

Since 1887



Easter Services, activities

Trial, conviction, crucifixion and resurrection are the core of Christianity.

Those are three days that ushered in a new world of salvation for all who believe.

Across the area, churches will celebrate these holiest of days with a variety of services and activities.

At Trinity United Methodist Church they will have a Maundy Thursday dinner starting at 7 p.m.

The following day on Good Friday they will have a 7 p.m. service. On Easter Sunday, brunch will be served from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. followed by an all-ages Easter Egg Hunt at 9:45 a.m. The Easter Sunday service, featuring a Cantata, will begin at 10:30 a.m.

At Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church, the Holy Week observance

began on Palm Sunday with a procession with palms from the Rectory to the Parish Hall.

On Holy Thursday, Mass begins at 7 p.m. during which there will be washing of the feet of the members of the parish.

Also there will be collection of rice bowls.

At the end of the Mass there will be the Eucharistic Procession from the main hall to the Juan Diego daily mass chapel where they will have an adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 10 p.m.

Please see **Easter**, back page

Taking TORNADO PRECAUTIONS

Planning ahead can save lives

John D. Montgomery
The Purcell Register

It's never too soon to get prepared for the wild and sometimes wicked spring weather in Oklahoma.

It's best to be in a storm shelter.

Residents are reminded there are no public shelters in Purcell.

If you don't have a shelter it's best to go to the inner most room of your

home on the lowest level and cover up with blankets.

It is possible to survive even in an EF5 tornado. But first, remember, there are no public storm shelters in Purcell.

McClain County is smack in the middle of Tornado Alley so keeping advised is essential for watches and warnings.

According to FEMA, these are the steps to take and things to not do:

- Take shelter immediately if there is a tornado warning.
- Immediately go to a safe location such as a safe room, basement, storm cellar or a small interior room on the lowest level of a

sturdy building.

- Stay away from windows, doors and outside walls.

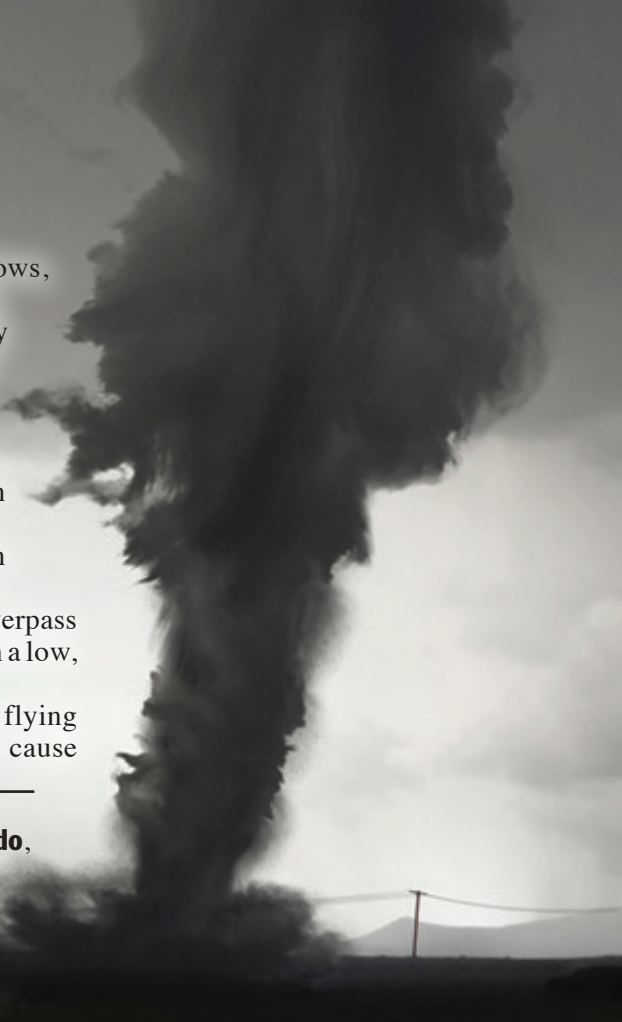
- Protect yourself by covering your head or neck with your arms and putting materials such as furniture and blankets around or on top of you.

- Do not try to outrun a tornado in your car.

- Do not go under an overpass or bridge. You're safer in a low, flat location.

- Watch out for flying debris that can cause

Please see **Tornado**, back page



The Purcell Register

Deadlines

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

Contact us

405-527-2126
purcellregister@gmail.com

Inside

Retirement party

After 25 years on the Purcell Fire Department, Jason Benefiel is calling it a career.




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Inside

Friday forums


At Mid-America Technology Center for how to stop human trafficking.



Pg. 2A

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- Classifieds11B



Hanging up his bunker gear

Long-time Purcell Fireman Jason Benefiel retiring

John D. Montgomery
The Purcell Register

Purcell native Jason Benefiel is retiring from the Purcell Fire Department after 25 years of service.

Jason was born at Purcell Municipal Hospital May 1, 1974.

He attended Purcell schools and graduated from Purcell High School in 1993.

Jason attended college at East Central University and after college worked at the Brent Bruehl Memorial Golf Course when he began serving as a volunteer for Purcell Fire Department.

He would later turn fire-fighting into a career.

“Jason never shied away from training. With the many different levels and areas of

fire training, Jason’s forte was rescue training,” said Purcell Fire Marshal Quinn Kroth.

“Jason’s vast knowledge of rescue training was an asset to the department not only for the victims he encountered but also his training to new fire recruits.

Jason is a valued member of the Purcell Fire Department and the Purcell community. We appreciate his service and dedication to the Purcell Fire Department,” Kroth concluded.

A retirement party is planned on March 28 1-3 p.m. at Station 1.



Jason Benefiel

Citizen of Year nomination time

Announcement at Chamber banquet

It’s time to nominate someone as Purcell’s Citizen of the Year for 2023.

Accompanying the nominee’s name must be a statement why he or she deserves to be Citizen of the Year.

Nominations may be hand-delivered to **The Purcell Register** at 225 W. Main Street. They may also be emailed to montgomeryjohn@yaho.com.

They also may be mailed to P.O. Box 191, Purcell, OK

73080.

The Citizen of the Year will be announced May 9 during the Heart of Oklahoma Chamber of Commerce Banquet at the Sam Noble Museum in Norman.

Also to be announced at the banquet will be recipients of the City of Purcell’s Giving Time Guardian Awards.

There are four Guardian

Please see **CoY**, page 3A

7 Day forecast from @PurcellRegister @OUNewsCrowd

Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
67° 51°	76° 55°	80° 61°	82° 64°	84° 61°	72° 53°	62° 43°
Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Sunny	Cloudy

Temperatures on the rise

We had a chilly start to the week across the region, but temperatures are back on the increase heading into this weekend. Thursday will offer up sunny skies and temperatures in the middle to upper 60s. A few clouds will enter the picture by

Friday, with afternoon highs in the middle 70s. Temperatures should break 80 degrees on Saturday and again on Sunday, with a mix of clouds and sun. There is a slight chance for an isolated shower or thunderstorm on Monday, with mostly

cloudy skies and temperatures in the middle 80s. Temperatures will cool off into the lower 70s for Tuesday as clouds and rain chances diminish, before clouds return for Wednesday and temperatures settle in the lower 60s for daytime highs.

Stopping Human Trafficking topic

Two forums Friday at Mid-America Technology Center

The Commission on the Status of Women is partnering with the Mid-America Technology Center to host a community conversation to Stop Human Trafficking this Friday.

The event will have two sessions, one at 10 a.m. and repeated at 1 p.m. in the Seminar Center in the Health Building, on SH 59 near Wayne.

The event is free and open to the public.

Each year, an estimated 4,000 Oklahomans seek help from human trafficking situations.

The Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women launched two educational initiatives to stop human trafficking—a series of Community Conversations to Stop Human Trafficking at schools and a Not Me, Not My Community initiative.

“Human trafficking is modern-day slavery,” said Commission State Chair Brenda Jones Barwick. “It’s a \$150 billion a year industry and Oklahoma is not immune to it. Most human trafficking in Oklahoma is not happening by people passing through on highways, but by members in their circle of trust, such as family members, friends or acquaintances, who entrap them into involuntary servitude through labor, sex or drugs.”

The series of Community Conversations to Stop Human Trafficking are held at high schools, colleges and universities statewide to educate Oklahoma teens, young adults, teachers and parents on how to recognize early signs of a person being targeted for human trafficking or servitude.

A panel of Oklahoma pro-

fessionals and experts will provide a full spectrum of several aspects of human trafficking in Oklahoma.

Panelists include non-profit organizations that are providing healing and recovery services and resources to people entrapped into human trafficking.

The discussion will highlight tribal and ethnic groups whose populations have experienced a high level of people forced into involuntary slavery; and law enforcement and drug interdiction officers who have been trained to recognize the signs of a bondage situation.

For the first time, the commission is focusing on prevention of human trafficking.

“The focus has been on dealing with human trafficking after the crime has occurred. Many are unaware they are being trafficked

because it is typically a slow, methodical recruitment process by a trusted relationship,” Barwick said.

“The commission is educating Oklahomans to recognize the first, second and third phase by traffickers and empowering Oklahomans to stand strong and say, ‘Not Me, Not My Community’ to the trafficker.”

The commission began its work on human trafficking in 2014 when it partnered with the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics to host a solutions, initiatives, strategies on human trafficking summit.

For the last two years, First Lady Sarah Stitt has hosted an annual summit on this topic at the Governor’s Mansion with a panel of experts.

In 2022, the commission formed a Stop Human Trafficking subcommittee led by Commissioner Dr. Nyla Khan to plan and implement the educational events.

Additional information about the commission’s work on human trafficking, including a White Paper published in 2021, can be found at <https://oklahoma.gov/ocsw/human-trafficking.html>.

For more information to schedule a Community Conversation or obtain Not Me Not My Community materials, contact the commission at ocswadmin@omes.ok.gov or call 405-401-6970.

About The Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women

The Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women is an official state agency that advises the Governor and legislature on recommendations to improve quality of life and increase economic opportunities for women. It comprises 30 commissioners appointed by the Governor, Senate President Pro Tempore and Speaker of the House, as well as an Advisory Council of men and women who have an expertise on issues that impact women. Visit the commission website at www.oklahoma.gov/ocsw.



John D. Montgomery • The Purcell Register

Hot car

Purcell Firefighters responded to an automobile fire on the southeast corner of Lester Lane and Apache just after 3 p.m. March 20 where a Dodge Charger and motorcycle were burned. Gasoline was ignited causing heavy damage to the vehicles. 1,500 gallons of water, 10 gallons of foam and four ABC extinguishers were used to douse the blaze.

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Pastor: Justin Sims
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NEWS In Brief

Kiwanis

Egg Hunt

The Heart of Oklahoma Kiwanis Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held Saturday, March 30, at the Purcell Lake Weaver Pavilion, 1400 Chandler Road.

Each age group will have their own hunt and prizes. Age groups include 0-2, 3-5, 6-8 and 9-12.

The Easter Bunny will be available for pictures.

The hunt begins at 9:30 a.m. sharp.

Community Coffee

The Heart of Oklahoma Chamber of Commerce Community Coffee will be held at 9 a.m. Thursday, March 28, hosted by the Purcell Fire Department.

The coffee will be held at the fire station, 1505 N. Green Ave., in Purcell.

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

Landmark

Easter Egg Hunt

Landmark Church will host an Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, March 30, at 10:30 a.m.

The hunt will be held at 100 W. Van Buren in Purcell, across from Conger Field.

City Hall

Closed for Training

Purcell City Hall will be closed Monday, April 1, from 1-3 p.m. for training. City offices will reopen at 3 p.m.

Plat for Southbrook Phase

Southbrook phase one final plat went before the Planning Commission March 25 at the police station.

It will go to the City Council at their April 1 meeting, set to begin at 6 p.m. at the police station.

Property Tax Deadline

The deadline to pay the second half of property taxes is Friday, March 29, at 4:30 p.m.

If anyone has questions regarding their tax statements, call the McClain County Treasurer's Office at 405-527-3261.

Landmark Church Fundraiser

Tickets are on sale for Landmark Church's first annual missions gala fundraiser.

The dinner and silent auction will be held Tuesday, April 9, from 6:30-8 p.m. at the McClain County Farm and Home Building. Tickets are \$25 each.

Tickets may be purchased by calling the church at 405-527-3342.

A dessert auction will conclude the evening.

Purcell Budget Meetings

Tentative dates have been announced for budget meetings for the City of Purcell.

The unconfirmed dates are April 8 at the police department at 6 p.m. with swearing in of new councilmen at 7:30 p.m.

Another meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 11 at 6 p.m. at city hall.

Roll Off Dumpsters

McClain County District 1 residents only will have roll off dumpsters put in the maintenance yard in Wayne starting March 18 through April 15 for spring clean up.

Times for the yard are 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday only.

The yard is closed on Friday. No dumping batteries, tires, wire, oil, paint, pesticides, hazardous materials or anything containing freon. Patrons are requested to check into the office before dumping.

Call 405-449-3355 for more information.

Dibble School Alumni Reunion

The 2024 Dibble School Alumni Reunion will be held Saturday, April 27, in the Dibble School Cafeteria.

The reunion will recognize the Class of 1974 who is celebrating its 50th anniversary.

The event will be held from 2-6 p.m. with a meal at 4 p.m. furnished by Heff's Fish & Q.

The \$25 per person fee must be sent by April 13 to Debbie Whitehead Bartels, 21229 Tammarack Road, Blanchard, OK 73010.

For questions or information contact Jackie Christian at 405-203-2465, Debbie Whitehead Bartels at 405-823-6999 or Mike Spivey at 405-320-0819.

Crusing with the Bulldogs

The first annual Cruising with the Bulldogs will be held Saturday, May 18, sponsored by the Wayne Alumni Association.

Bring your car, motorcycle or

highway legal cruiser to help support the Wayne Alumni Association.

Registration will be held from 9-10:30 a.m. at the Multi-Purpose Center, 117 N. Shannon St., in Wayne.

Prizes will include \$500 for first place, \$300 for second place and \$200 for third place. One person per prize with five stops and five chances to win.

For more information contact Twana Tate Scalf at tscalfr729@gmail.com or call 405-818-7576.

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.

Celebrate Recovery

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

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

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

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

SafeCare

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

SafeCare provides education on parenting, health, safety and communication skills along with connecting families to community resources.

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

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

Museum News

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

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



John D. Montgomery • The Purcell Register

South African visitors

Guests at Purcell's Rotary Club meeting March 20 were visiting Landmark Church. Pastor Justin Blankenship is a Rotary member and brought the group for lunch. From left are Gugu Ngcobo, Simphiwe Mukome, William Mukome, Christopher Mntu, Queen Nompumelelo Mchiza Zulu, Jeremiah Mdlalose, Sarah Blankenship and Justin. Justin met the Queen of the Algu National on one of Landmark's Mission trips. She is a representative of the royal family dedicated to humanitarianism work. She told the Rotary Club her country needs support in agriculture and job creation.

OSU EXTENSION News

Spring into weight management with realistic goals

Trisha Gedon
Extension Educator

With spring and warm weather knocking on the door, some Oklahomans may feel a renewed energy to better manage their weight and lead a healthier lifestyle.

Despite ads on television and online promising fast weight loss, a healthy diet combined with physical activity is still the foundation for long-term weight loss success, said Janice Hermann, Oklahoma State University Extension nutrition specialist.

"Before everyone gets too focused on weight loss, a better approach is achieving and maintaining good health," Hermann said. "Combining that approach with realistic goals is the best way to achieve good health. View weight loss as slow and steady, which can help shift attention from short, drastic changes to a more moderate diet and physical activity level that are more attainable and long-lasting."

To lose weight, calorie intake from foods and beverages must be less than calories expended from basic body functions and physical activity. Reasonable and healthy weight loss should be about 10 percent of body weight in a year. For a 250-pound individual, that's 25 pounds per year, or about one-half pound per week. A 10 percent weight loss can have many positive health benefits. "People make drastic changes

in their diets by restricting certain foods or only eating certain foods. While this results in rapid weight loss, it simply isn't sustainable or healthy," Hermann said. "Losing weight doesn't have to mean making big dietary changes. Instead, focus on small changes that

move toward a healthy eating pattern."

For example, fill half of the dinner plate with fruits and vegetables. Increase whole grains and shift toward lean protein

Please see **Goal**, page 5A



NEWS from the City of Purcell

Site Address Section R319

SITE ADDRESS

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

These numbers shall contrast with their background. Address numbers shall be Arabic numbers or alphabetical letters.

Numbers shall be a minimum of four inches (102 mm) high with a minimum stroke width of 1/2 inch (12.7 mm).

Where access is by means of a private road and the building address cannot be viewed from the public way, a monument, pole or other sign or means shall be used to identify the structure.

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From page 2A

CoY:

awards, each honoring distinguished leadership or service in one of four categories.

The awards and categories are Vision Guardian, education; Cornerstone Guardian, business; Gateway Guardian, government, and Spirit Guardian, human services.

Giving Time is an annual program of public recognition of excellence in Purcell leadership.

It celebrates exceptional people and remarkable institutions who are selected from a deserving field of candidates.



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Gain some control over your life

By Dr. Glenn Mollette

Feeling like you have some control over your life is vital for life happiness.

Control is not always easy. It takes planning, sacrifice, work and good fortune.

Lots of things can happen in life that will shake the earth beneath our feet. Illness, weather disaster, a bad accident, and stupid mistakes. We are all vulnerable to any and all of these.

Considering anything can happen in life and chances are it will, we can all still make an effort to be in control of our daily lives.

First, know who you are and build on who you are. There is only one you and there will never be another like you. Chances are you may have become a clone. You started out as an original but became someone else.

You may have redesigned your life to be accepted by a certain workforce, group, religious entity, fraternity, sorority, or political party mindset. This works for a while but you won't be very happy because it requires more work to not be you than it takes to just be you.

This doesn't mean that you can't be a better you. We all can and should strive to be better, smarter, and the best we can be. Being lazy, irresponsible and

ignorant are sure ways to not feel good or very secure in life.

Life security and a feeling of having control over our lives requires work and living higher. Living lower will sink you. Build on who you are for success and happiness.

Next, you have to work. Yes, we have to work. It's essential to life security. The person who can work and wants to work will feel better and sleep better. There are all kinds of work and not every kind of work is for everyone.

Discover what kind of work you enjoy and can do and learn to do it as well as you can. Working will give you a feeling of well-being. Millions of people in America can't work for various reasons. Disability happens, millions are handicapped by various health related issues.

Our country helps millions with Social Security disability and Medicare. At least with these government assistance programs people have something on which to survive. Keep in mind that a disability income in never a ticket to prosperity.

What you can afford will be very limited. However, I do know people who have done well investing in the stock market even on a limited disability income and have done

amazingly well financially.

Keep in mind if you are going to make a house or car payment it requires a serious income and a paying job. Try to lock into a job that you enjoy and can do.

Third, save money and stay out of debt as much as possible. Buy a house you can afford and save some money every month in an IRA or 401k or whatever is available to you.

Research index funds and consider buying some stock in an index fund as you can. Index fund fees are typically cheaper. I'm not a stock advisor so do your own investigating. A school teacher friend bought index fund stocks every month for years and ended up with over a million dollars in stock by her retirement.

Money isn't everything but you'll sleep better if you know you can buy groceries tomorrow and can pay your utility bills.

Finally, take a few minutes every morning and at the end of the day to be grateful. Give God thanks for all and anything you have and ask him to give you strength, wisdom and peace for the day or throughout the night.

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

From page 4A

Memories:

ful, and they are, then it is truly important to be careful making them. Oh yes, I know we can't control our surroundings and the people around our family, only allowing a positive and happy environment twenty-four hours

a day. But as adults, we need to make some effort at it for our children's sake – for their tomorrows.

Do your best to create a happy home life for your kids. So that when they are your age, those

instant pops of memory at a sight, a phrase, or a smell have a lot better chance of bringing a smile to their face.

Sponsored by Cornerstone Baptist Church, Lexington, Okla.

From page 3A

Goal:

and low-fat or non-fat dairy choices. In addition, select foods with less added sugar. Hermann also recommends eating slowly. "You need to give your body time to feel fullness," she said. "Start with making these small changes and build on those changes over time."

Physical activity plays an important role in leading a healthier lifestyle. AFor substantial health benefits, adults should do at least 150 to 300 minutes of moderate-

intensity activity, 75 to 150 minutes of vigorous-intense physical activity or an equivalent combination of moderate- and vigorous-intensity aerobic activity each week.

"You don't have to join a gym or buy expensive equipment to increase physical activity. Taking the stairs instead of the elevator and parking further away from the office building or store are just a couple of ways to incorporate additional physical activity,"

Hermann said. "It's never too late to get started on the path to a healthier lifestyle. If you fall short of your goals one day, don't give up. Tomorrow is a new day." A healthcare provider should be consulted before starting a physical activity program.

OSU Extension offers more information about health, nutrition and wellness on its website. In addition, check out the USDA's MyPlate program for more healthy eating tips.

Feroli, Knowles accepted into Youth Leadership Oklahoma

Ellie Feroli and Paisley Knowles were among the 52 rising high school seniors selected to Youth Leadership Oklahoma.

Leadership Oklahoma selects the students through a competitive process based on proven leadership, geographic, ethnic and cultural diversity to participate in its annual Youth Leadership Oklahoma (YLOK) class program.

YLOK Class 24 members plan to travel the state during a week-long trip at the beginning of June to learn about Oklahoma's history, culture, issues and leaders and begin to develop a greater understanding and appreciation for our state.

YLOK was created in 2001 with the mission to develop in

young leaders a feeling of hope, pride and a responsibility for Oklahoma's future. Over 1,000 students have participated in this one-of-a-kind program.

The all-expense paid week-long program begins and ends

in Oklahoma City. Other cities visited throughout the week will include Norman, Lawton, Sulphur, Tulsa, Stillwater, and

Please see **YLOK**, page 13A

AG to lay out evidence in Epic's multi-million dollar embezzlement case

Jennifer Palmer
Oklahoma Watch

The size of the scandal alleged at the state's largest online school befits the school's name: epic.

Investigators say two men at the helm of Epic Charter Schools defrauded taxpayers out of tens of millions of dollars over a decade. Details of the scheme, which the state auditor called the largest abuse of taxpayer dollars in Oklahoma history, will be unveiled in court this week.

A hearing in the embezzlement case against David Chaney and Ben Harris begins Monday. Oklahoma County District Special Judge Jason Glidewell allotted five days for the preliminary hearing, which is like a mini-trial, with witnesses and evidence and cross-examination. The purpose is for the judge to determine whether there's enough probable cause to proceed to trial.

Chaney and Harris are each charged with 15 felonies, including embezzlement, money laundering, computer crimes and conspiracy to defraud the state. They have denied wrongdoing.

Epic's former chief financial officer, Josh Brock, faces the same felony charges but waived his preliminary hearing. He is expected to be one of several witnesses this week and will likely take a plea deal.

His attorney, Irven Box, said Brock is ready to move forward.

Chaney and Harris founded Epic in 2010 and contracted with their own for-profit company, Epic Youth Services, to manage the school for 10 percent of all revenue. That fee exceeded the state's five percent cap on school administration expenses.

Chaney was also the school's superintendent until 2019, allowing him to negotiate contracts and control the school's finances. Brock was the chief financial officer

of both the school and the company, which gave him the authority to handle both sides of financial transactions between Epic and the management company.

In addition to the management fee, Epic Youth Services collected money for the learning fund, an account set aside for students' laptops, extracurricular activities and other expenses.

The amount ranged from \$800 to \$1,000 per student annually under Epic Youth Services. Investigators said Epic Youth Services kept unspent funds in that account instead of returning the money to the school.

Epic cut ties with Chaney, Harris and Brock in 2021 and



restructured amid a contract dispute with its authorizer, the Statewide Virtual Charter School Board. It is still the state's largest online school but is no longer privately managed.

Shell Companies and False Invoices

Chaney, Harris and Brock were arrested and charged in June 2022 under the state's Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, or RICO.

Prosecutors allege the men diverted tens of millions of dollars meant for students' education through a complicated scheme involving shell companies and false invoices.

More students equaled more state funding rolling in.

At its peak in the fall of 2020, Epic had a roster of 60,000 students.

Some of the charges involve illegally moving funds between Epic's Oklahoma schools and an out-of-state charter school and using student learning fund money to make credit card payments.

The credit card was used for school purchases and personal expenses. It was used to buy political influence, investigators said, via political campaign donations and lobbyist payments.

The men are also charged with money laundering by forming a shell company, Edtech, LLC, to conceal profits and justify fraudulent management fees between 2017 and 2021, a time when law enforcement and state regulators had ramped up investigations.

Gov. Kevin Stitt called for an audit of the school in July 2019. State Auditor Cindy Byrd's findings, released in October 2020, laid the groundwork for the criminal charges.

Prosecutors' review of Epic Youth Services' bank accounts revealed the company collected more than \$69.3 million in management fees between 2013 and 2021, court records show. Of that, the trio split \$55 million: Harris received \$25 million, Chaney received \$23 million and Brock received more than \$7 million.

Oklahoma Attorney General Gentner Drummond is seeking jail time and full restitution, he said in an interview with the **Tulsa World** in January 2022, shortly after taking over the criminal case from the Oklahoma County district attorney.

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

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Week of April 1

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LUNCH
Corndogs, tots, fresh broccoli, apples, milk.

TUESDAY BREAKFAST
Cereal, fruit, juice, milk.

LUNCH
Taco, rice, pinto beans, oranges, milk.

WEDNESDAY

MONDAY BREAKFAST
Sweet waffle sticks or cereal and toast, fruit, juice, milk.

LUNCH
Chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, dinner roll, fruit, milk.

TUESDAY BREAKFAST
Muffin or cereal and toast, fruit, juice, milk.

LUNCH
Beef and bean enchilada, Mexican salad, tortilla chips, salsa, fruit, milk.

WEDNESDAY

PURCELL

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

LUNCH
Cheeseburger, french fries, baby carrots, fruit, milk.

THURSDAY BREAKFAST
Breakfast burrito or cereal and toast, fruit, juice, milk.

LUNCH
Barbecue chicken sandwich, baked beans, side salad, fruit, milk.

FRIDAY

No School.

LEXINGTON

MONDAY BREAKFAST
Cereal or biscuit and gravy, apple wedges, juice, milk.

LUNCH
Salisbury steak or yogurt meal, potatoes and gravy, steamed broccoli, peaches, hot roll, milk.

TUESDAY BREAKFAST
Cereal or breakfast burrito, pineapple tidbits, juice, milk.

LUNCH
Nachos with cheese sauce or chef salad, whole kernel corn, pinto beans, mandarin oranges, milk.

WEDNESDAY BREAKFAST
Cereal or dutch waffle, peaches, juice, milk.

LUNCH
Spaghetti with meat sauce or sandwich, steamed carrots, green beans, pears, milk.

THURSDAY BREAKFAST
Cereal or breakfast pizza, mandarin oranges, juice, milk.

LUNCH
Turkey sandwich and cheese stick or chef salad, french fries, English peas, mixed fruit, milk.

FRIDAY

No School.

OMRF receives grant to study process crucial to birth defects, cancer

Cell division takes place naturally and continuously inside all of us. To Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation scientist Dean Dawson, Ph.D., the process is a lot like dealing cards.

"You might be able to perfectly deal 46 cards each to two players once, but could you do it millions of times in a row and always know each player will get exactly 46 cards, no mistakes?" said Dawson. "That is what your body is trying to do with chromosomes."

While a card-dealing snafu can cost a gambler money, the stakes in cell division are much higher: Errors can cause genetic birth defects in the womb and cancer in children and adults.

Dawson has devoted his scientific career to understanding how and why these mistakes occur. With a new \$2.1 grant from the National Institutes of Health, the OMRF scientist will continue that quest.

Every cell contains 46 chromosomes – one set of 23 from each parent. As a cell prepares to divide into two new cells, it makes copies of these chromosomes and deals 46 to both

Please see **OMRF**, page 7A



It's a Small World

Gracie Montgomery

Happy Easter to everyone! Hope your day is a good one. **The Purcell Register** will be closed on Friday, March 29, in observance of Good Friday.

Happy birthday to Mike Allen, Judge Jeff Virgin, Glenda Nemecek, Raychel Kozik, Shalia Ashcraft, Gustavo Cayente, Graydon Chaples, Donelda Ellis, Lucy Holden, Annette C. Belfiore, Selena Chavez, Kenton Gonterman, Yesenia Orta, Antonio Reyes, Sucel Sanchez, Lewis Vieux and Scott Lizana.

The Heart of Oklahoma Chamber of Commerce Community Coffee will be held at 9 a.m. Thursday, March 28, hosted by the Purcell Fire Department.

The coffee will be held at the fire station, 1505 N. Green Ave., in Purcell.

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

The Heart of Oklahoma Kiwanis Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held Saturday, March 30, at the Purcell Lake Weaver Pavilion, 1400 Chandler Road.

Each age group will have their own hunt and prizes. Age groups include 0-2, 3-5, 6-8 and 9-12.

The Easter Bunny will be available for pictures.

The hunt begins at 9:30 a.m. sharp.

Landmark Church will host an Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, March 30, at 10:30 a.m.

The hunt will be held at 100 W. Van Buren in Purcell, across from Conger Field.

The weekend of March 15-17 two visitors from Round Rock Texas, attended the "first" birthday party of Miss Clara Gibson.

Jeff and Suzanne Wells of Purcell are the maternal grandparents of young Clara. Parents are Ali Wells and Josiah Gibson of Slaughterville. She also has a sister, Blakely Bell. Mr. Goodfriend is Suzanne Wells' cousin.

The party was held at Happy Camper Cafe in downtown Purcell. Everyone attending was enthusiastic and clearly all had fun.

During the party, the Texas guests visited with Adam Wells and Kimberly Vo. Adam is Clara's uncle and Kimberly, his girlfriend.

Out-of-town family and friends attending were Gary Goodfriend and his significant other, Deborah Crisp.

All local relatives were in attendance.

The Texas guests were treated to two birthday meals during their short visit to Purcell, one in Maysville and the other in Noble.

Concluding their visit, the

couple was also able to visit with Honey and Zoey Wells.

The Purcell Public Library will present "Creativity Unleashed: Solar Art" Thursday, April 4, from 4-6 p.m.

Explore your interests and discover one of the many ways that you can express yourself and celebrate the eclipse with sun printing. The program is designed for all ages.

Registration is required for the come-and-go program.

We all have an inner artist. Join us in discovering the endless possibilities of your creativity. You will be guided through this program exploring cyanotype printing paper and the sun to produce your own work of art.

Customers attending the program will receive solar eclipse glasses, make a case to hold their glasses and discuss the safe ways to enjoy upcoming solar eclipse.

Supplies will be provided. Ages 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

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

The Purcell Public Library will present "In My Experience: Solar Eclipse Viewing Party" Monday, April 8, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Discover the experiences that make up our community. Celebrate with others as we learn more about 2024 Solar Eclipse with activities and a watch party.

Registration is required for the program that is designed for all ages.

Deepen your connection with your community and expand your mindset on the 2024 Solar Eclipse. Celebrate and learn with others in this interactive special event with activities and end with a watch party.

Customers attending the program will receive solar eclipse glasses, make a case to hold their glasses and discuss the safe ways to enjoy upcoming solar eclipse.

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

Here's a good recipe to go with your Easter dinner.

Copper Pennies

2 lbs. carrots, peeled, sliced and cooked until barely tender, drain. (Pretty small slices, not big)

1 small green pepper, thinly sliced
1 medium onion, thinly sliced
Dressing

10.5 oz. can tomato soup
1/2 cup oil
3/4 cup cider vinegar
1 cup sugar
1 tsp. prepared mustard (powder)
1 tsp. Worcestershire Sauce
1 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. pepper

Blend all the dressing ingredients together and pour over cooked carrots. Let marinate.

Put in refrigerator with cover and turn over after about two days and then again.

Will keep in the refrigerator for 2 weeks.

It will keep mixed up if you keep turning it over.

Follow us on facebook
facebook.com/PurcellRegister



• Photos provided

Grilling time

Eddie Cantrell cooking steaks for everyone on Steak Friday.



• Photo provided

The gangs all here

Eddie Cantrell surrounded by volunteers on one of his last visits to the Dibble Senior Citizens Center.

Dibble Senior Citizens

Greetings from the Dibble Senior Citizens.

It is with a sad heart we are asking for prayer for the family of Eddie Cantrell. Eddie went to be with the Lord early Tuesday morning and will surely be missed.

Eddie was the founder of our senior center and has served our community for many, many years. In the beginning days he and Dale would take an old school bus and pick up groceries for the food bank. Then they would hand them out from the back of a pickup.

He was instrumental in getting large grocers to donate to the large food banks by going to stores and asking for their food to be thrown out and donated to feed the hungry or less fortunate.

We have come a long way since then and all of this today is possible because Eddie's momma, Bessie Cantrell, taught her son to care about people.

Eddie was also one of the first cooks in the diner. He did not want to see his friends go without a meal. On many occasions you would find Eddie in the kitchen cooking, washing dishes or supervising (what he did best). He was very good at getting volunteers to help. If you didn't have a job, he would volunteer you for one.

Eddie loved to play the piano and had one here at the center. We always knew when he came in because we would hear the piano music begin to play. Many afternoons after the work was done, he and Mary would bless us with a song or two.

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

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

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

Until next time,

Dibble Senior Citizens Crew

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Dr. Steve Schultz

4217 28th Ave NW
Suite 111, Norman

Call 405-310-4211 to book appointment!



• Photo courtesy of MelindaMyers.com

Container garden

The right potting mix will help ornamental and edible plants thrive.

Selecting the right potting mix for your plantings

Melinda Myers
For The Purcell Register

As gardeners, it seems we are all looking for an ideal potting mix for our houseplants and containers. As with any gardening endeavor, a lot depends on what is available, the plants you are growing, and the type of maintenance you provide.

That said, there are some things you can do to increase your success and reduce ongoing maintenance. It all starts by reviewing the label on the bag you plan to purchase. You'll find a variety of bags labeled as planting mix, potting mix, container mix, and more. Check the label to see what the bag contains and recommendations for its use.

These mixes usually contain inorganic and organic materials and may also include sand and mineral soil. They may or may not be sterilized to kill weed seeds and pests. If it doesn't say sterilized, it probably is not, and you should consider another product instead.

Many potting mixes are labeled as "soiless." They consist of peat moss, sphagnum moss, and compost for moisture retention and vermiculite or perlite for drainage but do not contain mineral soils such as sand or clay. They are lightweight and blended to hold moisture while draining well.

Some potting mixes are modified to accommodate the needs of certain plants. Orchid mixes often contain more bark for better aeration while cacti and succulent mixes have more sand or perlite for better drainage.

African Violet potting mix contains more organic matter but is also available. Many gardeners prefer to know the ingredients are free of pesticides and other contaminants. Check for the word organic and OMRI on the label if you want an organic product.

Organic potting mixes are also available. Many gardeners prefer to know the ingredients are free of pesticides and other contaminants. Check for the word organic and OMRI on the label if you want an organic product. Once again, check the label on the bag for more details on the potting mix. Some potting mixes contain a "starter charge" of fertilizer. This minimal amount of fertilizer is usually gone after two or three waterings. Some include additional fertilizer that provides small amounts of nutrients over a longer period. The label may say controlled-release, time-release, or slow-release fertilizer, meaning it provides your plants with nutrients for a certain amount of time.

Moisture retaining products are supposed to hold water near plant roots and reduce the frequency of watering. Research has not shown them to be effective. Some gardeners feel they are effective while others end up with root rot when using these.

Consider adding an organic product, like Wild Valley Farms wool pellets (wildvalleyfarms.com) to potting mixes that do not contain

moisture-retaining products. It is sustainable, made from wool waste, University-tested, and has been shown to reduce watering by up to 20 percent, while also increasing air space and adding organic matter.

Select bags of potting mix that are light, fluffy, and moist. Avoid bags that are waterlogged and heavy. The mix can break down and become compacted and some of the slow-release fertilizer may be pre-released and damage young seedlings when saturated with water.

Spend a bit of time searching for the potting mix that best matches the plants you are growing and your watering regime. The time spent selecting your perfect potting mix will pay off with greater growing success.

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.

State taxpayer dollars prop Walters' national media blitz

Jennifer Palmer
Oklahoma Watch

Public money for Oklahoma students is paying for email pitches like this one:

"Good morning! Ryan Walters, state superintendent of Oklahoma, banned porn/explicit reading materials and graphics from classrooms in Oklahoma, but Edmond Public Schools is appealing this action, asking the state Supreme Court to allow porn back in classrooms."

That pitch goes on to say: "School board members won't even allow adults to read these books out loud, yet Edmond Public Schools are begging for kids to be reading this sexual garbage."

And this one, seizing on the death of an Owasso High School student:

"An open letter called for Ryan' (sic) immediate removal from office for, the letter

claims, "fostering a culture of violence and hate against the 2SLGBTQI+ community in Oklahoma schools." "Ryan responded to the letter



saying: "[this is a] standard tactic of the radical left, and they will stop at nothing to destroy the country and our state."

"Want Ryan on to discuss?" the pitches conclude.

Vought Strategies, a communications firm in Arlington, Va., sent those emails in recent weeks to national media outlets. The Oklahoma Department of Education hired the firm to write speeches and op-eds and book Walters on at least 10 national TV and radio appearances per month.

That has some people questioning whether Walters is boosting his national profile at the public's expense — something Mary Vought, president and founder of the firm, made clear she is working to do.

"I will work with my network of stakeholders to obtain attendance at national events and conferences in order to increase the national exposure of the client," she wrote in her bid for the contract, public records show.

A former attorney general

Please see **Walters**, page 11A

From page 6A

OMRF:

new cells.

"What amazes me is how precise this process is, given the fact that it's happening constantly throughout our bodies," said Dawson, who's led a lab at OMRF for nearly two decades. "By the time we're adults, the body has gone through this process trillions of times."

Dawson will try to determine how each piece in the mechanism functions. Similar to an auto mechanic, he believes that only by understanding how the body functions properly can scientists determine what leads to mistakes.

"If your mechanic's manual was missing the page on the fuel injector, then anytime you had a

fuel injector problem, your mechanic would just throw their hands up in the air," Dawson said. "We're trying to provide a complete parts manual for cell division so that eventually we can understand why cells sometimes produce the wrong number of chromosomes."

Most tumor cells have far more than the normal number of chromosomes. Dawson's grant also will investigate which parts of the chromosome machinery are most crucial in keeping the tumor cell alive. That knowledge, he said, might identify a location for future anti-cancer drugs that disable the machinery.

"When something goes

wrong, you can't fix it if you don't fully understand how it works correctly in the first place," said Gary Gorbisky, Ph.D., who chairs OMRF's Cancer & Cell Cycle Biology Research Program. "That's what Dr. Dawson's research is all about. I'm excited to see what he learns."

The five-year award is part of the Maximizing Investigators' Research Award, or MIRA, program. MIRA grants give scientists latitude to use the funding to support a wide range of needs; the increased freedom is intended to enhance both productivity and the likelihood of important, even unplanned, breakthroughs.



FUN FOR ALL AGES
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NOT ME NOT MY COMMUNITY

BE A PART OF THE COMMUNITY CONVERSATION TO
STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING

FRIDAY, MARCH 29
Two sessions - 10:00am and 1:00pm

In the Seminar Center in the Health Building of
Mid-America Technology Center
located at 27438 Highway 59 in Wayne.

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Think you know about human trafficking?
Tell us what you know and scan the QR code to answer 4 quick questions.

MATC MID-AMERICA TECHNOLOGY CENTER
OKLAHOMA Commission on the Status of Women

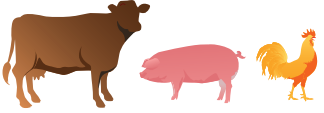
Happy Easter



Sending a wish for health and happiness to everyone we know at Eastertime.

We can't wait to see you again soon!

ALL IN DINER



103 W. Washington St. • Purcell • (405) 527-3155

Hours: Tuesday – Saturday 6 AM to 2 PM
Closed Sunday and Monday

Happy Easter



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From our family have a wonderful Happy Easter

The Purcell Register



225 West Main Street

Purcell, OK

(405) 527-2126

He Is Risen

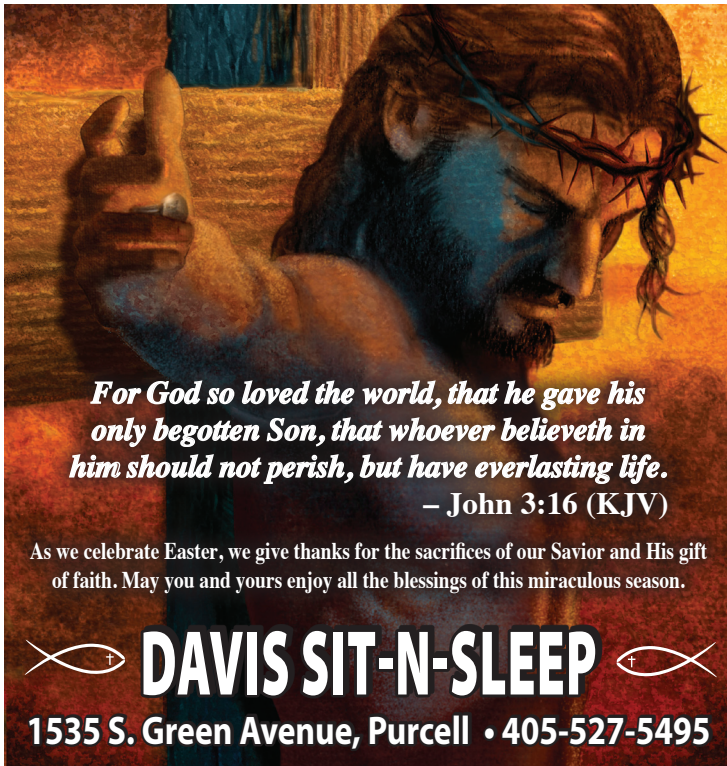
May the gifts of God's love and sacrifice fill you with joy and gratitude as we celebrate this holy season.

Wishing you a blessed Easter.

B&H

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www.bhboring.com



For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
– John 3:16 (KJV)

As we celebrate Easter, we give thanks for the sacrifices of our Savior and His gift of faith. May you and yours enjoy all the blessings of this miraculous season.

DAVIS SIT-N-SLEEP

1535 S. Green Avenue, Purcell • 405-527-5495

Wishing You a Blessed & Beautiful Easter

May the spirit of this holy season fill your heart and soul with peace, joy and inspiration.

Good Friday Cross Service

Friday, March 29th at 6:00 PM

Easter Celebration

Sunday, March 31st

Sunday School at 9:00 AM

Sunday Morning Worship at 10:15 AM



FBC PURCELL

400 W Main St • Purcell, OK
405-527-3327 • www.purcellfbc.org

We invite everyone to attend our Special Easter Service

Sunday, March 31st at 11:00 AM

There will be plenty of wonderful music followed by an inspirational message.

Come as you are and celebrate our Lord's resurrection.

WAYNE, OKLAHOMA
FIRST BAPTIST
LOVE GOD • LOVE OTHERS • SERVE THE WORLD

301 Brady St.
Wayne

405-449-3346

Rick Harrison, Pastor

Easter

with

Goldsby Church

Sunday, March 31st @ 10:30am

Location:

Washington Event Center
101 E. Kerby
Washington, OK

Doors Open At 10am
Free Coffee & Donuts!
Childcare for babies-4yrs
Easter Photos!
Free Gift For All Families!

Faith Hope Renewal

May the miracle of the Easter season strengthen your faith and fill your heart with warmth.

Happy Easter to you and yours.



NICHOLS DIXON
ATTORNEYS

Greg Dixon, Attorney

108 N. 2nd Ave, Purcell, OK 73080
405-527-5888 • nicholsdixon.com



Happy Easter!

Chirping our brightest Easter wishes to you and your loved ones at this special time of year.

May your season be filled with joy, friendship, laughter and blessings.

We greatly appreciate your friendship and support, and we wish you all the best!



220 W. Main • Purcell, OK
405-527-3093

HALLELUJAH! HE IS RISEN.



AS WE CELEBRATE THE MIRACLE OF EASTER, WE'RE TOUCHED BY THE LOVE AND SACRIFICE OF OUR SAVIOR.

WE WISH YOU AND YOURS ALL THE BLESSINGS AND JOY OF THE SEASON.

Heart of Oklahoma Insurance Agency

520 W. Delaware St.
Purcell, OK

405-527-2153

LEXINGTON FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

EASTER

He is Risen

GOSPEL PRESENTATION

Wednesday, March 27th • 6:30 PM

Friday, March 29th • 7:00 PM

Saturday, March 30th • 4:00 PM

EASTER SUNDAY

MARCH 31st

Worship Service 8:15 AM

Sunday School 9:15 AM

Worship Service 10:15 AM

HE IS RISEN

Wishing you a blessed Easter. May His love and sacrifice fill your heart with peace and joy.



1438 S. Green Ave., Purcell
(405) 527-2379

EASTER

AT LANDMARK

weekend events

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE -
FRIDAY, MARCH 29 @ 7:00 PM

KIDS' EASTER EGG HUNT -
SATURDAY, MARCH 30 @ 10:30 AM

EASTER SERVICES -
SATURDAY, MARCH 30 @ 6:00 PM
SUNDAY, MARCH 31 @ 8:15, 9:45, 11:15 AM

LANDMARK CHURCH
1106 W GRANT, PURCELL



Family to yours,
**Wonderful
 Easter**

Hello & Happy Easter

May the joy of Easter Day
 bring a smile to your face and
 happiness to your heart.

Lexington Nursing Home
 632 SE Third, Lexington • (405) 527-6531

**Happy
 Easter**

McClain Bank
 Member FDIC

Happy Easter

Friends and neighbors like you make the Easter season extra special.
 Thanks for supporting us, and best wishes to you and your loved ones!

ROGER D. CUDD, CPA, P.L.L.C.
 CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT
 130 W. Main • P.O. Box 327 • Purcell, OK 73080
 405-527-8337

**HAPPY EASTER TO
 OUR FAVORITE PEEPS**

Here's hoping your Easter holiday is brimming with joy!
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 HOME OF THE CHICKEN FRY

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 Just south of Purcell Walmart (at the light) on Hwy. 77

**SUNRAY
 BAPTIST CHURCH**

*A Light Through
 Which Christ Shines*

Come visit us on **Sunday, March 31st**
 for **Easter Services**

Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
 Easter Services: 10:50 a.m.
 Children's Church: 11:15 a.m.

Pastor John Wylie
2223 North 9th Street • Purcell
405-527-6808

A TIME FOR FAITH
 May the strength of our Savior's love
 and sacrifice bring contentment to
 your heart at Easter and always.
 Blessings and best wishes
 to you and yours!

Sunset Estates
 915 N. 7th Ave., Purcell
 (405) 527-2122

**HELLO &
 Happy
 Easter**

Just hopping by to share our
 very best wishes at Eastertime,
 and say how much we
 appreciate friends like you!

thrive
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Ages 6 weeks - 12 years
 230 W. Apache St., Purcell
 6:30 am - 6:00 pm
405.527.0140
 Accepts: Private Pay, DHS and Tribal

**Amazing
 LOVE!**

MARCH 28TH
 Maundy Thursday Service at 7 PM

MARCH 29TH
 Good Friday Service at 7 PM

MARCH 31ST
 Easter Brunch & Egg Hunt at 9 AM
 Easter Cantata at 10:30 AM

**TRINITY UNITED
 METHODIST CHURCH**
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**HAPPY
 Easter**

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 WASHINGTON**
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 Washington, OK
 405-288-6060

"Easter EGGstravaganza"
 Saturday, March 30th 10:00 AM
 FELLOWSHIP HALL
 Arts, Crafts and Egg Hunt

Easter Service
 Sunday, March 31st 10:00 AM

**Rejoice in the Spirit of
 Easter**

May the warmth of His love light
 your season with faith and joy.

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 Gardens**
 SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY
 1215 Westbrook Blvd. • Purcell • 405-527-1365

OSU EXTENSION News

How to remove fire odor from belongings and home

Trisha Gedon
Extension Educator

Parts of Oklahoma and Texas recently experienced devastating wildfires. Some families lost their homes, while other houses and structures in the path of the flames were spared.

Homes not damaged by flames likely experienced smoke damage, said Gina Peek, assistant director, Oklahoma State University Extension/Family Consumer Science program leader and associate dean for Extension and Engagement in the Col-

lege of Education and Human Sciences.

“A fire in your neighborhood or on your acreage may cause your home to smell like smoke. The odor is caused by microscopic particles that cling to walls, furniture, floors, clothing and other items inside your home,” Peek said.

“Removing the smell isn’t as easy as spraying a can of air freshener or lighting a scented candle. These remedies only mask the smell for a short amount of time. It may be necessary to have furniture

and mattresses professionally cleaned. Removing the smoke smell will take time, effort and money,” she continued.

Simple things like cleaning can help remove the odor’s source. Smoke particles get into tiny nooks and crannies and can be difficult to remove. Even though the home has been cleaned from top to bottom, the smell may linger.

Homeowners can use common household items to help absorb odor while they clean. Baking soda is an inexpensive and natural odor-absorber. Peek suggests leaving a few

bowls of baking soda around the house for several days to help absorb the odors.

Activated charcoal is also an option to help abate the smoke smell. Use it like baking soda and place it in bowls around the house for several days. Keep interior doors open as well as kitchen and bathroom cabinets. If the weather cooperates, open the windows and exterior doors to let in fresh air. If much of the area around the home burned, the smoke smell may remain for some time.

Getting the smoke smell out of clothing can be a difficult and time-consuming task. Add 1 cup of vinegar to detergent in the wash cycle. Keep in mind that one washing may not remove all the odor.

If the smoke remains when the clothes come out of the washing machine, immediately wash them again using the same process and continue until the smoke smell is gone. Do not dry clothes that smell like smoke as this can set the odor in the material.

“Homeowners may need to hire a professional to use an ozone generator to destroy the smoke molecules left behind after a fire,” Peek said. “This isn’t something homeowners should do themselves. There are significant health and property dangers associated with ozone. Check with your insurance company to see if this is covered under your policy. Using an ozone generator will require the temporary evacuation of your home.”

The Federal Emergency Management Agency website lists the following tips for removing smoke odors.

For light damage. This is when you can smell smoke but can’t see any ash:

- Open the windows and doors to air out the home.
- Install a new filter in the HVAC unit.
- Put bags of activated charcoal around the house to

absorb odor.

• Clean any rooms that smell like smoke.

For moderate damage. In addition to the steps recommended for light damage:

- Wash or scrub exterior surfaces, including walls, walks, drives, decks, window and deck screens, etc.
- Wash interior walls and hard surfaces with mild soap or other appropriate cleaning solutions or products. Do not forget inside cabinets, drawers and closets.
- Wash, dust or otherwise clean all household items, including knick-knacks.

• Vacuum carpets, window coverings, upholstered furniture and mattresses.

• Wash anything with visible soot that can be washed.

• Consider having heating, ventilating, air-conditioning units and all ductwork professionally cleaned to remove soot, ash and smoke residue.

• Throw away food that was in opened containers.

• Consider replacing baby items like pacifiers and bottles, along with medical devices like oxygen masks and CPAP tubing, rather than cleaning them.



John D. Montgomery • The Purcell Register

Pretty windy

Strong southerly winds last Thursday preceded thunderstorms that rumbled through the area, dumping 2.1” of rain bringing the total for the year year here to 8.45”.

Mitchell Jacob Issue Spotlight

March 2024

Inclusion. What a simple word that has become so controversial. I have a vision of Oklahoma that is not only inviting, but welcoming. Where all people, regardless of their race, gender, identity, nationality, sexuality, religion, background, past, or beliefs are welcome.

I truly believe that Oklahoma and the United States are made better by a diverse population, through inclusion. And to that end, it is time to stop the hatred, to stop the bullying, and to learn to love others even when we disagree with them. “Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.” Matthew 22:38. Nothing in the Bible says that we must only love and accept others when we agree with them, when they vote the same way we do, when they identify as male or female, or even that we must only love those who identify as the gender on their birth certificate.

If you have a problem with someone else’s race, gender, identity, or other characteristic, who cares? It is time to stop the hatred. It is time to stop focusing on how we are different and start working toward common goals. My name



Mitchell Jacob

is Mitchell Jacob, candidate for House District 20, and I choose to focus on a better, more diverse Oklahoma, not a more divided Oklahoma.

We are all Oklahomans. We all love this great state. Let us learn to love, accept, welcome, encourage, develop, and support other people. You do not need to agree with me for me to want you to succeed, and the same should be true universally. I love and respect you. I wish nothing but the best for you, for Oklahoma, and for District 20. Let us work toward common goals, a better Oklahoma, and learn to give and receive love. Learn more at mitchelljacob.com.

Mitchell Jacob
Candidate OK House
District 20

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Cleanup:

weeding them out. Leave a few stems standing, use plant markers, or next fall plant some spring flowering bulbs near the plants to serve as a colorful placeholder.

Consider leaving some sunny spots bare for ground-nesting bees. Avoid areas like entryways and gathering spots where people and the bees may collide. Although the bees are docile and not likely to sting, people are often fearful leading to their elimination. Setting aside some out-of-the-way spaces for ground-nesting bees allows everyone to coexist more happily.

This is also a good time to tidy up garden beds and lawn edges. You'll slow the invasion of weeds and grass into garden beds and lawn encroaching onto walks.

Remove weeds as they appear. The smaller weeds are easier to remove and eliminat-



• Photo courtesy of MelindaMyers.com

A bee pollinates

Adjusting your spring cleanup schedule will help pollinators like this bee on an allium flower.

ing them before they flower and set seed means fewer weeds you'll need to pull in the future.

Take advantage of the delay in spring cleaning by cleaning and sharpening your tools. When the temperatures are right, with tools in hand, you will be ready to get busy in the garden.

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.

The Purcell Register

Obituaries

Harold Paul Beller

Funeral services for Harold Paul Beller, 64, of Washington were held Monday, March 25, 2024 at the Goldsby Church. Interment followed at Hillside Cemetery in Purcell under the direction of the Wilson-Little Funeral Home in Purcell.

Mr. Beller passed away peacefully March 21, 2024, surrounded by his family.

Harold was born November 3, 1959 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, the oldest of six children born to Robert Luther Beller and Mary June (Blalock) Beller.

He was raised in Washington and attended school there, but at age 17, answered the call of service to his country. Harold joined the United States Navy, and served his country proudly. At the end of his service, he left Norfolk, Virginia, and returned back home to Washington.

He worked on the Lamar Ranch and as a surveyor and seismographer for a few years. In the early 1980s, he began working at B & H Construction for his Uncle Robert. Over the next 30 plus years he worked his way up to project manager where his employees and colleagues became not only his friends but family.

Harold married his best friend and soul mate, Pam (Vaughn) Roberts on August 11, 2000, and two families joined as one. He was a hard worker and an excellent provider. Away from work, he enjoyed watching Sooner Football and looked forward to cooking at deer camp. He liked traveling, taking cruise vacations and even quick trips to Broken Bow and Galveston. He mostly liked casinos, and never missed an opportunity to play.

Above all, he cherished Pam, his daughters and especially his grandsons. He was a true family man who treated his in-laws like they were his own flesh. He was a wonderful husband and father, grandfather, brother, uncle and a true friend. He will be dearly missed!

He was preceded in death by his daughter, Krissa Roberts; his father, Robert Beller and brothers, Rodney Beller and Leroy Beller.

Harold is survived by his loving wife, Pam; daughters, Jenifer Beller and husband, Seth Urbanski, of Norman, Daysha Nelson and husband, Johnny, of Norman and Kailey Evans and husband, Trevor, of Wayne; mother, June Beller of Washington; sisters, Ruby Deaver and husband, Kevin, of Washington and Vickie Belvin and husband, Audey, of Washington; brother, Mike Beller and wife, Theresa, of Goldsby; father- and mother-in-law, Jackie and Carolyn Vaughn of Washington; brothers and sisters-in-law, Kim Ellis and husband, Toby, of Wayne, Mark Vaughn and wife, Ashli, of Washington and Mike Vaughn and wife, Pam, of Purcell; his pride and joy, grandsons, Jakob, Greyson, Dayne, Tate, Braylen and Kash; several cousins, nieces and nephews and a host of other family and friends.

Online condolences may be made at wilsonlittle.com.

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

Joshua Gary Carter Jr.

Joshua Gary Carter Jr. was born into Heaven on March 8, 2024. His parents, Joshua and Kara (Presler) Carter, had less than sixteen weeks with the idea of bringing a third Carter child into the world. But, in that short time, they had already begun to dream of their future as a family of five.

Joshua and Kara were excited at the idea of introducing Joshua Jr. to his siblings, Kayson and Ania and holding their newest addition in their arms. Although Joshua is now in Heaven, he is well loved in the hearts of his family.

Joshua Carter Jr. is survived by his parents, Joshua and Kara Carter; his siblings, Kayson and Ania Carter; his maternal grandparents, Jim and Nancy Presler; and his paternal grandparents, Jeromy and Ramie Carter; along with a host of other relatives and friends.

During this trying time, the Carter family requests privacy and time to process their loss.

Condolences may be sent to Wadley's Funeral Service at wadleysfuneralservice.com.

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

Donald Dale Burton

Donald Dale Burton died March 23, 2024, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma at the age of 79 years 7 months 20 days leaving behind a legacy of honor and dedication. Funeral Services are scheduled for 10 a.m. Friday, March 29, 2024, at Union Hill Baptist Church. Interment will follow at Hillside Cemetery in Purcell, Oklahoma, entrusted to the care of Wadley's Funeral Service.



Don was born August 3, 1944, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, to Dale Warren and Anna Grace (Gothard) Burton. Don's formative years were spent in Oklahoma City, where he excelled academically and athletically, graduating from Southeast High in 1962 as an all-state wrestler with a passion for semipro football.

He began his higher education at Central State College before answering the call to defend his country on July 15, 1963. Don embarked on a distinguished career in the United States Air Force as a electronic warfare specialist, weather maintenance technician, solar optical telescope technician and special operations that spanned over two decades. This set his family on a wild adventure of traveling across the world; from Mississippi to Spain. With unwavering pride and commitment, he served until his honorable discharge on July 31, 1983, earning numerous decorations, medals, and accolades for his exemplary service, as well as completing his master's degree.

Linda Gayle Hawkins became his cherished partner on February 8, 1964, in Oklahoma City. Together they traversed the landscape of life's adventures with a shared love for travel, ministry, missions and family. Post-military life saw Don embrace a new chapter as an electrical engineer. An avid traveler at heart, Don orchestrated memorable family escapades to all fifty states, even including Hawaii and Alaska. Overseas they enjoyed visiting China, Thailand, Vietnam, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Mexico and most of Europe. His zeal for discovery extended to cruises, RV expeditions, and fishing trips that enriched cherished memories. Whether casting lines into waters or venturing into the wilderness on a hunt, Don found joy in God's creation.

Craftsmanship was not only a skill but a passion for Don - be it woodworking or reviving homes with meticulous care. Collaboratively with Linda by his side, they built four homes from the ground up and renovated over eighteen others - imbuing each project with their unique touch.

A beacon of faith within his community, Don's devotion shone brightly through roles such as deacon and church leader. He was an active member at Union Hill Baptist Church. His profound love for scripture illuminated lives as he imparted wisdom and spiritual teachings to all who crossed his path.

In moments of leisure, Don reveled in simple joys like reading westerns or telling jokes while passing down his wisdom to his children and grandchildren - embodying values of love and tradition. Family bonds were sacrosanct to him; every milestone celebrated with dominoes or card games where his competitive spirit found delight rarely in defeat. Don's essence lives on through the hearts he has touched - a tapestry woven with threads of dedication, compassion, and unwavering love for family and faith.

Don was preceded in death by his parents, Dale and Anna Grace Burton; and his brother, Jerry Warren Burton.

Survivors include his wife, Linda Burton; his two daughters, Kathryn Young and husband, Jim, and Kristin Moseley; his four grandchildren, Gentry Young, Kyrie Young, Kyler Moseley and Caedon Moseley; his brother-in-law, Bob Hawkins and wife, Clara; his nieces and nephews; Melissa O'Brien and children, Joseph Kent, Matthew Kent, Savanna O'Brien and Sean O'Brien; Theresa Shrum and husband, John, and their children, Tiffany Shrum and Jeremy Shrum; Diane Zander and husband, David, and their daughter Micah; Bobby Hawkins and wife, Carla, and their children, John Hawkins and Sara Boomer; Carla Dodson and husband, Chuck, and their children, Brad Dodson and Ryan Dodson; Ronnie Hawkins and wife, Kim, and grand-nephews, Tyler Hawkins and Trent Hawkins; Susan Conviser and husband, Don; Donna Jett, Jennifer Simmons, Reyna Wilcox; and numerous other relatives and friends.

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

Ricki Flohr Walterscheid

Ricki Flohr Walterscheid passed peacefully surrounded by her family March 21, 2024, in Purcell at the age of 45 years 2 months 13 days. Her Celebration of Life is scheduled for 1 p.m. Thursday, March 28, 2024, at the Wadley's Funeral Chapel, entrusted to the care of Wadley's Funeral Service.



Ricki was born January 8, 1979, in Denton, Texas, where she spent the first few years of her life. She, along with her mother, Sue, her dad, Don, and her granny, Joyce, relocated in 1986 to the Reintree Ranch in Ada, Oklahoma. It was there amongst the embrace of nature that she learned to ride and show horses under the guidance of her beloved dad.

Ricki's love for travel and adventure was cultivated by her mom and granny, going to Biloxi Beach often as well as to Louisiana. Ricki attended Lexington School where her mother teaches and Ada High School where she graduated with distinction in 1997. Her passion for basketball and remarkable intelligence led her to excel as a two-time state champion and earn a basketball scholarship.

Embracing academia, she pursued Psychology at Oklahoma Christian before earning her Juris Doctorate from the esteemed University of Oklahoma School of Law. Ricki was a warrior for justice, spending 20 years as a criminal defense attorney working in the General Appeals Division of the Oklahoma Indigent Defense System.

In January of 2018, she met a woman, and both of their lives were forever changed. On 1-11-22, amidst the serene shores of South Padre Island, Texas, Ricki exchanged vows with Valarie Ann Lambert, embarking on a shared journey as the LambScheids. Their relationship started with adventure as the theme, and it blossomed through those adventures - from tranquil moments camping by the lake to epic road trips all over the country- embodying love and partnership. They found great peace and joy on their outdoor adventures hiking or fishing and kayaking at Lake Arbuckle and Lake Sardis, their second home. She and her wife shared a love for water, mountains, and a zest for life. They enjoyed an occasional casino trip together and with their folks.

Ricki enjoyed dancing and had a deep love for music, attending many concerts. She had a vibrant spirit. She cherished family gatherings; especially relishing moments spent with her grandsons. An ardent nature lover, she found solace in tending a garden during the pandemic with her wife. They spent many hours seeking tranquility in the beauty of their backyard, having a fire and watching the moonrise, and on the front porch watching the sunset. Ricki enjoyed reading and would research everything, before purchasing anything. She lived life to the fullest. To Ricki, life was a grand adventure.

Ricki was preceded in death by her father, Richard (Ricky) Walterscheid; her grandfather, Norbert Walterscheid; her granny, Joyce Stulz; and her aunt and uncle, Karen and Darrell Cash.

Survivors include her wife, Valarie Lambert; her mother, Sue (Stulz) Flohr; her dad, Don Flohr; her grandmother, Mary Ann Walterscheid; her daughters, Natalee Heald and Brittanie Anderson, as well as Natalee's husband Adam; her grandsons, Grizzlie Clark and Orion Heald and was anticipating the arrival of their first granddaughter, Gwendolyn Heald; her aunts, Terri Luke and husband, Melvin, Susan Flusche and husband, Neal, and Sandra Reeves and husband, Kevin; and numerous other relatives, friends, and loved ones.

Let us remember not only the achievements Ricki amassed but also the joy she brought into each life she touched. May her legacy endure through memories of laughter and love intertwined with the echoes of her adventurous spirit that touched us all.

Memorial contributions may be made in honor of Ricki to: Susan G. Komen Foundation - Komen.org - (877) GoKomen.

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

Visit us at:

purcellregister.com

2021 court decision cemented tribal sovereignty

On March 11, 2021, we marked an important milestone in the work to protect Chickasaw Nation sovereignty: Judicial affirmation of the Chickasaw Nation's treaty territory as a "reservation," which is a form of Indian country under federal law.

Immediately following the recognition of the Chickasaw Nation's reservation, Chickasaw Nation Governor Bill Anoatubby issued a proclamation that declared, in part, that the ruling "set forth what the Chickasaw people have always known ... we remain a self-governing Tribal nation."

Tragic though it was, the catalyst for this heralded event was a court battle involving a heinous crime committed by a non-Native against three Chickasaw citizens in June 2010.

Shaun Michael Bosse, a non-Native, had been earlier convicted for the brutal killings of Chickasaw citizens Katrina Griffin, 24, her son, 8-year-old Christian and her daughter, 6-year-old Chastity Hammer, in Purcell.

"Our hearts remain steadfast with the family this man victimized," Governor Anoatubby said at the time, and promised the tribe "will continue our efforts to see justice done for the victim's family." Governor Anoatubby followed through on this pledge.

The court battle turned on Mr. Bosse's attempt to take advantage of the Chickasaw Nation's sovereignty and the Native status of his victims. He argued that the Chickasaw Nation's treaty territory was and remains a "reservation," or Indian country, for purposes of determining jurisdiction to punish his crimes.

The court agreed and held that the Chickasaw Nation continues to possess, as a sovereign entity, a reservation that was established by Congress in accord with our treaties and that, as such, it remains Indian country for purposes of criminal jurisdiction.

This ruling caused a massive increase in what had been understood to be Chickasaw Nation Indian country, with direct consequence on the reach of Tribal, Federal, and State criminal jurisdiction.

Nonetheless, Mr. Bosse's attempt to evade justice for his brutality by seeking to deprive the Oklahoma court of power over him ultimately failed, and today he remains sentenced to death for his crimes.

Factored into the court's decision was an earlier case that strongly affirmed basic prin-

ciples also critical to securing tribal sovereignty, *McGirt v. Oklahoma*. In it, Seminole Nation citizen Jimcy McGirt argued his Native heritage and the fact his crime was committed on the Muscogee reservation meant the state of Oklahoma did not have jurisdiction.

The U.S. Supreme Court agreed.

The Bosse decision clarified that while the McGirt ruling involved only the Muscogee reservation, its reasoning also applied to the Chickasaw, Cherokee, Choctaw and Seminole reservations.

If there was ever a question about the Chickasaw Nation being a sovereign entity, it was forever put to rest.

The ruling that affirmed the Chickasaw Nation's reservation, like several others, relied on the U.S. Supreme Court's earlier ruling in McGirt, which arose in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation's reservation and offered the Supreme Court's full-throated affirmation of the continuing vitality of Tribal treaties in this area of the law.

Today, including the judicial affirmations of the Chickasaw Nation's and Muscogee (Creek) Nation's reservations, courts have recognized eight separate and continuing reservations in Oklahoma. While these rulings offer tremendous support for Tribal rights to self-government and opportunities for the expanded exercise of Tribal sovereignty, they carry also immense responsibilities.

And when the Chickasaw Nation turned to rise to those responsibilities, it worked to foster cross-jurisdictional cooperation in the interest of the public's safety.

For example, in executive directives issued March 11, 2021, Governor Anoatubby directed

the Chickasaw Nation's criminal justice officials to work toward "effective, efficient, and durable cross-commissioning of policing services throughout the Chickasaw Nation" as well as appropriate "prosecutorial authorizations to ensure all crimes committed within our boundaries are properly prosecuted and justice is served."

But that's not all. To increase the measure of justice available within the Chickasaw Nation system, Governor Anoatubby also called for the expansion of services intended to offer "restorative justice and mechanisms designed to help both victims and perpetrators to return to productive engagement within our community."

Debra Gee, Chickasaw Nation Chief Counsel in the Office of Tribal Justice Administration, agrees much has changed.

"In 2021, we were working with just one part-time attorney who served as a prosecutor," Gee said. "In 2021, we moved to being a full-time prosecution office."

Gee said the department currently employs eight full-time prosecutors. The department, including support staff, now totals 39 employees. Prior to these court decisions, her department averaged approximately 80 prosecutions a year. Prosecutions now average approximately 2,000 a year.

"Once an arrest has been made by either Chickasaw Lighthorse police or a cross-commission officer of the Chickasaw Nation, we are the prosecutors. We file cases that are submitted to us. We'll have arrestees who come from all parts of the Chickasaw Nation territory," she said.

Chickasaw Lighthorse Police Commissioner Randy Wesley says his force has seen dra-

matic changes in recent years to accommodate the increased responsibilities, as well.

"The McGirt decision had a huge impact," Wesley said. "We had about 65 officers when the McGirt decision was handed down." Today, he said, that number has increased to 105 officers.

Two other metrics reveal the differences between pre-McGirt and the post-McGirt ruling. Calls for service in 2020 were just more than 24,600. In 2023 that number jumped to 35,750. Community policing events have skyrocketed from 38 in 2020 to 294 last year.

Gee says communication with other law enforcement agencies is key.

"We've had to do outreach to law enforcement agencies to let them know our process, which

has evolved over time. And even before March 2021, we produced written documents to each of the agencies on how to contact us.

"There are 13 counties, and each of those counties has law enforcement agencies and city police. We have 79 cross-commission agreements, and each of those 79 agencies has officers who write reports and submit those to us."

More serious crimes are often brought to the attention of the U.S. Attorney's office where the penalties can be harsher than the three-year limit on sentences a Tribal court can impose for any single offense.

"We work closely with the U.S. Attorney's office," Gee said. "We have a tribal special Assistant U.S. Attorney at the U.S. Attorney's office in the

western district who prosecutes in federal and tribal court."

In line with Governor Anoatubby's executive directives, imprisonment is not the end of the process. Gee says concentrated effort goes into restoration.

"We're implementing alternatives to incarceration with our healing to wellness court and our truancy court," Gee said. "We're trying to implement alternatives rather than just locking people up and not doing anything to improve their lives or rehabilitating them."

"That is something we are doing in this office as well as working with other internal offices like family services and their mental health team. There are a lot of things still to be done, but we've come a long way since 2021."



• Photo provided

Drawing blood

Officials with the Oklahoma Blood Institute were in Purcell for a blood drive sponsored jointly by the McClain County Sheriff's Department and First United Bank where the drive was set up. A total of 21 units of blood was collected March 10.



• Photo provided

Blood donor

McClain County Sheriff Landy Offolter got an early start and was among the first to donate blood at First United Bank last week.

From page 5A

YLOK:

Enid.

In each community, YLOK Class 24 will learn about Oklahoma's resources, issues and treasures, meet with state leaders and further develop their own leadership skills.

"YLOK was challenging and pushed me to be a better leader," said a YLOK Class 23 participant about their experience last summer, "I participated in many activities far outside of my comfort zone."

"I feel I made great new connections with people with similar ambitions to me. I have never been in such a diverse group before, and that gave me a new viewpoint on many topics. I'm forever grateful for YLOK and this experience," the participant concluded.

"Leadership Oklahoma is very excited about the 52 young people chosen for this year's program. YLOK Class 24 is an outstanding blend of student leadership from across the state," said Jodi Lewis, Leadership Oklahoma's President & CEO.

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John D. Montgomery • The Purcell Register

Motorcycle, too

A motorcycle was collateral damage after a Dodge Charger caught fire March 20 on the Southeast corner of Lester Lane and Apache in Purcell just after 3 p.m. Firefighters used multiple types of retardant to knock down the fire.

From page 1A

Tornado:

injury or death.

- Even after a tornado passes, it's important to stay alert and use caution when clearing debris.
 - Stay clear of fallen power lines or broken utility lines.
 - Wear appropriate gear during clean-up, such as thick-soled shoes, long pants and work gloves, and use appropriate face coverings or masks if cleaning mold or other debris.
 - Do not enter damaged buildings until you are told they are safe.
- Keep cell phones charged and report to authorities if

you have a shelter so they can search for you in case of an event.

Prepare now. Know your area's tornado risk.

In the U.S., the Midwest and the Southeast have a greater risk for tornadoes.

Know the signs of a tornado, including a rotating, funnel-shaped cloud, an approaching cloud of debris or a loud roar—similar to a freight train.

Sign up for your community's warning system. In McClain County, contact McClain County Emergency

Management at 405-288-2064 or online at <http://mccain-co-ok.us/offices/emergency-management/> and sign up for Everbridge.

The Emergency Alert System (EAS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio also provide emergency alerts. If your community has sirens, then become familiar with the warning tone.

Pay attention to weather reports. Meteorologists can predict when conditions might be right for a tornado.

Identify and practice going to a safe shelter in the event of high winds, such as a safe room or storm shelter. The next best protection is a small, interior, windowless room on the lowest level of a sturdy building.

Take additional cover by shielding your head and neck with your arms and putting materials such as furniture and blankets around you.

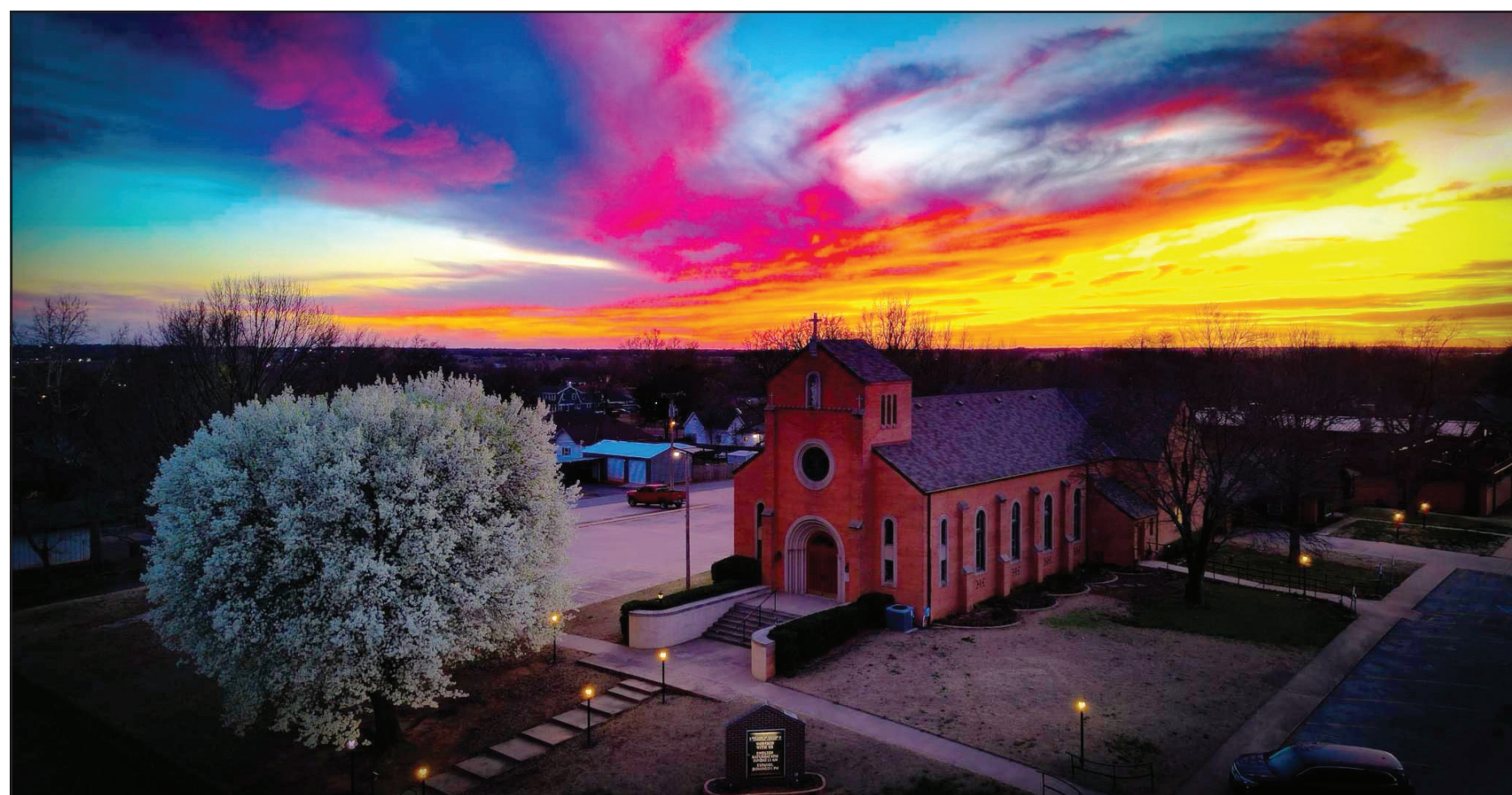
Listen to EAS, NOAA Weather Radio, or local alerting systems for current emergency information and instructions.

Do not try to outrun a tornado in a vehicle. If you are in a car or outdoors and cannot get to a building, cover your head and neck with your arms and cover your body with a coat or blanket, if possible.

Stay clear of fallen power lines or broken utility lines. Do not enter damaged buildings until you are told that they are safe.

Save your phone calls for emergencies.

Phone systems are often down or busy after a disaster. Use text messaging or social media to communicate with family and friends.



• Photo by Jerry Hayes

Setting sun

The Purcell sky is ablaze as it sets for the day over Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church in Purcell.

PMH Foundation Spotlight

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From page 1A

Easter:

Good Friday worship with Stations of the Cross in Spanish will be held at 2:30 p.m. Mass at 7 p.m. will include Veneration of the Cross.

Easter Vigil will be an English Mass on Saturday at 8 p.m. At that time, three new members will join the church.

Masses celebrating Jesus' resurrection will be on Sunday. There will be an English Mass at 8:30 a.m. and an English Mass at 11 a.m., followed by a Spanish service at 1 p.m.

There will be an egg hunt sponsored by the Religious Education Board after the 11 a.m. Mass.

Landmark Church, located

at 1106 W. Grant, will have a Good Friday service at 7 p.m. and hold an Easter Egg Hunt Saturday beginning at 10:30 a.m.

The age divisions for the egg hunt are 0-3, 4-6, 7-9 and 10-12. They will have a service Saturday starting at 6 p.m. and have three services on Easter Sunday.

Service times on Easter are 8:15, 9:45 and 11:15 a.m.

Goldsby Church will hold its Easter Sunday service at the Washington High School Events Center Gymnasium. Coffee and donuts will be available at 10 a.m. with the service starting at 10:30 a.m.

Child care will be provided for children from birth through three-years-old.

Gift baskets will be handed out and busy bags will be provided for the kids in the service.

Purcell's First Baptist Church will hold a Good Friday service at 6 p.m. Easter Sunday's service begins at 10:15 a.m.

The First Baptist Church in Wayne will observe Easter at their regular 11 a.m. service Sunday.

The First Presbyterian Church of Rosedale had Palm Sunday service at 10:45 a.m. March 24. Easter Sunday's worship service begins at 10:45 a.m.

Emmanuel Baptist Church will hold its Easter Service at 10 a.m. followed by an Easter Egg Hunt around 11 a.m.

Washington's First Baptist Church will have an Eggravaganza on Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon and hold Easter Services at 10 a.m.

Lexington First Baptist Church will have a pageant Wednesday evening at 6:30 p.m.

On Good Friday their service will begin at 7 p.m. with two services on Easter Sunday.

Church officials said there will be a 4 p.m. Easter Pageant (*The Reason*) Saturday.

Easter worship service is at 8:15 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. with Sunday School starting at 9:15 a.m.

Easter will be a regular service at 10 a.m. Sunday at Grace Chapel in Lexington.

Kiwanis Egg Hunt
The Heart of Oklahoma Kiwanis Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held Saturday at the Purcell Lake Weaver Pavilion, 1400 Chandler Road.

Each age group will have their own hunt and prizes. Age groups include 0-2, 3-5, 6-8 and 9-12.

The Easter Bunny will be available for pictures.

The hunt begins at 9:30 a.m.

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Undefeated at Broken Bow

Run rules for every team Washington played

John Denny Montgomery
The Purcell Register

The Washington slow-pitch softball team was handing out run rules as party favors at the Broken Bow Festival over spring break.

They picked up five wins as they dominated the rest of the field.

“We played really well and run ruled in all our games,” Washington head coach Tylor Lampkin said. “We’re still trying to find our groove but it was a good outing.”

Wright City

In the Wright City game, a 12-0 win, Reese Schrader

was 3-3 and homered twice. Julie Hoehner also homered and finished the day 1-1 with three RBIs.

“Schrader and Hoehner are knocking the cover off the ball right now,” Lampkin said. “They’re also doing an unbelievable job in the infield.”

Schrader plays shortstop and Hoehner plays third base.

Washington scored six runs in the first inning, five in the second and two in the third. Ball game.

Kiowa

Washington beat Kiowa 16-8.

Schrader, the leadoff, homered on her first at-bat in the game and the Warriors were off to a four-run head start.

They scored four more in the second inning and had an 8-2 lead and didn’t let off the gas.

Caney

Washington’s 13-1 win over Caney came with more offensive fire power.

Halle Andrews, Shelbie Caveness, Schrader and Hoehner all homered.

Caveness also triple while

Please see **Undefeated**, page 3B



Greg Gaston • double g images
Put something on it

Washington sophomore Jonathon Montoya delivers a pitch for the Warriors. Washington is scheduled to host Jones Friday.

Warriors undefeated at Gulf Coast Classic

Miss out on semifinals in tie breaker

John Denny Montgomery
The Purcell Register

The Washington Warrior baseball team went 4-0 at Gulf Shores over spring break at the 2024 Gulf Coast Classic Baseball Tournament.

They missed out on the bracket play semifinals portion of the tournament to a tie breaker of runs allowed.

Washington allowed nine runs during the tournament while the four teams who got in gave up 6, 5, 3 and 0 respectively.

Warrior head coach Jeff Kulbeth was pleased with his ball club’s play at the tournament.

“The teams we played were good,” he said. “This

prepared us (for the rest of the season).”

Kulbeth said the Warriors’ pool team were very competitive this season and likened them to some of the top 10 teams in Class 3A in Oklahoma.

Grove

They defeated Grove 4-0 to open the tournament.

Kulbeth said his team lacked intensity during the game, but despite that came away with the victory.

Senior Tristin Babbitt struck out 11 batters in five innings of work.

Sophomore Jackson Rico closed out the game in relief for the final two innings, striking out four batters.

Offensively, Dax Mc-

Caskill was 2-2 on two doubles, with a pair of walks too.

Case Taylor and Koen Scarborough both had RBIs.

Walnut Ridge, Ark.

Washington defeated Walnut Ridge 6-5 in the second game of the tournament.

McCaskill stayed hot at the plate, going 2-4 with a double and a homer. He knocked in four batters in the meantime.

Marlon Moore started on the bump, earning the win.

He struck out 10 batters in 5 1/3 innings of work while giving up two earned runs.

“Marlon had a great start,” Kulbeth said. “We were up

Please see **Warriors**, page 2B



Greg Gaston • double g images

Spin it

Washington senior Alexis Gay puts a little back spin on the ball as she offers it up to a batter. The Warriors host Davis Tuesday.



Greg Gaston
double g images

The delivery

Lexington senior Drew Dierking fires a pitch home during the Bulldogs’ 10-2 win over Wynnewood. Dierking struck out 11 batters in the outing.



Greg Gaston • double g images

Creating space

Purcell junior Joselyn Ramirez dribbles the ball Monday during the Dragons’ game against Christian Heritage. Purcell fell 10-0.

Seven wins flips Lex record

8-6 Bulldogs are in the Dibble tournament this weekend

Emily Montgomery
The Purcell Register

Monday night, the Lexington Bulldogs picked up another win with their 12-1 victory over Comanche.

They collected 10 hits, including two from Drew Dierking, James McMillan and Logan Carroll. Zeke Faulkenberry, Colby Haynes, Skylar Rollins and Hunter Olson had one apiece.

“I knew the first week of the schedule would be tough. So we made it through that and the guys are gelling as a team and we’re putting the ball in play more,” head coach Matt Dierking said.

The Bulldogs got on board in the first inning with four runs. Their first two came

from a McMillan single that scored a run and a Comanche error that scored another.

Lexington added three runs in the fourth.

Their five-run fifth inning was thanks to a Haynes triple, a Dierking single, a McMillan double and an error.

Dierking was on the mound for four and two-thirds innings. He struck out six and gave up just one run on three hits.

Haynes came on in relief for the final out.

That win moves their record to 8-6.

They were scheduled to host Comanche on Tuesday

Please see **Lex**, page 3B

Back-to-back run rules on Monday

Dragons leave Harding Prep in the dust, 10-0 and 12-2



Greg Gaston • double g images

Stride it out

Purcell sophomore Deaken Dobbins delivers a pitch for the Dragons. Dobbins and the Dragons are scheduled to play Vanoss on Friday.

John D. Montgomery
The Purcell Register

Purcell had breakout games offensively on Monday when they hosted Harding Prep for a double header, winning both games by run-rules.

In the opening contest, Purcell shut out the Eagles, 10-0.

Deaken Dobbins and Kash Knowles combined to throw six innings of one-hit baseball.

“Both pitchers did a good job throwing strikes and attacking the zone all day,” head coach Cole Sharp said.

Parker Page, Carter Goldston and Jett Tyler led the Dragons with two hits each.

Page had a team-leading three RBIs.

“We hit the ball really well as a team,” Sharp continued.

Please see **Dragons**, page 3B



Greg Gaston • double g images

In safe

Lexington senior Marisa Northrup pulls safely into third base during the Bulldogs' 14-5 win over Blanchard. Northrup was 2-4 and scored two runs.

Tough slate this week

Lady Bulldogs facing top teams in 5A, 6A

Emily Montgomery
The Purcell Register

Monday night the Lexington Lady Bulldogs were back on the diamond hosting Dale and Newcastle.

They dropped both games—a 16-3 loss to Dale and a 13-11 loss to Newcastle.

Dale
“The best way to explain the Dale game is that they had three home runs and scored nine runs. We had three homeruns and score three,” head coach Monty Ervin said.

“We struck the ball well at times, but we’re just inconsistent.”

Brodie Anderson had two solo homeruns, one in the first and one in the fourth. Marleigh Givens had one solo homerun in the second inning.

Marisa Northrup, Baylee Rillema and Marleigh Givens

each had one hit. **Newcastle**

In their second game, Lexington held a 6-0 lead after the third inning.

Hall of Fame Shootout

Thursday, March 28

- 4 p.m. - Lexington vs. Southmoore

- 6 p.m. - Westmoore vs. Lexington

Friday, March 29

- 12 p.m. - Cache vs. Lexington

- 2 p.m. - Bixby vs. Lexington

Newcastle scored seven runs in the fourth to move ahead by one.

The Lady ‘Dawgs snatched the lead back in the bottom of the fourth when two runs scored. Kiely Givens grounded

out to score one and an error scored the other.

Lexington added three more runs in the sixth inning.

But, Newcastle wouldn’t go away. They scored six runs in the seventh to retake the lead and win the game.

“Our defense let us down. You can’t give a team five outs in one inning. That’s hard to recover from.”

Lexington had four errors.

They were in Washington on Tuesday for games with the Lady Warriors and Harrah.

Thursday and Friday they are in Oklahoma City for the Hall of Fame Shootout. Southmoore, Westmoore, Cache and Bixby are on their slate.

“All those teams, except Bixby are top teams in 5A and 6A. It’ll be tough, but the only way to get better is to play good competition.”

Wayne Festival tomorrow

The Wayne Lady Bulldogs were scheduled to be in Asher on Monday and Tuesday for the Red White and Blue Conference tournament. However, field conditions canceled Monday’s games. As of press time, the plan was to play the tournament as a festival with the Lady Bulldogs playing Maud and

Wayne Festival
Friday @ Wayne

- Wayne vs. Apache 11 a.m.
- Apache vs. Asher 12:30 p.m.
- Asher vs. Fletcher 2 p.m.
- Fletcher vs. Central 3:30 p.m.
- Central vs. Minco 5 p.m.
- Minco vs. Wayne 6:30 p.m.

Stratford.
To round out their week, Wayne is scheduled to host Asher today (Thursday) starting at 4:30.
They will host the Wayne Festival on Friday. Teams in the festival include Apache, Asher, Fletcher, Central and Minco.



Greg Gaston • double g images

Let it float

Purcell senior Kelly Anderson sends a pitch to a batter for the Dragons. Anderson will miss the remainder of the season due to injury.

Dragons clip Harrah, 19-14

Purcell hammers five home runs in two games Monday

John D. Montgomery
The Purcell Register

Purcell’s slow-pitch softball team enjoyed a Spring Break free of games.

Coach Sarah Jones’ club was back in action Monday at Harrah. Tecumseh filled out the slate of games.

The Dragons defeated Harrah 19-14 pounding out 25 hits and making no fielding errors.

Ella Resendiz was 4-5 including a double and a home run. She finished with four RBIs.

Hannah Whitaker went a perfect 4-4 including a home run finishing with four RBIs and scored four times.

Mack McKay also had four hits in five trips to the plate and

knocked in three runs.

KK Vazquez was 3-3 including a home run and two RBIs.

Kenna Esparza went 3-5 including a triple and had an RBI.

Haley Kretchmar was 3-3 in the contest.

“We had a great win against Harrah,” Jones said. “Our senior Kelly Anderson is out for the season and Hannah Whitaker and Mack McKay did a great job stepping in with no practice, extremely high winds and frozen temps.”

“We had five home runs on the day and hit the ball extremely well,” the coach said. “Kenna Esparza stepped in to help to give us 10 players and went 4-7.”

“We are 3-3 with our losses coming to Tecumseh (#2 in 5A), Washington (#3 in 5A) and Dale (#1 in 4A),” she said.

“We are doing well and I am super proud of the girls,” Jones concluded.

Tecumseh pinned an 11-3 loss on the Dragons even though Purcell out-hit the Savages 12-11.

Vazquez and Whitaker led the scoring with three hits apiece including a home run by Vazquez.

The Dragons were to host Newcastle and NRC Tuesday and are scheduled to play in the Beast of the East event in Stonewall Thursday and Friday.

From page 1B

Warriors:

6-1 and had a chance to get out of the inning and didn’t make a play and gave up some runs late.”

Greenbriar, Tenn.

The Warriors next defeated Greenbriar 4-3 on a walk-off hit by Moore in their Tuesday double header.

They got on the board first with a run in the second and tacked on two more in the second before Moore’s liner to right field drove in Kade Norman to end the game.

Moore finished the game 2-4 with a pair of ribbies.

Norman was 0-4 but walked in the 8th inning to set the table for Moore.

Zeke Wilson got the ball on the mound and struck out three batters through four innings.

“It was a solid performance,” Kulbeth said.

Kale Brakefield came on in relief and fanned five batters

in four innings.

Gallatin, Tenn.

The Warriors final win, and game, of the tournament was a 6-1 final over Gallatin.

Washington again struck first and led from start to finish, only giving up one run in the final inning.

Owen Andrews struck out six batters with no earned runs in a complete, seven-inning game.

“Owen went the distance and did a good job,” Kulbeth said. “We had some young arms give us good innings when the game was on the line. It was a pleasant surprise to watch those guys perform like they did.”

Andrews did it at the plate too, going 2-3 with a double and an RBI.

Norman was also 2-3 with an RBI and scored a run.

“We had timely hits and we battled at the plate,” Kulbeth said. “We were fortunate to have batters compete with two strikes and run up guys’ pitch counts.”

Frederick

Washington picked up two District wins against Frederick prior to spring break.

They decimated the Bombers 31-1 and 17-0 in the double header.

The Warriors are 11-1 this season.

They play Sulphur today (Thursday).

Wayne in tourney this week

Monday’s games with Ringling and Ninnekah were canceled due to wet field conditions.

The Bulldogs (8-4) were scheduled to host Empire on Tuesday.

Thackerville bracket
Page 3B

They will be in Thackerville starting Thursday for the Diamond on the Red tournament.

The Bulldogs play Mill Creek at 10 a.m. today (Thursday).

Real Life

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WILSON LITTLE FUNERAL HOME



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Bear gets low

Purcell sophomore Bryce Blair gets low to dig a ball out at first base for the Dragons. Blair and Co. is scheduled to play Vanoss Friday.

From page 1B

Dragons:

“Carter Golston is swinging the bat well for us.

“We played good defense, pitched well and hit the ball good throughout the day. We needed this to get back on the right track.”

In the nightcap, the Dragons pounded the Eagles 12-2.

Led by Goldston’s 2-3 outing

ken Bow over Spring Break.

In losses to Durant, 2-1, Panama, 13-5 and Hartshorne, 15-4, the Dragons managed only 13 hits while committing a dozen errors.

Dobbins pitched seven innings of three-hit ball against the Lions. He took the one run-loss when Durant pushed

said overall he thought his team played pretty well for the most part and gave themselves a chance to win at the end.

The Dragons committed six errors in the Panama loss and were out-hit 8-4.

Billingsley, Goldston, Cole Smedley, Dobbins and Selman all had singles in the game.

Boston Knowles took the pitching loss. He was relieved by Kane. Blair tossed the final 4 2/3 innings.

“We had some trouble throwing strikes during the game,” Sharp said. “I thought Bryce came in and threw strikes and did a great job. Mistakes in the field got us in trouble.”

— **Cole Sharp, head coach**

at the plate, Purcell finished with seven hits.

Casey Billingsley, Kash Knowles, Page, Dobbins and Bryson Perkins all had hits in the contest.

Meanwhile, pitchers Bryce Blair, Page and Preston Kane limited the Eagles to just a pair of hits while only walking three batters.

“All three of them did a tremendous job working the hitters and making them swing the bats and throwing strikes,” Sharp confirmed.

Errors and quiet bats plagued the Dragons in three losses in the Southeast Shootout in Bro-

across a run in the bottom of the eighth off freshman reliever Kash Knowles.

Cash Cook, Billingsley and Selman had Purcell’s three hits in the game.

“I thought this was Deaken’s best outing of the season despite the loss,” Sharp said. “He competed on the mound and challenged Durant’s hitters all game long. Kash Knowles came in relief and did a great job throwing strikes.

“Our hitting was quiet for the most part. We just couldn’t get that timely hit when we needed it,” the coach said.

Despite four errors, Sharp

Purcell limited its errors in the Hartshorne contest but the No. 15 team in 2A pinned a run-rule loss on the Dragons.

Billingsley took the pitching loss with Smedley and Selman leading the offense with two hits each.

A total of 19 walks issued by Dragon pitchers also added fuel to the losses.

Purcell is 6-12 on the year.

The Dragons are scheduled to tangle with Vanoss at home Friday and travel to Cache next Monday. They will host those same Bulldogs next Tuesday with both games starting at 5 p.m.

From page 1B

Lex:

night and be in Dibble for a tournament starting Thursday.

The Bulldogs play Latta at 3 p.m. today (Thursday) in their first game.

I-35 Classic Champions

Prior to the I-35 Classic, the Lexington Bulldogs had a 1-6 record. They rattled off four wins in the tournament, including an 8-4 victory over Velma in the championship game.

“We played great team baseball. I think this weekend showed us that we can win close games. Hopefully it gives us confidence going forward,” Matt Dierking said.

Senior Rollins finished the tournament with six hits, including five doubles and a homerun.

“Skylar was hitting the ball well the whole time. He was intentionally walked twice in the Pauls Valley game.”

According to the coach, the Bulldogs also had good command on the mound.

Against Pauls Valley, senior Drew Dierking went six innings and gave up just two earned runs on four hits. He had 10 strikeouts.

In their championship game win over Velma, Rollins allowed two earned runs on seven hits and had five strikeouts.

Ryan Johnson came on in relief and closed out the game, getting the final two outs on just 12 pitches.

Buddy Cormany was clutch in both the Dickson and Pauls Valley wins, getting game-

winning hits for the Bulldogs.

“Our first two games were comeback wins and I really think that gave the guys confidence for the rest of the tournament. Those wins got them going,” Matt Dierking said.

The Bulldogs then picked up a 10-2 win over Wynnewood and a 14-2 win over the OKC Mets on March 19.

Wynnewood

Drew Dierking amassed 11 strikeouts in the 10-2 win over Wynnewood.

He pitched five innings and gave up two runs on four hits.

Fellow senior Rollins led his team at the plate with four hits. McMillan finished the game with two hits.

Wynnewood’s six errors in the game led to six Lexington runs.

OKC Mets

Lexington got a 14-2 run-rule win over the OKC Mets.

The Mets jumped out 2-0 in the top of the first inning.

But, Lexington answered with five runs in the bottom half.

The Bulldogs pushed eight more runs across in the second inning. Drew Dierking doubled to score two runs, McMillan singled to score one run, Johnson doubled to score two more, Faulkenberry doubled to score two and finally Haynes doubled to score one.

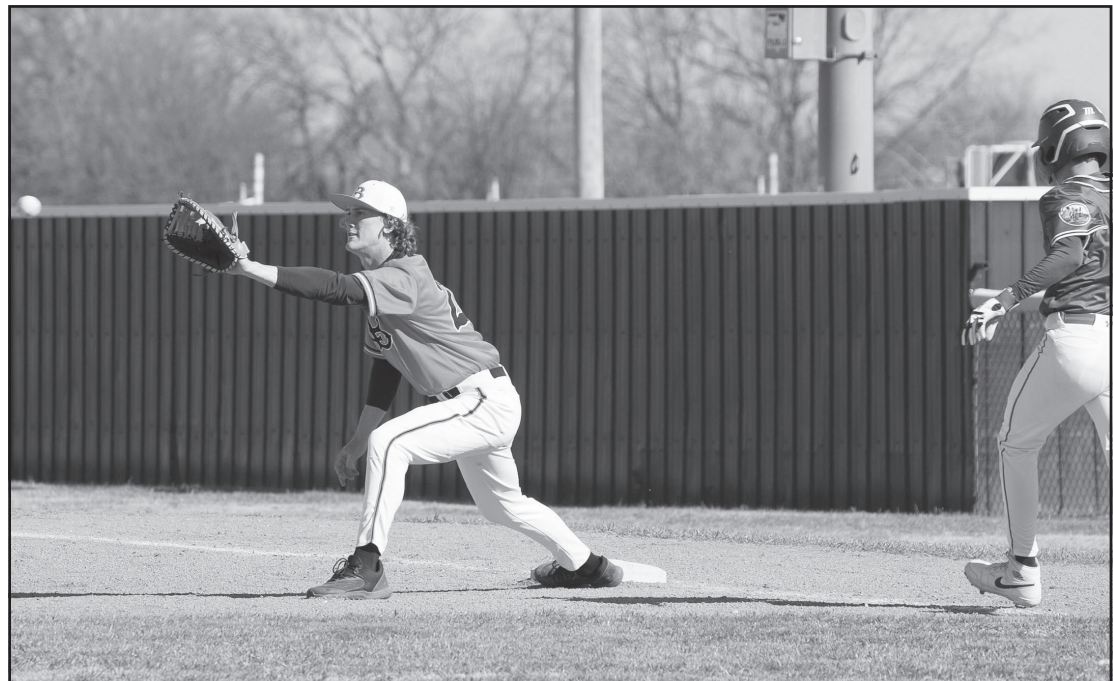
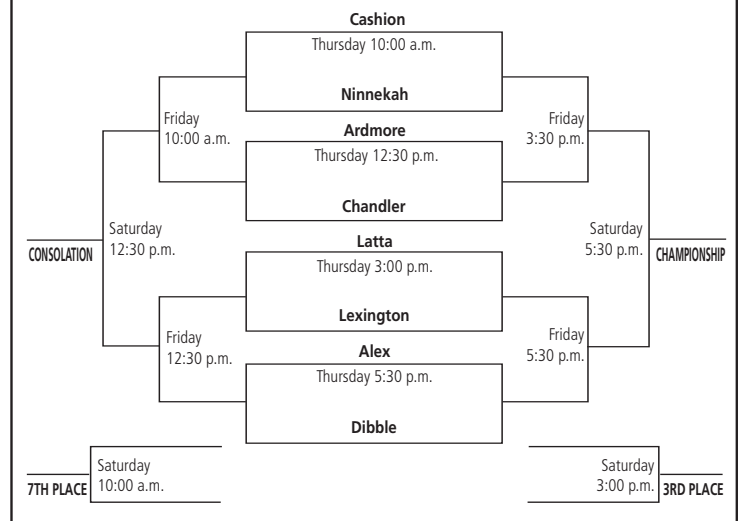
Lexington added one more run in the third to seal the run-rule.

Johnson was on the mound for the win, where he struck out six batters.

He also finished the game with a team-high five ribbies. Faulkenberry had three.

2024 DIBBLE HS BASEBALL TOURNAMENT

March 28-30, 2024



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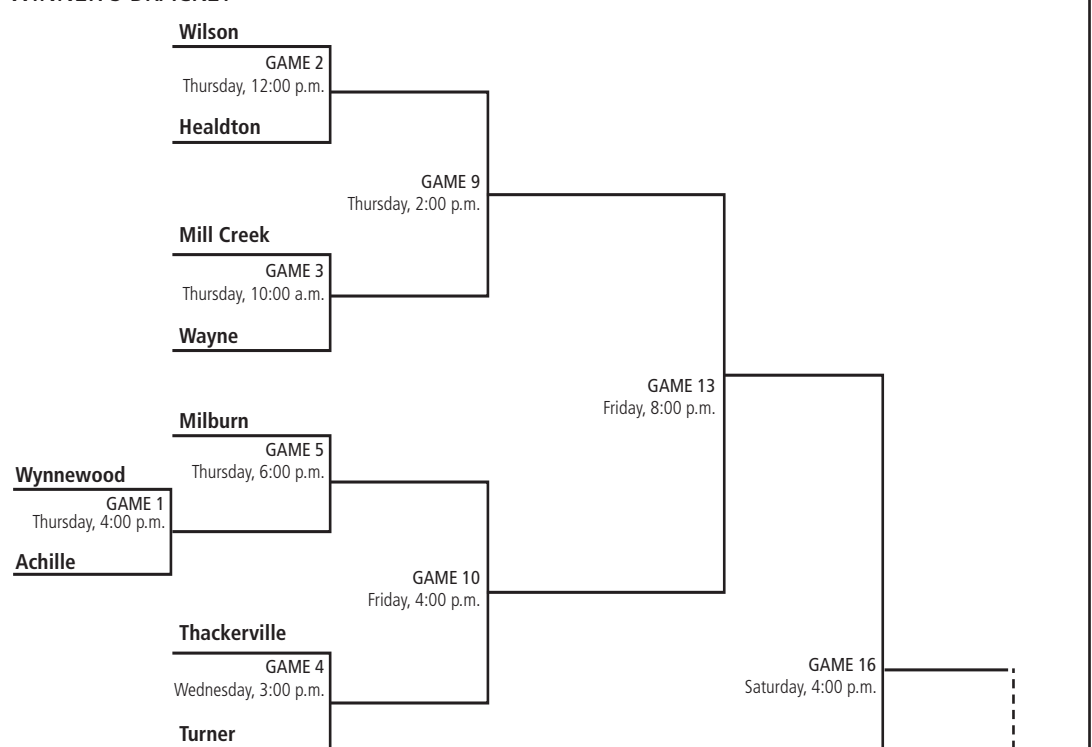
Out by a mile

Lexington senior Skylar Rollins catches a ball for an out during the ‘Dawgs’ 14-2 win over the Oklahoma City Mets. Rollins had an RBI in the game.

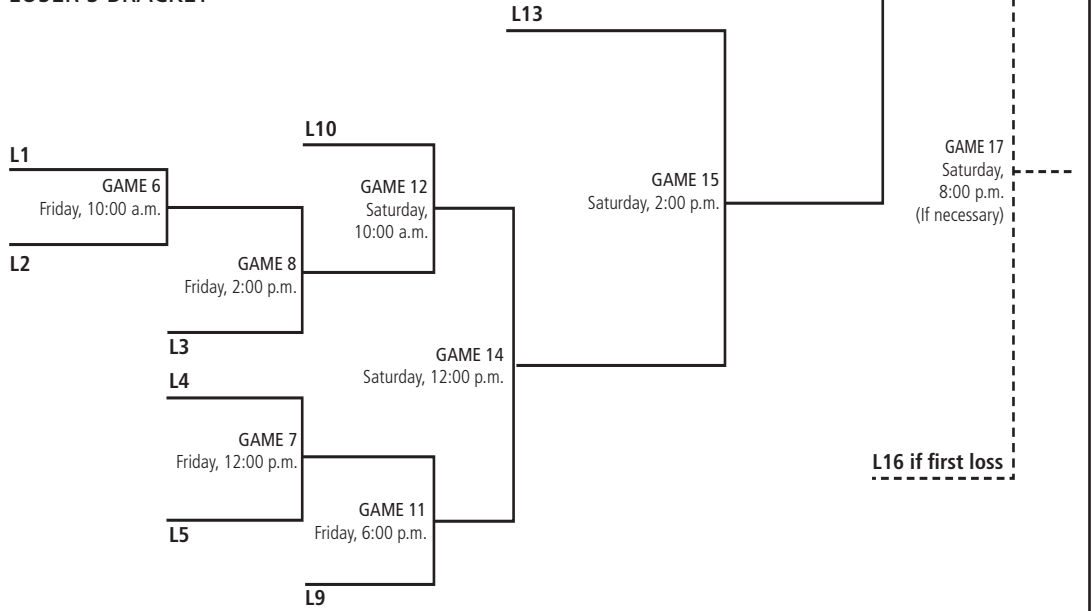
Thackerville Diamond on the Red

March 28-30, 2024

WINNER'S BRACKET



LOSER'S BRACKET



From page 1B

Undefeated:

Andrews added a double to her stat line, as did Olivia Palumbo.

Defensively, Washington did some mixing and matching in the field with players playing multiple positions.

“We’re still trying to figure out what lineup is working that day,” Lampkin said. “Luckily we have a lot of depth. After graduating the six seniors we did we have a lot of new faces on the field. When girls get a chance to play they’re taking their shot.

“All four seniors this season are contributing a lot.”

Howe

Washington slammed the door on Howe during their 14-1 win with an 11-run third inning.

Junior Addy Larman homered along with Hoehner.

Senior Emjay Lucas and Caveness tripled and Daphne Palumbo doubled.

North Rock Creek

Washington dropped a 24-22 game against North Rock Creek in an extra-inning thriller Monday.

“That was one of the most fun slow-pitch games I’ve ever been a part of; maybe any softball game,” Lampkin said. Washington began the game

Warrior softball

- 3/14 W Moore (6A) 14-3
- 3/15 W Cyril (2A) 11-4
- 3/18 W Wright City (3A) 12-0
- 3/18 W Kiowa (A) 16-8
- 3/19 W Caney (B) 13-1
- 3/19 W Howe (4A) 14-1
- 3/25 W Blanchard (5A) 14-0
- 3/25 L North Rock Creek (5A) 24-22



Greg Gaston • double g images

I got it!

Washington sophomore Reese Schrader nabs the pop fly in the Warriors’ 24-22 loss to North Rock Creek.

in a hole but put up crooked numbers in the third and fourth innings to take the lead.

It was a back and forth slug fest the rest of the game.

“The coolest thing about it was we had 16 different girls bat in the game,” Lampkin said.

“You add in courtesy runners and we had a bunch play. The girls were put in big situations and most of them came through. It was really encouraging to see their grit.”

Washington is 9-3 this season and will travel to Stonewall this week for the Beast of the East Tournament.

“I’m proud of this bunch and ready to keep rolling with them,” Lampkin said.

Religion

Sunray Baptist Church

We had a wonderful weekend this past Saturday and Sunday as we celebrated the 77th anniversary of our founding with Homecoming services.

On Saturday we welcomed a good crowd of southern gospel music fans from throughout Oklahoma to our Homecoming Sing featuring The Williamsons and Mark Bishop. Their music was spiritually uplifting and presented the Gospel through song. It was an evening of worship, praise and song!

At our Sunday morning service, Brother Mark presented special music. Former pastor Dennis Clark brought the message from Romans 1:1-4.

He presented many factual observations including Jesus was God who came to man, He is the ultimate high priest and our life is tied to Him.

Jesus is "tailor made" to be our Savior. He meets every need that we could possibly have. We preach a restrictive salvation - nobody comes to the Father except through the Son. We should consider, then remember Jesus.

We enjoyed a good fellowship lunch following the worship service. We were glad to have visitors and former members with us. There was no evening service.

This coming Saturday from

8 a.m. to 1 p.m. we will be having a church garage sale with all proceeds benefiting our building fund.

This Sunday you are invited to attend our annual Easter service at 10:50 a.m. We will celebrate the resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ. There will be no evening service. A kids Easter egg hunt will be at 11:15 a.m.

Please join us for Sunday school, worship and all activities at Sunray Baptist Church. We are located at 2223 North 9th Street in Purcell. John Wylie is our pastor.

For more information, call 405-527-6808.



• Photo provided

Homecoming singers

Mark Bishop, left, and The Williamsons brought special music for Sunray Baptist Church's 77th anniversary Homecoming services.

Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church

By Stella Bledsoe

March 31, 2024 is Easter Sunday.

Our services will be as follows:

Holy Thursday, March 28: A bilingual Mass will begin at 7 p.m.

Good Friday, March 29: The Hispanic Community will have their Stations of the Cross in Spanish at 2:30 p.m. Stations of the Cross in English and bilingual Liturgy of the Veneration

of the Cross will be at 7 p.m.

Easter Schedule: On Saturday, March 30, there will not be a 5 p.m. Mass. Instead, we will begin the Easter Vigil at 8:30 p.m. This will be a bilingual Mass.

On Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024, the Masses will be at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. in English and at 1 p.m. in Spanish.

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 405-527-3077. Peace be with you.

Lexington Westside Church of Christ

Good week to all! Welcome to the 'front porch.'

And welcome to March Madness, too.

Sitting, nervously, and watching the University of Houston play Texas A&M last Sunday evening in the Round of 32 of March Madness, I could not help - perhaps unsurprisingly to you - but think of my own life story. You'll probably see your own, too, as you read on.

For the past year, as we've celebrated half of a century of life on this side of high school - and a key year prior to that - we have been chronicling life with its mountains and valleys in several of our publications. If I had to pull out a life event to put those 50 years into a microcosm, I think this game would be it.

If you did not see the game, surely you have heard about it! It was one of the classic games in NCAA tournament history. And it was a pure tee slugfest. I knew it would be, because I knew that the only team that could match Houston's physicality was A&M. They matched and even surpassed it.

A&M's game plan seemed to be to make the game a brawl. They put the ball in the hands of a couple of their left-handed guards who lowered their heads and drove the paint relentlessly all night, and then their "biggs" crashed the boards with a vengeance.

Houston, whose depth is thin due to some key season-ending injuries, had to fight and scratch, absorbing powerful body punches all the way through; and they lost many, many of those battles on the boards and eventually had lost four of their starters to fouls by game's end.

To make the game more epic, A&M overcame a 13 point deficit in the last two minutes and hit an improbable three-pointer at the buzzer to send the game into overtime. In those two minutes, it was, as Houston's Coach Sampson said, "Murphy's Law."

Anything that could go right for A&M did, and anything that could go wrong for the Coogs did, too. I've never seen a team throw in so many consecutive impossible three-point shots

and have them all go in during those final two minutes. Sometimes you just have to shake your head.

Juxtaposing what we saw that night with life, I don't know if a game mirrors life, my own - probably yours, too - any more than this one: Two battle-tested teams going at it relentlessly like two boxers.

Said another way: You and I fisticuffing relentlessly with life, staying in the ring, regardless and come what may, That's the picture.

Then add in the inevitable: If it can go wrong, sometimes it will.

Life just throws so many punches at you. Some deflect off of you, and some knock you clean off your feet. But, still, you always get up.

Victories or defeats, mountain-top experiences or lonely journeys down in the valleys: We still get up.

I like that. And I like knowing we don't do it alone.

Sometimes during that Sun-

Please see **Westside**, page 5B

Lexington United Methodist Church

By Rev. David D. Cook

The Reports of My Demise Have Been Greatly Exaggerated

Three days had passed since the shocking events that had transpired in Jerusalem. Rumors had spread like wildfire, whispering of betrayal, crucifixion, and the death of a man whose teachings had stirred the hearts of many. But amidst the mourning and confusion, a remarkable turn of events was about to unfold.

In a small village nestled amidst rolling hills, a sense of despair hung heavy in the air. A group of friends gathered in a dimly lit room, their faces etched with sorrow and disbelief. Among them was Mary Magdalene, her eyes swollen from tears shed in mourning for the loss of her beloved teacher, Jesus of Nazareth.

As they sat in somber si-

lence, the heavy wooden door creaked open, and in walked Peter, his expression a mixture of bewilderment and hope. "I have news," he announced, his voice trembling slightly. "News that may defy everything we thought we knew."

The room fell silent as Peter recounted the extraordinary tale. He spoke of an empty tomb, guarded by soldiers who stood bewildered and fearful. He spoke of a radiant figure clothed in white, proclaiming words that echoed through the ages: "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said."

Mary Magdalene's heart raced with a glimmer of hope amidst the darkness of despair. Could it be true? Could their beloved teacher have conquered death itself?

Mary and the others set out toward Jerusalem without hesitation, their footsteps quickening with a newfound sense of purpose. As they approached the city, whispers of the miraculous began to spread like wildfire once more. People spoke of encounters with a risen Christ, of wounds that had healed, and hearts that had been set ablaze with a renewed faith.

In the heart of Jerusalem, amidst the bustling streets and

Please see **Methodist**, page 5B

The Purcell Register

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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
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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.
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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

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Priest House/Padre Juan Pedro: 527-4242

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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
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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.

Wayne Senior Citizens

By John Webb

Hello again everyone. I don't know about you, but I am sooo glad that spring beak is over. If you are someone who kept kids or grandkids at your home, or took a trip with them anywhere, then I am sure you are glad as well. I have a 12-year-old at home and he is full of energy and talks all the time. His spring break exhausted my wife and me. We love it when school's in session!

The WSCC garage sale returns this week, Thursday, March 28, and Friday, March 29, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. We are excited to see everyone there. Lots of new items, more open than before, easier to shop since last we were open. Come check it out and see how much stuff you can get for a little bit of cash. See you there.

Delta Senior Nutrition is the provider of a delicious lunch served at 11:30 a.m. every Monday through Friday. If you have never joined us and would like some information about the senior nutrition program, please call 405-527-9462 to see how easy it is to qualify for either congregate or have delivery of meals.

April brings new spring menus, so there are some new meals that have not been seen for a while.

Here is the menu for April 1-5:

Monday—Mexican chicken casserole, salsa, corn, ranch beans, tortilla chips, lemon pan pie.

Tuesday—Tuna noodle casserole, broccoli or carrots, pickled beets, bread or roll, gelatin with topping.

Wednesday—Barbecue ribette on a bun, pickles, potato salad, choice of fruit, chocolate chip cookies.

Thursday—Pinto beans with ham and sliced onions, spinach, tomato spoon relish, cornbread, fruit crisp.

Friday—Meatloaf returns! along with mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, dinner roll or sliced bread, chocolate cake with frosting.

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

Menus are subject to change, or days may be swapped occasionally, due to product availability or delivery issues. We do strive to keep changes to a minimum.

We have one or two openings for kitchen staff in Purcell. So if you have a desire for helping seniors, please call me at 405-541-7299 or 405-527-9462. I look forward to speaking with you.

We could not do what we do without the help from a great group of volunteers, I appreciate you all.

Don't forget about the garage sale this Thursday and Friday. All proceeds benefit the senior center.

And lastly, I appreciate everyone who contributes to the success of your Wayne Senior Citizens Center.

Until next time...

Purcell Senior Citizens

By Val Blackburn

Come join us for live music every Friday night from 7 to 9 p.m! Great music, good company, family friendly and dancing! Refreshments are available. The cost is \$8 per person. This is a great evening out and a way to support the Senior Center and the community!

Support Group will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday, April 2. Everyone is welcome to attend.

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

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

Everyone over 60 has a standing invitation to come visit the senior center. Enjoy new friends, activities, lunch and a few laughs. Our library has a variety of books to take home and enjoy. Coffee, tea and cookies are always available! New things to do are being added this year. We are always open to new ideas for activities from everyone who attends.

The center garage sale is open. Come this Thursday from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. and enjoy the bargains. We have a large selection of used items for the home including appliances, clothing, shoes, kitchenware and lots of miscellaneous. All sales directly benefit the senior center. Occasionally, the sale is unable to open. Unforeseen circumstances may occur making it a necessity to close. We apologize for this, but sometimes things happen beyond our control. Please be understanding when this situation arises.

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

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

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

Menu for April 1-5:

Monday—Mexican chicken casserole, corn, ranch beans, lemon pie.

Tuesday—Tuna noodle casserole, broccoli, pickled beets, bread, gelatin.

Wednesday—Barbecue ribette sandwich, potato salad, fruit, cookies.

Thursday—Pinto beans with ham, spinach, tomato relish, cornbread, fruit crisp.

Friday—Meatloaf, mashed potatoes with gravy, green beans, bread, chocolate cake.

One milk per person is served with every meal.

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

Artesian Arts Festival set for April 13

As the trees and daffodils begin to bloom along the downtown sidewalks, organizers are busy preparing for the 11th annual Artesian Arts Festival, a daylong celebration of First American art and culture, Saturday, April 13, at the Artesian Plaza.

More than 100 First American artists from across the United States are expected to participate, displaying a vast array of original, diverse art. Festivities run from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Hosted by the Chickasaw Nation, the Artesian Arts Festival is a community effort, said Mark Milligan, Chickasaw Nation Arts and Humanities Executive Officer.

"The Chickasaw Nation works together with city leaders, emergency services, National Park Service staff and chamber of commerce representatives for many months to plan a safe, inclusive festival."

The result is a family-friendly event that offers activities for all ages while highlighting First American art, artists, music, dance and cuisine.

"We are excited to welcome many esteemed First American artists to the Artesian Arts Festival, which provides artists a wonderful venue to showcase their work," said Mr. Milligan. "We hope patrons experience a fun, impactful day immersed in First American art, dance and music."

A juried art show and market, participation in the 2024 Artesian Arts Festival is open to all federally recognized First American artists.

Art patrons can expect a festival brimming with original First American art, including jewelry, sculpture, metalworking, beadwork, paintings, photography, textiles, basketry and pottery.

In addition, a talented lineup of entertainment is scheduled, including headliner Choctaw singer/songwriter Samantha



• Photo provided

Artesian Arts Festival

The 2024 Artesian Arts Festival will take place April 13 at the Artesian Plaza, adjacent to the Artesian Hotel and Spa, 1001 W. First St., in Sulphur.

Crain, who will take the stage at 5 p.m.

Crain, of Norman, is a three-time NAMMY (Native American Music Award) winner for her singer-songwriter, folk rock and indie style. She also won the Indigenous Music Award for best rock album in 2019.

Other musical entertainment scheduled includes Bluez Boyz, Ihullo Art, Issac McClung, RCB Band, Redman Blues Band, TJ Todd Band, Tone Gyah Dae and Travis Komahcheet.

First American dance demonstrations from the Chickasaw Nation Dance Troupe; Lighting Boy Foundation Champion Hoop Dancers Steve LaRance, Shandien "Sonwah" LaRance and Josiah Enriquez; Mitotiliztli Yaoyollohtli Aztec Dancers; Oklahoma Fancy Dancers; and Pueblo Enchantment Dancers are planned in two dance areas throughout the day.

Several food vendors will be available offering a wide array of delicacies. Open to the public at no charge, the Artesian Arts Festival welcomed more than 10,600 art patrons to downtown Sulphur last year.

Partnering for Success

Sulphur Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Misty Treptow, a member of the Artesian Arts Festival planning committee, said the group is grateful to be involved in the coordination of the event.

"We are excited to have a Sulphur information booth setup again this year. Our board of directors love to volunteer for this event because it gives us the opportunity to promote Sulphur, our members, and to meet and interact with the community."

Chamber members also take steps to prepare for the influx of visitors to Artesian Arts Festival.

"The downtown merchants plan for the extra foot traffic in their scheduling and advertise sales within their stores. Others also deliver extra print advertisements to us, knowing that it will be displayed at the chamber information booth. It is a way for them to be promoted to an audience that they may not normally reach."

Treptow said the chamber's partnership with the Chickasaw Nation is key to shining

a positive light on the "City of Springs," which is home to the Chickasaw National Recreation Area.

"Sulphur is a very unique town. Being a gateway community, having natural resources and being in Chickasaw Nation, we find it very important to work together as much as we can. Sulphur has been recognized in national publications, on several top 10 lists for different categories, and we know that is because of the partnerships that have been built," she said.

The Artesian Arts Festival takes place at the Artesian Plaza, adjacent to the Artesian Hotel and Spa, 1001 W. First St., in Sulphur.

Shuttle service will be available from designated parking locations, including the Chickasaw Cultural Center, from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and the Sulphur Football Field, 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

For more information, contact Chickasaw Nation Arts & Humanities at 580-272-5520, visit ArtesianArtsFestival.com or email ArtistInfo@Chickasaw.net.

From page 4B

Westside:

day night March 24 debacle, it didn't even seem fair. Foul calls were abundant and sometimes questionable. A&M — by far the aggressor — shot 45 free throws by the end, and four Cougars' starters watched the final minutes of the game from the bench. Two Aggies retired early, too.

Sometimes the adversity was just the tenacity of A&M. That was real. Hats off to a noble opponent on that front.

Often it was just bad luck. That happens, too.

And the debacle, friends, didn't just go the normal forty minutes. Oh, no, that would be too easy. It went an extra five minutes. Five grueling, painful, tense, action-packed minutes.

Overtime at its best, or worse. Ah, life will have its way, won't it? It will keep coming at you like Joe Frazier.

But in the end, when the final horn had sounded and the dust

had settled, UH's resiliency, their preparation, their culture and love for one another prevailed: UH 100, A&M 95.

It was life's debacle, played on hardwood.

March 28 ~ Deut. 9:1-10:22 ~ Luke 8:4-21 ~ Ps. 69:19-36 ~ Prov. 12:2-3

March 29 ~ Deut. 11:1-12:32 ~ Luke 8:22-39 ~ Ps. 70:1-5 ~ Prov. 12:4

March 30 ~ Deut. 13:1-15:23 ~ Luke 8:40-9:6 ~ Ps.

71:1-24 ~ Prov. 12:5-7

March 31 ~ Deut. 16:1-17:20 ~ Luke 9:7-27 ~ Ps. 72:1-20 ~ Prov. 12:8-9

April 1 ~ Deut. 18:1-20:20 ~ Luke 9:28-50 ~ Ps. 73:1-28 ~ Prov. 12:10

April 2 ~ Deut. 21:1-22:30 ~ Luke 9:51-10:12 ~ Ps. 74:1-23 ~ Prov. 12:11

April 3 ~ Deut. 23:1-25:19 ~ Luke 10:13-37 ~ Ps. 75:1-10 ~ Prov. 12:12-14

coachbowen1984@gmail.com

From page 4B

Methodist:

crowded marketplaces, Jesus appeared to his disciples once more. His presence was not a ghost or a fleeting vision but of flesh and blood, bearing the scars of his ordeal yet radiating with a divine light that no darkness could extinguish.

The news of Jesus' resurrection spread like wildfire, reaching far and wide beyond the borders of Jerusalem. Skeptics became believers, and the downtrodden found hope in the promise of new life. The report of his demise, it seemed, was greatly exaggerated.

For Mary Magdalene and the disciples, it was a time of wonder and awe. They walked with their teacher once more, listened to his teachings with

a deeper understanding, and witnessed the fulfillment of prophecies spoken ages ago.

Yet, amidst the joy and jubilation, there lingered a bittersweet realization. The road ahead would not be easy, for the world they lived in was still filled with hardship and strife.

But they carried within them a newfound strength, born from the knowledge that death had been conquered and that love, in the end, would always prevail.

And so, the story of Jesus' resurrection became the cornerstone of faith for millions, a testament to the enduring power of hope and the triumph of the human spirit over adversity. Three days had passed, but

the echoes of that miraculous event would resonate through eternity, inspiring generations to come to believe in the promise of redemption and the victory of life over death.

Lexington United Methodist Church and all churches that are followers of Jesus invite you to this Easter Morning Celebration.

For many, it will be a moment of decision, and for some still a moment of unbelief, but true followers of Jesus, regardless of that label across the door will welcome you and love you without judgment.

The resurrected Christ brings salvation and hope into a lost world and lives that are seeking. The Good News...

CHRIST IS RISEN. It's a Jesus Thing.

Lexington UMC invites you to attend our services this Sunday at 9:30 a.m. and share this miracle with singers from the University of Oklahoma.

Following the service, a potluck supper will be served as we celebrate with friends and neighbors.

Lexington United Methodist Church, 631 E. Ash, meets each Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. with Sunday School at 10:45 a.m.


The food closet is open the third Saturday of each month from 12 to 4 p.m. The second Tuesday of each month we have lunch and a movie at noon.

Visit us at: **purcellregister.com**

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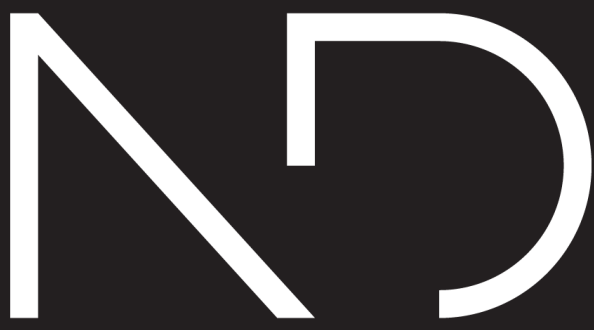
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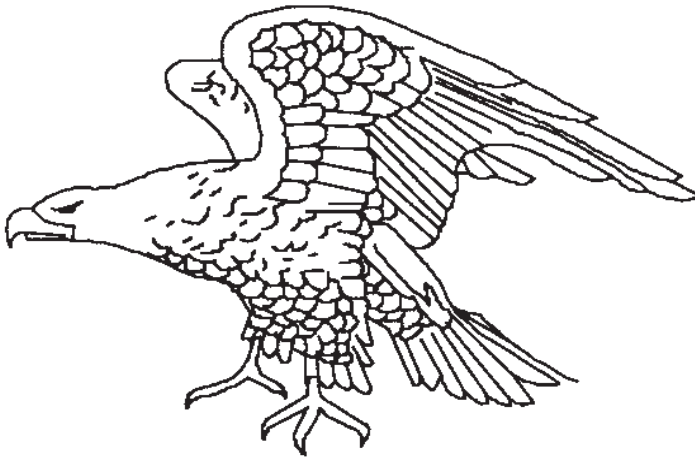
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GUARANTY ABSTRACT



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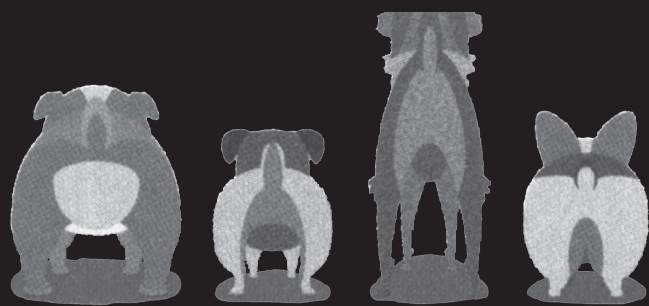


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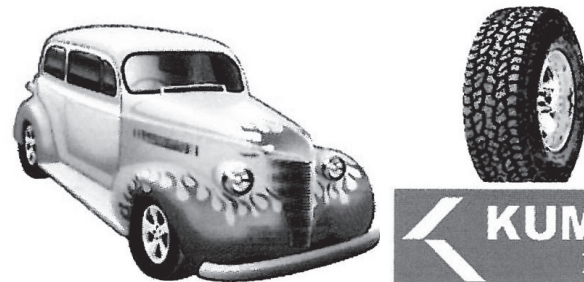
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Legislature focuses on budget, policy at halfway point

Paul Monies
Oklahoma Watch

What a difference a year makes.

Hundreds of bills have survived the Oklahoma Legislature's first big policy deadline, new Republican leaders have been chosen, and the House and Senate are starting budget negotiations in the weeks leading up to candidate filing for this year's election.

That's in stark contrast to a monthslong stalemate over how to provide public funds for private schools that bogged down last year's session to the point where a special session was ultimately needed to finish work.

The Senate voted this week to send its opening negotiating position on the budget to the House, part of a new transparency initiative touted by Senate President Pro Tempore Greg Treat, R-Oklahoma City. The \$11.6 billion appropriation resolution passed by a vote of 41-3.

Almost \$331 million of that is to make up for the loss of revenue from the elimination of the state's portion of the sales tax on groceries. Treat said that will be the only major tax cut contemplated by the Senate this year.

"It just underscores that we said what we meant and we executed beautifully on what we intended to do," Treat told reporters on Tuesday. "We passed a budget that makes sure we keep our commitment to public schools, to infrastructure and healthcare. Obviously, it's a first step. This is what we authorized our (appropriations) team to go negotiate, and we'll have some back and forth."

Even Senate Democrats who voted against the budget resolution credited the new process for giving their caucus more of a voice. They said their no votes came over policy differences and what they saw as a need to invest more in critical public services. Gov. Kevin Stitt's executive budget proposed in February left most agencies with flat budgets.

"Unfortunately, agencies were artificially constrained in telling us what they really needed," Sen. Julia Kirt, D-Oklahoma City said before Monday's vote on the Senate budget resolution. "We did see that the executive branch limited what those agencies could request, so we saw a lot of flat budgets. I was challenged seeing some of the health and human services needs we have

in this state, the increased costs, the increased needs of people in poverty and people with mental health conditions."

Republicans in the House and the governor keep pushing for additional tax cuts beyond the elimination of the state sales tax on groceries. So far, the Senate has remained firm.

"We cannot do everything they sent us and balance the budget," Treat said of several other House proposals for income tax cuts headed to the Senate.

Republicans, who hold supermajorities in the House and the Senate, took care of some internal business in finish work.



cent weeks as they selected the next generation of leaders. Both Treat and House Speaker Charles McCall, R-Atoka, are term-limited. Candidate filing for state, county and federal offices will be April 3-5.

Majority Floor Leader Sen. Greg McCortney, R-Ada, won a GOP caucus election to become pro tempore-designate in the Senate. Rep. Kyle Hilbert, R-Bristow, the current House speaker pro tempore, won an election among fellow Republicans to become House speaker-designate. The formal votes to install them will come after the November election.

Hundreds of bills remain
The Legislature's first major deadline signaled the death knell for hundreds of bills as they failed to make it out of their chamber of origin. After a short spring break, lawmakers will resume committee work on Monday to contemplate bills from the other chamber.

Several bills advanced that would make changes to the Oklahoma Energy Discrimination Elimination Act, which allows the state treasurer to restrict investments with financial firms perceived to be hostile to the oil and gas industry.

Among them are House Bill 3541, by Rep. Mark Lepak, R-Claremore. It would expand the law to cover agricultural, mining and timber industries.

It passed the House by a vote of 78-15.

The House also advanced another Lepak bill, HB 1617, which was carried over from the 2023 session. It is based on a model bill offered by the American Legislative Exchange Council. HB 1617 would restrict the independence of pension plan trustees by having them use shareholder proxy advisory firms that promise not to back policies involving environmental or social initiatives.

The Senate passed SB 1536, by Sen. Dave Rader, R-Tulsa. It would have the attorney general mediate disputes between the state treasurer and pension plan administrators over exemptions taken in the Energy Discrimination Elimination Act.

It stemmed from a dispute last year between Treasurer Todd Russ and the Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System. Another bill, SB 1510, by Sen. Chuck Hall, R-Perry, would exempt cities and counties from the law. It passed the Senate by a vote of 42-1.

The House and Senate sent bills to the other side making changes to the regulation of medical marijuana or stepping up enforcement. Among them are HB 3361, by Rep. T.J. Marti, R-Broken Arrow, which would limit medical marijuana to only prepackaged items of 3 ounces or less. It passed the House by a vote of 57-23 and has an effective date of July 1, 2025.

HB 3458, by Rep. Anthony Moore, R-Clinton, would allow the Oklahoma Tax Commission to share additional information with the attorney general's office, district attorneys and the Oklahoma Medical Marijuana Authority to combat money laundering related to illicit marijuana.

SB 1939 would increase the late fees for medical marijuana business license renewals to \$500 per day. The bill, by Sen. Lonnie Paxton, R-Tuttle, is still a work in progress and addresses the transfer of business licenses. It was requested by the attorney general's office, the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs and OMMA. Similarly, SB 1635 would require business owners to submit a new affidavit saying they are in compliance with local zoning, building codes and safety regulations upon renewal of a business license.

Lawmakers continue to tweak the state's Open Records Act and the Open Meeting Act, the state's main government

transparency laws. HB 3779, by Rep. Collin Duel, R-Guthrie, would require requesters to notify an agency or public official 10 days in advance if they plan to sue over a denial under the Open Records Act. HB 2730, a bill from last year's session, made it out of the House this year. The bill, by Rep. Annie Menz, D-Norman, would require notification of delays in providing records if they can't be produced within 10 business days.

Duel's HB 3780 would clean up some references to videoconferencing put into the Open Meeting Act during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. HB 3937, by Rep. Melissa Provenzano, D-Tulsa, would clarify how public bodies provide meeting notices and agenda.

HB 2367, by Rep. Tammy Townley, R-Ada, spurred discussions on what would constitute a public meeting for the three-member Oklahoma Corporation Commission. The bill would allow corporation commissioners to discuss certain topics outside of a public meeting as long as those discussions are posted within five days on the agency's website. The legislation is intended

to enhance efficiency at the Corporation Commission, but longtime Commissioner Bob Anthony opposes it. Before approving the bill, by a vote of 54-32, the House added a sunset provision on July 1, 2026.

Other Bills to Watch:

HB 3959, by House Majority Floor Leader Jon Echols, R-Oklahoma City, would create an incentive for professional sports teams. The proposal, capped at \$10 million, would function like the state's long-time Quality Jobs program that gives employers a quarterly rebate in exchange for creating jobs.

The bill would apply to teams from the top five professional sports: football, basketball, baseball, hockey and soccer. It passed the House by a vote of 72-22.

HB 3966 by Echols. This would direct the University of Oklahoma to establish the School of American Civic Thought and Leadership. Echols said the governor requested this bill. It is modeled after the School of Civic and Economic Thought and Leadership at Arizona State University.

Since that initiative started in 2017, similar schools have been

established at flagship public universities in Texas, Florida, Tennessee, North Carolina and Ohio.

HB 4148, by Rep. Suzanne Schreiber, D-Tulsa, and Rep. Mark Lepak, R-Claremore, would require health-care providers or third-party debt collectors to tell the court they made the patient aware of the costs of care before a debt-collection lawsuit can proceed. The House advanced it off the floor by a vote of 86-0.

SB 1430, by Hall, would break out the Central Purchasing division from the Office of Management and Enterprise Services into a separate agency and make the state purchasing director an appointee of the governor, with confirmation by the Senate. It passed the Senate by a vote of 42-3.

SB 1218 by Sen. David Bullard, R-Durant. It would prohibit licensed dealers from refusing to sell a firearm to anyone age 18 or older unless they are otherwise prohibited under state law. It passed the Senate, 33-6.

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



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Nine square

Nine square in the air had the attention of these Purcell Intermediate School students during a break from classwork early last week.

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Brick layers

After doing repair work at the corner of Fourth and Main, city of Purcell crews were replacing the bricks that were disturbed in the process late last week.

