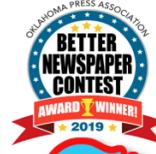


“The press is the best instrument for enlightening the mind of man, and improving him as a rational, moral and social being.” - Thomas Jefferson

Nov. 19-25, 2020 • Tishomingo, OK • 50 Cents



Johnston County Sentinel

Volume 120, Number 21 • 14 Pages

COVID update: county offices, schools closed

By John A. Small
Managing Editor

(Editor's Note: Sentinel Co-Publisher Tom Lokey also contributed to this story.)

Recent increases in the local number of active cases of COVID-19 prompted Johnston County Assessor Guyla Hart to announce Monday that her office would remain closed to the public for at least one more week.

During Monday's meeting of the Johnston County Board of Commissioners, Hart stated that she had originally planned to reopen her office that

day after being closed to the public for the past two weeks. As reported in last week's issue of the *Sentinel*, Hart's office - along with those of County Treasurer Rana Smith and County Clerk Kathy Ross - had been closed to the public and that employees of those offices were either working in the office behind locked doors or remotely at home.

However, Hart - who acknowledged that she has been among those working from home during this period - told the commissioners Monday that she'd had cause to reconsider reopening after hearing of the recent decision

by the Tishomingo School District to transition high school and elementary school students to distance learning during the week of Nov. 16-20.

Commissioners Jacky Hallmark and T.J. Clements agreed that keeping the Assessor's Office closed for at least one more week might be the right thing to do, prompting Hart's formal announcement that her office would remain closed for now.

In a letter to parents and staff released on Nov. 11, Tishomingo Superintendent of Schools Bobby Waitman reported that there were 76 high school students absent at the time - 72 of those

absences directly related to COVID-19, Waitman said. He also stated that there were 63 elementary students absent directly related to COVID-19, and 14 elementary staff members absent as a result of quarantines.

"We also have students at both the high school and elementary school testing for the virus, which could result in even more quarantines and student absences," Waitman's letter stated.

While Tishomingo Middle School had not been as greatly affected, Wait-

See UPDATE
Page 10



Honoring those who served...

Pleasant temperatures greeted local residents who turned out at the Johnston County War Memorial in Tishomingo for the annual Veterans Day ceremony last Wednesday, Nov. 11. (*Sentinel* staff photo by Joshua Small)

Multi-vehicle collision in Kingston kills city woman

A 31-year-old Johnston County woman died this week from injuries sustained in a three-vehicle collision in Marshall County.

The collision occurred Monday, Nov. 16, at approximately 9:55 p.m. on State Highway 32, three miles west of Kingston.

According to a report released by the Oklahoma Highway patrol, a 2017 Chevrolet Equinox driven by Samantha Carnes of Tishomingo was traveling east on SH 32 when a westbound 2003 Chevrolet Silverado ran off the right side of the roadway.

The driver of the Silverado, identified as 52-year-old Timbo Miller of Gordonville, Texas, reportedly overcorrected to the left and crossed the center median, striking

Carnes' vehicle.

The Silverado was in turn struck by a third vehicle, a 2020 Ford Expedition that was traveling east on SH 32 according to the OHP report.

Carnes was pronounced dead at the scene with a head injury, the OHP report states. She was transported to Brown's Funeral Home in Durant, and Medical Examiner John Miller was notified.

Timbo Miller was transported by AirEvac helicopter to Medical City Plano in Plano, Texas, where he was reportedly admitted in stable condition with head, internal and external trunk injuries.

He was pinned inside his vehicle for approximately five minutes before being extricated by rescue workers with the Madill and Kingston fire departments.

The driver of the Expedition - Donald Lustig, 64, of Madison, Ala. - was transported to Alliance Health in Durant. The OHP report states

that Lustig was admitted in good condition with leg, internal and external trunk injuries.

The report also states that seatbelts were equipped in all three vehicles, but were only in use in the Expedition at the time of collision.

Airbags were equipped and deployed in all three vehicles, according to the OHP report. The cause of the collision was still under investigation at last report.

The collision was investigated by Trooper Josh Christian of the OHP's Traffic Homicide Unit.

He was assisted at the scene by Troopers Chase Mass and Jonathan Vargas, both of the OHP's Marshall County detachment, Troop F; Trooper Robert Daws of the OHP Bomb Squad; the Marshall County Sheriff's Office; the Madill and Kingston fire departments; Marshall County EMS; and the Oklahoma Department of Transportation.

Health professionals discuss area's serious COVID situation

By Tom Lokey
Sentinel Co-Publisher

In separate telephone interviews with the *Johnston County Sentinel* Tuesday afternoon, two area medical professionals shared disturbing news concerning the current COVID-19 situation in southern Oklahoma and Johnston County.

Alana Pack, response coordinator for the Regional Medical Response System for Oklahoma, stated that there is now a record number of admissions from COVID-19 in area hospitals. Due to low turnover rate, she said, few hospital beds are available in the area and statewide.

Pack added that no intensive care unit (ICU) beds are available in the

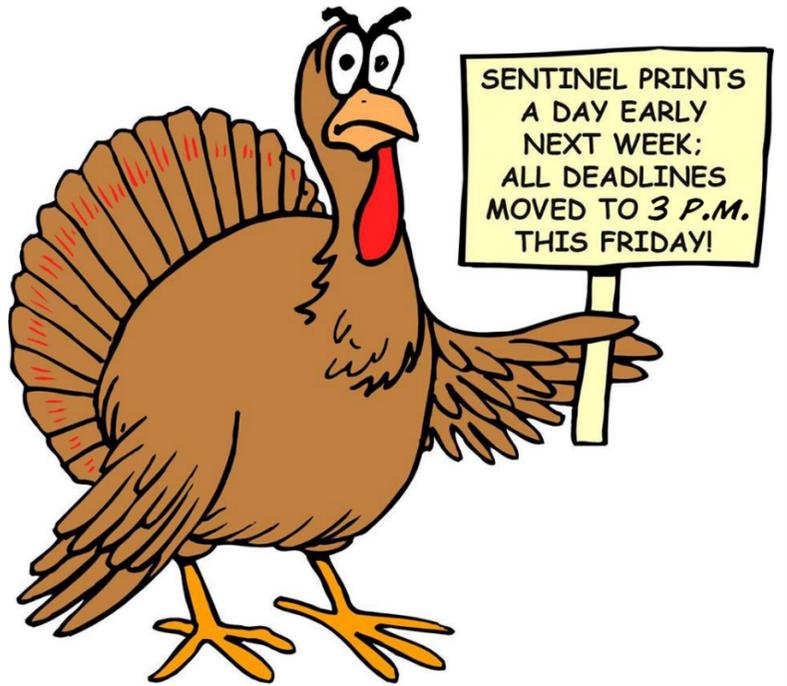
southwest region of Oklahoma at this time. For this reason, she said, it is important for all Oklahomans to use COVID-19 precautions to assist the medical community in navigating its way through this shortage of ICU beds. Medical staffs are being stretched thin.

"Take care of others and yourself by wearing a mask and social distancing," Pack said.

Pack and Julie Williams, public information officer for the Carter County Health Department, indicated that the impact of the surge in COVID-19 cases is forcing delays in transportation and admission of critically ill patients due to the lack of ICU beds avail-

See SITUATION
Page 10

Sentinel prints early next week



Next week's edition of the *Johnston County Sentinel* will be printed and put on sale a day earlier than usual - Tuesday, Nov. 24 - due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

As a result, the deadline for ALL items to be published in next week's edition has been moved up to 3 p.m. this Friday, Nov. 20.

This includes all classified and display ads, news, obituaries and legal publications.

Any items received after 3 p.m. this Friday can NOT be guaranteed for publication in next week's issue due to the early publication schedule.

That issue will still carry the tra-

ditional Thursday dateline (Nov. 26), but will go to press late Monday afternoon and be distributed to local stores on Tuesday, Nov. 24.

Subscription copies will also be placed in the mail that day.

The *Sentinel* office will close at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, and remain closed Wednesday through Friday, Nov. 25-27, for the holiday.

Normal deadlines and business hours will resume on Monday, Nov. 30.

The staff of the *Johnston County Sentinel* wishes our readers a safe, healthy and happy Thanksgiving season.



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Weekend Weather:

FRIDAY: Partly sunny and warm, expected daytime high around 76F. Partly cloudy and cool overnight. SATURDAY: Mild with intervals of clouds and sunshine. SUNDAY: Cooler with considerable cloudiness, high of 61F; overnight low of 38F with evening showers possible.

Subscription Rates:

In-County - \$30 per year;
Out-Of-County - \$35 per year;
Out-Of State - \$45 per year;
Foreign - \$35 Plus Postage.

Fishing for a recount, and other assorted short stories

I'm not sure why, to be honest, but for some reason I got the feeling Tuesday morning that this might be a good week to share a few stories from the *Small Talk Book of Tall Tales and Amusing Anecdotes*.

So let's get on with it, shall we...?

Once upon a time, in the Democratic Republic of Rolisica, the incumbent Prime Minister was challenged for re-election and when the votes were counted there was a great controversy regarding who had actually won.

Naturally there was much talk about recounting ballots, court challenges, do the election all over again - you know, the usual drama - but there continued to be little agreement between either candidate or their supporters about how best to proceed.

Until one day, when somebody - nobody remembers who it was now, and perhaps it ultimately does not really matter - came up with a most unusual and creative solution: a week-long ice fishing contest between the two candidates. The candidate who had caught the most fish by the end of the week would be named the winner.

Now, you and I might scoff at such an idea. But to the people of Rolisica - who had long since grown weary of the squabble and were anxious to turn their attention to other, more important things like the planning of the annual St. Crom Festival - a week-long ice fishing contest seemed like both the fairest way to settle the question, and a good way to harvest some fish for visitors to eat at the aforementioned festival.

So after about a week of back-and-forth discussion and dickering between the two candidates and their respective campaign managers, it was eventually decided that the contest would take place on a cold, remote lake at the northern tip of the country. Base camp would be set up in the nearby village of Karwicki; each

morning both men would venture out to the lake and pick their respective fishing spots, and at the end of the day return to the village where an impartial judge whose selection had been agreed upon by both candidates would count and verify each candidate's catch for the day.

At the end of the first day, the challenger - Benthel Garvis was his name - returned to camp with 10 fish. The incumbent prime minister, Ibarra Pravakar, came back with no fish at all. His supporters and even those supporting his opponent thought little of it; it was only the first day of the contest, after all, and he might have picked a spot where the fish weren't biting all that much. It happens, even to the best of fishermen.

So on Day Two Pravakar found himself what he felt to be a better spot, and Garvis - always trying to act in the interest of fairness - also selected a new location. At the end of the day, however, the results were virtually the same as the day before: Garvis came back to base camp with 15 fish, but Pravakar again had none.

After dinner that night Pravakar was sitting in his room at the inn, angrily stewing over his bad fortune up to that point, when his son-in-law and closest advisor Jamaica Gustus shared his thoughts on the matter. "Seems pretty obvious to me that Garvis is a lowlife, cheating son-of-a-womp rat," Gustus said. "Maybe we should send Ibarra Junior out to spy on Garvis tomorrow so we can figure out how."

Pravakar liked the idea immediately and they agreed that the plan would be carried out. The next day Garvis had his best day yet - 65 fish, all of them pretty good sized - while Pravakar again came back with none. Not long after the day's catch had been formally verified, Ibarra Junior returned to the inn and met with his father and brother-in-law.

"Well, what about it, boy?" Pravakar demanded. "Is Garvis cheating or

Small Talk

John A. Small



not?"

"I'll say he is," Junior told his father. "He's cutting holes in the ice!"

It was the Friday that Leslie James, the manager of the Majestic Theatre in Eureka Creek, had been waiting for all summer: opening day for the *Harry Potter And Percy Jackson Meet The Hobbits Of Alderaan*, and if the size of the crowd that had turned out for the first showing was any indication of the turnout still to come it looked as if the movie would have little trouble making good on its promise of being the biggest blockbuster of the year.

Leslie was standing there in the lobby, smiling at the patrons who were lining up at the concession stand and mentally dancing to the tune of the cash registers ringing in his head, when he happened to spy one young man who kept walking back and forth between the ticket counter at the front of the building and the ticket taker at the door of the auditorium.

Leslie watched as the young man would hand his tickets to the teenager at the door, then make a face as he turned and headed back to the counter, bought another ticket and got back in line, only to do it all over again upon reaching the ticket taker the next time.

This happened three or four more times before Leslie decided he should walk over and ask the fellow why. As the patron sagged his shoulders in exasperation and turned back toward the ticket counter one more time, Leslie rushed over from behind and put a hand on the fellow's shoulder. "Excuse me, sir," he said as the customer turned to face him, "is there a problem I might be able to help you with?"

The frustrated moviegoer nodded. "Boy, I'll say there is," he responded.

"You might explain to me how I'm supposed to get in to see the movie without a ticket!"

Leslie's brow furrowed in confusion. "But, sir," he responded, "I've seen you buy several of them now. You only need one to get inside."

"I know," the patron said. "But every time I hand one to that knucklehead over there, he takes the blasted thing and tears it in half!"

Old Man Murphy walked into the neighborhood bar one afternoon and spent an hour or so ordering one martini after another. He quickly downed each one, removing the olives from the glasses and placing them in a small jar he'd taken out of his jacket pocket as he did so.

When at last the jar had been filled up with olives and all the drinks consumed, Murphy tipped his hat to the bartender and rose from his stool to leave, carrying the jar the the crook of one arm as he walked toward the door.

Well, Joey Ross had been watching Murphy all evening and was puzzled by the Irishman's behavior. "Pardon my asking, Mickey," he said as Murphy walked past him, "but is everything all right?"

"Aye, boyo, everything's just fine'n dandy," Murphy told him. He patted the lid of the jar and added, "The wife just sent me out for a jar of olives, and I didn't feel like walking all the way to the store."

During his retirement physical examination, the Army Colonel was told by his doctor that if he wanted to live a long life he should eat a bowl of oatmeal every day, but should sprinkle gunpowder on it instead of sugar.

The Colonel followed the doctor's orders for the rest of his days. When he passed away at age 96, he left six children, 14 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren and a 50-foot crater where the crematorium used to be.

(Column copyright © 2020 by John A. Small)

Council hears update on Main Street renovation project

By John A. Small
Managing Editor

detour westbound traffic on Main Street as the road reconstruction project continues.

The Tishomingo City Council voted this week to approve a request to

During the council's regularly sched-

uled meeting Monday night, a spokesman for C3 Construction - the firm contracted with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation on the Main Street project - reported that eastbound traffic is expected to be reopened in about three weeks.

Current plans call for westbound traffic to be shut down for approximately three blocks and detoured onto Chisholm Street and Sixth Street, with eastbound traffic continuing as normal.

The spokesman described the plan as a change that will "enable our paving operations to accomplish a wider pour, thus speeding up the project significantly."

He added that he hopes the change will enable the construction crew to complete the project by late January or sometime in February.

However, he and Public Works Director Marlon Sullivan informed the council of an act of vandalism that has resulted in a slight delay to the project.

They reported that the vandals - believed to be juveniles - had drawn obscene pictures and graffiti in cement that had been poured last week at three different locations along the project route.

Some of the "art-work" has since been ground out by construction workers, while other portions are yet to be dealt with.

The C3 spokesman indicated that repairing the vandalized sections of concrete is expected to add around \$16,000 to \$18,000 to the overall cost of the project.

No formal action regarding the detour request was taken by the council. City attorney

Krystina Phillips said interim City Manager Janice Cain could sign the letter of request submitted by the construction company and accept the plans on behalf of the city.

Also during Monday night's meeting, the council voted to authorize Police Chief Shannon Smith to sign a memorandum of understanding between the Tishomingo Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The memorandum authorizes the police department's participation in the FBI's "Safe Trails" program, which allows police officers to act as federal officers in the event they have to when investigating crimes on Indian land within the county.

Chief Smith was not present for Monday night's meeting. The council voted 3-0 to approve the agreement; Vice Mayor Melissa Green and Councilwoman Sue Robins were unable to attend the meeting.

The agreement is similar to the one passed earlier this year between the FBI and the Johnston County Sheriff's Department. As first reported in the Sept. 10 issue of the *Johnston County Sentinel*, Sheriff Jon Smith and Undersheriff Gary Dodd at the time called that agreement a necessity in the wake of a 5-4 decision handed down by the U.S. Supreme Court in July.

That July 9 ruling found the boundaries of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation to be intact and the land within Indian Territory. Law enforcement officials throughout Oklahoma have expressed concerns about the ultimate legal im-

plications of the federal ruling. Smith and Dodd have both repeatedly stated that they expect similar rulings in favor of the Chickasaw, Choctaw and other Native American nations that, they said, will in effect turn most of eastern Oklahoma into Indian Territory.

This week's agreement allows the Tishomingo Police Department to participate in a program that was originally initiated by the FBI in 1994.

Originally known as "Operation Safe Trails," the initiative began as a partnership between the FBI and the Navajo Department of Law Enforcement in Flagstaff, Ariz.

That operation would later evolve into the current Safe Trails Task Force (STTF) Program, which unites the FBI with other federal, state, local and tribal law enforcement agencies in a collaborative effort to combat the growth of crime on Indian lands. STTFs allow participating agencies to combine limited resources and increase investigative coordination in Indian Country to target violent crime, drugs, gangs and gaming violations.

Also during Monday night's meeting, Phillips told the council that the city's recently hired part-time code enforcement officer, Shannon Shirley, is on the job and contacting owners regarding nuisance properties.

"Shirley has been sending out letters fast and furious," Phillips reported. "She's been very thorough, but very efficient."

Phillips also stated that most property owners that have been contacted have worked to correct problems found

on their properties. She indicated that those who have not may eventually be addressed through district court proceedings, as the city has done on occasion in the past.

On another issue, Phillips told the council that she has been working with the city's Planning and Zoning Commission regarding efforts to establish zoning requirements for medical marijuana facilities within the city limits.

As reported in the Nov. 5 *Sentinel*, the council had voted on Nov. 2 to enact a temporary moratorium on permits related to medical marijuana growing and processing permits within the city limits.

Cain had explained at the time that the purpose of the moratorium is to allow the Planning and Zoning Commission the opportunity to enact zoning regulations for such facilities.

No such regulations currently exist, Cain said at the time, and are needed in order for the city to better handle requests for new permits.

Phillips said Monday that she has consulted with officials in other municipalities which have established such zoning requirements, with an eye towards providing the Planning and Zoning Commission information it needs to make a recommendation to the city council.

She added that she expects the Planning and Zoning Commission to make a recommendation to the council in the near future.

In her report to the council, Cain stated that the recently approved water rate increase is now in effect and will be reflected in the November billing.

Johnston County Sentinel

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Tom and Mary Lokey.....Publishers
John A. Small.....Managing Editor
Rona Duke.....Typesetter
Joshua Small...Photography/Ad Layout & Design
Melissa Small.....Distribution Assistant

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Dateline: Johnston County



TMS students hold Holiday Food Drive

Tishomingo Middle School's Student Council officers and representatives recently collected a grand total of 3,418 non-perishable food items donated during their week-long STUCO Holiday Food Drive. STUCO sponsor and vocal music teacher Noel McDaniel said the event was a huge success, and that all items collected by the students will be given to Our Neighbors Cupboard in Tishomingo for the upcoming holidays. Among the TMS classes the eighth graders proved to be the big winners, collecting 1,590 items. Placing second were the sixth graders with 1,189, followed by the fifth graders with 493 and seventh graders with 146.

Milburn FBC hosts pastor appreciation, holiday lunch

By Jerry Blackerby
Sentinel Correspondent

On Sunday, Nov. 15, following another excellent sermon by Brother Mark McGehee, Milburn First Baptist Church had a pastor appreciation/Thanksgiving lunch in the fellowship hall following the morning service.

Of course every sermon I have heard by Brother McGehee has been excellent. The meal was excellent, also, and filling. We really have some fantastic cooks in our congregation.

On Sunday, Nov. 29, the Milburn First Baptist Church serves communion - the Lord's Supper - as part of the fifth Sunday service.

The next community prayer meeting is scheduled for Dec. 3 at 6 p.m. Hopefully, I will be off my walker by then and we can go back to meeting at the Milburn Community Center.

Come join us and help pray for the prayer requests we have received. We try to meet on the first Thursday of each month.

We have received some wonderful praise reports of prayer requests being answered. We thank and praise God for the answered prayers.

I created a Facebook group named "Milburn

Oklahoma Community Prayer Meeting." If you have Facebook, you can join this group and post prayer requests in the group, or either call me or send me an e-mail.

Several local events have been canceled because of the coronavirus. When I am notified that these local events are resuming, I will include them in this column.

◇◇◇
Milburn School:
All basketball games are canceled until after Thanksgiving.

Nov. 23-27 - No school, Thanksgiving break.

◇◇◇
Bible Trivia: What reward did Jesus say the twelve apostles would get for forsaking everything and following him?

Last week's question: What did Jesus do before driving the money-changers out of the temple? Answer: Made a scourge of small cords or a whip (John 2:15). Read John 2:13-25. The quote the Disciples remember in John 2:17 is from Psalms 69:9.

◇◇◇
"But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which

God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God." (1 Corinthians 2:9-1, KJV)

Please send an e-mail to jerryblackerby@windstream.net, or call me at home at (580) 443-5618 or my cell phone at (972) 824-2733, at least a week before an event, to have time to get an announcement in the "Milburn News" column.

THE FIRST AMENDMENT
WE WOULD LIKE TO REMIND YOU THAT THE CONTENT OF THIS NEWSPAPER IS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES.
A Public Service Message from the Johnston County Sentinel

Board of Trustees tackle variety of issues Monday

By Matthew Cravatt
Sentinel Correspondent

The Ravia Board of Trustees held their regular monthly, open meeting on Monday night, at 6 p.m. in the Ravia Community Center to allow for social distancing.

A quorum was met with three trustees present, one out sick, and another caught out of town on business, who arrived at the Ravia Community Center minutes after adjournment.

The meeting ran smoothly, as most of the business dealt with paying bills and receiving reports.

Bumps were encountered when agenda items included clarifications on the liabilities and procedures on unpaid water bills for rental properties, abandoned by the renter, which fall to the property owner for payment before service can be restored.

Next, a freshman trustee requested information on code enforcement, including fines and cleaning lots by city crews and billing the landowner, up to the condemning and seizure of property for non-payment of cleanup performed to eliminate hazard to public health and safety.

It should be noted that the late J.D. Lane, Ravia Trustee for many

years, often cautioned about taking situations to the length of property seizure, and strongly recommended every effort be made to cure the situation without litigation. Thank you for the advice, sir.

On a lighter note, trout season is in progress at Blue River and rifle deer season opens this Saturday.

In the words of Remnar Soady, from the cinema classic deer camp production *Escanaba in da Moonlight*: "I love the opening day of deer season, it's like Christmas, with guns."

Here's hoping all you sportsmen and women bag that big buck; catch a trophy fish; snap an epic picture; or just enjoy the glory of God's creation, and remember - Thanksgiving is just around the corner.

The National Weather Service based forecast summary for the Ravia area: Warm weather with highs around 70 degrees, and lows in the upper 50s through Saturday. Cooling to the lower 60s and upper 30s as rain chances move in Sunday and run into the workweek.

The Ravia Senior Citizens Center will be closed until further notice because of the

COVID-19 spread and staffing issues.

Mayor Ricky Kreger reminds Ravia residents to pen or leash your dogs and keep in contact with family, friends and neighbors, as well as watching private and public property, during the public health emergency. Call 911 should an emergency or civil unrest present itself.

You can inform the Ravia-area community of important news and upcoming events with a call to 371-0275, or e-mail at ravia.news@gmail.com with details.

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| BASIC SHORT SLEEVE TEE | | | | | | | | | | \$20 ea = |
| BASIC LONG SLEEVE TEE | | | | | | | | | | \$25 ea = |
| BASIC HOODIE | | | | | | | | | | \$35 ea = |
| TOTAL = | | | | | | | | | | |

STUDENT NAME: _____ TEACHER: _____
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GANDY
- SNK -

All proceeds will go towards the purchase of State Championship rings for the Tishomingo Lady Indians Fast-pitch softball team.

Terms and conditions apply. See website for details.

Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is valid as of March 2020. A \$500.00 minimum opening deposit is required to receive the promotional rate. Offer valid on new and existing money. New money is defined as money that has not been on deposit at Simmons Bank during the past 30 days. Early withdrawal penalty on existing CDs. Financial institutions and public fund entities are not eligible. Interest earned on the entire daily balance. Fees could reduce earnings on account. Penalty will or may be imposed for early withdrawal.

Commissioners tackle light agenda, prepare for move

By John A. Small
Managing Editor

District 1 county barn were the primary orders of business before the Johnston County Board of Commissioners this week.

During their regular meeting Monday morning - the last such meet-

ing to take place at the county courthouse prior to this week's swapping of the commissioners' office and the Johnston County Election Board - commissioners Jacky Hallmark and T.J. Clements voted 2-0 to approve the reappointment of Jeff Caskey to the EMS board for a five-year term.

Commissioner Mike Thompson was unable to attend the meeting.

Clements noted during Monday's meeting that the relocation of the two county offices would take place on Tuesday as planned.

As previously reported, the commissioners had voted 2-1 in April - with Thompson as the lone dissenting vote - to approve the office swap.

Election Board Secretary B.J. Wheaton had

voiced objections to the switch, reminding the commissioners that the Election Board office had originally been located in the courthouse, but was relocated to its current headquarters at 705 West Main Street in Tishomingo due to a lack of adequate space for voting machines, precinct worker training and other needs as mandated by the State Election Board Office.

Wheaton had also noted at the time that the space had eventually been deemed unsuitable for the Election Board's needs, prompting the move to that office's current location shortly after the building was purchased by the county.

The decision to swap the offices also came under fire by some county

residents. Letters to the editor questioning the decision and asking the commissioners to reconsider their decision were published in the June 4 and June 11 issues of the *Sentinel*.

Also approved 2-0 during this week's meeting was a customer service agreement between County District 1 and Usenet for Internet service at Hallmark's county barn.

Hallmark said the agreement calls for District 1 to receive Internet service at a cost of \$79.99 per month.

A planned discussion and possible action regarding the depositing of COVID-19 relief funds awarded to the county was tabled at Hallmark's request due to the absence of both Thompson

and County Clerk Kathy Ross.

As reported in last week's *Sentinel*, the commissioners learned at their Nov. 9 meeting that the county had been awarded \$408,731.17 through the Coronavirus Relief Fund. Word of the award came in an e-mail that was brought to the commissioners' attention during last week's meeting.

Acting under the agenda heading of "New Business," the commissioners at that time had voted 3-0 to place the money in a special CARES Act account.

A formal vote regarding how the funding is to be fully allocated had been tabled, and is now expected to be included on the commissioners' Nov. 23 agenda.

Community Calendar

Veterans Committee Meeting

The Johnston County Veterans Center Committee will hold its regular monthly meeting today (Thursday), Nov. 19, at 6 p.m. in the Aggie Dining Room at Murray State College in Tishomingo. Wearing of face masks is required on campus; once in the dining room attendees can remove their masks as long as they are sitting six feet apart.

THS Blood Drive

Tishomingo High School and the Oklahoma Blood Institute will conduct the annual THS Blood Drive this Friday, Nov. 20, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the high school gymnasium. Due to COVID-19 concerns, face masks must be worn while donating. To make an appointment visit www.obi.org; or contact Shilah Whitmire at swhitmire@tishomingo.k12.ok.us.

Free COVID-19 Testing

The Family Health Center of Southern Oklahoma has announced that free testing for COVID-19 and antibody testing is available at its Tishomingo clinic, located at 610 E. 24th Street. Call 371-2343 for an appointment.

SORD Holiday Hours

Southern Oklahoma Regional Disposal (SORD) has announced that it will be closed next Thursday, Nov. 26, in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. All SORD departments will be closed on that Thursday. All SORD offices, with the exception of the SORD business office, will resume normal operations on Friday, Nov. 27; all customers on the Thursday and Friday routes are requested to have their trash cans placed at curbside by 7 a.m. on Nov. 27, and leave them out until emptied.

Library Closed Thanksgiving

The Southern Oklahoma Library System and its branches, including the Johnston County Library in Tishomingo, will close at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 25, and will remain closed Nov. 26-28 for the Thanksgiving holiday. Normal hours of operation will resume on Monday, Nov. 30. For more information, call (580) 223-3164 or visit www.southernoklibrarysystem.org.

Deadline for all Community Calendar items is noon on Tuesday. Announcements for Wednesday events should be published the week before the event takes place. Community Calendar items can NOT run for two consecutive weeks.

Library to host virtual book discussion

The Johnston County Library in Tishomingo will host the latest in its series of virtual book discussions on Tuesday, Nov. 24, at 6:30 p.m.

Participants will share views on Gretchen Rubin's *The Happiness Project*.

Award-winning author Rubin is back with a bang. *The Happiness Project* describes one person's year-long attempt to discover what

leads to true contentment.

Drawing at once on cutting-edge science, classical philosophy and real-world applicability, Rubin has written an engaging, eminently relatable chronicle of transformation.

Participants who wish to attend the virtual book club must call to register. You can reach the Johnston County Library at 371-3006.

Meet extreme animals

Nothing lights up the imagination and adventurous nature of children like nature itself.

The Johnston County Library will host a program entitled "Extreme Animals" next Tuesday, Nov. 24, at 3 p.m. "Animal Ambassadors" will provide guests with an experience like no other.

This educational program will explore the animals, their environments, and their important roles in their respective ecosystems. Interesting facts and demonstrations will help guests discover more about animals and the at-

tributes that make them unique.

Participants must call and register to attend, as space is limited. Guests who wish to attend must wear a mask.

The program is free and open to the public, and participants must have a valid library card to access the database.

It is made possible by the Carolyn Watson Rural Oklahoma Community Foundation Grant.

For more information, call 371-3006, or visit the library at 116 West Main Street in Tishomingo.

Sooner Pharmacy Good Health Tips

Research presented at the 2019 ACR/ARP Annual Meeting found that a six-week treatment with low-dose oral prednisolone substantially improves pain and decreases signs of inflammation in patients with painful hand osteoarthritis. Osteoarthritis (also known as OA) is a common joint disease that most often affects middle-age to elderly people. It is commonly referred to as "wear and tear" of the joints; it is now known that OA is a disease of the entire joint, involving the cartilage, joint lining, ligaments, and bone. OA is characterized by breakdown of the cartilage, bony changes of the joints, deterioration of tendons and ligaments, and various degrees of inflammation of the joint lining.

A single pill containing low doses of three medications to treat high blood pressure and one to lower cholesterol reduced the estimated risk of cardiovascular disease by 25% in a study published recently in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. Researchers found that patients were also likely to stick to a medication routine if they only had the one pill to take.

Vitamin D supplementation may slow the progression of type 2 diabetes in newly diagnosed patients and those with prediabetes, according to a study published in the *European Journal of Endocrinology*. The study findings suggest that high-dose supplementation of vitamin D can improve glucose metabolism to help prevent the development and progression of diabetes. Type 2 diabetes is an increasingly prevalent disease that places a huge burden on patients and society and can lead to serious health problems including nerve damage, blindness and kidney failure. People at high risk of developing type 2 diabetes (prediabetes) can be identified by several risk factors including obesity or a family history of the disease. Presented as a service to the community by

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District announces plans for indoor sports safety

The spread of COVID-19 in our state and county continues to grow, and with this growth concerns about the health and safety of our community is escalating.

The increase in positive cases and quarantines has presented many challenges for the district already this year, but our desire for our students to continue to be able to compete has not diminished.

The district's commitment to protecting our students' ability to participate in winter sports will undoubtedly continue to be challenged as we move through end of 2020 into the new year.

District leadership has met with other superintendents and athletic directors in our conference, and has worked to establish a set of guidelines for participation for spectators during basketball season that we are hopeful will minimize the prospect of the spread of COVID-19.

We realize that these guidelines will create some exclusion as we plan for the restriction of the number of spectators who are allowed to attend basketball games, but we also understand that our first obligation is to our

School News

Bobby Waitman
Superintendent
Tishomingo Public Schools



athletes.

The district appreciates the great support and spirit that spectators bring as they attend our games and events. But in an effort to limit numbers, we have established a set number of home spectators and visiting team spectators who will be able to attend games.

Each athlete on the team will be provided four vouchers to be given to family members. If an athlete doesn't have four family members able to attend a game, the athlete may share vouchers with others.

We will have as many as 50 additional seats that will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

We are also restricting the number of visiting team spectators. When our teams play away games, the host team will be providing the number of vouchers they will allow our players to provide for family members as well.

Cheerleaders will not be able to cheer at away games.

A face covering will be required of all spectators in order to enter games.

Please be advised that the Tishomingo School District has set forth the following gymnasium seating limitations in an effort to provide for social distancing during varsity and sub-varsity indoor athletic events:

HOME: Seating for Tishomingo home spectators will be based on the number of athletes and cheerleaders. Each basketball player and cheerleader will be given four vouchers to be distributed to family.

The District will also allow up to 50 Home students in the Home student section.

VISITORS: Visiting teams will be allowed four vouchers per athlete.

Visiting teams will not be permitted to have cheerleaders accompany them to indoor athletic events.

Home Girls' Team: 15 Players, (4) Vouchers Each - 60 Vouchers;

Home Boys' Team: 15 Players, (4) Vouchers Each - 60 Vouchers;

Cheerleaders - 11 Cheerleaders, (4) Vouchers Each - 44 Vouchers;

Home Student Section - 50 Students - 50 Students;

Visiting Girls Team: 15 Players, (4) Vouchers Each - 60 Vouchers;

Visiting Boys' Team: 15 Players, (4) Vouchers Each - 60 Vouchers;

Visiting Team Seating: 15 Visiting Athletes - 15 Seats;

Additional Home Spectators: 50 Vouchers - 50 Vouchers.

Totals Seats Required: 399 Seats.

When the District hosts multiple games in one evening, for example sixth grade, seventh grade, and eighth grade games sequentially, the parents/guardians of sixth grade athletes should exit the gymnasium once the sixth grade game has concluded.

If the parents/guardians have more than one child playing on more than one team (sixth grade athlete and an eighth grade athlete), the parents/guardians may remain in the gym until the conclusion of both of their children's games.

Masks are required of all spectators.

The District will make every effort to clean the gymnasium between games.

We have placed a couple of information items on the District website regarding attendance at basketball games for your review as well.

Tishomingo's Daughters hear presentation on crisis shelter

Tishomingo's Daughters met on Thursday, Nov. 12, in the fellowship hall of the Methodist Church where social distancing could be observed.

Guest speaker for the evening was Shelley Battles-Reichle, executive director of the Family Crisis Center of Ada.

Support of this organization has been an ongoing club project for many years. Members collect and provide items which are needed for the shelter.

Battles-Reichle informed the club that the Ada shelter is one of 42 statewide. It mostly serves women and families from the four counties north of Johnston County, but also makes contacts all over the

state. In the preceding nine months of 2020, it has already housed 115 women and children.

Some of the services which the Family Crisis Center provides, besides shelter for women and families fleeing from domestic abuse, can include transportation to other areas, support groups, managing finances, meal planning and nutrition, and preparation for job interviews.

The Family Crisis Center is financed with federal money, state support and cooperation from the Chickasaw Nation.

With the difficulties caused by the ongoing pandemic there have been more numerous cases of domestic violence, which make even

more urgent demands on the safety and shelter of women and families.

Battles-Reichle mentioned how important it is to make information available to schools, DHS, police and doctors, as well as individuals and organizations such as Tishomingo's Daughters. She handed out business cards and pens with the phone number of the center, which is (580) 436-3504.

They also have a Facebook page and a hot line.

Club members present for this meeting were Lisa Landon, Becky Wyatt, Rebecca Clary, Jenna Orr, Tara Clary, Rita Lokey, Karen Inman, Lanette Coppedge, Judy Huston, Charolette Northcutt, Janis Stewart and Leah Davenport.

OSU Extension offers help on backyard chicken management

It's always a good time to learn how to manage backyard chickens at Oklahoma State University Extension.

And not just chickens - OSU Extension's newly redesigned catalog of self-paced, online courses also offers an introduction to agronomy and instruction on prescribed fires, selling home bakery items, and understanding county government. More courses are in development.

The courses are practical and convenient, representing a wide spectrum of research-based material to serve students of all ages, all walks of life.

The Backyard Chickens course, for example, answers questions people typically have when they start looking into the popular trend such as poultry health issues, biosecurity practices and equipment options.

Oklahoma regulations are also covered for those interested in expanding their operation to include egg sales.

"We created this course to facilitate learning about the basics of poultry production for both novice and experienced backyard chicken producers," Dana Zook, OSU Extension northwest area livestock specialist, said.

"Poultry nutrition, egg production, manage-

ment and poultry effects on public health are all included in this fun and interactive course."

The online catalog outlines how much time is required for each course; learning objectives; module outlines; and teaching methods. Certificates of completion are also available.

"OSU Extension has a long history of delivering seminars and workshops in person, but we recognize the challenges some people have in attending those events," Randal Taylor, assistant director of OSU Extension,

said.

"That's why we are expanding our educational efforts into online courses that people can complete at their convenience. They're not alone in this either - our local Extension educators can always be reached with additional questions."

In order for new producers to start with the right chickens, OSU Extension wants to ensure they start with the right course. For more information, contact the OSU Information Technology Helpdesk.

Tishomingo Senior Citizens Center Menus

601 West Main, Tishomingo • 371-9116

| Thursday 7-16, 8-27, 10-8, 11-19, 12-31 | Friday 7-17, 8-28, 10-9, 11-20 | Monday 7-20, 8-31, 10-12, 11-23 | Tuesday 7-21, 9-1, 10-13, 11-24 | Wednesday 7-22, 9-2, 10-14, 11-25 |
|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Pot Roast | Fish Sticks | Chili Cheese Dogs | Scrambled Eggs, Cheese & Sausage | Breaded Chicken Sandwich |
| Potatoes in Roast, Carrots in Roast | Cheesy Potatoes, Cole Slaw | Potato Wedges, Pork & Beans | Tomato Juice, Orange Wedges | Carrots/Relish Tray, Tator Tots |
| Dinner Roll | Hush Puppies | Hot Dog Bun | Biscuits | Sandwich Bread |
| Margarine | Tarter Sauce | Margarine, Mustard, Ketchup | Gravy, Margarine | Mayo, Mustard, Ketchup |
| Fruit Pie | Bananas/ Cream | Pineapple Chunks | Peach w/Cottage Cheese | Fruited Parfait |
| Milk, Tea, Water | Milk, Tea, Water | Milk, Tea, Water | Milk, Tea, Water | Milk, Tea, Water |

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Johnston County Milestones

Murray State participates in STEM consortium

With remote instruction the new normal for 2020, Murray State College faculty members Dan Moore, David Brantley and Amy McCain have completed a five-week Online Consortium of Oklahoma (OCO) STEM Virtual Academy to provide deeper, collaborative professional development for those teaching STEM disciplines.

In partnership with the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, OCO

brought together 60 math, science and e-learning participants for the intensive blended learning experience.

Throughout the Academy, faculty considered how they would plan for online courses and laboratories that engage students in new ways while meeting course objectives and learning outcomes in math and science.

Faculty also learned new strategies, tools and techniques for STEM online learning and as-

essment.

“STEM education is so important for our students, and online education can be intimidating when the norm has been classroom and laboratory-based settings. This virtual academy gave our faculty the opportunity to work with experts and their peers in exploring best practices in remote learning for STEM subjects,” MSC President Joy McDaniel said.

Participants of this cohort experience were among the first faculty

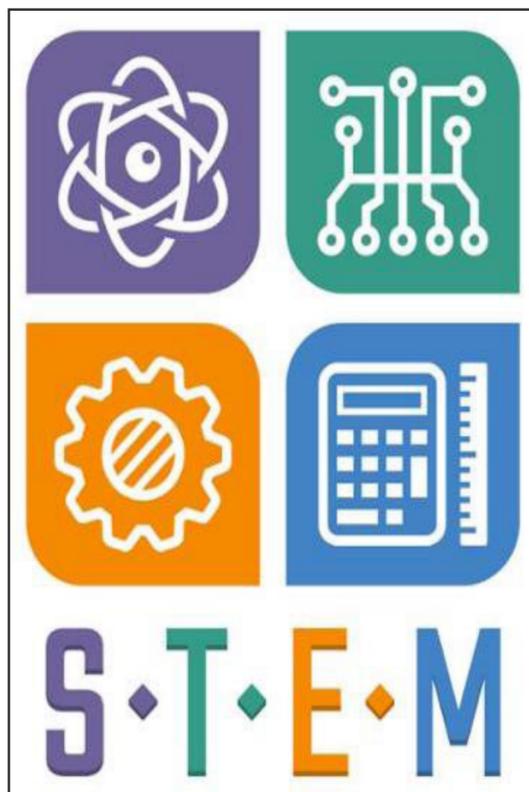
to earn digital badges, an innovative digital tool to showcase their skills, which are issued by OCO under the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

Murray State College will wrap up in-person experiences on Nov. 20. A Thanksgiving break will take place from Nov. 23-27, with classes continuing remotely from Nov. 30 to Dec. 11.

The Tishomingo campus is closed to the public, but all offices may be reached online or by phone.

Enrollment for the spring semester is underway for classes that begin Jan. 19, 2021.

For more information on enrollment, contact academicadvice@mscok.edu.



Southeastern expands aviation fleet

For many years, aviation sciences has been one of several programs that has made Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant distinct.

Aviation Sciences, which began at Southeastern in 1966, now serves 150 students who come to Durant from around the country to pursue their dream of becoming a professional pilot.

The program received a big boost recently with the arrival of two new airplanes from Cirrus Aircraft.

Aviation Sciences Institute (ASI) Director Lloyd Sauls, lead flight instructor Elizabeth Resh, and senior instructor Jacob Shiver took possession of the planes earlier this semester.

The planes were purchased through the 18-month “Soaring to New Heights Campaign.” Some 150 alumni and friends of the University contributed more than \$1 million to the effort.

Success continues for MSC livestock judging team



Murray State College student Peyton Booth (far left) is pictured along with the other top four individual winners at the recent Buck Cattle Company Livestock Judging Contest.

The Murray State College Livestock Judging Team recently continued its success with

Peyton Booth winning High Individual at the Buck Cattle Company contest.

In addition to high individual honors, Murray State College’s sophomore judging team placed eighth overall in the swine judging category at the American Royal Junior College and Intercollegiate Live-

stock Judging Contest in Kansas City this fall.

Student members of the Murray State judging team are selected and recruited for their skills and backgrounds.

Most members have experience with 4-H or FFA, and plan to pursue a career in agribusiness or agricultural education.

Paid Obituary

Esther Faye Taber

Esther Faye Taber, 86, of Tishomingo, died Saturday, Nov. 14, 2020, at her home. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Friday, Nov. 20, at the First Baptist Church of Dale with Doug Parker officiating. Burial will follow in Dale Cemetery, under the direction of Walker Funeral Service of Shawnee.



Esther was born in Prague, Okla., on Sept. 17, 1934, to Norby and Cora (VanHorn) Hall. She spent most of her childhood around Prague, until she married Charles A. Taber Sr. in 1951. They made their home in different places until they settled in the Dale and Shawnee area in 1971. She lived in that area until six years ago, when she moved to Tishomingo. That is where she spent her final days until the Lord called her home.

Esther was primarily a homemaker. She often worked alongside her husband in the dairy and on the farm. She took great joy and pride in caring for her family. She enjoyed spending time with her children, and then later her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Although Esther wasn’t a member of any church, she was a devout Christian. She professed to be of the Baptist denomination. She often read her Bible to her children and raised them with strong Christian values. She had a kind heart for all children.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Charles A. Taber Sr.; a son, Jerry Dean Taber; a daughter, Shelia Irene Wise; her parents, Norby and Cora Hall; a sister, Opal Lynch; two brothers, which included her twin brother Lester Ray Hall, and Lawerance Hall; and several other family members who meant a lot to her.

She is survived by a brother and sister-in-law, James and Pauline Hall of Kingfisher, Okla.; three sons, Delbert Taber and spouse Sky of Tishomingo, Charles A. Taber Jr. and spouse Pam of Moore, Okla., and Robert Taber of Hennessey, Okla.; a daughter, Shirley Elaine Pope and spouse John of Tishomingo; 17 grandchildren, 31 great-grandchildren; and four great-great-grandchildren.

Paid Obituary

Billie Jean Easterling

Billie Jean Easterling went to her heavenly home on Oct. 16, 2020, at the age of 91. She was at home with family and friends.



She was born March 14, 1929, to Dona and Thompson Frazier. Thompson was an original Chickasaw enrollee. She was born in Mill Creek, Okla., where she grew up and graduated from high school. She was married to Franklin E. Easterling in 1947.

She lived in her log cabin home on Blue River, where she enjoyed tending to flowers, feeding and watching birds, and fishing for catfish.

Billie was well-known and will be remembered for her hospitality and generosity. She was deeply loving and giving to her family and friends. Often, when she had visitors, she would give them a token to take with them as a remembrance of their visit.

Billie was preceded in death by her parents, Thompson and Dona Frazier; her husband, Franklin E. Easterling; sisters Mary Frazier and Rachel Rawels; and brothers Thomas Keith Frazier and Robert Golden Frazier.

She is survived by a daughter, Becky Easterling; a son, Reg Easterling; a grandson, Robert Durlington; a great-grandson, Brady Eugene Easterling; and a niece, Nancy Ledvina.

Later in life, Billie received a cornea transplant that restored her eyesight. To give back, Billie donated her body to science.

There will be a memorial service celebrating Billie’s life in the spring.

Paid Obituary

Charles Edward Dudley

Charles Edward Dudley, 84, of Marlow, Okla., was born Dec. 1, 1935, to Walter and Opal (Sharp) Dudley near the community of Alex, Okla. He married Marjorie Jo Hambleton on Dec. 17, 1955. Charles graduated from Alex High School in 1954. He pursued a teaching career and graduated from East Central University in December 1959.



Charles returned to Alex as a sixth grade teacher in 1960, working with both girls’ and boys’ basketball. In the fall of 1961, he became head football coach and the girls’ high school basketball coach. Those sixth grade girls became the nucleus of the teams that went to the state tournaments in 1964, 1965, and culminating in the state finals in 1967.

Over the next 28 years he coached football and girls’ basketball at Tuttle, Konawa, Davis, Madill, and Tishomingo. He retired from education in 1989. After retirement, he and Jo traveled some years before moving to Lake Humphrey in Marlow in 2001. Charles was inducted into the Grady County Coaches Association in the fall of 2015, and the Alex Alumni Hall of Fame in 2019.

He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Jo, of the home; a son and daughter-in-law, David and Donna Dudley of Antlers; two brothers, James Dudley of Maysville and Joe Dudley of Stratford; a sister and brother-in-law, Kelly and Rita West of Edmond; his grandchildren, Joe and Sarah Eastwood, Jake Dudley and Stone Dudley; his great-grandchildren, Sam, Judah and Jobe Eastwood; a sister-in-law, Shannon Davis; a brother-in-law, Neal Hambleton and wife Mauverdine; and many nieces and nephews.

Charles was preceded in death by his parents, Walter and Opal Dudley; and a son, Steve Dudley.

No services are being planned at this time. Arrangements are under the direction of John W. Williams of Winans Funeral Home, Maysville, Okla. Words of comfort may be sent to the family at www.winansfuneralhome.com.

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Food safety tips served up for Thanksgiving

The holiday season is officially here, and Thanksgiving day is quickly approaching.

While many Oklahomans will be preparing holiday meals for their families and friends, the risk of food poisoning is lurking.

“Every year in the United States, approximately 48 million people get sick because of some form of foodborne illness,” Ravi Jadeja, food safety specialist for the Oklahoma State University Robert M. Kerr

Food and Agricultural Products Center, said.

“Of those, 128,000 are hospitalized or need medical attention and, unfortunately, 3,000 people die every year.”

FAPC offers the following tips to keep your family safe and make sure food poisoning is not on the menu this Thanksgiving:

Food handling

Buy only government inspected meat and poultry products and check the “sell by” date on all

food purchases. Never buy products if the expiration date has passed.

Wash your hands thoroughly before and after preparing any food product. Also, use two cutting boards: one for preparing raw meat, poultry and fish, and the other for cutting cooked food or preparing salads.

Food preparation

Never thaw the turkey on the counter. Thawing at room temperature increases the risk of bacteria growth at the surface

of the meat even though the interior may still be chilled.

Thaw the turkey in its original wrapper on a tray placed in the bottom section of the refrigerator. Allow approximately 24 hours of defrost time for every five pounds of turkey.

Thawing the turkey in cold water is safe. Submerge the bird in its wrapper in a deep sink of cold water and change the water every 30 minutes to keep it cold. Allow 30 minutes per

pound to defrost a turkey in cold water.

Stuffing the turkey

Use a meat thermometer to determine when the turkey is done.

Insert the thermometer in the thickest part of the turkey thigh. Be aware dark meat takes longer to cook than any other part.

The turkey is done when the thermometer reaches 165 degrees Fahrenheit.

Basting the turkey while it is cooking is not necessary. Basting tools could be sources of bacterial contamination if dipped into uncooked or undercooked poultry juices and then allowed to sit at room temperature for later basting.

Do not cook a turkey overnight in an oven set at a low temperature. Cooking a turkey at a temperature below 325 degrees Fahrenheit allows harmful bacteria to multiply.

Once the turkey is done, remove the stuffing immediately.

If you purchase a fully cooked turkey, pick it up hot and bring it home to eat immediately.

Storing leftovers

After the meal, remove all meat from the turkey carcass. This should be done within two hours of the turkey’s removal from the oven.

Leftovers should be stored in the refrigerator within two hours after cooking is complete.

Leftovers should be divided into smaller portions and stored in several shallow containers.

They should be eaten within three to four days.

If large amounts are left, consider freezing for later use.

Do not wait until the leftovers have been in the refrigerator for several days to freeze. Frozen leftovers should be eaten within six months.

Eating leftovers

Reheat leftovers to 165 degrees Fahrenheit throughout or until steaming hot.

Soups, sauces and gravies should be brought to a rolling boil for at least one minute.

Never taste leftover food that looks or smells strange. When in doubt, throw it out.



Ravia students say no to drugs

Students at Ravia School recently celebrated "Just Say No to Drugs - Red Ribbon Week" with a door decorating contest. The winners in the upper grades were the seventh graders. In the lower grades the winners were Mrs. Box's second and third graders - shown here enjoying the pizza party they received as winners - whose door said "Make no bones about it - drugs are scary!"

JOSHUA SMALL, PHOTOGRAPHER

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Johnston County Church Guide

Bible Verse of the Week:

**“For the sake of my family and friends,
I will say, ‘Peace be within you.’”**

(Psalm 122:8, NIV)

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| <p>TISHOMINGO ABUNDANT LIFE CATHEDRAL 99 and Morrow Lane • 371-0129 Revs. Daniel & Delores Stevens, Pastors Sunday School.....10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship.....11:00 a.m. Wednesday Evening.....6:00 p.m.</p> <p>ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH 211 N. Broadway • 371-2112 Cordell and Erin Hines, Pastors Sunday School.....9:45 a.m. Sunday Worship.....10:40 a.m. Sunday Evening.....6:00 p.m. Wednesday Evening.....7:00 p.m.</p> <p>BULLARD CHAPEL BAPTIST Bullard Chapel Rd • 371-2504 Howard Stanley, Pastor Sunday School.....9:45 a.m. Sunday Worship.....10:45 a.m. Sunday Evening.....6:00 p.m. Wednesday Evening.....6:30 p.m.</p> <p>CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH 1/4 mi. South of Y • 371-9296 Rev Clayton, Pastor Sunday School.....9:45 a.m. Sunday Worship.....11:00 a.m. Sunday Evening.....6:00 p.m. Wednesday Evening.....7:00 p.m.</p> <p>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH 407 E. Main • 371-3243 Luke Holmes, Pastor (Transportation available; call for ride.) Sunday School.....9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship.....10:40 a.m. Sunday Evening.....6:00 p.m. Wednesday Evening.....6:00 p.m.</p> <p>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH 6th and Burris • 371-3497 Bobby L. Davis Sr., Pastor Sunday School.....9:45 a.m. Sunday Worship.....11:00 a.m. Sunday Evening.....6:00 p.m. Wednesday Evening.....6:30 p.m.</p> <p>FIRST INDIAN BAPTIST CHURCH 803 N. Byrd • (580) 443-5665 (Message) Rev. Dale Perry, Pastor Sunday School.....10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship.....11:00 a.m. Sun & Wed Evening.....7:00 p.m.</p> <p>FREE LOVE OUTREACH MINISTRY 609 North Byrd St. • 387-5035 Gary Poole, Pastor; Angella Poole, Co-Pastor Sunday School.....9:45 a.m. Sunday Worship.....11:00 a.m. Tuesday Overcomers.....12:00 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study... 6:30 p.m. Thursday Overcomers.....7:00 p.m.</p> <p>CENTRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST 212 South Muldrow Sunday Worship.....10:30 a.m. Sunday Evening.....6:00 p.m. Wednesday Evening.....7:00 p.m.</p> <p>WESTSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST 9450 U.S. Hwy. 377 S. • 371-2271 Stuart Bailey, Minister Sunday School.....9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship.....10:30 a.m. Sunday Evening.....6:00 p.m. Wednesday Evening.....6:30 p.m.</p> <p>LIGHTHOUSE CHAPEL OF PRAYER Sixth Street and North Byrd Kay Williams, Pastor Wednesday Services.....7:00 p.m. Sunday Services.....3:00 p.m.</p> <p>MAD MINISTRIES 900 East Main • 371-8509 Ivan Richeson, Jim Branch, Pastors Sunday Worship.....10:30 a.m.</p> | <p>MT. OLIVE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST 701 East 6th Street • 371-3165 Samuel Huff, Pastor Sunday School.....9:45 a.m. Sunday Worship.....11:00 a.m. Nightly Prayer.....7:00 p.m.</p> <p>CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 400 South Muldrow • 371-3120 Rev. Larry Strouse, Pastor Sunday Worship.....10:00 a.m. Sunday Evening.....6:00 p.m. Midweek Discipleship (Wednesday).....6:30 p.m.</p> <p>MURRAY STATE COLLEGE BAPTIST STUDENT UNION 801 South Murray • 371-2160 Tuesday Evening.....8:00 p.m. Wednesday.....Noon.</p> <p>UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 202 N. Neshoba • 371-2498 Rev. Joel Thompson, Pastor Sunday School.....9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship.....10:45 a.m. Wed. ASK Group.....3:30 p.m. Thursday Wesley MSC.....Noon</p> <p>VICTORY TABERNACLE 201 West 4th St. (580) 257-0180 Charles Pitts, Pastor Sunday School.....10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship.....11:00 a.m. Sunday Evening.....6:00 p.m. Wednesday Evening.....7:30 p.m.</p> <p>UNITED CHURCH 8th & Kemp Jon Hazell, Pastor Sunday School.....9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship.....10:30 a.m. Sunday Evening.....6:30 p.m.</p> <p>BROMIDE BAPTIST CHURCH Allen Hicks, Pastor Sunday School.....9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship.....10:30 a.m. Sunday Evening.....5:45 p.m. Wednesday Evening.....6:30 p.m.</p> <p>BUTCHER PEN BAPTIST MISSION</p> | <p>193 E. Butcher Pen Road • 443-5675 David Boggs, Pastor Sunday School.....10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship.....11:00 a.m. Sunday Evening.....6:00 p.m. Wednesday Evening.....7:00 p.m.</p> <p>COLEMAN COLEMAN CHURCH OF CHRIST Highway 48 Sunday Morning.....10:00 a.m. Sunday School.....10:00 a.m. Wednesday Evening.....7:00 p.m.</p> <p>COLEMAN BAPTIST CHURCH 6610 OK Hwy. 48 S., Coleman, OK (580) 937-4311 Ron Brown, Pastor www.colemanbaptist.com Sunday School.....10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship.....11:00 a.m. Sunday Evening.....6:00 p.m. Wednesday Evening.....6:30 p.m.</p> <p>FOLSOM FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH Rayden Whitmire, Pastor Coleman, OK www.folsomfwb.com Sunday School.....10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship.....10:45 a.m. Sunday Evening.....6:00 p.m.</p> <p>HOPEWELL FREEWILL BAPTIST CHURCH Southeast of Coleman Sunday Worship.....10:00 a.m. Sunday Evening.....6:00 p.m. Wednesday Evening.....7:00 p.m.</p> <p>CONNERSVILLE BLUE BANNER CHURCH Hwy. 377 North • 836-7882 Larry Hawkins, Pastor Sunday School.....9:45 a.m. Sunday Worship.....11:00 a.m. Sunday Evening.....6:00 p.m. Wednesday Evening.....7:00 p.m.</p> <p>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH Hwy. 377 • 836-7161 Art Brown, Pastor Sunday School.....10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship.....11:00 a.m.</p> <p>Wednesday Bible Study.....6:00 p.m.</p> <p>SEELEY CHAPEL UMC Rev. Gene Hancock, Pastor Seeley Chapel Road • 836-7142 Sunday School.....10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship.....11:00 a.m.</p> <p>TEMPLE OF GOD Hwy 99 • 384-5569 Tony Poe, Pastor Sunday School.....9:45 a.m. Sunday Worship.....10:45 a.m. Wednesday Evening.....7:00 p.m.</p> <p>FILLMORE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH (580) 380-6769 Rev. Michael Horath, Pastor Sunday School.....10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship.....11:00 a.m. Sunday Evening.....6:00 p.m. Wednesday Evening.....7:00 p.m.</p> <p>FREEDOM FELLOWSHIP Hwy. 48A • (580) 443-5525 Sunday School.....10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship.....11:00 a.m. Wednesday Evening.....6:30 p.m.</p> <p>CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE Rev. Dusk Monetatchi, Pastor Breakfast.....9:30 a.m. Sunday School.....10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship.....10:45 a.m. Sunday Evening.....6:00 p.m. Second Wednesday of the Month: Fellowship Dinner (No service on any other Wednesday.)</p> <p>MANNVILLE FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD 20th & Chickasaw • 371-9685 Charles Reed, Pastor Sunday School.....9:45 a.m. Sunday Worship.....10:50 a.m. Sunday Evening.....6:00 p.m. Wednesday Evening.....7:00 p.m.</p> <p>LEAP OF FAITH FULL GOSPEL CHURCH 1.9 miles west of Mannville Rev. Judy Anglin, Pastor 371-3442 Sunday Fellowship...10:00 a.m.</p> | <p>Sunday Evening.....6:00 p.m. Wednesday Evening.....6:00 p.m.</p> <p>PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS 103 South Cherokee Darryl Patrick, Pastor (580) 384-5421 Sunday School.....10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship.....11:00 a.m. Sunday Evening.....6:30 p.m. Wednesday Evening.....7:00 p.m.</p> <p>PONTOTOC UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Rev. Marsha Purtell, Pastor Sunday School.....9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship.....9:45 a.m.</p> <p>REAGAN PENNINGTON UNITED METHODIST Hwy. 7, Indian Church Rd. Sunday School.....10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship.....11:00 a.m. Wednesday Worship.....7 p.m.</p> <p>RAVIA RAVIA BAPTIST CHURCH Hwy 1 North Sunday School.....10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship.....11:00 a.m. Sunday Evening.....6:00 p.m. Wednesday Evening.....6:30 p.m.</p> <p>CHURCH OF GOD P.O. Box 117 • 371-9384 Len Gipson, Pastor Sunday School.....9:45 a.m. Sunday Worship.....11:00 a.m. Sunday Evening.....6:00 p.m. Wednesday Evening.....7:00 p.m.</p> <p>ROCK HARBOR CHURCH Hwy 22, Ravia • 371-9441 Jon Smith, Pastor Sunday School.....10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship.....11:00 a.m. Sunday Evening.....6:00 p.m. Wednesday Evening.....7:00 p.m.</p> <p>WAPANUCKA FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH Tim Carter, Pastor Sunday School.....10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship.....11:00 a.m. Sunday Evening.....6:00 p.m. Wednesday Evening.....7:00 p.m.</p> <p>LIGHTHOUSE CHURCH OF GOD 5th and N St. (580) 364-2709 Leon & Sharon Crites, Pastors Sunday School.....10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship.....11:00 a.m. Sunday Evening.....5:00 p.m. Wednesday Evening.....7:00 p.m.</p> <p>CHURCH OF GOD OF PROPHECY Hwy. 48 North Frank Wallace, Pastor • 937-4430 Sunday School.....10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship.....11:00 a.m. Sunday Evening.....6:00 p.m. Thursday Evening.....6:00 p.m.</p> <p>NEW BEGINNINGS Kenneth & Shelly May (580) 378-2309 Sunday School.....10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship.....11:00 a.m. Sunday Evening.....6:00 p.m. Thursday Evening.....7:00 p.m.</p> <p>EMMANUEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH 402 E. Main Mark Hodges, Pastor • 638-2254 Sunday School.....10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship.....11:00 a.m. Sunday Evening.....6:00 p.m. 1st & 3rd Sunday.....2:30 p.m. Wednesday Evening.....7:00 p.m.</p> |
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Science rules at Ravia School

Science may be a topic of debate in America at the moment, but students at Ravia School have recently been taking part in a number of “hands-on” classes designed to broaden their knowledge and understanding of the world around them. Fourth and fifth graders pictured above learned about barn owls, known for their close association with man and agriculture; lessons included dissecting owl pellets - the undigested remains of prey eaten by the nocturnal creatures - and identifying the skulls and bones of the types of animals eaten. Barn owls were also on the lesson plan for sixth graders (middle photo), who learned how to construct a graph illustrating the biomass of each prey group in the diet of an owl and compare it to the percentage of each prey type consumed. In the bottom photo, Ravia seventh and eighth graders are shown taking part in a classroom exercise in which they were allowed to dissect cow eyes; after the dissections were complete, there was a quiz to check the students’ comprehension and the learning aspects of the exercise.



Christmas is coming

Before anything else, I’d like to mention that the phone number for our friends at Hurst Carpet is 371-3397, not 3387.

Thank goodness for graceful business owners when a slip of the finger on the keyboard happens.

This also provides the perfect segway into announcing a fun event that will be happening at Hurst Carpet in Granny’s Attic Antiques – a two-day shopping event.

On Friday and Saturday, Dec. 11-12, Hurst Carpet will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. to make great deals on their antiques, furniture and accessories.

They are clearing the floor for a fun new adventure that will be announced soon.

Come shop their selection of kitchen and home furnishings, lamps, artwork, dishes, classic treasures and more, with prices marked down, plus holiday music, fun games and giveaways both days with refreshments available.

Get some Christmas shopping out of the way while you’re at it.

But wait, there’s more – who likes a little friendly competition?

Along with the shopping event, Granny’s Attic is hosting a table decorating contest.

Teams of five can enter for free and during the week of Nov. 30, will go up to decorate a table using only items from inside the store. Then, family, friends and customers should visit the store to vote for their favorite table.

Winners will be announced on Dec. 12, and will receive prizes. Contact Jami at the number above to enter your team.

Speaking of competitions, please get your home registered for “Let It Glow.”

Whether your lights are already up or you are waiting just a bit longer like me, you can go ahead and register your address with us to add to the list of decorated homes in Johnston

Chamber News

Jordyn Frazier
JCCC Executive Director



County.

Registration is due by Dec. 4. When we compile the addresses to create a map for the community to use to navigate the homes, we will only be using addresses; no names will be listed.

The phone number to use to text in votes for the People’s Choice Award will be shared when we get a little closer to the start of the actual competition.

Let the inner Christmas elf in you out this year and go big.

My parents used to load up all six of us to drive around and look at houses all lit up. It was always a fun time. I look forward to getting back to that this year and seeing your homes decorated.

Register at <https://form.jotform.com/203074889141054>. You can also find the link on our Facebook page under events.

We also recently announced on Facebook that the 2020 Christmas Classics Parade is a “go” for Saturday, Dec. 12, at 6 p.m.

The entry form is now available online or at our office. Lineup will be at the Johnston County Sports Complex for vehicles, and the First Baptist Church for walkers.

When the parade reaches Main Street from Byrd, floats will head east to end at the Tishomingo school parking lot. There is plenty of beautiful new sidewalk for spectators to watch the parade from and social distance.

After the parade, Santa will be at Simple Simon’s Pizza for a photo op. We’re looking forward to a fun and safe month of activities.

“Nobody’s walking out on this fun, old-fashioned family Christmas.” – Christmas Vacation.

johnstoncountyokchamber.com

Medicare Annual Election Period

October 15 - December 7

Medicare plans can be very confusing.

Let me help you find your best coverage options.

Prescription drug plans change every year.

The right plan – based on your medications and your preferred pharmacy – can save you hundreds of dollars.

I represent many of the plan providers in our area and would love to help you get the most from your Medicare coverage.

Plans are available with premiums as low as \$0.00 a month!

ADVANTAGE PLAN



PART D

ONLY 2 WEEKS LEFT

Jason Clary

ABC Medicare

Independent Agent

(580) 371-3356

Call to schedule your appointment

**Looking for
100-500 acres
to buy within
45 minutes
of Tishomingo.
Need ASAP!
(918) 557-5308**

Crime News

Police Phone Log

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9:

8:30 p.m. - Medical call.
9:00 p.m. - Caller reporting fight.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10:

2:00 p.m. - Alarm call.
2:50 p.m. - Caller reporting dispute.
10:29 p.m. - Caller reporting noise complaint.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11:

6:34 p.m. - Caller reporting suspicious activity.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12:

2:41 a.m. - Caller reporting theft.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13:

7:40 a.m. - Caller reporting vehicle accident.
3:13 p.m. - Caller reporting property damage.
5:38 p.m. - Caller reporting verbal altercation.
7:01 p.m. - Caller requesting welfare check.
7:39 p.m. - Caller requesting welfare check.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14:

6:55 a.m. - Caller reporting possible gunshots.
6:20 p.m. - Caller reporting verbal altercation.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15:

6:54 a.m. - Alarm call.
5:59 p.m. - Caller reporting prowler.

Sheriff's Phone Log

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9:

8:03 a.m. - Caller in Coleman reporting lewd acts.
3:05 p.m. - Caller in Ravia reporting fraud.
7:42 p.m. - Caller in Mannsville reporting threat.
8:19 p.m. - Caller in Ravia reporting theft.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10:

8:14 p.m. - Caller in Mannsville reporting scam.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11:

11:10 a.m. - Caller in Mannsville reporting dog bite.
12:37 p.m. - Caller reporting reckless driver on Highway 377 coming into Connerville.
7:33 p.m. - Caller on North O Avenue reporting stolen vehicle.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12:

9:25 a.m. - Caller in Milburn reporting complaint.
12:56 p.m. - Caller in Bromide reporting complaint.
1:56 p.m. - Caller in Mannsville reporting dog bite.
10:43 p.m. - Caller in Mannsville reporting possible gunshots.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13:

10:18 a.m. - Caller on U.S. Highway 377 south reporting vandalism.
11:08 a.m. - Caller on Highway 377 southbound from Tishomingo reporting vehicle fire.
11:34 a.m. - Caller in Coleman reporting vehicle accident.
11:56 a.m. - Caller on South Preston Road reporting break-in.
12:42 p.m. - Caller in Milburn reporting theft.
1:23 p.m. - Caller in Ravia reporting squatters.
8:42 p.m. - Caller in Wapanucka reporting theft.
9:04 p.m. - Caller in Milburn reporting vehicle accident.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14:

5:09 a.m. - Caller in Ravia reporting horse out.
7:29 p.m. - Caller reporting road hazard on Highway 377 south.
8:57 p.m. - Caller in Mannsville reporting pursuit.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15:

6:31 p.m. - Caller in Milburn reporting threat.
10:43 p.m. - Caller in Tishomingo reporting animal neglect.

Johnston County Blotter

The following cases were filed in the Johnston County Court Clerk's office in Tishomingo during the week of Nov. 6-12.

These are only cases filed, and do not indicate guilt or innocence on the part of the defendant.

Court records are a matter of public record, and are published in the *Johnston County Sentinel* as a public service.

Felonies

Katie Lynn Urbanosky - Distribution of controlled dangerous substance.

Misdemeanors

Matdock Lee Jaynes - Possession of controlled dangerous substance (marijuana).

Hollie Lorraine Cofer - Possession of controlled dangerous substance (methamphetamine); possession of controlled dangerous substance (marijuana).

Traffic

Lorrienne Michelle Baugh, The Colony, Texas - Speeding, 79/65.

Sean Bongcayao, Jacksonville, Fla. - Speeding, 78/65.

Wildlife

None.

Civil

Simmons Bank vs. Billy Don

Asbery and Katherine Janeen Asbery - Foreclosure.

River Country Rentals LLC vs. Crystal Dawnyall Adams - Replevin.

Discover Bank vs. Joe D. Wilson - Breach of contract/agreement.

Small Claims

None.

Marriages

Jarrett Alexander Corbin, 24, Tulsa, and Abbie Rebecca Westfall, 23, Tulsa.

Divorces

Anna Christine McLean vs. Aaron McLean.

Wilson woman charged in drug case

A 34-year-old Wilson woman faces the possibility of life in prison after being charged in Johnston County District Court with a felony count of distribution of a controlled dangerous substance.

According to documents on file at the Johnston County Court Clerk's office, the charge against Katie Lynn Urbanosky stems from allegations that she had been knowingly distributing oxycodone in the area in July of this year.

The charge was filed

following a joint investigation by the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics, the Carter County Sheriff's Department and the Ardmore Police Department, court records show.

An affidavit by Eric Yarbrough, a certified officer with the Carter County Sheriff's Department, states that investigators arranged a controlled purchase of 10 oxycodone tablets to a confidential informant on July 21.

Investigators maintained both audio and visual surveillance as

the confidential informant made contact with Urbanosky at a location on East Broadway in Mannsville, the affidavit states.

Following the controlled buy, the tablets were reportedly sent to the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation lab for analysis.

An arrest warrant for Urbanosky was filed on Oct. 27, court records show.

Court records further show that Urbanosky was taken into custo-

dy by Johnston County Deputy Christopher Boston on Nov. 6.

A spokesperson for the Johnston County Court Clerk's office told the *Sentinel* that Urbanosky was being held in the Johnston County Jail on \$25,000 bond.

An initial appearance in Johnston County District Court was still pending at last report.

If convicted Urbanosky faces a possible sentence of imprisonment for seven years to life, and/or a fine of up to \$100,000.

State GOP caucus leadership selected

The Oklahoma House of Representative's Republican Caucus last week elected its leadership for the 58th Legislature. The legislative session convenes Feb. 1, 2021.

State Rep. Charles McCall (R-Atoka), whose District 22 includes Johnston County, is Speaker-elect as no one else filed for that position. This would be his third term as the state's Speaker of the House.

Elected by the Caucus to serve as speaker pro tempore-elect was State Rep. Terry O'Donnell (R-Catoosa). He replaces State Rep. Harold Wright (R-Weatherford), who was term-limited this year.

"I'm grateful to have been selected to fill this leadership role in the House," O'Donnell said. "I look forward to working closely with the caucus and the speaker's office to advance meaningful legislation that

will make Oklahoma the best place to live and do business, and to help ensure members follow House rules and appropriate decorum."

O'Donnell has served the House as majority whip since the 56th Legislature, and served as the chair of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee the past two years.

He also is a member of the House Appropriations and Budget and the Judiciary Committees, as well as a member of the House and Senate Joint Committee on Appropriations and Budget.

Both the pro tem and speaker positions will have to be approved by the full House when it meets for Organizational Day, Jan. 5. This day is required by the state Constitution to certify newly elected members and formally elect House leadership.

Also elected this week was State Rep. Sheila Dills (R-Tulsa) to

serve as Caucus Chair.

"What an honor to be selected to this leadership position by my many peers in the House Republican Caucus," Dills said. "This team over the past few years has passed many important legislative reforms that have put our state into a more secure position to weather whatever storms may arise."

"Just this year, when facing an economic downturn and a global pandemic, we were able to protect state services for Oklahomans and make prudent decisions to move our state forward in many areas. I look forward to the opportunity to lead this caucus as we tackle equal challenges in the coming legislative sessions."

Dills was first elected to the House in 2018. During the 57th Legislature, she served as assistant majority floor leader and is on the following committees: Common Education, Health Ser-

vices, and Long-Term Care and Tourism.

She also is a member of the House Appropriations and Budget Committee for Human Services.

Other elected caucus leadership positions include:

- Vice Caucus Chair - Rep. Rusty Cornwell (R-Vinita); and
- Caucus Secretary - Rep. Denise Crosswhite Hader (R-Piedmont).

Cornwell and Crosswhite Hader also were elected in 2018.

Dills replaces former caucus chair State Rep. Tammy West (R-Oklahoma City).

Cornwell and Crosswhite Hader replace Rep. Ross Ford (R-Broken Arrow) and Rep. Carol Bush (R-Tulsa) in their respective positions.



Medical pot hearing planned

Two members of the Oklahoma House of Representatives announced late last week that they will hold a hearing on Oklahoma's medical marijuana program.

In a statement released to the press last Friday, Nov. 13, House Majority Floor Leader Jon Echols (R-Oklahoma City) and State Rep. Scott Fetgatter (R-Okmulgee) stated that the hearing has been scheduled for Monday, Dec. 14.

The lawmakers said they plan to invite speakers from the industry and from the Oklahoma Medical Marijuana Authority to make presentations before relevant legislative committee members. The hearing

will be open to the public.

"An update from the industry and regulators about experiences to date and where we are headed is timely for policymakers as we continue working to implement the will of the people," Echols said.

Fetgatter and Echols have authored several pieces of legislation to strengthen regulations around the medical marijuana industry in a manner consistent with the will of the people.

"Industry, patients and regulators are bringing many good ideas for updates and adjustments to statute after two years of operating under Oklahoma's first regulatory framework for medical marijuana," Fetgatter

said.

Oklahoma voters petitioned to place the legalization of medical marijuana on a statewide ballot, and State Question 788 was approved in June 2018.

Medical marijuana has since grown into a multimillion dollar industry, with more than 300,000 licensed patients.

More than 10,000 licensed businesses are either growing, testing or selling the substance in Oklahoma. The state question led to the establishment of the Oklahoma Medical Marijuana Authority to regulate the industry.

At last report, the time and location of the hearing was still to be determined.

Update Continued from Page 1

man added that discussions with TMS Principal Charles Hook had resulted in the determination “that it would be advisable to be consistent District-wide.”

Waitman’s letter - which was also posted on the *Johnston County Sentinel’s* Facebook page on Nov. 11 - stated that the schools would be closed to students, but staff members would report to work. “We are hopeful the week of distance learning in addition to the week we are out for Thanksgiving Break will prove to be enough time to see a turnaround in the number of cases/quarantines we are experiencing,” the letter stated.

During the discussion concerning the pandemic at the commissioners’ meeting on Monday, Johnston County EMS Director Kenny Power cited recent news reports concerning the increased number of hospitalized COVID-19 patients at hospitals in Ardmore, Ada and Durant.

As a result, Power said, his crews are having to look at the possibility of transporting patients requiring lengthy hospitalization to facilities as far away as Norman or Denton, Texas.

“And that’s not going to last long, because those hospitals are going to start filling up fast, too,” Power said. He noted that Mercy Hospital in Tishomingo is taking patients who cannot be admitted into the hospitals in Ardmore and Ada.

As COVID-19 reports continue to rise by record numbers in Oklahoma and across the na-

tion, Johnston County on Tuesday was one of the rare areas able to report a decrease in its active cases.

According to figures released Tuesday morning by the Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH), Johnston County had seen a decrease of 13 active cases in the previous 24-hour period. Active cases as of Tuesday’s report in Johnston County had decreased from a record of 101 on Monday to 88 active cases on Tuesday.

There were 14 reported recoveries for Johnston County in the same time period. OSDH automatically considers a person recovered after two weeks if not otherwise officially reported to the state.

As of Tuesday, the OSDH was reporting a total of 429 confirmed positive cases in Johnston County - an increase of one case in the 24 hours leading up to Tuesday’s reporting. Of that total, 88 cases were said to be active; four are deceased, and 337 are said to have recovered.

Total cases in Tishomingo did not increase in the 24 hours leading up to Tuesday’s report, remaining at 210. According to the OSDH, 39 of these were active cases, down six active cases over the previous 24 hours. Tishomingo has had three deaths, and 168 are said to have recovered.

In the 24-hour period leading up to Tuesday’s OSDH report, Coleman had decreased by one active case to 10. Ravia declined three cases to three active cases and

Mill Creek decreased one case to six active cases. Milburn declined one case to 13 active cases, while Mannsville remained at seven active cases and Wapanucka remained at three active cases.

Rural Johnston County had declined to seven active cases.

In the last 10 weeks, OSDH has reported four deaths from COVID-19, in Johnston County. This remains unchanged from two months ago.

Over the past week, active cases throughout the state of Oklahoma had increased from 21,720 to 28,807. This was an increase of 7,087 active cases within one week.

As of Tuesday’s report there had been a total of 158,408 COVID-19 cases diagnosed statewide in Oklahoma, a single day increase of 1,551 cases. Total cases in Oklahoma had increased by 16,074 in one week; 128,057 of these cases were considered recovered by the OSDH.

According to the OSDH, the total death toll for the state had increased to 1,544 - up six in the previous 24 hours and 74 through this week.

Despite the current decrease in numbers here in Johnston County, a nationwide surge in reported cases continues. The U.S. tally topped 11 million on Monday after adding 1 million new cases in six days, with 50 states and territories recording rising numbers and the virus showing no sign of slowing.

The U.S. has averaged more than 150,000

cases in the last week, according to a *New York Times* tracker - an increase of 81 percent from the average two weeks ago. Monday’s record of 69,987 COVID-19 patients in U.S. hospitals topped the previous record of 69,455 set just one day earlier, and was up 87 percent from a month ago.

The surge has promoted some states to enact more stringent measures in hopes of combatting the virus. Here in Oklahoma, Gov. Kevin Stitt joined Commissioner of Health Lance Frye to announce Seventh Amended Executive Order (EO) 2020-20, which increases safety measures for restaurants, bars and state employees in Oklahoma to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

“Throughout the entire battle against COVID-19, my first priority has been to protect the health and lives of Oklahomans,” Stitt said. “Two other things are also very important to me. We’re going to keep businesses open safely and we’re going to work to get all kids back in school safely by the end of Christmas break. However, it’s going to take everyone working together to meet these goals.”

New action items under Seventh Amended EO 2020-20 include the following:

- Starting today (Thursday), Nov. 19, all restaurants will be required to space tables at least six feet apart, unless tables, booths and bar areas are separated

by sanitized dividers.

• Also as of Thursday, all bars and restaurants will be required to close by 11 p.m. No in-person service of food or alcohol will be allowed after 11 p.m. except for restaurant drive-through windows or curbside pickup.

• Beginning this past Tuesday, Nov. 17, all 33,000 state employees under the executive branch will be required to wear a mask in common areas or when they’re around other people. All visitors to state agency buildings will also be required to wear a mask.

The Oklahoma House of Representatives and the Oklahoma Senate also announced on Monday that masks will be required for employees and visitors at the State Capitol.

“These aren’t our first actions, and they won’t be our last,” Stitt said. “Based on the data in our state - specifically the rise in hospitalizations - now is the time to do more. Each one of us has a role to play in this fight. I need every Oklahoman to think about what they can do to slow the spread.”

While stopping short of a statewide face mask mandate - such as that recently reimposed in Ohio by Gov. Mike DeWine and bolstered with some additional, tougher guidelines - Stitt also called on Oklahomans to take such precautions as face masks and social distancing seriously.

Similar sentiments were expressed by Power at the commissioners’

meeting on Monday.

“It’s no big deal to put a mask on - just do it,” Power said.

But Johnston County Undersheriff - and Sheriff-elect - Gary Dodd stated that face mask mandates are not enforceable and that any such mandate by the governor would carry little legal weight.

“The governor can enact a mask mandate, but unless it goes through the legislature and is voted on it’s not a law,” Dodd said. “It’s only a recommendation.”

There was hopeful news in the past week when the biotech firm Moderna Inc. announced that its vaccine candidate achieved 94.5 percent efficacy in an initial analysis of data from a late-stage trial. Moderna’s news came just a week after Pfizer Inc. and partner BioNTech SE said they achieved a slightly lower 90 percent efficacy rate in a Phase 3 trial of their vaccine candidate.

If those early results hold up and U.S. regulators agree the shots are safe, emergency use of small, rationed supplies could start in late December, according to some reports. Other countries with contracts for early doses would undertake their own reviews.

But multiple vaccines will be needed to meet global demand and help end the pandemic, raising concern that studies that still need to sign up thousands of volunteers could run short if people wait for an already approved option instead.

Situation Continued from Page 1

able. This includes patients who are ill for other reasons than COVID-19. It is affecting the entire system.

It is sometimes taking hours to locate ICU beds in the state or in nearby Texas for critical patients. Ninety-five percent of the ICU capacity is in use statewide, according to Williams.

Between 25 and 30 patients are on ventilators in our region, Pack said. She added that, between medical professionals being exposed to COVID-19 and the high number of patients, staffing shortages are also straining the healthcare system throughout the state.

Test positivity rate for Johnston County is running at the 10.1 to 19.9 percent positivity range. According to the executive report from the Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH), ideally a 5 percent positivity range is desired.

This is a serious public health crisis. Last flu season there were 85 deaths from influenza in the entire state of Oklahoma. To date and growing daily, there have been 1,544 deaths from COVID-19 statewide.

“What is going to happen when we overwhelm the health system?” Williams asked. “With no beds and no one

to care for people, the death rate will increase.”

She went on to stress that in Oklahoma, the state health department is making certain that all deaths reported to be from COVID-19 are COVID-19 related deaths.

The average age of hospitalization with COVID-19 is 61.5 years, meaning there are many people younger than senior citizens being hospitalized in the state due to this disease.

“Avoid MEN” and “Follow WOMEN” is the advice being given by Williams, using acronyms intended to help people remember:

Avoid MEN - not touching *Mouth, Eyes and Nose*;

Follow WOMEN - *Wash* hands frequently, *Obey* social distancing, *Mask* when leaving home, *Eat* healthy and *Not* going out when ill.

The message that Pack and Williams wanted to convey is to be prepared, and help local health professionals make it through these remaining months before the vaccine is available. This will be the most difficult and dangerous time for everyone during this pandemic, they stressed.

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Members of the 2020 Tishomingo Indians are shown taking the field prior to the start of their Oct. 2 game at Marietta. (Photo courtesy of Misty Thompson)

The businesses of Johnston County would like to say “thanks and congratulations” to Head Coach Clint Nabors, all his assistant coaches, the team managers and all the players who stuck together and played their hardest, beginning to end, during this 2020 football season.

“When your team is winning, be ready to be tough, because winning can make you soft. On the other hand, when your team is losing, stick by them. Keep believing.”

— Bo Schembechler

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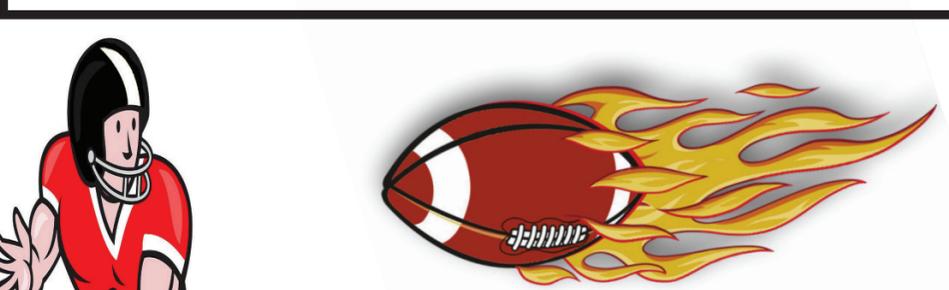
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COMMERCIAL LOT ON MAIN! Great opportunity for building a business! 309 W. Main \$35,000

BUILD YOUR DREAMS! In the heart of downtown Tishomingo Opportunity awaits for the perfect business @ 205 E. Main.

TREAT YOURSELF TO A NEW HOME! Brick home features 2B, open concept kitchen, appliances, bonus room that would make 3rd BR or den. double carport. Located on dead end @ 207 W. 22nd St. \$75,000.

FIX ME UP! Turn this home into your forever home with a little TLC! 2/3BR, hardwood floors, lg country kitchen, 2 car garage, fenced yard, 709 Lafaevers Ave. \$39,500

SOUTHERN LIVING! This classic southern style 2 story home sits on 92 acre ranch. 4B/4B, master BR flows to office/sitting rm. Living has rock fireplace, kitchen/dining, granite, & island.

Also, safe in the back, pool, sun adjoins guest house & garage. Enjoy relaxing on covered patio.

Pasture has 7 ponds, 2 lg barns, storage sheds. Beautiful oak, pecan, & fruit trees, 2 gardens , well & rural water. 3401 Devils Den Rd. \$749,000

INCOME PRODUCING PROPERTY! 16 storage units. 8789 Hwy S, Ravia

LOOKING TO BUILD? Beautiful corner lot 807 N. Broadway

OPPORTUNITY AWAITS! Old service station includes 5 lots with highway frontage. This is an opportunity to open restaurant or business. 200 W. Grand, Ravia \$25,000.

A VARIETY OF OPPORTUNITES! This could be a great restaurant, business, converted to a home, or continue as a church. 78 E, Highway frontage on 1.24 acres \$158,000

A SWEETHEART OF A DEAL! Secluded home features 3/4 BR/1.5 bath, very lg kitchen with abundant cabinetry adjoins dining and living rm. Notable feature is room large enough for 2 king beds + craft room. Metal carport & storage bldg. Great space for family. Located on dead end at 1309 Cinnamon Ln. \$120,000

OWN A PIECE OF HISTORY IN THE HEART OF DOWNTOWN! 2 adjoining bldgs feature bar, 4 baths, new roof, patio for extra seating, & ch&a. Offers a variety of options for your choice of business. Would make great restaurant with overflow dining. Approximately 3,000 sq ft. 310 W Main, reduced to \$285,000.

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:
 All real estate advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex handicap, familial status or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination."
 This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.



Tishomingo Apartments, Inc. has available units Section 8 income-based housing for those who qualify. The apartments have efficiency (0), one (1) and two (2) bedroom apartments with CHA, refrigerator, range and carpet. A Utility Allowance is deducted from your rent to assist with the electric bill and the Apartment Complex pays for the water and natural gas. Affordable housing for qualified income-based and disabled applicants located across from Murray State College. Applications are available at Tishomingo Apartments, 1100 South Byrd, Tishomingo, OK, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Interested persons may call (580) 371-3372 or write Tishomingo Apartments, Inc., 1100 South Byrd Tishomingo, OK 73460. Applications will be mailed. Tishomingo Apartments, Inc., does not discriminate on the basis of handicap status in the admission or access to or treatment or employment in, its federally assisted programs and activities.



NEW LISTING: JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING. This Brick home has 3 bdrms., 1 and 3/4 bths., metal roof, nice kitchen with dutch oven, living room with cathedral ceiling and beautiful brick fireplace, wrap around porch with hottub, formal dining room, laundry room, CH&A, ceiling fans throughout home, attached 2 car carport, large shop building on solid foundation with electricity, storage building, storm shelter, all setting on 3 acres just about 1 mile east of Nida, OK. Please call for your showing on this beautiful place. Priced at \$144,600.

CUTE, 4 BDRM., 2 BTH. FRAME, comp. roof, pier and beam foundation, ceiling fans, wood floor, split cooling, gas heating, covered front porch, refrigerator and refrigerator go with house, two storage building, metal fencing in back yard, sets on several lots in ravia, sets on the corner of Third Street, 109 3, needs some repair work. Asking \$28,000.

COMMERCIAL BUILDING, approx. 1670 sq.ft. CH&A, solid foundation, on block corner of Main and Kemp, Excellent Main Street location. Call for showing.

REDUCED CHARMING TWO STORY, North Kemp, 2 bdrm., 1 bth, approx. 1,100 sq. ft., French doors, CH&A, covered front porch, carport, \$69,900. Call Lela Barnes for your showing. (817) 408-0382. \$59,000.

REDUCED BEAUTIFUL BRICK HOME. Main house has 3 bdrm., 2 bths, CH&A, metal roofing, approx. 1,392 sq. ft., covered front crpt, kitchen appliances remain, Mother-in-Law house has 2 bdrm., 1 bth., approx. 816 sq. ft. Open covered porch connects both houses. 2 bdrm. could also be used as a rental property. 2 large city lots in Ponotoc, OK, 3 storage sheds. There is a 242 sq. ft. cinder block building that was a former beauty shop. Lots of possibilities with this place. Asking only \$110,000. Call Mike Lovett for your showing, (580) 371-1720.

3 BDRM, 1 BTH., fr., 308 S. Main, Bromide. Metal roof, approx. 1,257 sq.ft., enclosed bk. porch, fenced yard, metal roof, asking \$38,000. Call for showing.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY IN CONNERVILLE, former convenience store, cement block building, 2 gas pumps, has approx 1064 sq.ft., 3 city lots, needs some tender loving care on inside. Asking only \$50,000. Call for showing.

JUST ONE MILE FROM NEW CASINO IN WILLIS, OK. 3 bdms., 1 and 1/2 bths., frame, metal roof, tile flooring, ceiling fans, vaulted ceiling, many other extras, sets on approx. 1 acre, also has older mobile hm. Located at 5472 S. Hwy. 377. Asking \$230,000. Call for your showing.

Comfortable and Cozy - 1,400 +/- sq. ft. 2 or 3 bedroom, ch&a, garage, shop and storage building sitting on six lots. Asking \$67,500. 103 West 20th Street.

Very Comfy - 402 S. Main +/- sq. ft., 2 bedroom, 1 3/4 bath, CH&A, open floor plan, wrap around porch, wood deck, sitting on 6 lots. Asking \$72,000.

Country Style - Nice comfortable 1600 sq. ft. brick home. 3 br, 2 ba, fireplace, storage building/garage. All sitting on 12 +/- acres. 7949 S. Project Lane, Milburn. Shown by appointment only, asking \$165,000.

Sportsman's Paradise - 200 Acres The ranch has been managed for several years for wildlife with established food plots. There are four ponds on the ranch which has been stocked with bass and/or catfish. Because the property has been used for hunting primarily for the last several years the white-tail deer, turkey and wild hogs are plentiful. There is rural water and electricity along with two equipment sheds, solar water well. Asking \$2,800 an acre.

Home for sale: 609 Parkway, Tishomingo. Would make a good investment/rental property. Call for pricing.

705 N. Kemp Commercial Property Spacious 5000 +/- sq. ft. commercial building ready for business. Five offices, restroom, garage and plenty of room for storage. Asking \$192,000 reduced to \$172,000.

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Yard Sale: Thursday, November 19 - Saturday, November 21, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Furniture, instruments, clothing, holiday and electronics. 305 N. Broadway, Tishomingo.



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abby_1027@yahoo.com

906 S. Ohio, Tishomingo, OK - Brick home, great location near Murray State College, 2b/2b, bonus room that could be a third bedroom, has sunroom, garage, additional covered parking, two outside storage buildings. \$120,000, reduced to \$115,000.

7858 Golf Course Lane - This 3200 sq.ft. home features 5 bedrooms and 3 1/2 baths, spacious living room with vaulted ceiling, large patio and carport. Near the golf course. \$309,000.

CALL ABBY, (580) 371-1023. FOR YOUR SHOWING.

Legal Notices

(Published October 8, 15, 22, 29 & November 5, 12 & 19, 2020)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT IN AND FOR JOHNSTON COUNTY STATE OF OKLAHOMA

DEWAYNE MIMS AND SAMANTHA MIMS, Plaintiffs,

vs.

THE KNOWN AND UNKNOWN SUCCESSORS OF MARTHA BROWN, FULL BLOOD CHICKASAW, ROLL #2098 and MAUREEN PHELPS s/p/a MAUREEN L. PHELPS, each deceased, and

WESLEY BROWN, FULL BLOOD CHICKASAW, ROLL #2244; MARTIN BROWN; JOHNSLIN HART s/p/a JOSLIN HART; and BETTY BROCK JACKSON, if living, and, in the alternative, if deceased, their UNKNOWN SUCCESSORS,

Defendants.

Case No. CV-2020-20

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA TO:

The Known and Unknown Successors of Martha Brown, Full Blood Chickasaw, Roll #2098 and Maureen Phelps s/p/a Maureen L. Phelps, each deceased, and Wesley Brown, Full Blood Chickasaw, Roll #2244; Martin Brown; Johnslin Hart s/p/a Joslin Hart; and Betty Brock Jackson, if living, and, in the alternative, if deceased, their Unknown Successors.

You are hereby notified that you have been sued in the District Court of Johnston County, in Cause CV-2020-20 wherein Dewayne Mims and Samantha Mims are the Plaintiffs and you are Defendants and that you must answer the Petition of the Plaintiffs on or before November 19th, 2020, or judgment will be rendered accordingly adjudging that Plaintiffs are the owners of and in the peaceful possession of the following described real property as set forth in the Petition, situated in Johnston County, Oklahoma, to-wit:

The South Half of the Southeast Quarter (S/2 SE/4) of Section Thirty-three (33), Township Two (2) South, Range Five (5) East of the Indian Meridian and Base-line, and A tract of land located in Lot Two (2) and Lot Three (3), Section Four (4), Township Three (3) South, Range Five (5) East of the Indian Meridian and Base-line, more particularly described as follows: Beginning at the Northwest Corner of Lot 2; thence N89°55'06"E along the North line of said Lot 2 a distance of 50.00 feet; thence S44°56'49"W a distance of 70.75 feet to a point on the West line of Lot 2; thence S00°01'28"E along the West line of Lot 2 a distance of 606.18 feet to a point on the East right of way line of Highway 1; thence N22°02'57"W along the East right of way line a distance of 76.84 feet to the Southeast Corner of a tract of land described in Book 165 at Page 767 in the Office of the Johnston County Clerk; thence along the East line of said Book 165 at Page 767 for the following three courses: 1. Thence N18°17'12"W a distance of 304.77 feet; 2. Thence along a non-tan-

gent curve to the left having a radius of 3044.79 feet, an arc length of 201.24 feet, a chord bearing of N23°56'34"W and a chord distance of 201.20 feet; 3. Thence N26°38'45"W a distance of 124.60 feet to a point on the North line of Lot 3; thence N89°55'32"E along the North line of Lot 3 a distance of 261.72 feet to the point of beginning,

judicially determining the death and heirship of Martha Brown, Full Blood Chickasaw, Roll #2098, and quieting and confirming Plaintiffs title and possession therein as in the Petition set forth.

Given under my hand and seal this 5th day of October, 2020.

/s/ Cassandra Slover,
 COURT CLERK

Erik Johnson Law
 Erik Johnson,
 OBA #18740
 112 E. 10th St.
 Ada, OK 74820
 (580) 279-1975

(Published November 12 & 19, 2020)

Legal Notice

The Board of Education of Tishomingo Public School District hereby provides legal notice that the school board election filing period for candidates will open on Monday, December 7, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. and will close Wednesday, December 9, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

Board Member Position on Ballot:

The voters shall elect a board member for board position No. 1, which has a 5-year term of office.

(Published November 19, 2020)

Legal Notice

The Board of Education of Southern Oklahoma Technology Center School District hereby provides legal notice that the school board election filing period for candidates will open on Monday, December 7, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. and will close Wednesday, December 9, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

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Laptop lending library helps ECU students stay connected

In a time when virtual instruction has become commonplace, a grant has enabled East Central University's Linscheid Library to acquire and lend laptop computers to students who need them for their studies.

Thanks to a U.S. Department of Education grant, ECU was able to acquire 100 laptops for the sole purpose of making them available to students.

The funds were made available under the Title III Strengthening Institutional Programming grant, which allows "creating or improving facilities for Internet or other distance-learning, academic instruction capabilities, including purchase or rental of telecommunications technology equipment or services."

A current ECU student with a valid university ID may check out a laptop from Linscheid Library for a 24-hour period to complete coursework or take an exam.

A student may also arrange to use a laptop for an extended period of time. Library personnel will make those arrangements on a case-by-case basis.

"The library's mission is to collaborate with our community to provide access to resources that empower students, and that's exactly what happened

with this program," ECU Public Services Librarian Marla Lobley said.

"Even before COVID-19, a device and Internet access was a necessity for students to be able to complete assignments and succeed in their courses. Now, students need to be able to access a device from home so that the variety of issues presented by COVID-19 does not stop them from completing their education."

The concept of a "laptop lending library" at ECU blossomed out of meetings among current students and Academic Success Center staff.

Dr. Jeffrey Gibson, ECU provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, greenlit the grant application that was quickly approved. Shawna Case, the interim director of the Academic Success Center, and Leah Lyon, director of ECU's office of sponsored programs and research, were also instrumental in bringing this incredibly useful idea to fruition.

"This is a remarkable program," Gibson said.

"With colleges and universities having to shift to hybrid and online instruction during the pandemic, access to technology has become even more crucial to student success. So all credit goes to our folks

in Academic Success and Sponsored Programs for pursuing this opportunity, as well as to our IT team for acquiring the laptops and to our librarians for getting them into the hands of students. This is a powerful demonstration of how ECU personnel collaborate across campus to provide students access to the resources and support that will help them succeed academically."

ECU did not have laptops to lend last spring when the COVID-19 pandemic first appeared, but still put together a technology-sharing system to help keep students engaged.

"Last spring, we knew there were many students who did not own laptops and had been depending on the library's public computers," Lobley said.

"We had about 20 tablets that we used for teaching purposes in the library that we decided could be used for checkout in that emergency situation. It was highly successful. The tablets were checked out very quickly and made it possible for those students to complete their work online."

All available laptops are sanitized before they are checked out to students and again after they are returned.

For more information, please contact Linscheid Library at (580) 559-5376.

East Central plans virtual commencement

With the COVID-19 pandemic showing no signs of slowing anytime soon, East Central University (ECU) in Ada has decided to replace its traditional December commencement exercise with a safer, virtual event that protects graduates, their families, and faculty and staff.

"The biggest academic accomplishment at ECU is graduating, and we want to celebrate this incredible achievement with our May and December 2020 graduates," Dr. Katricia Pierson, ECU president, said.

"The COVID-19 pandemic continues to make it difficult for ECU to safely host large gatherings, which means we will not be able to hold a traditional commencement ceremony in De-

cember. As important as that event is, nothing is more important than the health and well-being of our students, their loved ones, and the campus community."

Instead, an alternative commencement ceremony is being planned for Saturday, Dec. 12. December 2020 graduates will be recognized at 10 a.m. on that day.

May 2020 graduates, who missed their original ceremony because of the pandemic, will be recognized at 2 p.m.

Although details and procedures for the virtual commencement event are still being ironed out, there are some steps graduate candidates can begin taking now.

The candidate may submit a high-resolution photo to alumni@ecok.edu by Nov. 30 or sched-



ule a complimentary graduation photo with ECU's Office of Communications and Marketing.

Both May and December commencement programs will be available for digital download, and a printed version will be available for each graduate.

Diploma covers, if not already picked up at this week's graduation fair, may be obtained

Commissioners Proceedings

(Published November 19, 2020)

Monday, November 9, 2020

Chairman Mike Thompson called regular meeting for 11-9-20 to order at 9:24 a.m.

Answering aye was Mike Thompson, Jacky Hallmark and TJ Clements. Others present were Tootie Wood, Kathy Fitchie, Kenny Power, Sharline Pitmon, John Small and Cacy Cribbs.

Hallmark motioned to approve the minutes of 11-2-20, second by Clements, vote aye Hallmark, Clements and Thompson, all aye none opposed.

No unfinished business. Hallmark motioned to approve and award Bid #560-20 to All Star Vehicle Sales for purchase of 2011 Chevrolet Crew Cab 4x4 2500HD pickup, in the amount of \$17,000.00, second by Mike Thompson, all aye none opposed.

Hallmark motioned to approve the State of Oklahoma Purchase Card Program Linking Authorization for County, all aye none opposed.

Hallmark motioned to approve the Connerville VFD Requisitioning and Receiving Officers for FY 20-21, second by Clements, all aye none opposed.

Report gave by Commissioners Secretary. No public hearing.

New Business: Hallmark motioned to direct the Johnston County Treasurer to deposit the Coronavirus Relief Funds in the amount of \$408,731.17 into the Cares Act Fund and do a resolution for next meeting on November 16th since email was not received timely to add to the November 9th agenda, second by Clements, all aye, none opposed.

Clements motioned to adjourn at 10:30 a.m., second by Hallmark, vote aye Hallmark, Clements, Thompson.

Approved on 16th of November, 2020

(Seal)

Attest: /s/ Kathy Ross, County Clerk

Chairman: /s/ Mike Thompson
Vice Chairman: /s/ Jacky Hallmark
Member: /s/ T.J. Clements

Board Member Position on Ballot:

The voters shall elect a board member for board position No. 3, which has a 5 (five) year term of office.

The voters shall also elect a board member for board position No. 1, an unexpired term with 3 (three) years remaining.

(Published November 19, 2020)

NOTICE OF CHANGE OF LOCATION FOR INFORMAL CONFERENCE

STATE OF OKLAHOMA: To the applicant for a Permit Revision Application to increase the number of bonded acres from 15 to 575 acres, **Arbuckle Aggregates, LLC**, ("Applicant") and to all objectors to the application, in Sections 23 and 24-Township 1 South-Range 4 East- Johnston County, Oklahoma.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That the Informal Conference for Permit Application, Case No. **PREV 20-04 IC**, set before John Sheridan, Informal Conference Officer, for Friday, the 20th day of November, 2020, has been moved to the Oklahoma History Center located at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105, to begin at 10:00 a.m. The Department will post information on its agency website (www.mines.ok.gov) on how to participate by video conference or telephone.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Please contact the Legal Department of the Oklahoma Department of Mines, 2915 North Classen Blvd., Suite 213, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73106, (405) 522-9840.

By Order of:
Mary Ann Pritchard,
Director
Oklahoma Department of Mines
By: /s/ Jonathan Allen,
Chief Legal Counsel

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JOHNSTON COUNTY STATE OF OKLAHOMA

BRAD POTTER AND STACY POTTER

Petitioners,

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS LPXLP

v.

OF JOHNSTON COUNTY, OKLAHOMA, SOUTHWESTERN BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY, RED RIVER VALLEY RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, AND CITY OF MANNSVILLE,

Respondents.

CASE NO. CV-2020-29

NOTICE OF HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that Brad Potter and Stacy Potter, Petitioners, have filed an Application to Vacate Public Way and Foreclose the Right to Reopen in the above Court. The Application Seeks to vacate and foreclose the right to reopen the following public way:

Beginning at the northwest corner of Lot 1 of Block 38 thence north to the southwest corner of Lot 4 of Block 27 thence east to the southeast corner of Lot 3, Block 27 thence south to the northeast corner of Lot 3 Block 38 thence west to the point of beginning, all in the Town of Earl, Johnston County, State of Oklahoma.

Notice is further given that the 21ST day of December, 2020 at 1:00 o'clock p.m. in the District Courtroom of the Johnston County Courthouse located in Tishomingo, Oklahoma, has been duly appointed as the time, place and date for hearing said Application to Vacate Public Way and Foreclose the Right to Reopen.

Any person objecting to said action and relief must answer the Application by the Petitioners on or before December 21, 2020, or said Application will be granted.

Dated this 12th day of November 2020.

/s/Laura Corbin
JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

Jared Easterling, 31544 Easterling Law Office 225 West Main Tishomingo, Oklahoma 73460 Telephone: (580) 219-8900 admin@easterlinglawoffice.com Attorney for Petitioner

Legal Notice

The Board of Education of Milburn Public School District hereby announces that statutorily qualified individuals interested in running as a candidate for the #1 seat on the Milburn Board of Ed-

ucation may file to run as a candidate for this seat at the Johnston County Election Board between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday, December 7 through Wednesday, December 9, 2020.

(Published November 19, 2020)

Legal Notice

The Board of Education of Ravia Public School District hereby provides legal notice that the school board election filing period for candidates will open on Monday, December 7, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. and will close Wednesday, December 9, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

Board Member Position on Ballot:

The voters shall elect a board member for board position No. 1, which has a 3-year term of office.

(Published November 19, 2020)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JOHNSTON COUNTY STATE OF OKLAHOMA

In the Matter of the Estate of EDGAR FRANKLIN WEBB, deceased KATIE EVELYN WEBB, deceased

Case No. PB-2020-29

NOTICE OF HEARING APPLICATION TO ENFORCE AGREEMENT FOR SALE

Notice is hereby given that Rickey Webb, Personal Representative of the Estate of EDGAR FRANKLIN WEBB and KATIE EVELYN WEBB, both deceased, having this day filed an Application to Enforce Agreement for Sale, to the following described property:

The E 1/2 of SE 1/4 and NW 1/4 of SE 1/4 and East 22 acres of the SW 1/4 of SE 1/4 of Section 31, Township 3 South, Range 8 East of the Indian Base and Meridian, containing 142 acres, more or less, excepting approximately 1.48 acres previously purchased by Buyer(s).

The property was contracted for sale on June, 16, 2020, which was prior to the death of Katie Evelyn Webb, through a private sale for the sum of \$350,000.00. Reference is made to the Application to Enforce Agreement for Sale for further particulars.

A hearing on the Application to Enforce Agreement

for Sale has been ordered fixed by the undersigned Judge of the Court for 1:00 p.m. on the 2nd day of December, 2020, in the Court Room of the Court in the County Courthouse in Tishomingo, Oklahoma and all persons interested in the Estate are notified then and there to appear and show cause, if any they have, why the Sale of Real Property should not be confirmed.

A copy of this Notice shall be published one (1) time in a newspaper in the county in which the real property is located and in the county where the Order was made, and mailed to all interested parties, not less

than ten (10) days before the time set for the hearing.

WITNESS MY HAND, this 16th day of November, 2020.

/s/ Laura J. Corbin
JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

Chris D. Jones, OBA No. 21247 Jones Law, PC 113 N. 3rd Ave. Durant, OK 74701 Telephone: 580-924-1444 Facsimile: 580-924-0444

(Published November 19, 26 & December 3, 2020)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JOHNSTON COUNTY, STATE OF OKLAHOMA

In re the Marriage of:

JOE RAY IMOTICHEY, DOB: 6-12-77
Petitioner,

-vs-

GLENDA IMOTICHEY, DOB: unknown
Respondent,

Case No. FD-20-31

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

The State of Oklahoma to GLENDA IMOTICHEY:

Take notice that you have been sued in the above named Court by the said Petitioner, **JOE RAY IMOTICHEY**, that he is entitled to a divorce on the grounds of incompatibility, and you must answer said petition on or before the 8th day of January, 2021, or said petition will be taken as true and a judgment will be rendered for said Petitioner granting him a Decree of Divorce.

Witness my hand and the seal of said Court this 17th day of November, 2020.

/s/ Phyllis Williams
Deputy (Seal)

Johnston County

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TMA hears options on wastewater plant project

By John A. Small
Managing Editor

A lengthy presentation regarding the need to renovate the city's existing wastewater treatment plant was the main order of business during Monday night's meeting of the Tishomingo Municipal Authority.

TMA members were told that there are four options they can consider to keep the plant operational - but the best option also happens to be the most expensive, and will almost certainly lead to an increase in city sewer rates.

The presentation was made by Brandon Wall of Wall Engineering, the firm hired by the city to study the wastewater plant and lift stations in preparation for planned improvements to the facility.

Wall began by telling TMA members that his study of the facility had resulted in a "good news, bad news" set of findings.

The good news, Wall reported, is that the current wastewater treatment plant and lift stations are not currently under any consent orders by the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ).

Further, certain aspects of the existing plant and lift stations had been "grandfathered in" under a previous permit, which has allowed the city to avoid certain DEQ violations.

But then came the bad news.

"No piece of equipment at the plant or the lift stations is fully ODEQ compliant," Wall told the board. "Frankly, your previous DEQ inspectors have been entirely too lenient with you... If we had been your DEQ inspectors our consent order report would have been far more stringent."

Noting that there have been some recent violations regarding discharge into the creek at the plant, he added that improvements made to the plant in 2012 have in fact "resulted in a system that is not functioning properly."

That set the stage for a long - and often tedious - explanation of how the current system works and areas where improvements are needed.

Among other issues, he noted that the chlorine disinfection system currently in use is "really old technology" and is under continuously increased regulation by the DEQ.

Wall said new plants typically use ultraviolet lighting systems to disinfect wastewater by damaging the DNA and RNA of microorganisms such as salmonella, giardia, microscopic worms and viruses.

Treating wastewater with UV light is reportedly more effective and safe for those who work with it. In addition, it does not leave a chemical product that can cause pollution.

Another outmoded technology currently in use at the plant is the sludge

dewatering process that separates sludge into liquid and solid components for waste minimization.

He said systems such as the one at Tishomingo's plant "don't work worth a flip in the wintertime," and suggested that the current system be replaced by a less expensive and easier to operate filter belt press system.

Among the other items included in Wall's report was the fact that nine of the system's 11 lift stations currently have only one operational pump.

Each is required to have two pumps, he said, and indicated that one station could be especially problematic in the event that its one pump should break down.

"If anything happens to that pump, you're going to have wastewater flowing down the sidewalk."

Wall also noted that the city's 2012 discharge permit had been increased to 0.88 MGD (millions of gallons per day). He noted that the increase had been justified to the DEQ based on a projected 2025 population of 4,360, a figure he indicated had been too high.

"You are and have been around 3,000 for 30-plus years," Wall told the TMA board, adding that his pending report to the ODEQ will request a reduction in the discharge permit.

In addition, Wall shared a lengthy list of problems with the existing plant, including malfunctioning screening and grit removal equipment; leaking sequencing batch reactor (SBR) basins; and more.

He noted at one point that the cost to complete all recommended improvements to the system's lift stations alone would be around \$1.3 million.

Finally Wall came to the point of the presentation: the four options available to the city for improving the wastewater system as a whole.

He said the least expensive option - aimed at maintaining minimum operation for the viability of the existing system - would involve a capital cost of \$1,633,030.

Option 2 - which would entail improvements to ensure the minimum for full ODEQ compliance under the current regulations - carries a price tag of \$4,484,010. This option would not include such recommended items as the replacement of the current chlorine disinfection with an ultraviolet light system.

Wall said the third option - which would include all required DEQ items included in Option 2 plus other recommended improvements - has an estimated cost of \$8,541,572.

Option 4 - the most expensive with an estimated cost of \$9,388,000, but also the one Wall said he was recommending that the city consider - would replace the existing SBR system with an aero-modactivated - or "aero-mod" - treatment plant that combines basic

treatment elements for biological nutrient removal from wastewater, and offers the benefits of sequencing aeration with the reliability of continuous clarification.

"There is no advantage as I see it in staying with an SBR system," Wall said. "It takes a high level of operational skill and is very technology dependent."

"The aero-mod system requires less monitoring, is very easy to operate and easy to maintain. Everything is automatic; the entire process is simple (and) the system provides better and more consistent treatment."

He added that aero-mod systems are more energy efficient and have no mechanical pumps or valves that operate, making for easier maintenance.

Wall noted that the aero-mod option as presented does not include the construction of a new office-lab facility to replace the one now in use that was built in the 1950s. He suggested that the TMA also consider adding a new lab to the project should the board decide to pursue the aero-mod option.

He provided the board with a list of possible funding options the TMA can look to for funding whichever project it ultimately decides to pursue.

Among the possible funding sources are a 20-30 grant through the USDA's Rural Development program; a loan from the Oklahoma Water Resources Board; an approximate \$1.5 million grant through Indian Health Services; and various funding options available through the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA), the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and others.

He added that debt service related to the project can also be offset by savings to the city's operational and maintenance cost once the existing plant has been renovated or replaced.

But he was quick to add, "Even when offset by grants, the project will still likely result in a rate increase."

At the conclusion of Wall's presentation, TMA Chairman Woody Jumper responded by stating, "I need a Valium and an ibuprofen... this is a lot to take in right now."

Board member Laura Wood expressed concern about the possible public reaction to an increase in sewer rates in the wake of the water rate increase that recently went into effect.

But she also seemed to agree that the option recommended by Wall might be the best one for the board to consider.

"How long have we been putting Band-Aids on things?" Wood asked at one point. "What the hell are we doing? Let's start a new trend of doing things right."

Interim City Manager Janice Cain suggested that the board bring in a financial expert to look over the TMA's existing debt service and other financial issues before making a decision as to which option to pursue.

The board ultimately opted to table action on the matter until its next regular meeting on Dec. 7.

In a related issue, the board voted 3-0 to acknowledge acceptance of a permit issued by the ODEQ for the wastewater plant project. TMA members Melissa Green and Sue Robins were unable to attend.

In other business, the board also voted to engage Chaney Utility Construction to repair a sewer line and manholes on South Ohio Street.

The estimated cost for the project cited by Chaney Construction was listed as \$16,420. However, Public Works Director Marlon Sullivan noted that some of the items included in the estimated cost might not be necessary, thereby reducing the cost estimate to between \$10,000 and \$11,000.

Wood's motion to engage Chaney Construction stated that the cost would not exceed \$12,000. The motion was seconded by Sharon Boston and passed by a 3-0 vote.

achievement

Our spirits are lifted when we hear about achievement. This newspaper runs stories about achievement for all generations and occasions. Sometimes it's doting grandparents bragging about kids making the honor roll, or winning a sporting event. We honor people who advance in rank in our civic clubs and in military service. We celebrate wedding anniversaries, work promotions and many more accomplishments. Thank you for letting us celebrate your achievements with our community.

ACHIEVEMENT MATTERS IN THE PAPER

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