the Bulldogs never relinquished the lead.

"Ty stepped up huge for us at the beginning of overtime," Wells said.

Faulkenberry was in foul trouble for Lexington, picking up his third early in the third quarter.

"It's difficult, at times, for your offense to flow smoothly when your main ball handler is sitting on the bench."

Please see **Lex**, page 3B

Warriors clipped by Classen SAS

John Denny Montgomery
The Purcell Register

Washington's girls basketball team fell to Class 4A's No. 11 Classen SAS Monday evening, 56-39.

Shelbie Caveness and Preslee Johnson each scored 14 points in the game.

Washington was limited in transition points, which hurt their overall scoring output.

"We didn't get transition buckets or play off the miss any," head coach Kale Simon said.

The coach said his team's defensive effort was disappointing and they were unable to create the turnovers to lead to fast-break points.

"We have to be tougher on defense," he said.

The Warriors are No. 1 in class 3A and have a 16-2 record. They host Pauls Valley Friday night.

1/29 Girls

Classen SAS 56
Washington 39

Classen	14	12	11	19—56
Washington	9	8	14	8—39

Player	Points
Shelbie Caveness	14
Preslee Johnson	14
Kelby Beller	7
Breanna Lindert	4



Greg Gaston • double g images

Final stretch

Wynnewood, OKC Knights and Maysville round it out

Emily Montgomery
The Purcell Register

Last Friday, the Wayne Lady Bulldogs picked up a 46-33 win over Konawa.

Freshman Taelyn Ringwald led her team with 20 points. Madi Sharp added nine and Faith Brazell had eight.

"Madi played some of her best basketball on both sides of the ball on Friday. She's gotten her confidence back on her shot and she hit a big one to put a dagger in Konawa toward the end of the game," head coach Jackson Embry said.

Wayne held a 27-20 halftime lead and kept that lead through the rest of the game, outscoring Konawa 19-13 through the final two quarters.

"We're playing some of our best basketball right now and I'm excited to watch the girls

continue to grow," Embry said.

Thursday night Wayne was in Asher for a rescheduled game with the Lady Indians. Wayne lost 48-28.

With the score tied up at halftime, 18-18, Embry said it was a competitive game.

"We scored just 10 points in the second half, which is crazy. It was a defensive game, but in the fourth quarter they couldn't miss. They hit everything they put up."

Ringwald finished the game with 16 points.

Last Tuesday Wayne was in Dibble where they fell to the Lady Demons, 52-46.

"I told my team that Dibble would be one of the best teams we'd face all season," Embry said.

And, his team responded,

Please see **Wayne**, page 2B



Greg Gaston • double g images

Open court

Washington sophomore Kelby Beller dribbles the ball down the floor. The Warriors host Pauls Valley Friday night.

Dribbling downhill

Wayne freshman Taelyn Ringwald dribbles around a Konawa defender during the Bulldogs' 46-33 win over the Tigers. Ringwald scored 20 points in the game.



Greg Gaston • double g images

Wayne's royal court

Wayne High School's coronation was held Friday night before the Konawa basketball game. Pictured, from left, are king Wyatt Webster, Casey Kane, Logan Taylor, Ashton Norton, Bradey VanSchuyver, Alyssa Hobson, Madi Sharp, Brysten Shephard, Addison Keeler and queen Faith Brazell. The flower girl was Reese Elizabeth Foshee Lang and Rayden Clifton was the crown bearer.



Greg Gaston • double g images

King and Queen

Faith Brazell was crowned queen and Wyatt Webster was crowned king during Wayne's homecoming coronation Friday night. The flower girl was Reese Elizabeth Foshee Lang and Rayden Clifton was the crown bearer.

From page 1B

Wayne:

playing good basketball and holding a 29-18 halftime lead.

But, according to Embry, his team is young and made some costly mistakes. Dibble was able to find a way to win,

outscored Wayne 25-9 in the fourth quarter to pull out the win.

"We learned a lot from that game and in the end, it will make us a better team," Embry

said.

Ringwald had a team high 15 points. Brazzell added nine, Sharp had eight and Audra Watts had seven.

"Everyone is keying in on Taelyn. We're seeing box-and-1 every game and I'm proud of our supporting cast.

"They have noticed the focus on Taelyn and they aren't letting it affect them or what we



Greg Gaston • double g images

Box scores

Page 3B

do offensively."

Wayne hosted Wynnewood on Tuesday night and will host the OKC Knights on Friday. Their final regular season game is February 6 at Maysville.

Boys

Last Friday, Wayne lost to Konawa 59-43.

All week, the Bulldogs dealt with player absences due to illness and Friday night was no exception.

"We were without Bradey and we just struggled. We couldn't really get anything going and had a hard time getting the ball to the hole," head coach Jackson Embry said.

Jaxon Dill led his team with 14 points. Wyatt Webster added nine.

On Thursday night, Wayne was in Asher where they dropped a 64-25 loss to the Indians.

"That was our worst game all year. We were short players, Bradey was ejected in the first quarter and we had a kid T'd up, which meant I had to sit the remainder of the game," Embry said.

According to the coach, the team struggled.

"We were outworked and everything Asher threw up went in, and everything we threw up seemed to hit back iron."

Dill was the lone scorer in double figures with 13.

Last Tuesday, Wayne was in Dibble. The Bulldogs lost to the Demons 57-43.

"We were still riding high after winning the Bulldog Bash tournament. But, we had several guys out. Cameron Davis and Logan Taylor got their first starts and played kind of antsy," Embry said.

It was a tight game through the first half, tied 17-17. However, in the second half, Dibble outscored Wayne 40-26.

"We played ok, but made a lot of mistakes and couldn't really get things going for the full game," Embry said.

Dill (17) and Webster (16) combined for 33 points.

The Bulldogs were at home against Wynnewood on Tuesday night then hosting OKC Knights Friday night. Their final regular season game is February 6 at Maysville.

Districts

District assignments have been announced. The Bulldogs and Lady Bulldogs will play Fletcher in the first round. Binger-Oney is hosting.

Looking to pass

Wayne junior Ty Kemp looks for the open teammate during the Bulldogs' game against Konawa. Wayne fell 59-43. Kemp scored six points.

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John Denny Montgomery
The Purcell Register

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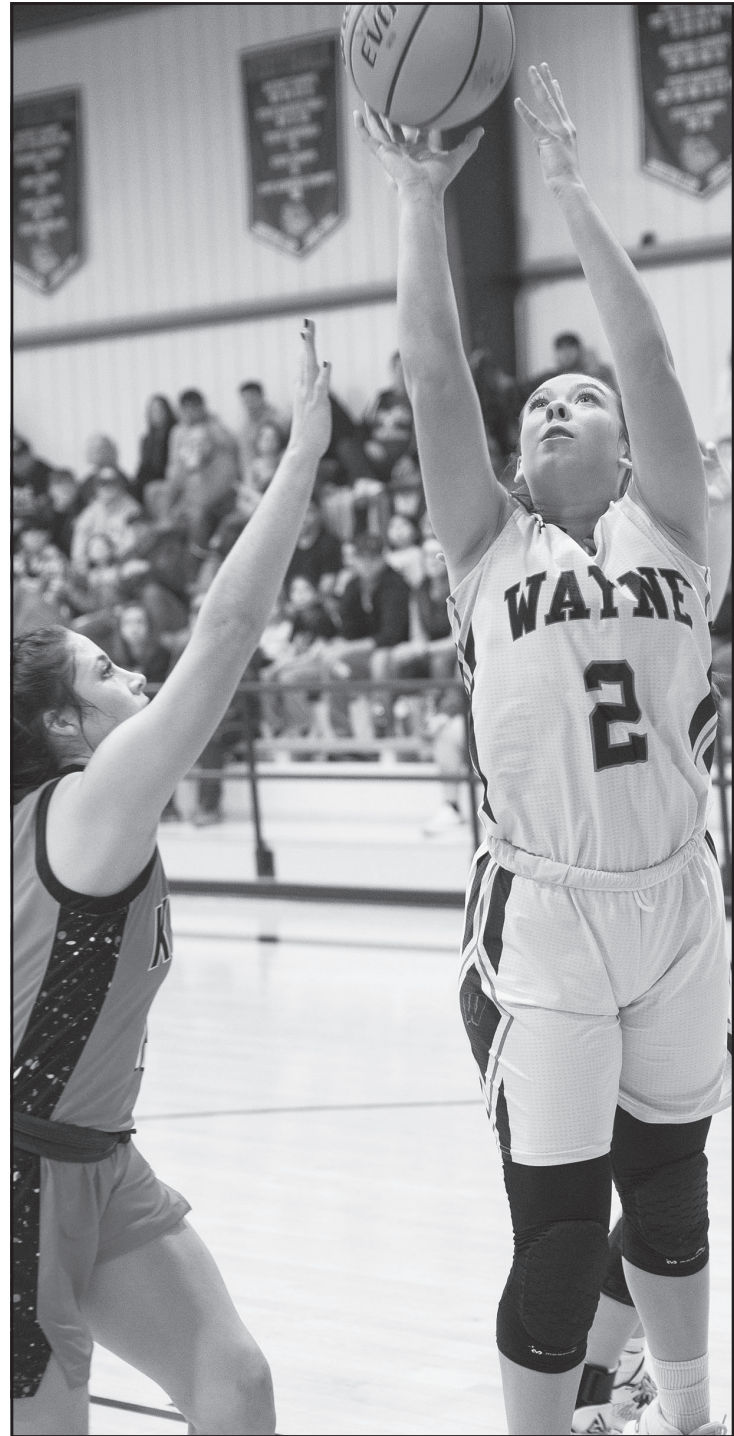
Purcell senior Alyssa Thompson feeds the ball into the post during the Dragons' 50-29 win over the Leopards. Thompson scored three points in the game.



John D. Montgomery • The Purcell Register

Super structure

Fencing around the discus competition ring is up as track season nears for the Purcell Dragons.



Greg Gaston • double g images

Working in the paint

Wayne senior Faith Brazell puts up a shot during the Bulldogs' 46-33 win over Konawa. Brazell scored eight points in the game.

From page 1B

Lex:

Lexington was at Casady on Tuesday night and will be home on Thursday night for Homecoming against Davis.

Girls
Last Friday the Lady 'Dawgs picked up a lopsided 70-18 win over Little Axe.

Twelve girls scored in the win, led by 14 for Abby Sample and 10 for Ryleigh Markovich.

It was all Lexington as the Lady 'Dawgs outscored Little Axe in each quarter and ran away with a win.

Last Tuesday in Davis, Lexington dropped a 46-24 game with the Lady Wolves.

Davis held a 25-14 lead at halftime. And the second half was more of the same, as Davis outscoring Lexington 21-10.

Kiely Givens led the Lexington scorers with seven points. Natalie Dickson added six while Addi Lippel added four.

The Lady 'Dawgs were at Casady on Tuesday night and then will be home hosting Davis for Homecoming on Thursday.



John Denny Montgomery • The Purcell Register

Make a move

Lexington junior Addi Lippel dribbles the ball on the wing while looking to score for the Bulldogs. Lexington hosts Bridge Creek Friday night.

Lexington Box scores

1/23
Davis 46
Lexington 24

Davis	9	16	13	8	46
Lexington	11	3	6	4	24

Player	Points
Kiely Givens	7
Natalie Dickson	6
Addi Lippel	4
Abby Sample	3
Landri Bean	2
Mackenzie Manuel	2

1/23
Davis 54
Lexington 27

Lexington	16	6	2	3	27
Davis	10	18	12	14	54

Player	Points
Zeke Faulkenberry	12
Ty Mixon	8
Drew Dierking	3
Elijah Pearman	2
Colt Mixon	1
Hunter Olson	1

1/26
Lexington 70
Little Axe 18

Lexington	23	21	12	16	70
Little Axe	2	4	5	7	18

Player	Points
Abby Sample	14
Ryleigh Markovich	10
Natalie Dickson	7
Mackenzie Manuel	7
Addi Lippel	6
Kiely Givens	6
Marleigh Givens	6
Jordan Hardy	5
Landri Bean	5
Lexie Torres	2
Hadley Wilkins	2
Charli Moore	2

1/26
Lexington 74 OT
Little Axe 72

Lexington	15	14	20	14	11	72
Little Axe	19	6	18	20	9	72

Player	Points
Zeke Faulkenberry	18
Drew Dierking	16
Ty Mixon	15
Colt Mixon	8
Hunter Olson	5
Elijah Pearman	5
Skylar Rollins	4
Gage Lagace	3

Wayne Box scores

1/23
Dibble 52
Wayne 46

Dibble	5	13	9	25	52
Wayne	14	15	8	9	46

Player	Points
Taelyn Ringwald	15
Faith Brazell	9
Madi Sharp	8
Audra Watts	7
Dakota Martin	5
Addison Keeler	2

1/23
Dibble 57
Wayne 43

Dibble	9	8	19	21	57
Wayne	8	9	9	17	43

Player	Points
Jaxon Dill	17
Wyatt Webster	16
Ben Fisher	5
Sloan Jackson	4
Ashton Norton	1

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Points in the post

Purcell sophomore Jamie Resendiz handles the ball in the lane during the Dragons' 54-50 win over the Leopards. Resendiz scored eight points.

From page 1B

Dragons:

Lindsay and knocked down 24 in the Dragons' 56-48 victory at Comanche.

The victories hiked Purcell's record to 10-8 with a road trip to Pauls Valley on Tuesday and the final home game of the regular season Friday against powerful Bridge Creek.

"We got off to a great start at Comanche and were up 13 at halftime," coach Roger Raper said.

After leading 32-19 at the break, Raper said his club came out flat in the second half and were able to come out with the victory.

"Seth Bunch made it back from being sick the previous three games and was a nice hand to have back on the court," Raper said.

Kylen DeFreeze wiped the boards clean with nine rebounds after pulling 11 in the victory against Lindsay.

1/25
Asher 48
Wayne 28

Asher	4	14	11	16	48
Wayne	9	9	3	7	28

Player	Points
Taelyn Ringwald	16
Faith Brazell	5
Audra Watts	3
Addison Keeler	3
Madi Sharp	1

1/25
Asher 64
Wayne 25

Asher	18	18	20	8	64
Wayne	2	9	14	0	25

Player	Points
Jaxon Dill	13
Wyatt Webster	9
Bradey Vanschuyver	3

1/26
Wayne 46
Konawa 33

Konawa	10	10	7	6	33
Wayne	11	16	6	13	46

Player	Points
Taelyn Ringwald	20
Madi Sharp	9
Faith Brazell	8
Audra Watts	7
Addison Keeler	2

1/26
Konawa 59
Wayne 43

Konawa	13	14	18	15	59
Wayne	8	9	10	16	43

Player	Points
Jaxon Dill	14
Wyatt Webster	9
Ty Kemp	6
Maverick Danker	3
Cameron Davis	3
Logan Taylor	3
Ben Fisher	2
Ashton Norton	2

Religion

Sunray Baptist Church

Melisa Dubbs sang “Blessings” for the morning special. Brother John used Mark 3:20-21 and 31-35 for his sermon. Jesus’ physical family did not understand His mission. His brothers did not believe in Him. They wanted Jesus to stop what He was doing. Jesus’ mission was a priority. He was expanding the meaning of family. He came to build a spiritual family. Jesus did not allow His physical family to interrupt His spiritual business. His brothers were eventually brought into the spiritual family. God’s business has to be a priority in your life. Serving God is a number one priority.

By doing this, all other things are enhanced. Brother Dennis brought the evening message from Psalm 51:12-13. This Psalm was written in response to David’s sin with Bathsheba. David wanted to be joyful again, consistent and useful. Joy is tied to what God says in His Word. We should meditate on God’s Word. Our actions should match up with what we say. David’s desire was to have his heart made pure. He wanted God to purify his heart. This Saturday at 11 a.m., our ladies will meet for their annual “Winter Party.” On February 10 from 1-3

p.m., Sunray will be hosting a “Jesus Loves You” Kids Carnival complete with games, crafts and snacks. On February 11 our youth will sponsor a “Souper Bowl” lunch following morning worship. Donations will be taken for the youth fund. There will be no evening service that day. Please join us for Sunday School, worship and all activities at Sunray Baptist Church. We are a small, traditional church. John Wylie serves as our pastor. We are located at 2223 North 9th Street in Purcell. For more information, call 405-527-6808.

Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church

By Stella Bledsoe

February 4, 2024 is the fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time. The gospel reading is Mark 1:29-39. After Jesus left the synagogue, he went to Simon and Andrew’s house, along with James and John. When Jesus arrived at the house of Simon and Andrew, Simon’s mother-in-law was in bed with a fit of a fever. Our sacrament of the sick includes this: “The prayer of faith will save the sick person, and the Lord will raise them up.” The word meaning “raise them up” also has definitions such as wake, rouse, raise, help to rise, relieve, and restore to life. In the gospel passage, Jesus “coming to her, he lifted her up, taking her by the hand; and immediately the fever left her, and she ministered unto them.” The presence of Jesus restored the mother-in-law to her life of service. She was not simply pouring beverages and serving snacks. She was fulfilling her mission, her ministry.

The difference between a job and a ministry is often revealed by our attitude. Jobs include doing some tasks because no one else will, quitting because someone criticizes you, because the task interferes with other activities, or because no one thanked or praised you is a sign you consider the work a job. If you are doing tasks to serve the Lord and you continue to do them when criticized or ignored, it is a ministry. It may be hard to get excited about a job, but it is impossible to not get excited about a ministry. Jesus said his purpose was to preach, but he also healed physical afflictions. The crowds brought so many people to Jesus for healing that he had to steal away to rest and pray. Jesus could have stayed for days healing the sick. Instead, he said, “Let us go into the neighboring towns and cities, that I may preach there also; for to this purpose am I come.” Our Lord is all good and rich

in mercy and he never abandons us. He heals the brokenhearted and binds our wounds. He does not wish us to give in to despair and sadness. All we need is firm and tangible faith. Please join us in celebrating the love of Jesus at Our Lady of Victory parish. While the inside of the church is under renovation, we will have all Masses in the Parish Hall. 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.

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 10 am Worship 6 pm Evening worship
Wednesday services 6:30 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Awana's & Youth
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.

Lexington Westside Church of Christ

Front-Porch Gospel Tribute to a Great Oklahoman
(Roy Deering, and Me and “The Moment”)
Welcome all to the ‘Front Porch.’ For the next few weeks, I want us to sit down here together and talk about one of my very best friends, Roy Deering. It is a case where Texans and Oklahomans sit on the same side of the field, not even the slightest division between the pride of the crimson and white and the glory of the burnt orange. My friend, Roy Deering from nearby Ada, and I walked right along beside each other for many, many miles, both the miles of life and the miles down some of those long trails in the Yellowstone wilderness. It was special. You would have not known Roy from years ago when he was a much younger man and came to preach here at the Westside Church of Christ on Sundays, back when he was beginning to raise a family that consisted of a sweet wife Beverly and three children, Noah, Caleb, and Grace, and in recent years an addition in the form of

a baby granddaughter. But you may know Roy as a famous Oklahoman author, who authored two books, *Finders Keepers* and *The Day Old Faithful Stopped*. It is his love for national parks and for nature that brought the ‘twain’ together, we might say-- that is, he and I, the Texan and the Oklahoman. So here, just west of his hometown of Ada and of Galey where he worked with the church and taught school nearby, we’ll share a piece of the life story of a good man, a man who made the churches of Christ look better, who made the state of Oklahoma look better, and who made me look better, too, for that matter. That’s what good friends do. I suppose I should tell you from the beginning that last Monday morning, the 22nd of January, I received an email from one of our hiking group’s members from Houston that Roy had collapsed at school. We began prayer then, because we knew that Roy had battled heart issues for a long time and it was that condition that prevented him from making the second of

our three Yellowstone trips over the last three years, although we did meet Roy up in Wyoming at the church there before Todd, our friend from Houston, began the trek alone in 2022. I am heartbroken to say that I did not long after the first text that I received the second: Roy passed away. There is no good way to break that news, and it would have been a dagger any way that Todd had written it. He might have said, “Coach, one of your best friends in the world just left us,” and the impact would have been the same. You understand, I know. It was as big of a shock as I can remember. He collapsed Monday morning at school where he taught sixth graders English and creative writing, for that is what he was, a writer, and that love is just one of the things that he and I had in common. We both worked as preachers, English teachers, and writers, through the years, and we shared so many of our experiences out on the Yellowstone trail and in his old Ford truck as we drove

Please see **Westside**, page 5B

Lexington United Methodist Church

Just another week in the life of the Church. However, I can’t say the same for our country. It’s not like division in our United States has never occurred before. We must face the truth that division has always existed, and while we think it has not happened for a long time, we would be mistaken. In some ways division brings America together. For example, what Sooner fan in their right mind would root for the Longhorns? I don’t know of anyone living in Boston and loving the Yankees. I can talk smack about my family but don’t let anybody else talk my family down. I realize there are better examples, but then we would be getting into political, racial or theological commentary. Let’s face the truth: our America is a divided community and has been since before 1492. Where cultures exist there are always differences. Tribes and tribal land and boundaries existed long be-

fore the other set foot on this continent. We have before and will now pull together as we recognize our differences. Native people adapted; although we were forced to adapt. We are still adapting today as many tribes try to reclaim their cultural past. I have heard many times, if you are going to live in America, then act like and speak like an America. I concur, perhaps that means going back to the original inhabitants who accepted the other, they feed, clothed and educated the other until the suspicion and hatred began and has continued. I believe it’s the nature of humanity to see the difference. Seeing those sneaky Longhorns, detesting those arrogant Yankees and while it’s ok for me to talk smack to my family, including cousins, don’t let anybody else do it even if I agree with them. We look hard to see the differences rather than that which makes us uniquely the same.

There are divisions in our country and this will continue because every person in America is different. As I have already pointed out some differences, perhaps we have to remember not everybody is the same or sees the world the same. What does this mean? It’s ok to be wrong, as some people actually like mustard and mayo on their burgers, and some like just mustard. It’s even possible to grow into something completely different because some of us who liked mustard most of our lives now prefer mayonnaise. We have worship at 9:30 a.m. every Sunday, followed by coffee, tea and fellowship. Sunday school starts at approximately 11 a.m. Our address is 631 East Ash, just west of Lexington High School. For more information, please call the church at 405-527-3506 to leave a message, or contact Pastor David Cook directly at 405-406-6174.

Westside:

that long distance together.

You understand the power of such kindred spirits, the way Roy and I are. A few days before the heartbreaking news, Roy wrote me to set up the date for our hike up in the Rockies this summer. Roy and I would have gone on some kind of great hiking adventure every year for the rest of our lives, I guess. That was the plan.

I guess, as we look back, we did go on those adventures for the rest of our lives, for we did so for the past three summers, not knowing that those would be Roy's last three.

We thank God for many things when we talk about friendships, and while I lament that our hiking journeys came to an end far, far too soon, I am thankful that the Lord gave Roy those three years.

The Lord also gave us those precious moments to look out over the beauties of God's glory and to soak it all in, every ounce of it, for hours and hours beneath those bright Wyoming stars and in cold damp tents at night in the middle of a vast wilderness, a wilderness we both love.

We will have to pause our front-porch visit this week. But there is so much to be said, and I am honored that you will sit along beside us to hear some key

moments in Roy's story and my story here in the weeks ahead. There is one particular special moment we will get to, just a little further down the trail.

P.S. The Lord willing, we will be back at our Lexington cabin and among all of you this weekend, speaking on "The Sound of Silence" on Lord's Day, 10 a.m. Come join us.

Bible reading: Thursday, February 1 to Wednesday, February 7:

February 1 ~ Ex. 13:17 - 15:18 ~ Matt. 21:23-46 ~ Ps. 26:1-12 ~ Prov. 6:16-19

February 2 ~ Ex. 15:19-17:7 ~ Matt. 22:1-33 ~ Ps. 27:1-6 ~ Prov. 6:20-26

February 3 ~ Ex. 17:8 - 19:15 ~ Matt. 22:34-23:12 ~ Ps. 27:7-14 ~ Prov. 6:27-35

February 4 ~ Ex. 19:16 - 21:21 ~ Matt. 23:13-39 ~ Ps. 28:1-9 ~ Prov. 7:1-5

February 5 ~ Ex. 21:22 - 23:13 ~ Matt. 24:1-28 ~ Ps. 29:1-11 ~ Prov. 7:6-23

February 6 ~ Ex. 23:14 - 25:40 ~ Matt. 24:29-51 ~ Ps. 30:1-12 ~ Prov. 7:24-27

February 7 ~ Ex. 26:1 - 27:21 ~ Matt. 25:1-30 ~ Ps. 31:1-8 ~ Prov. 8:1-11

Write us, too: coachbowen1984@gmail.com. God bless all.

REC tree giveaway set for February 10

Rural Electric Cooperative has over 3,000 miles of electric distribution lines and clearing trees is an on-going project. One of the ways REC can provide reliable, affordable electric power is through its right-of-way clearing program which includes pruning, removals and chemical control.

In addition to removing trees, REC crews also prune new growth during their daily routines.

REC's tree giveaway program helps replace trees the Cooperative must remove from under its power lines. These trees are provided to the members as a way for the Cooperative to help replace one of our natural resources.

Rural Electric Cooperative's annual tree giveaway for its members will be held Saturday, February 10 beginning at 8 a.m.

Employees of REC will be in Lindsay, Elmore City, Maysville and Rush Springs to give members trees during the Cooperative's Operation Tree Planting/Replacement Program. Each member will each receive up to ten trees.

Employees of the Cooperative will be at the Walmart parking lot in Lindsay, located at the junction of Highways 19 and 76; in front of the Town of Rush Springs City Hall/Police Department in Rush Springs, located at 301 W. Blakely Street; the parking lot of Don Javier's Restaurant and Cantina in Maysville, located at 314 6th Street and the parking area of Speedy G's in Elmore City,

located at 22964 Highway 29.

The types of trees available are Shortleaf Pine and Shumard and Pin Oak.

Shortleaf Pines are one of the most widely distributed southern yellow pine trees. It is a large tree with a broad, open crown. The needles are in bunches of three and are three to five inches long.

Shortleaf pines grow on average to be 50 to 100 feet tall and are the hardest and most adaptable of the southern pines.

Shumard Oak is a pyramidal tree which grows to 50 to 90 feet tall. This oak variety will become more open at maturity. The leaves are up to seven inches long with two to four pairs of pointed lobes. During the fall the leaves will change to a scarlet color.

Shumard Oaks are a relatively fast, growing tree and are drought resistant. Shumard Oaks are great shade trees and will produce acorns.

Pin Oaks have a distinctive branching pattern compared to other oaks. This oak is another fast-growing tree and offers dense shade and is tolerant to many soil conditions. Pin Oaks will produce acorns and grow to be 60 to 70 feet tall.

The Cooperative requests members not to plant trees any closer than 30 feet from the electric power lines. This will allow the trees to mature without requiring trimming or removal in the future.

Members should contact our office at 405-756-3104 ext. 238 for additional information.



• Photos provided

Oklahoma Watch sues seeking arrest details, public oversight

Whitney Bryen
Oklahoma Watch

Oklahoma Watch and reporter Whitney Bryen are suing Ponca City seeking details about the arrest of Patrick Hansen who was taken by police to the Kay County jail where he died.

Bryen requested the arrest report from the Ponca City Police Department under the Oklahoma Open Records Act on July 19.

The request was part of Bryen's investigation into who died in Oklahoma's jails, how they ended up there in the first place and whether mental health and substance use conditions contributed to their deaths.

The officer's summary of the incident and arrest was missing from the document provided to Bryen. Those first-hand accounts detail how officers responded, who was present, what information officers received, if officers noticed signs of mental illness or substance use, whether weapons were displayed or discharged and what led to the arrest.

Hansen, 39, was arrested by Ponca City police on July 26, 2022, for allegedly assaulting his wife in front of a child, according to the information provided by the department. There were no details about the officer's response or the events leading up to the arrest. Hansen was taken to the Kay County jail where he hanged himself in a cell on Sept. 12, 2022.

A Ponca City records employee and city attorney John Andrew told Bryen that the department does not release officer narratives to the public.

The Oklahoma Open Records Act requires law enforcement agencies to allow public access to certain records such as offense report information and facts concerning an arrest, including a brief summary of what occurred.

When Bryen called Andrew to ask why the information wasn't being released, Andrew said the topic was discussed at a meeting of the Oklahoma Association of Municipal Attorneys and several cities are

now claiming the narratives are not a public record.

For her investigation, Bryen requested arrest reports from another 15 police departments and county sheriffs across the state that provided her with officer summaries.

Andrew did not respond to a request for comment sent January 26.

Withholding officers' accounts prevents the public from seeing what public servants are doing, which goes against the spirit of the law, said Ted Streuli, executive director of the non-profit Oklahoma



Watch.

Streuli is a former president of Freedom of Information Oklahoma, a nonprofit organization formed to protect government transparency.

"The records belong to the public; they're not private documents to be secreted away by an agency with police powers that wants to operate in the dark," Streuli said.

Denver Nicks, a Tulsa-based attorney with the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press representing Oklahoma Watch and Bryen, said officer narratives are vital to ensuring accountability for these public servants.

"The state's open records law makes clear that Oklahomans have a right to access this information, which is essential to public oversight of law enforcement," Nicks said.

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

OSU EXTENSION News

McClain County 4-H Spring Contests

Emily Dumas
Extension 4-H Educator

The McClain County 4-H hosted the spring communications and job readiness contest at the Newcastle Library January 25.

Thirteen 4-H members competed in the communications contest ranging from off-the-cuff speeches to food demonstrations.

The job readiness contest gives members first-hand experience on how a job interview process goes and members gain important record keeping skills while doing a resume for the contest.

Here are the results:
Spring Communication Contest

First Place Intermediate PowerPoint—Huxley Cheek, Washington 4-H.

Cloverbud Demonstration Participate—Abigail Gipson, Blanchard 4-H.

First Place Junior Demonstration—Archer Beatty, Newcastle 4-H.

Second Place Junior Demonstration—Piper Terpening, Newcastle 4-H.

Third Place Junior Demonstration—Norah Thayer, Washington 4-H.

Fourth Place Junior Demonstration—Riley Gipson, Blanchard 4-H.

First Place Intermediate Demonstration—Trent Thayer,

Washington 4-H.

Second Place Intermediate Demonstration—Cooper Beatty, Newcastle 4-H.

Third Place Intermediate Demonstration—EveLynne Thayer, Washington 4-H.

First Place Senior Demonstration—Estella Thayer, Washington 4-H.

Cloverbud Extemporaneous Participate—Abigail Gipson, Blanchard 4-H.

First Place Junior Extemporaneous—Harper Perkins, Newcastle 4-H.

Second Place Junior Extemporaneous—Archer Beatty, Newcastle 4-H.

Third Place Junior Extemporaneous—Riley Gipson, Blanchard 4-H.

First Place Intermediate Extemporaneous—Cooper Beatty, Newcastle 4-H.

Second Place Intermediate Extemporaneous—Huxley Cheek, Washington 4-H.

First Place Senior Extemporaneous—Andrew Triplitt, Blanchard 4-H.

Job Readiness Contest
First Place Intermediate Job Readiness—Cooper Beatty, Newcastle 4-H.

4-H is open to all youth in McClain County and are encouraged to join!

If you are interested in enrolling, please contact the McClain County Extension Office at 405-527-2174.



100 days of school

Washington second graders dressed up as 100-year-old people to celebrate 100 days of school.

First United Bank seeks to complete 350,000 acts of kindness

Each February, millions of people come together to change the world, one random act of kindness at a time. First United Bank will be mobilizing their stakeholders once again this year with the goal to complete 350,000 acts of kindness in one day.

First United Bank's United Acts of Kindness Day, held this year on Friday, February 16, serves as a day for communities to come together to spread joy, hope, and love to friends, family, co-workers, and neighbors through acts of kindness.

Anyone can participate, and no act is too big or too small to elevate a life or make an impact.

With the help and generosity of employees and partnering organizations, including local businesses, nonprofits, churches, community leaders, and community members, First United hopes to spread hope in the world and spark a kindness revolution. Acting in their communities

throughout Texas and Oklahoma, First United Bank stakeholders will create a kindness ripple effect that will extend beyond their local area.

Past United Acts of Kindness have included serving meals to the hungry, organizing food and clothing drives, and even enlisting the Norman police department to hand out gift cards instead of traffic tickets for the day.

To learn more about First United's United Acts of Kindness Day, download a business packet for your place of business, or log your individual acts of kindness, visit <https://unitedactsofkindness.org/>.

You can share your kindness stories on social media on February 16 using #UnitedActsOfKindness.

First United's purpose is to inspire and empower others to Spend Life Wisely, which includes a holistic approach to life that encompasses financial well-being, faith, health and wellness and personal growth.

Chris Aday recipient of A Week of Love

Angie Steele
Washington Correspondent

Warrior Community,
We are happy to announce that the recipient of A Week of Love (A.W.O.L.) 2024 is Chris Aday.

The recipient is chosen through a community-driven process that reflects the values and spirit of our Warrior Community. Submissions are taken from the community, allowing individuals to nominate those they believe would benefit from the love and support offered during our district-wide A.W.O.L. fundraiser, usually held in March.

Each submission shares the story of a community member facing adversity, hardship, or a significant medical challenge. In the case of the A.W.O.L. 2024 recipient, the community rallied together and submitted numerous heartfelt nominations on Aday's behalf.

Chris and his wife, Ladonna (Albert) Aday, were born and raised in our beloved Washington. They are both members of the Warrior class of 1989. They were high school sweethearts and have been married for 33 years.

Their daughters, Maddison and Allison, also graduated from Washington Public Schools. WPS is proud to have Maddison Siebert, their oldest daughter, as a second-grade teacher at Washington Elementary.

Recently, Chris has faced immense challenges after being diagnosed with Chronic Lymphatic Leukemia and undergoing a spinal fusion surgery. As a self-employed individual, his ability to work has been significantly impacted by this diagnosis. It is not easy for Chris to accept such incredible generosity, but he is sincerely touched and grateful for being nominated for this honor. His humility and grace in the face of adversity is inspiring.

Please join us in contributing to this cause as we stand with the Aday family during this difficult time. Every donation will make a meaningful impact, whether big or small.

Let's show the Aday family what it truly means to be part of the Warrior community. Together, we can make a difference for this amazing family.

We will be sure to follow up with more details of the events for the week of A.W.O.L. Thank you, Warriors!

Donation Link: https://www.wps-isd.com/online_store.

Washington Elementary Students of the Week

Congratulations to Washington Elementary Students of the Week, Sophie Hornback, Addie Lilly, Eli Wheat, Emory Jackson and River McCaskill. They represent their second-grade classes January 29- February 2.

Eli Wheat is in Mrs. Burch's class. His favorite color is blue and he enjoys eating pizza. His favorite game is Roblox and he likes football. Eli enjoys math class at school and his favorite books are about sharks.

River McCaskill is in Mrs. Dabney's class. She likes the color black, playing the game "Act It Out" and her favorite food is pizza. River's favorite sport is softball. She enjoys watching the movie "Princess Diaries" and her favorite class in school is science.

Mrs. Kelley's class is represented by Addi Lilly. She likes the color turquoise and her favorite sport is softball. She enjoys watching the movie "Fuller House." Addi likes learning math at school and her favorite book is *Dragon's Blood*.

Sophie Hornback represents Mrs. Siebert's class. Her favorite color is purple. She loves playing the game "Monopoly." She likes cheerleading and her favorite food is eating at Chuy's. Sophie enjoys learning



• Photos provided by the Aday family

AWOL Recipient

Chris Aday is the 2024 Recipient of Washington's Annual AWOL Fundraiser. Chris has been diagnosed with Chronic Lymphatic Leukemia and is undergoing spinal fusion surgery. Activities will be held at Washington High School and funds will be collected for the family.

computers at school and her favorite movie is "Elemental."

Emory Jackson is in Mrs. Wilkerson's class. She likes to play the game "Hungry Hippos" and her favorite sport is softball. She likes the color blue, and her favorite food is spaghetti. Emory's favorite class at school is science and she likes to read books about cheetahs.

Washington Little League
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 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 25-February 2:
Thursday, February 1—Chicken tetrazzini, mixed vegetables.

Friday, February 2—Beef roast, carrots, potatoes, hot rolls.

Monday, February 5: Sausage gravy, scrambled eggs, hash browns, biscuits.

Tuesday, February 6: Chicken strips, pasta salad, potato chips.

Wednesday, February 7—Ground beef stew, corn, cornbread.

Thursday, February 8—Chicken and noodles, peas.

Friday, February 9—Steak fritters, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans.

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

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

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

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

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

Washington School Board Meeting Schedule

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

Meetings are scheduled for 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

February 1—7/8/9 BBK Comanche Girls home, Boys away, 5 p.m.; HS Powerlifting at Bethel.

February 2—HS BBK, Pauls Valley, homecoming, JVBoys 4 p.m., JVGirls, 5:15 p.m., Homecoming 5:55 p.m., VBoys, 6:30 p.m., VGirls 8 p.m.

February 3—Little League

Basketball-McAlister, 9 a.m.-9 p.m.

February 4—Little League Basketball-McAlister, 3 p.m.-7 p.m.

February 5—7/8/9 BBK Purcell, Girls away, Boys home, 5 p.m.; Elementary Book Fair.

February 6—Elementary Book Fair; HS Basketball at Lindsay.

February 7—Elementary Book Fair.

February 8—Elementary Book Fair.

February 9—HS Basketball, Marlow, Home, no JV girls, JV boys at 4:50 p.m., Senior Night at 5:50 p.m.; Cheer Clinic/Camp -McAlister gym, 3:30 p.m.; Elementary Book Fair.

Dale K. Graham Veterans Foundation

Last week we had to close for two days because of the icy roads and our slick parking lot. Needless to say, there were quite a few veterans whose appointments were rescheduled. It looks like we will have some nice weather this week, maybe we will be able to work some extra hours!

One of the things I have been writing about on a regular basis is how the Pact Act has established more presumptive diseases for veterans who served in the following Gulf Wars, Operation Desert Storm/

Shield, New Dawn, Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

The Department of Veterans has established a Burn Pit registry for veterans who served in the Gulf Wars. There are numerous illnesses that could have been caused by exposure to the smoke and fumes.

There were several other countries and locations where presumptive exposure to Agent Orange has been established. These are Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Guam and Johnston Island. For those of you who know veterans who served at any of those locations during the Vietnam era or their surviving spouses, we encourage them to check with us for information about possible VA benefits.

Did you know that if a veteran's service-connected disability is listed on their death certificate as the primary or contributing condition to death that most likely your spouse and dependents will be eligible for VA benefits.

As a 501-3C Non-Profit we do not charge for the services that we provide to veterans and their families.

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

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

Please see **Washington**, page 10B



• Photo by Amber Burch

Students of the Week

Sophie Hornback, Addie Lilly, Eli Wheat, Emory Jackson and River McCaskill represent their second grade classes at Washington Elementary School as Students of the Week for January 29-February 2. The students are celebrating 100 days of school in the photo and are dressed like they are 100.



• Photos by Melinda Tague and Jazmin Ocampo

WHO WILL BE NEXT?

Mr & Miss Washington 2014

FRIDAY 2/2/24

Halftime of the Girls Game

• Photo provided

Mr. and Miss Washington

The previously postponed Mr. and Miss Washington crowning will take place this Friday at halftime of the Washington Girls Basketball game. Congratulations to the finalists for 2024 who were nominated by WHS Faculty then voted on by the student body. Top 5 Girls include Halle Andrews, Haven Brewer, Karsyn Clayton, Emily Madden and Lexie Ralls. Top 5 Boys include Easton Berglan, Cal Dubois, Baylor Haynes, Chris Phillips and Aldo Reyes.

WASHINGTON BASKETBALL MILITARY APPRECIATION

THE WARRIOR AND LADY WARRIORS WILL BE HONORING OUR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN ON FEBRUARY 12TH, AT 6:00PM PLEASE JOIN US AS WE RECOGNIZE THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED.

<https://massivegraphicsstore.com/collections/washington-military-appreciation>

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE DALE K. GRAHAM VETERANS FOUNDATION

RECOGNITION WILL PRECEDE VARSITY GIRL'S GAME

Swine show

Washington FFA and 4-H members brought home top honors at the Riley Boatright Invitational Swine Show in Lexington last weekend. Participating at the show were (top) Bella Price, (second) Dylan Frazier, (third) Lexi Ralls, Gracie Flint, Maddie Green, Presley Strickland, Neali Beller and (fourth) Noah Price, Gracie Flint, Jamie Flint and Kyle Flint.

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Washington:

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

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

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.

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FOR SALE: 2010 TOMBERLIN electric golf cart. Street legal. Call 405-535-9033. 02/01/1tp

GARAGE SALES

NORMAN FLEA MARKET: Flea Market and biggest garage sale in Norman. Friday, February 2, & Saturday, February 3. Cleveland County Fairgrounds, 615 E. Robinson, Norman. Call 405-613-6992 for more info. 02/01/1tc

THE FARM HOUSE will be open Friday, February 2, and Saturday, February 3, 10-4. Antiques, vintage, collectables, and much more. 21031 100 St., northwest of Maysville. Go south on Hwy 74 to Hwy 24 then west 4 miles. 02/01/1tp

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NOW HIRING: Full time dietary aide/dishwasher and part time dietary aide. CNA's 7-3 and 3-11. Must be able to work weekends. Also laundry person for 3-11 shift. Apply in person at Lexington Nursing Home, 632 SE 3rd St., Lexington. EOE. 01/04/tfc

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FOR RENT: 3 bedroom, 2 bath brick home on Sooner Avenue. Cellar and storage building. \$900 plus deposit. Text 405-365-0234 or email lamarprop@aol.com. 01/25/2tp

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