



EDMOND

Life & Leisure

WEEKLY NEWS ABOUT EDMOND'S FAMILIES, NEIGHBORHOODS & PEOPLE
Edmond's only locally owned and operated newspaper

In This Issue

FOUR SEASONS



Four Seasons, by Kevin Box, in real life is located in front of the Center for Transformative Learning on the UCO campus, but this week is hidden somewhere in our paper. Email contest@edmondpaper.com with the correct location to be entered in the weekly drawing. For more information, see page 4.



UCO commissions
ROTC Cadets
See page 12

City will hold Memorial Day ceremony this Saturday



To be at site of future Veterans Memorial

PHOTO PROVIDED

Drawing of proposed Edmond Veterans Memorial.

The Veterans Memorial Advisory Committee (VMAC) will hold a Memorial Day celebration and ceremony and commemorative ruck march Saturday, May 28, 10 to 11:30 a.m. at Bickham-Rudkin Park, 379 E. 33rd Street, in Edmond, the site of the proposed Edmond Veterans Memorial.

Community leaders and VMAC members will take part in the recognition ceremony, which will include presentation of colors by the Edmond North High School Junior ROTC color guard and conclude with a walk/march around the park trails. The event also will include displays from veteran support groups and Scars & Stripes Coffee.

VMAC, a group appointed by City Council, was created to lead the development of a veterans memorial, recognizing the service of military members from Edmond

in every branch. The group is in the beginning stages of fundraising for the project, which has a preliminary design and is estimated to cost up to \$5 million.

The City has committed funds to support the project, but much of the funding will come from corporate, community group and private donations. Learn more about the committee and donating to its project at this link.

The proposed memorial would pay tribute to the Edmond veterans' service commitment, as well as the community, providing a place of gathering, education, and quiet reflection. The memorial features welcoming spaces that immerse visitors in the lifelong journey in service of our nation. Inspired by the park's natural beauty, the design creates an interplay between architectural elements and native landscape.

Also The Edmond Veterans Memorial Advisory Committee is creating a database of Edmond Veterans, as they plan for the creation of a comprehensive Veterans Memorial in Edmond. This information is for the sole purpose of accurately identifying Edmond Veterans who desire to be recognized. Recognition criteria is being established, and not all names submitted will be eligible for inscription at the memorial but may be recognized in other manners.

The purpose of the committee is to provide recommendations for the development of a Veterans Memorial in the City of Edmond, and to make additional recommendations regarding activities and other projects honoring veterans. Please contact city hall or visit the web page at <https://www.edmondok.gov> to know more about their work.

WEEKEND WEATHER FORECAST

FRIDAY, May 27
Sunny
High 85° Low 67°



SATURDAY, May 28
Partly Cloudy/Windy
High 87° Low 68°



SUNDAY, May 29
Partly Cloudy/Windy
High 90° Low 72°



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As a cornerstone of the Edmond community for 75 years, we're proud to serve as a full-service community hospital, located in the heart of Edmond. Our doors first opened in 1947, on the second floor of the Bronco Theater. Today, we care for patients on an expansive campus near 2nd Street and Bryant Avenue.

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Edmond Santa Fe High School TSA Chapter with their trophies and the Oklahoma TSA Outstanding High School award.



Edmond TSA chapters from Cheyenne Middle School, Heartland Middle School, Sequoyah Middle School, Summit Middle School, North High School, and Santa Fe High School who competed at the Oklahoma TSA State Conference.

TSA members attend conference

Technology Student Association (TSA) chapters from across the state recently attended the 2022 Oklahoma TSA State Leadership Conference. The Edmond TSA chapters from the following schools took 90 students and six advisors to the Oklahoma TSA State Leadership Conference: Cheyenne MS, Heartland MS, Sequoyah MS, Summit MS, North HS, and Santa Fe HS.

The conference, which drew more than 1,600 middle and high school students and volunteers, was April 13-15 at the Embassy Suites in Norman. Students competed in more than 70 events in architecture, construction, leadership, computer science, information technology, CAD, inventions and innovations, problem-solving, dragsters, robotics, research and more.

Awards were presented to the top three in each event. Edmond TSA who qualified to compete at TSA Nationals in Dallas, TX in June:

Cheyenne MS: Emma Britton, Jake Burkala, Kody He, Rina Iyer, Jett Sewell, Gabe Sexton, and Peter Terekhov

Heartland MS: Roopan Aravindan, Jacob Haymore, Blake Jockson, Norah Morrison, Ashat Na-Allah, Logan Rozon, Cyrus Vij, and Claire Wayment

Sequoyah MS: Cole Battiste, Jett Duskow, Roman Edwards, Brody Garrelts, Kylie Jones, Rohan Kamdar, Alex Love, Sam Montgomery, Coen Papin, Jeremy Pena, Larsen Ramsey, Zachary Rosa Berrios, Noah Santos, and Robert Wright

Summit MS: Kidthusan Birenda, Aks Dalavayi, Sahana Hiremath, Arastu Manral, Zaiden Nethery, Caden Phillips, and Jacob Wilson

North HS: Wendy He, Lauren Patton, William Rhee, Olivia Seo, Asbahh Talal, Andy Tran, Kathy Tran, and Austin Vinall

Santa Fe HS: Ahmad Choudhary, Adediji Fak-

eye, Neha Guruswamy, Abigail Hall, William Jiang, Susan Luc, Peyton Mahan, Varsha Nair, Aaron Pan, Siven Panda, Brandon Robertiello, Andrea Shah, Sidhartha Sureban, Ibrahim Taha, Elijah Wei, and Enoch Wei

The Edmond TSA Chapter at Santa Fe High School was recognized as Oklahoma TSA's Outstanding High School Chapter for this year. This is the second time that this chapter has received this award since its inception.

Edmond TSA also has four newly elected officers for the 2022-2023 Oklahoma TSA State Officer Team:

North HS: Kathy Tran (Treasurer) and Austin Vinall (Eastern Region Representative)

Santa Fe HS: Siven Panda (Sergeant-at-Arms) and Andrea Shah (Secretary)

These students will be part of the team that will co-sponsor, along with the Texas TSA State Officer Team, the TSA National Conference in Dallas, TX this June 26-30th.

Most of the judges for the contests were industry professionals who had expertise in each event.

"We believe it is important to get more industry involvement in TSA to showcase the talented STEM students we have across the state," said Tami Redus, state TSA adviser with the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education. "Some of the industries involved this year were OG&E, FAA, AFA, Tinker, Kicker, Northrop Grumman, Iowa Tribe, Choctaw Nation, Ditch Witch and Hitachi."

In addition to competing, students took part in leadership sessions and participated in hands-on activities. Students also participated in a blanket drive, through which more than 30 handmade blankets were donated to Project Linus, a local nonprofit organization that provides blankets to children in need.

Oklahoma TSA

serves more than 19,000 members in more than 150 local chapters in middle schools and junior and senior high schools and on technology center campuses. Its mission is to enhance personal development, leadership and career opportunities in science, technology, engineering and math through extracurricular activities, competitions and related programs.

TSA is one of seven CareerTech student organizations affiliated with CareerTech programs. It is affiliated with science, technology, engineering and mathematics.



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Spring is here, with birds chirping, bees buzzing and children playing. Did you know that these sounds are some of the first to be impacted by hearing loss? If you haven't had your hearing tested recently, schedule your appointment this May during Better Hearing & Speech Month.

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From the Publisher

A visit to the 'Garden Island'

Having travel put on hold to many destinations for two years caused us to accumulate a number of vouchers from canceled trips. The airlines and hotels were good about allowing folks to cancel trips and use them at a later date, but we could see that some of our accumulated vouchers were going to expire this fall. In fact, it looked like they would all expire this coming September.



Ray Hibbard

Since running a newspaper does not allow for a month-long vacation, we decided to use half of what we had accumulated to travel this month. Our choice was the Hawaii island of Kauai or as it is known locally, The Garden Island.

Lisa's parents used to spend about three months there when they were younger. Their children who were out of school but working would visit them for a week or two at a time. Many of our trips have been places where I had traveled. It was time for Lisa to become the travel guide and show me the island where she spent a good deal of time and that her parents know well. I loved it.

Kauai is Hawaii's fourth largest island and is sometimes called the "Garden Island," which is an entirely accurate description. You will not find the crowds that you can be surrounded by on the other islands in the Hawaii chain. The oldest and northernmost island in the Hawaiian chain is draped in emerald valleys, sharp mountain spires and jagged cliffs aged by time and the elements.

Centuries of growth have formed tropical rainforests, forking rivers and cascading waterfalls. Some parts of Kauai are only accessible by sea or air, revealing views beyond your imagination. More than just dramatic beauty, the island is home to a variety of outdoor activities. You can kayak the Wailua River, snorkel on Poipu Beach, hike the trails of Kokee State Park, or go ziplining above Kauai's lush valleys and golf to your hearts content on the many beautiful courses on the island. But it is the island's laid-back atmosphere and rich culture found in its small towns that make it truly timeless and made the island so appealing to us.

Even this small island gives you two distinct choices when it comes to lifestyle. While the entire island is calm and quiet, there is a difference between the north shore and the south shore. We chose the north shore both because Lisa was more familiar with it and because it was more remote.

South Shore, Kauai

You drive through a tunnel of trees from the airport in Lihue to arrive on the warm and beautiful south shore of Kauai. We loved our drive through that tunnel of trees until we got caught in a traffic jam one day. Seemed to lose some of the enchantment at that point.

The biggest attractions here are the perfect beaches around the Poipu area and Spouting Horn, a blowhole that releases a spout of water up to twenty feet into the air. Poipu stretches around Makahuena Point and is a spectacle to any



RAY HIBBARD

One of the many lovely shore scenes visitors may see in Hawaii.

onlooker. At night, you can stroll through charming boutiques and dine on Pacific Rim cuisine at ocean-side restaurants. Other towns you will find on the south side include Old Koloa Town, Kalaheo, Lawai, and Omao. Filled with resorts, golf, shopping, beaches and sights, there is never a dull moment on the South Shore of Kauai.

Here you will find the big resorts with private beaches and services on the beaches offering tiki drinks and food service. It also comes with more people and not as much quiet which is fine depending on what you want out of your vacation.

North Shore, Kauai

Kauai's dramatic North Shore is an enchanting setting full of rugged mountains, lush taro fields, heavenly beaches and spectacular sea cliffs. You will be amazed at how much beauty can be found in just one area of Kauai.

Begin your journey on the island's northernmost point. Historic Daniel K. Inouye Kilauea Point Lighthouse is a wildlife sanctuary and a scenic spot during whale watching season. Visit lovely Hanalei Town, home to stretches of green taro fields alongside colorful shops, galleries and restaurants. You will also find some of Kauai's best beaches such as the setting for the film "South Pacific," and Kee Beach, ideal for sunbathing.

The enchanting beaches are truly that but be aware you will do some work to get there. Since the terrain in Kauai is so rugged, a hike to a beach can be a good deal of work going down and then returning up to your car. You must rent a car to see this island. I had my problem knee replaced by the famous Dr. Corey Ponder a little over a year ago and it did well. The climb back out of the steep canyons proved to be easy. I did use walking sticks just to be careful.

The beaches are public, but you will not find any services on them. Lisa was prepared with an ice chest that was in the form of a backpack. She just loaded me up like a pack mule and off we went enjoying plenty of cool beverages. Your rewards are stunning beaches with either very few people on them or in many cases they were empty. They were the most relaxing and quiet beaches ever for me.

But the most stunning feature of Kauai's North Shore is the magnificent Napali Coast. This 17-mile stretch of coastline is lined with cliffs up to 3,000-foot tall, accented with lush green valleys, cascading waterfalls and sea caves. Inaccessible by car, you can hike or take an air or boat tour to view this breathtaking natural wonder.

We stayed in the town of Princeville but the closest town with shops and restaurants was Hanalei Town which is a few minutes west of Princeville. This lovely small town is home to everything from historic towns to contemporary art galleries. Hanalei Town is an unforgettable stop on your visit to Kauai.

Visit the Waioli Mission House and step back into Kauai's history. Browse Hanalei's art galleries for made-in-Kauai art and carvings made from rare, native Hawaiian woods. Locals and visitors come to Hanalei for ukulele concerts held at the Hanalei Community Center, a regular Kauai event.

The historic Hanalei Pier was built in 1892 and has long been a favorite gathering place for local residents, who go there to fish, swim and play music on Hanalei Bay. In 1957, the pier became world famous when Oscar Hammerstein II and 20th Century Fox featured the pier in the classic film, "South Pacific." We found the best places to eat were in Hanalei. They were small and locally owned. All were much better than the fancy restaurant where we ate dinner on the south side of the island one night.

One note of caution. To get to Hanalei, visitors need to pass over a one-lane bridge. Drivers must use local etiquette: all the vehicles on one side cross, followed by all the vehicles on the other side.

Instead of going to those Mexican resorts, stay in the U.S.A. There is a five-hour difference from Oklahoma time. It is five hours earlier in Hawaii and the trip is longer, but it is not a bad flight at all. Going was easy but coming back from paradise was harder. All of it totally worth the trip. As always, we recommend you use your favorite travel agent to book the trip.

(Ray Hibbard may be reached by e-mail at ray@edmondpaper.com)

Check out what's inside!

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NOTE: The police report will return in next week's edition

See if you can find 'Four Seasons'

"Four Seasons" in real life is located in front of the Center for Transformative Learning on the University of Central Oklahoma campus, but this week is hidden somewhere in our paper.

Please e-mail contest@edmondpaper.com with the correct location to be entered in the weekly drawing.

Commissioned as a partnership between UCO, the City of Edmond and the Edmond Visual Arts Commission, "Four Seasons" was created by sculptor Kevin Box of New Mexico and was dedicated on the campus on March 24, 2011.

Kevin is a member of the National Sculptor's Guild. His Box Studio LLC is a strong supporter of the Reduce, Reuse and Recycle concept, using recycled metal as part of the casting process for his sculptures. All of his work is 100 percent recyclable.

For more information on Edmond public art, please visit <http://visitedmondok.com/public-art.php>.



THE EDMOND PAPER



Weekly News about Edmond's Families, Neighborhoods & People

Publisher
Ray Hibbard Jr.
ray@edmondpaper.com

Partner
Christopher T. Hoke

Editor
Steve Gust
news@edmondpaper.com

Production
Deanne York

Advertising Director

Business Editor
Alexx Harms
alex@edmondpaper.com

Contributing Writers
Mallery Nagle,
Patty Miller, Rose Drebes,
and George Gust.

Photographer
Melinda Infante

Cover Design Deanne York

Legal Counsel
Todd McKinnis
Ruebenstein & Pitts, PLLC
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Edmond Media Publishing

107 S. Broadway
Edmond, OK 73034
405.340.3311 (office)
405.340.3384 (fax)

Mailing address:
P.O. Box 164
Edmond, OK 73083

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CITIZENS BANK OF EDMOND'S Heard on Hurd



Adley Humphreys, 5, shows off her face painting at Heard on Hurd.



A cooler-than expected night couldn't stop hundreds from attending Heard on Hurd Saturday night. The event, sponsored by Citizens Bank of Edmond, also honored graduates.

Photos by Melinda Infante

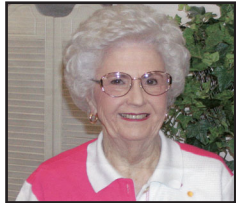


Jose Hernandez performs at Heard on Hurd.

Obituary notice

Florine Hatley Shirley

Florine Hatley Shirley was born March 12, 1919, in Hoxie, Arkansas, the youngest of four children of Eli and Emma Hatley. She survived a tornado which claimed the life of her sister Louise in 1927. The family moved to Oklahoma City soon after that and weathered the Great Depression there. Florine graduated in 1936 from Central High School, where she met Orvil Shirley, whom she married in 1938. They shared 65 years of marriage before his death in 2004. They raised two sons, Steve and Larry, born in 1944 and 1948. She and Steve spent part of WWII on the Shirley family farm near Yukon, OK, while Orvil served in the U.S. Army in the Pacific. The family moved to Edmond, OK, in 1951, when Mr. Shirley went into business there.



Florine has resided in Edmond for the past 71 years. Her mom was a legendary cook who never needed a recipe, leaving Florine to figure out how to become a legendary cook in her own right. She excelled at family gatherings, holiday celebrations, Sunday dinners, many family camping trips, and an especially remarkable series of complete Thanksgiving dinners served from the trunk of a Buick, so as to facilitate family quail hunts in the 50's and 60's. She attributed her long life to good genes, exercise, and a glass of champagne every afternoon at 4:00; though in all fairness, she didn't start the champagne tradition until her late 80's, when some doubters might have thought her to already be old. Florine and Orvil were longtime members of the First Christian Church of Edmond, with many good friends among the congregation. She and Orvil enjoyed more than 50 years together as part of the Edmond community during its growth from small town to the present busy city.

Florine was preceded in death by her parents, her sister Louise, brothers Don and Rusty, husband Orvil, son Steve, nephew Jim Erdman, and many church and community friends, as well as all the other members of an informal club of close women friends forged in high school and in frequent contact with one another for home meetings, travel, and all manner of important life events for more than 70 years. She leaves behind her son Larry Shirley and wife Cheryl; daughter-in-law Wanda Shirley; grandchildren Stephanie Post and husband Russell, Casey Shirley and wife Sharla, Jeff Shirley and wife Caroline Laco, and Elizabeth Shirley Wolford and husband Matt; great grandchildren Hatley and Audrey Post, Khorey and Eli Shirley, and Sloane Isabelle Wolford; niece Jerilyn Palmer and nephews Don Hatley and Jon Hatley. Special thanks to Mark Mades and Linda Speegle, longtime friends and supporters since their own childhoods in Edmond; Hulda Hamilton, who has been a friend, Sunday school classmate, and kind supporter since the family arrived in Edmond in 1951; Suzanne Harlow, who helped her tune up her appearance every Thursday for over 30 years; Shirley White, a very special friend and caregiver for several years, and the staff at Valir Hospice, especially Kesha Hall and Jessie Sikich, who have helped keep Mom safe, comfortable, and pretty for the past year while assisting her in her final months.

After 103 years of family, friends, mostly excellent health, a few hardships, much happiness, and outliving almost everyone, Florine passed away peacefully among family at home on May 12, 2022. She maintained until the end that she was not a day over 98 and never understood why the Oklahoma Centenarians kept sending her birthday cards. The family assumes she is arguing her case with higher authorities now. Thanks to all who have shared in her long journey.

A graveside service celebrating of Florine's life will be at 10:30am on Friday, June 10, 2022, at Memorial Park Cemetery.



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Website:
www.campfirepizza.pizza

Campfire Pizza & Gelato and other Edmond businesses will be featured in the EEDA's newsletter, The Arrow. View past issues at www.eeda.com/archives.

Horse Camps!

Boys & Girls ages 6 & up - no experience required!



No experience necessary!

SUMMER CAMPS 2022

June 6 - June 10	July 11 - July 15
June 13 - June 17	July 18 - July 22
June 20 - June 24	July 25 - July 29
June 27 - July 1	Aug. 2 - Aug. 6

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PHOTO PROVIDED/ERIECH TAPIA

VIBES Visual Artist, Calli Heflin, creates charcoal drawing of VIBES attendees at the August 2021 event.

Message to attendees: Get creative

Join friends in Downtown Edmond at VIBES for an interactive art experience, "Live on the Lawn." Attendees are invited to bring drawing and painting supplies to create works of art using a live model, Adrian Rosen, with her exciting costume posing for inspiration. The "Live on the Lawn" open drawing event takes place from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm in the southwest corner grass area of the Broadway and Campbell intersection on June 2nd. The Band Called Quest will be performing in that area to provide smooth musical inspiration. This event is free for all ages to participate in and enjoy.

Check out the other excellent features at the June VIBES, including two performances by the dance group Celtic Throne at 6:30 pm and 7:30 pm, a ceramic throwing demonstration at Festival Marketplace, a live mural painting by Edmond artist Lezley Scofous at Edit & Co. on the South part of DTE, and all the visual and performing artists. Stay up to date on all the monthly features by following @Edmond_Vibes on Instagram or the www.edmondvibes.org website.

Don't forget to participate in the VIBES Visa Challenge happening each month! Attendees can pick up a VIBES Visa Challenge "task card" from participating downtown businesses, complete any



variation of tasks listed on the back, and return it to the drop-box located at the Edmond Fine Arts to enter the challenge. Tasks include visiting visual artists and businesses, making purchases from any VIBES business or artist, or posting on social media using the hashtag #VIBESVISA. Monthly prize packages vary but include gift cards, original art, and VIBES merchandise. A new winner is selected each month!

VIBES, Edmond's First Thursdays is a program of the Fine Arts Institute, Edmond's nonprofit community arts organization providing visual and performing art classes for children and adults year-round, and the 3rd and 4th grade Art in Schools Program in Edmond Public Schools. For more information, visit EdmondFineArts.com or call 405-340-4481. The 2022 VIBES Season is made possible by Citizens Bank of Edmond, Mercy, Edmond Electric, First Bank & Trust Co., Engel & Volkers The Duncan Group, The Mule, Small Architects, Valor Bank, and the City of Edmond.

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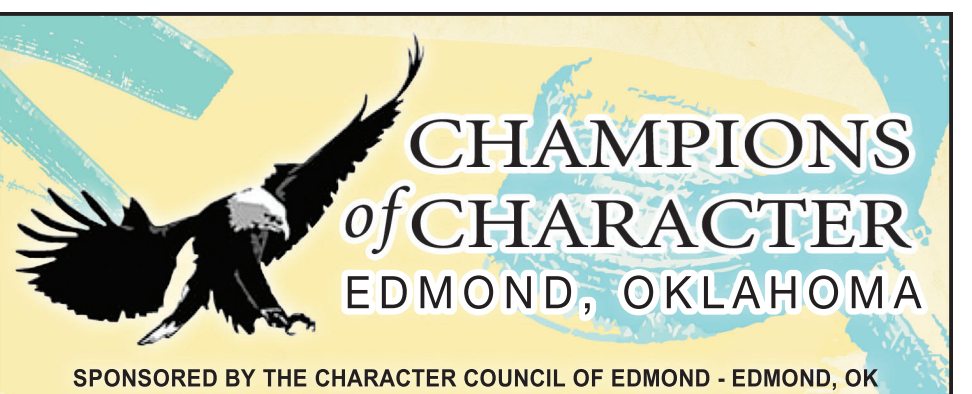


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Engagement, Wedding notices

Do you have a wedding or engagement notice? If so, please contact us at *Edmond Life & Leisure*, either by phone, 340-3311 or e-mail, news@edmondpaper.com. We will then send or fax you an engagement or wedding form. The cost is \$35, which includes a photograph.

Payment is due upon submission by noon Thursday.



SPONSORED BY THE CHARACTER COUNCIL OF EDMOND - EDMOND, OK

WHO IN THE COMMUNITY EXEMPLIFIES...

SINCERITY:

Eagerness to do what is right with transparent motives.

This month, The Character Council of Edmond will recognize an Edmond resident that is consistent with their words, actions and attitudes while they practice being honest with themselves and others.

To nominate an Edmond resident as a "Champion of Character,"

log on at www.edmondcharacter.org and tell us:

- (1) how the person demonstrated the character trait and
- (2) what the benefit was.

"Sincerity makes the very least person to be of more value than the most talented hypocrite."

- Charles Spurgeon

Weekend calendar of events, May 26-29

What's Happening This Weekend May 26 — 29

- Zonly Looman Gallery
- Farmer's Market
- Kyle Dillingham & Horseshoe Road: American Musical Ambassadors
- Run for Ukraine
- May Be Bulldogs!
- Miss Brown to You
- Edmond Jr Rodeo
- Beats and Bites 2022
- Signature Tour
- Annual Chuck Wagon Festival
- OKC Broadway presents: Disney's The Lion King
- Paseo Arts Festival

Extra Information

Zonly Looman Gallery

Location: Edmond Fine Arts Institute
Extra Info: Thu, May 5 – Tue, May 31; featuring the art of Zonly Looman; Free; by appointment; edmondfinearts.com

Farmer's Market

Location: Festival Market Place
Extra Info: Sat, April 16 – Wed, Oct. 19; 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.; edmondok.gov

Kyle Dillingham & Horseshoe Road: American Musical Ambassadors

Location: Edmond Historical Society & Museum
Extra Info: Sun, May 1 – Sat, Dec 1; edmond-hisory.org

Run for Ukraine

Location: Mitch Park
Extra Info: Sat, May 28; 8 a.m.; \$30; runsignup.com

May Be Bulldogs!

Location: UCO Jazz Lab
Extra Info: Sat, May 28; 7:30 p.m.; \$15; ucojazzlab.com

Miss Brown to You

Location: UCO Jazz Lab
Extra Info: Fri, May 27; 8 – 10:30 p.m.; \$15; ucojazzlab.com

Edmond Jr Rodeo

Location: Edmond Round Up Club
– Carl Benne Arena
Extra Info: Fri, May 27 – Sat, May 28; \$5 for adults; \$1 for 18 & younger; edmondroundupclub.com

Beats and Bites 2022

Location: Riverwind Casino, Norman, OK
Extra Info: May 28; 5 – 8 p.m.; Night Ranger and Starship Mickey Thomas; riverwind.com

Signature Tour

Location: National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum
Extra Info: Sat, May 28 & Sun, May 29; 1-2 p.m.; nationalcowboymuseum.org

Annual Chuck Wagon Festival

Location: National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum
Extra Info: Sat, May 28 – May 29; 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.; nationalcowboymuseum.org

OKC Broadway & Disney's The Lion King

Location: Civic Center Music Hall
Extra Info: Wed, May 11 – Sun, May 29; Tue — Thu: 7:30 p.m.; Fri: 8 p.m.; Sat: 2 p.m. & 8 p.m.; Sun: 1 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.; okcbroadway.com

Paseo Arts Festival

Location: Paseo Arts District
Extra Info: Sat, May 28 – Mon, May 30; Sat & Sun: 10 a.m. – 10 p.m. & Mon: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; thepaseo.org

Running for Oklahoma County District Attorney

On the ballot June 28 will be Robert Gray, seeking to become the GOP candidate District Attorney for Oklahoma County.



Gray

"I am running to be your next Oklahoma County District Attorney because I want to give back to the community I have called home all my life. I understand that the position of District Attorney is the chief prosecutor in Oklahoma County. My legal background is wide ranging and not simply focused on criminal law which I believe will better serve the citizens of Oklahoma County," said Gray.

"Oklahoma County faces serious challenges as we continue to grow. As Oklahoma County District Attorney, I will focus on the following which I believe are our most pressing issues are violent crime, mental health, and addiction. At the same time, we cannot lose sight of the fact that we must serve the victims and their families of all types of crime. I think it is vital to utilize the diversion courts that have been set up to further assist people in getting to the root cause of the problem. However, I want to make it clear that violent crime of any kind will not be tolerated," Gray continued.

"I know that the Oklahoma County District Attorney must have outstanding lawyering skills as well

as have the ability to lead an organization and its employees. Having assisted clients through some of their most difficult times will assist me in dealing with the unique challenges of the job. I believe that the success of this position requires an emphasis on strengthening and maintaining relationships with the judicial bench, law enforcement, and others in federal, state, county, and municipal governments. Good communication is a must. I also want to emphasize that it requires being fiscally conservative with taxpayer money," Gray said.

"I can assure everyone that my office will operate with the utmost integrity. My mantra, always do the right thing," Gray emphasized.

Lottery player wins a \$1 million prize

A one-million-dollar top prize on Millionaire Maker Scratchers has been claimed! This ticket was sold at Express Gas and Grocery on Wilshire Blvd. in Oklahoma City. The prize was cashed at the Oklahoma Lottery on Friday, May 20th in the name of Mountain Win Trust.

Today's winner is the first top prize winner for Millionaire Maker. This Scratchers from the Oklahoma Lottery features two more \$1 million top prizes and is the second Scratchers in Oklahoma Lottery history to feature a top prize of \$1 million. To find a retailer, visit lottery.ok.gov.

This fiscal year, the Oklahoma Lottery has paid out more than \$209 million in prizes to players.

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The University of Central Oklahoma's Jackson College of Graduate Studies (JCGS) hosted its sixth annual Three Minute Thesis (3MT) research competition. Biology graduate student Charmaine Lopez-Davis won first place and a \$1,000 prize for her 3MT presentation titled "The Effectivity of Mycobacteriophage Fulbright Incorporated Polycaprolactone Nanofiber Against Mycobacterium Smegmatis." Lopez-Davis also won the People's Choice Award and a \$250 prize, for a grand total of \$1,250 in winnings. Pictured, Jeanetta D. Sims, Ph.D., JCGS dean; Lopez-Davis; and, Bob Weiss, event sponsor.

Thesis winner gets \$1,000

The University of Central Oklahoma's Jackson College of Graduate Studies (JCGS) hosted its sixth annual Three Minute Thesis (3MT) research competition. Contestants must demonstrate the value of their master's degree research to a panel of business community members in three minutes or less, using only one presentation slide.

Biology graduate student Charmaine Lopez-Davis won first place and a \$1,000 prize for her 3MT presentation titled "The Effectivity of Mycobacteriophage Fulbright Incorporated Polycaprolactone Nanofiber Against Mycobacterium Smegmatis."

Lopez-Davis also won the People's Choice Award and a \$250 prize, for a grand total of \$1,250 in winnings.

Shivam Joshi, a nutrition and food science major, took home second place and a \$500 prize for her presentation titled "Application of Cinnamon Oil Nanoemulsion to the Control of Foodborne Bacteria like Salmonella sp. In pulses and Legumes."

Brittney Waugh, an educational leadership major, and Usha Sri Kanamareddy, a nutrition and food science major, tied for third place, both receiving a \$250 prize.

"Our graduate students are conducting insightful and interesting research that is showcased in this annual competition," said Jeanetta

Sims, Ph.D., dean of the Central's JCGS.

"It is wonderful to see the students hone their communication skills by translating their research into manageable pieces of content for individuals who are not in their respective disciplines."

Edmond businessman and owner of Othello's and Around the Corner restaurants, Bob Weiss, sponsored the event.

In addition to Weiss, Don DeCarlo, retired, former senior vice president of operations for Devon Energy; Youssi Farag, SVP, chief financial officer of Citizens Bank; John Hood, retired, former president and CEO of Prime Bank; and Sandra Naifeh, former Edmond mayor, served as judges.

The 3MT contest was first held at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia. It prepares students to present their research and its relevance to a non-specialist audience in a clear, concise manner, whether in an interview, public event or advocacy setting.

UCO's Jackson College of Graduate Studies collaborates with all five UCO academic colleges and the Forensic Science Institute, offering 40 graduate degree programs and more than 70 different major areas of study.

For more information about the UCO Jackson College of Graduate Studies, visit www.uco.edu/graduate.

Hastening criminal prosecutions

Rep. Sheila Dills, R-Tulsa, last week praised the governor's signing of legislation that will hasten the preliminary hearing process in criminal court cases to secure faster justice for victims of crime.

House Bill 3648 is named McKenzie's Law after a young girl from Dills' House district who was sexually abused. It took over two years for just the preliminary hearing to take place.

This bill would require a court to commence a preliminary hearing no later than nine months from the initial appearance of the defendant. If the hearing is delayed past that time, the court must schedule a show cause hearing to explain the reason for the delay.

If the court fails to find good cause, a preliminary hearing must

be scheduled as soon as practicable.

"It's unconscionable to make victims of a crime, like young McKenzie, wait years for a review of their cases," Dills said. "They and their families deserve a swift end to the court process so they can move past the crimes committed against them and seek the healing they need. Legal experts agree a more reasonable time frame for due process is necessary and attainable, and I'm glad the governor concurred."

Dills also applauded the work of her Senate author, Sen. Darrell Weaver, R-Moore, for his work in securing passage of the bill in that chamber.

"It is so important that we remember the rights of the victims in our criminal justice system," Weaver said.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Emma Evans, third from right, at Edmond North High School for winning the Shelter Insurance Foundation Scholarship.

North grad receives scholarship

The Shelter Insurance Foundation awarded a \$1,500 scholarship to Emma Evans, a graduate of Edmond North High School. Shelter Agent Stefanie Kelley sponsors and partially funds this scholarship.

Beginning the fall after the recipient's high school graduation Emma Evans can direct the scholarship funds toward tuition, fees, or campus housing for any course of study and leading to an academic degree at any accredited college or university.

A committee of local high school officials and community leaders selected the local recipient.

The committee considered each applicant's scholastic achievements, educational goals, citizenship, moral character, and participation and lead-

ership in school and community activities. The scholarship is given without regard to race, disability, religion, national origin or gender of applicants.

The scholarship is paid directly to the school the recipient selects. Emma received a certificate from Stefanie Kelley on behalf of the Shelter Foundation.

The Shelter Insurance Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation for charitable and educational purposes. It is sponsored by the Shelter Insurance Companies - offering auto, home, life, farm and business insurance services to customers in 14 states via a network of local insurance agents and headquartered in Columbia, Mo.

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In 2021, more than 7,400 pedestrians killed

Drivers struck and killed an estimated 7,485 people on foot in 2021 – the most pedestrian deaths in a single year in four decades and an average of 20 deaths every day, according to a new estimate released today by the Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA). To provide additional context on pedestrian safety trends, the report also includes an analysis of 2020 data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) that reveals a shocking new statistic – the percentage of speeding-related pedestrian crashes involving children ages 15 and younger more than doubled in the previous three years.

Last month, GHSA offered a preview of state and national pedestrian traffic deaths for the first six months of 2021 based on preliminary data reported by the State Highway Safety Offices

(SHSOs) in all 50 states and the District of Columbia (D.C.). The report warned that the number of pedestrian deaths increased significantly as speeding, impaired and distracted driving, and other dangerous driving behaviors proliferated. This new, comprehensive report, Pedestrian Traffic Fatalities by State: 2021 Preliminary Data, provides a detailed look at projected pedestrian fatalities for the full year using additional preliminary data provided by the SHSOs. The data analysis was conducted by Elizabeth Petraglia, Ph.D., of research firm Westat.

The new projection found that the 7,485 pedestrian deaths in 2021 was an increase of 12% from the previous year, resulting in 774 additional lives lost. Nationwide, there were 2.32 pedestrian deaths per billion vehicle miles traveled (VMT) in 2021, which is similar to 2020 but well above the

pre-pandemic average of 1.9. The fatality rate per 100,000 people also increased, rising to 2.26 in 2021 from 2.02 the year before. Because 2020 was an unusual travel year with less driving, the analysis compares 2021 state-level data to both 2020 and 2019 to give a complete picture of the changes in each state.

"This is heartbreaking and unacceptable. The pandemic has caused so much death and damage, it's frustrating to see even more lives needlessly taken due to dangerous driving," said GHSA Executive Director Jonathan Adkins. "We must address the root causes of the pedestrian safety crisis – speeding and other dangerous driving behaviors, inadequate infrastructure, and roads designed for vehicle speed instead of safety – to reverse this trend and ensure people can walk safely."



PHOTO PROVIDED

From left, are Natalie Sacket-Evans, Jennifer Seaton, Janet Hoppe, Savannah Whitehead, Shannon Price, Jenna McManus at ULI Impact Awards.

VIBES event singled out for recognition

VIBES Edmond's First Thursdays was honored to receive the 2021 Outstanding Community Building Effort Impact Award from the Urban Land Institute at the Annual Impact Awards last Thursday, May 12th.

Each year, three finalists are selected by the ULI for the Outstanding Community Building Effort Awards to recognize projects or programs that encourage gathering, catalyze revitalization, and creatively increase social access, inclusion and advancement. For 2021 the three finalists selected were Poles Apart, Showboat Concert Series, and VIBES Edmond's First Thursdays. "Being chosen as the winner of this prestigious award from an organization like ULI reinforces that we at Edmond Fine Arts achieved exactly what we set out to do when creating VIBES benefitting & enhancing the arts, our downtown business area, and the entire Edmond Community," stated Edmond Fine Arts Director, Savannah Whitehead.

VIBES Edmond's First Thursdays utilize unique placemaking strategies to enhance the physical area of Downtown Edmond by using the arts to create an inviting and inclusive event on the first Thursday of each month, April through October. The seven events combine the efforts of over 100 entities, including businesses, artists, performers, sponsors, and volunteers. It is estimated that during the 2021 Season of VIBES the event series had over a half-million-dollar economic impact on the City of Edmond.

"It is no surprise that all three of the finalists for the award included



activation of a specific area using the arts." Said Edmond Fine Arts Executive Director, Shannon Price. For the past 37 years, Edmond Fine Arts Institute has provided visual and performing art opportunities to the community.

Typically an event like VIBES would be overseen by a district, city, or economic development group. Still, when a conversation about bringing an art walk type event to Edmond began, Shannon knew FAI was the correct entity to lead the project in collaboration with the City of Edmond and with the support of amazing sponsors.

If you haven't attended a VIBES event, mark your calendars for the first Thursday of the month through October. The next VIBES is Thursday, June 2nd.

VIBES, Edmond's First Thursdays is a program of the Fine Arts Institute, Edmond's nonprofit community arts organization providing visual and performing art classes for children and adults year-round, and the 3rd and 4th grade Art in Schools Program in Edmond Public Schools. For more information, visit EdmondFineArts.com or call 405-340-4481. The 2022 VIBES Season is made possible by Citizens Bank of Edmond, Mercy, Edmond Electric, First Bank & Trust Co., Engel & Volkers The Duncan Group, The Mule, Small Architects, Valor Bank, and the City of Edmond.

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Commentary ... We're on YOUR Side**Verbal viruses abound****By Steve Gust**

Sometimes there is something on Facebook other than people's political views or pet photographs.

I read a little forum about words and/or phrases, which tend to annoy people.

Apparently there are a bunch of them. Some of them are verbal viruses. Take for instance the word "like." It's amazing how many young people and even adults will use "like" for every fourth or fifth word. One thing I admire about television's Judge Judy is she will stop people in her court who use it constantly. It's a very annoying habit some folks have.

I don't know how some terms find their way into the language. One of the ones that bothers people is "baby mama." Isn't there a better way to refer to this person?

I remember years ago some guy I worked with made a mistake and said "my bad." It was before that phrase took off. I didn't know what he was trying to say at first. "My bad" sounds like a four-year-old trying to apologize.

Some people on this Facebook poll pointed out the grammatical mistakes

some make. One of the more common ones is "I seen," vs. the correct "I saw."

Overwhelmingly the words bugging most people are cuss words. I suspect even some people who cuss are bothered by cuss words.

I've learned (*somewhat painfully*) that if I cuss I'm probably better off not saying it out loud or only if nobody else is around. There are times if I'm with a friend that I might feel comfortable to cuss. But that's not the belief of many.

I saw a priest post about this. He recommended people try to use a made up phrase for cussing, if someone felt that need.

I know my late mom did that. Every now and then she would say "oh fudge ripple," if something frustrated her.

I guess the bottom line is that words do have their own kind of power and people should be careful with what comes out of their mouth. You never know who you might be offending or how people are judging you.

(Steve Gust may be reached at news@edmondpaper.com)

Protecting students from inappropriate material

A bill protecting K-12 school-aged children from access to pornographic or obscene material in schools or libraries or through online digital libraries was signed into law by the governor last week.

House Bill 3702 by Rep. Todd Russ, R-Cordell, require any Oklahoma school district, charter or virtual charter school, state agency, public library, or university that offers digital or online library database resources to students in kindergarten through twelfth grade to do so only if the vendor, person, or entity providing the resources verifies that all the resources comply with the provisions of

the new law.

"Protecting the minds of our children is extremely important," Russ said. "Even though we already have definitions of inappropriate materials in state law, we still find examples of these making their way into the hands of our children through our schools and libraries, and particularly through online resources. This legislation will help us filter these materials to keep our children safe."

The new law will require schools and libraries to have safety policies and technology protections in place for K-12 students. A user would be prohibited and prevented from

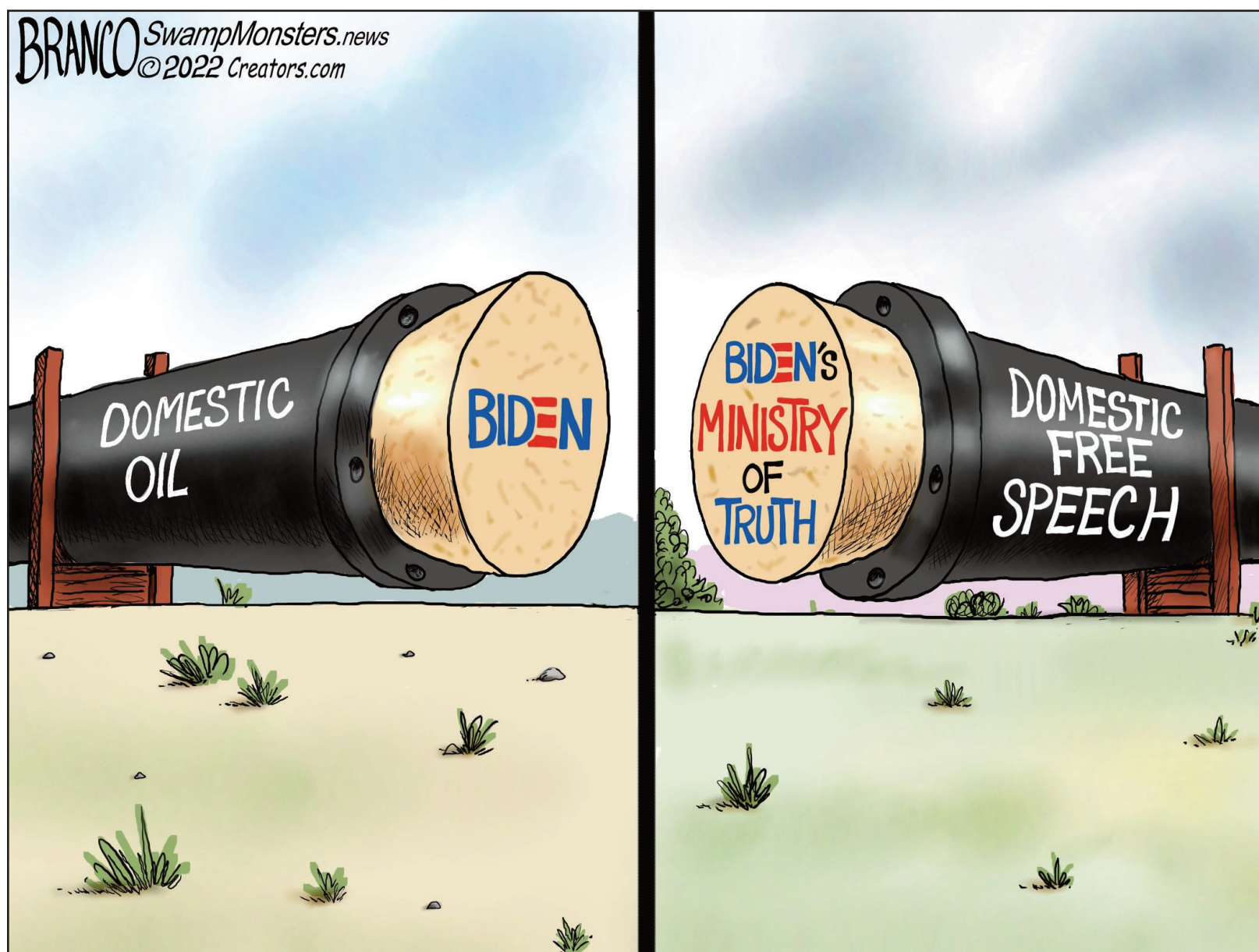
sending, receiving, viewing, or downloading materials that are child pornography or obscene materials, as defined in current state statutes, or materials that depict child sexual exploitation as defined in current state statute. Filters or blocks to such materials are easily available and would be required.

Contractors failing to comply would face loss of payment and be considered in breach of contract. Libraries would be required to submit a report by Dec. 1 each year to the speaker of the House and the president pro tempore of the state Senate detailing any issues related to provider compliance with technology protection measures.

The legislation likewise specifies that employees of Oklahoma school districts, charter or virtual charter schools, state agencies, public libraries, or universities shall not be exempt from state law which prohibits indecent exposure to obscene material or child pornography as defined in state statute.

Sen. Darrell Weaver is the principal author of the bill in the Senate.

"When it comes to children and teens, we owe it to them and to their families to ensure we are taking appropriate action to protect them from harmful material," Weaver said. "This legislation is an important part of that effort, and I appreciate the Legislature and the governor for their support."

**Lankford defends vote on Ukraine funding****By US Senator James Lankford (R-OK)**

Reagan fought for eight years to ensure the breakup of the Soviet Union. Now, Putin is working to rebuild it. We should not sit idly by and think we will not suffer consequences if Russia takes over Ukraine and the Black Sea.

**Lankford**

Standing with Ukraine as they fight Putin's domination of Europe is in the best interest of the United States. The world — especially China and Iran — are watching what we do now. "Peace through strength" still matters.

If America gets distracted from the war in Ukraine after three months, it will send a clear message to China and Iran that the United States is weak and will walk away from her allies after a few weeks.

Biden has already sent one clear message of

weakness with his disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan. Why would we want to send a second signal of weakness to the world? In the future we should not give excuses for what we wish we'd done, as we watch the fall of Ukraine and try to manage the millions of refugees fleeing for safety.

History teaches us that dictators will keep rolling across Europe until they are stopped. The best-case scenario for Ukraine is to stop Putin now before he dominates Europe, which will only lead to more volatile world markets for goods and energy. Oklahomans are currently paying the price every day for Biden's bad policies and slow decision making with our painful grocery and gas prices, historically high inflation, and shortages of basic supplies like baby formula. If this war doesn't end soon, we will face even more economic consequences and supply-chain challenges.

Ukraine has asked the world for weapons systems, food, and diplomatic support. They have been clear that they will do the fighting for their own country, but since Russia has destroyed their ports and manufacturing infrastructure, they can-

not make enough weapons or get enough commodities in or out to survive. American forces have moved into the countries around Ukraine, to train and equip their forces in case Russia breaks through the line to invade other nations in the region, as Putin has threatened to do. The support we're sending to Ukraine is not endless, and there are two Inspectors General offices assigned to oversee the spending. But abandoning the people of Ukraine, as they have the Russian military on the run, seems like a good way to extend the war, rather than end it.

It is good to see the Europeans finally defending their own backyard.

They are currently sending billions of dollars of humanitarian aid to the refugees and billions of dollars in military supplies to the Ukrainian military. Europe is also providing critical support to the Ukrainian government. The Europeans can help Ukraine fight, but for the Ukrainians to win, they will need America's help.

We have chosen to stand with the people of Ukraine, but we are thankfully not standing alone.

Letters to the Editor policy

We love mail, especially mail from *Edmond Life & Leisure* readers with complaints, compliments or comments about what they read here. The rules, even for e-mail letters:

- 1) You must tell us your full name;
- 2) You must give us your complete address and phone numbers (but we will identify you only by name); and
- 3) We reserve the right to edit letters for length, clarity and taste (our taste).

Send mail to Letter to the Editor, *Edmond Life & Leisure*, 107 S. Broadway, Edmond, OK 73034, or fax to 340-3384 or e-mail to news@edmondpaper.com.

State to have Donald Trump Day?

Sen. Rob Standridge, R-Norman, said he fully supports Sen. Nathan Dahm, R-Broken Arrow, for filing Senate Resolution 47, which would recognize June 14, 2022, as President Donald J. Trump Day in Oklahoma.

"As the primary author of legislation to create the first highway in the nation named after President Donald J. Trump, I want to thank Senator Dahm for filing this resolution naming June 14th as President Donald J. Trump Day," Standridge said. "Senator Dahm is exactly right — there has never been a President more widely supported by Oklahomans."

Standridge said that by honoring Trump, the effort would in turn honor the Oklahoma citizens who overwhelmingly supported the 45th president.

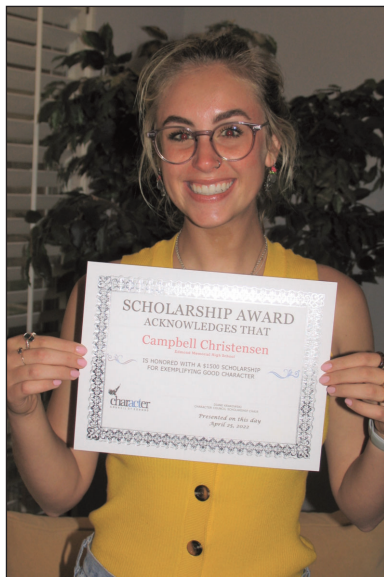
"I appreciate Senator Dahm's strength and courage in standing up for Oklahomans," Standridge said.

Character Council awards stipends

Edmond High School seniors continue to make a positive difference in our community. Scholarship winners Campbell Christensen, Jaclyn Fan, and Kayla Nguyen were honored for their exemplary character at a reception following the Character Council's April board meeting. Character Council members are excited to present this year's worthy seniors with a \$1500 scholarship each.

Over the last eight years, the Council has awarded twenty-two scholarships to Edmond high school seniors who submit an application along with an essay based on a character trait that they demonstrate in their daily life and a letter of recommendation that attests to their good character.

Memorial High School senior, Campbell Christensen demonstrates the character trait of compassion in various ways. Campbell volunteers at Edmond Center Court where she leads tennis clinics for underprivileged and Down Syndrome children. She also serves on the Martin Nature Park Advisory Board as well as other local youth organizations. In her essay, Campbell wrote, "Compassion is a gift that you can give to others while also giving to yourself." She continued, "With each and every project I tried my best to show kindness and humility while helping those in need."



Campbell

Campbell also excelled at Memorial where she was named Academic All-State, Salutatorian, and AP Scholar along with other noteworthy achievements. The one thing that impressed the scholarship selection committee the most was Campbell is the founder of a nonprofit called Progressive Youth OK. Campbell was able to raise enough money to provide 200 bags of food for local families in

need.

Campbell's high school counselor, Brook Bullock in his letter of recommendation said, "Campbell Christensen is charismatic, intelligent, and compassionately ambitious in her efforts to help others."

Campbell plans to attend Hendrix College in Arkansas majoring in art.

Scholarship winner, Jaclyn Fan from Edmond Santa Fe High School chose the character trait of resilience, recovering from adversity.

Jaclyn suffered nerve damage that ended her dream of a musical career. In her essay, she said, "I had always expected my body to work perfectly. When it did not, I found myself more grateful for the abilities I still had." She continued, "I discovered a passion for nonprofit service, embraced difficulty and grew as a result."

At Santa Fe, Jaclyn set high standards for herself becoming a National Merit finalist, AP Scholar, scoring a perfect ACT score, and participating in varsity speech and debate. Many of Jaclyn's activities outside of school focused on volunteering especially with the non-profit Live Life Music. After her life altering diagnosis, Jaclyn embraced Live Life Music becoming president and CEO of this nonprofit.

Jaclyn's AP Biology teacher, Elizabeth Carlton wrote in her letter of recommendation, "In all her activities, Jaclyn works tirelessly to organize philanthropic events as well as promote a positive school culture."

Jaclyn plans to attend the University of Pennsylvania in the fall studying Philosophy and Economics.

Our third recipient is Kayla Nguyen, who is also from Edmond Memorial High School. Kayla wrote,



Jaclyn

"Although a combination of character traits are necessary for success, I believe the most important trait that is exemplified in my life is initiative. By taking initiative, I strive to act in the best interest of myself and others, which in return, engenders a myriad of positive outcomes."

Kayla established a student-to-student mentoring program at Memorial, free of charge to students. It allows students who excel in a particular subject to help their peers to grasp difficult concepts.

Kayla demonstrates her initiative in both her school and our community. Besides being a National Honor Society officer and senior class president, Kayla is involved in DECA. She is a licensed esthetician and is certified in CARES Dementia Basics and CPR, and volunteers in health clinics, blood drives and the HOPE Center.

AP United States History teacher, Christine Custred said in her letter of recommendation for Kayla, "Discipline, drive, integrity, and compassion are rarer than high test scores, and these are the qualities that Kayla possesses."

Kayla intends to major in Cellular Molecular Biology at Oklahoma City University.

The selection committee, comprised of eight volunteers, was impressed by all the applications submitted this year. What really stood out was how each senior overcame the adverse effects of the pandemic during their high school years. Their resilience made a positive difference in their personal lives, their schools, and their community. With all the negative news that surrounds us, we should focus on the kindness and compassion that surrounds us, too.

From Diane Krakowski

UCO & stipends for Edmond students

The University of Central Oklahoma College of Education and Professional Studies recently awarded Edmond area residents Zoe Cardenas, Alexia Converse, Audrey Estes, Victoria James, Sara Mehrabi, Iswat Omodolapo Apena, Amariah Sheffield, Jill Silva, Marissa Skube, Makia Sullivan and Bryce Treat scholarships for the upcoming fall and spring semesters in recognition of their academic achievements and outstanding service to the university.

Apena, a senior majoring in nutrition, dietetics and food management, received the Chef John Bennett Memorial Scholarship.

Cardenas, a sophomore majoring in early childhood education, received the Dr. Mari Scott Memorial Endowed Scholarship and the Guthrie Scottish Rite Charitable and Education Foundation Scholarship.

Converse, a senior majoring in family life education - marriage and family, received the Dr. James Machell Leadership Scholarship and the Dr. Kaye Sears' Honorary Scholarship for Professionalism.

Estes, a junior majoring in fashion marketing, received the Fashion Marketing Major Scholarship.

James, a junior majoring in elementary education, received the Guthrie Scottish Rite Charitable and Education Foundation Scholarship.

Lynch Silva, a graduate student majoring in adult and higher educa-

tion, received the Dr. Jimmie Thrash Memorial Scholarship.

Mehrabi, a graduate student majoring in adult and higher education, received the Lucille Patton Endowed Scholarship.

Sheffield, a senior majoring in elementary education, received the Margaret Branscum Scholarship for Teachers.

Skube, a graduate student majoring in educational leadership, received the Dr. Joann McCarthy Endowed Scholarship in Educational Leadership.

Sullivan, a sophomore majoring in kinesiology - exercise/fitness management, received the RYANNE HAUSCHILD Scholarship for Kinesiology.

Treat, a junior majoring in industrial safety, received the Dr. Robert Delano Endowed Scholarship in Occupational Safety and the Dr. Robin Lacy Endowed Scholarship in Industrial Safety.

"Through the generosity of donors and college partners, we are excited to present these scholarships to students who have worked very hard and made sacrifices to pursue their academic and professional goals," said Bryan Duke, Ph.D., interim dean of the UCO College of Education and Professional Studies.

"We are grateful for the opportunity to assist them in their success."

For more information about the UCO College of Education and Professional Studies, visit uco.edu/ceps.

Redbud run donates to CARE Center

The Redbud Classic, Oklahoma City's longest-standing local racing tradition of fun, fitness and philanthropy, hosted its annual donation breakfast on Friday, May 20, at Bellini's Ristorante & Grill in which board members presented a \$12,000 check to The CARE Center.

"The CARE Center is an outstanding organization that has continued to change the lives of children in Oklahoma," Redbud Classic Race Director Kristin Hersom said. "We are thankful for the opportunity to give back to this organization that has devoted so much of their work to the community."

The CARE Center is a child advocacy program for Oklahoma County. Since 1991, The CARE Center has been dedicated to preventing child abuse and providing opportunities for healing and hope for children. The organization provides a safe space for children to share their stories and connect families with resources for healing.

"The children of Oklahoma and The CARE Center community are beyond thankful for the opportunity to be Redbud Classic's beneficiary this year," The CARE Center CEO and ROAR Founder Stacy McNeiland said.

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Veggin' out with chilled Carrot Soup

By Carol Smaglinski

Hey, let me be specific - don't throw out those limp carrots you just discovered in the back of your refrigerator. They can be rescued.

Simply soak them in ice water for 20 or 30 minutes and they will come back to life.

What can you do with a simple two-pound bag of carrots? Clearly, a lot of carrot soup is done with ease and can be mouth-wateringly delicious, too. A dash of whipped cream, nutmeg and orange rind adds spark. Or, include just a sprinkle of grated cheese or chopped jalapenos on each serving.

Carrots are a nutritional bargain with high Vitamin A content, which helps our vision. One carrot a day is a good insurance policy. Pull off the green fuzzy fronds as they will pull out the moisture and its vitamins. Purchasing carrots with the brightest orange color and eating them cooked will give you the best nutrition. Its beta-carotene may even delay the aging process.

When storing carrots, keep them away from apples, as they emit ethylene gas and will make carrots bitter. Four ounces of raw carrots only have 45 calories and most youngsters simply grab them and run away to enjoy those crunchy treats. The word carrot comes from the Greek "karaton" and originated in the Middle East.

Years ago, photographer James Coburn and I did a clever newspaper feature article on redheads and asked for the participation of Edmond redheads, or as they are often nick-named "carrot tops." Most are of Scottish, Irish or Wales descent and redheads are only 2 percent of the world's population.

On the set date, some 40 to 50 "gingers" of all ages showed up at the designated time. They lined up to get in the photo on the steps of an Edmond church as we took names for the photo identification.

The colors of hair on all the participants ranged from various hues of dark red to light red and all stratifications in between, but all were very unique.

Along came a lovely woman who also had a head of stunning red hair with her ginger-colored dog on a leash. She hovered in the background with the onlookers after positioning her dog on the bottom steps outside of the church. I invited her to hurry and join the other redheads lining up on the stairs, but she replied with a big smile, "No, mine came out of a box."

After the article was published, I received a few calls asking if we would do it again next year. Although we didn't, we all had something to remember that left us all with ear-to-ear-grins.

Chilled Carrot and Cream Soup

3 Tbsp. butter
 1 medium onion, slice
 4 to 5 cloves of garlic, crushed
 2 lbs. carrots, peeled and coarsely chopped
 4 cups chicken stock
 Salt and pepper to taste
 Pinch of nutmeg and grated orange rind, to taste
 Heat a soup pot, add butter, then add the onions and garlic. Let cook until very soft, but not browned with the cover on. Add carrots and continue cooking, covered, for 10 minutes to soften. Add the stock and cook for 30 minutes until the carrots are soft. Allow the carrot mixture to cook, then puree by batches in a food processor or blender.

Then add the cream, the nutmeg and orange rind. Serve hot or chilled and garnish the bowls with chopped parsley. A nice pairing could be cooked seasoned chicken breasts or browned thighs.



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PHOTO PROVIDED/UCO PHOTO SERVICES

Eight University of Central Oklahoma students received military commissions in connection with the completion of the UCO Army ROTC program during the university's annual spring commissioning service held May 5. Pictured, from left to right, 2nd Lt. Alexis Aguinaga; Cadet Colton Bechtold; Cadet Nile Jarrell; Logan Daggs; 2nd Lt. Daniel Jauch; 2nd Lt. Veronica Camacho; 2nd Lt. Philip Bruce; 2nd Lt. Esther Barr; 2nd Lt. Chase Hellinger; 2nd Lt. Courtney Wallace; 2nd Lt. Madison Roselle; and, Cadet Soyounng Pilcher.

UCO Army ROTC students earn commission

Eight University of Central Oklahoma students received their college degrees and military commissions in connection with the completion of the UCO Army ROTC program, during the university's annual spring commissioning service held earlier this month.

Army ROTC serves as the largest commissioning source for the Army, producing approximately 70% of all the officers for the active Army, Army National Guard and Army Reserve. Cadets complete a rigorous curriculum of classroom and leadership lab instruction, physical training and various summer training opportunities, all while attending college as full-time students.

The newly commissioned UCO students are:

- 2nd Lt. Alexis Aguinaga, from Yukon, Oklahoma, earned a bachelor's degree in political science. Aguinaga will serve as a military intelligence officer in the Oklahoma Army National Guard;

- 2nd Lt. Esther Barr, from Oklahoma City, earned

a bachelor's degree in computer science. Barr will serve as a signal officer in the Army National Guard with the Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC), a military unit found at the battalion level and higher;

- 2nd Lt. Philip Bruce, from Oklahoma City, earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering. Bruce will serve as a quartermaster officer for the Oklahoma Army National Guard;

- 2nd Lt. Veronica Camacho, from Salem, Oregon, earned a bachelor's degree in forensic science and criminal justice. Camacho will serve as an air defense artillery officer on active duty;

- 2nd Lt. Chase Hellinger, from Edmond earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice. Hellinger will serve as an air defense artillery officer on active duty;

- 2nd Lt. Daniel Jauch, from Edmond, earned a

bachelor's degree in general studies. Jauch will serve as a military police officer in the Army Reserve;

- 2nd Lt. Madison Roselle, from Oklahoma City, earned a bachelor's degree in biomedical sciences. Roselle will serve as a transportation officer in the Army Reserve; and,

- 2nd Lt. Courtney Wallace, from Cache, Oklahoma, earned a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies. Wallace will serve as a military intelligence officer in the United States Army Reserve.

Central's Army ROTC program is host to five active affiliated universities: Oklahoma Christian University, Oklahoma City University, Southern Nazarene University, Southwestern Christian University and Langston University, allowing non-UCO students to commission through the UCO Army ROTC program with the completion of a bachelor's degree at their home university.

For more information about the UCO Army ROTC program, visit www.uco.edu/business/rotc.

Design School racks up wins during district level ADDY's

The University of Central Oklahoma's School of Design won 29 awards at the district level of the 2022 American Advertising Awards (ADDYs). UCO design students advanced to the district competition after winning 96 awards at the Oklahoma City ADDYs earlier in the year.

At the district level, UCO design students brought home four gold, eight silver and 16 bronze awards. The department also won one silver award for work submitted in the professional category. Gold and silver winners will move forward to the National American Adver-

tising Federation (AAF) Awards in June.

At the Oklahoma City ADDYs, Central's School of Design brought home 39 gold, 22 silver and 31 bronze awards. UCO design student Charity Jack won Best of Show for her "Letter Forums Lecture Series" posters. UCO design student Jazlyn Huynh won Best of Student Publication for her magazine design "JOYFUL." UCO design student Claire Mantle won Best of Student Video for her video "2020 - A Year in Review," and UCO design student Dean Kelly won the Best of University category for his illustration

"West of Alexandria."

In the professional category, McKenna Sanderson, assistant professor of graphic design at Central, earned a gold award for her campaign "Salute." Wylee Sanderson, graphic designer for Central's College of Fine Arts and Design, won two gold awards and one silver award for his work "Meanwhile... Back at the Ranch," "Instinct" and "The ADDY Winners Show." Sanderson's "Meanwhile...Back at the Ranch" was also awarded the People's Choice Nominee.

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Movies look at those serving our nation

By George Gust

On Monday we celebrate Memorial Day; a time to remember those members of our military who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service of the United States of America. Often times we may find ourselves getting caught up in all of the traditions surrounding this day of observance; the sales, the day off work for a family barbeque and the unofficial start of the summer. And while Memorial Day weekend is a huge weekend in theaters there are films available right now to share with your family at home that capture the spirit of Memorial Day; the sacrifice of those who serve our country and the pain of those left behind.

"Glory" (1989)-Available to rent on Amazon Prime/iTunes

Memorial Day as we know it today evolved from "Decoration Day" which commemorated those who died in the American Civil War. This film tells the compelling true story of a Union army unit comprised of all African-American men. With powerhouse performances by Denzel Washington (which earned him a Best Supporting Actor Oscar) and Morgan Freeman, this film is a great



way to celebrate Memorial Day.

"Saving Private Ryan" (1998)- Available now on Netflix

Tom Hanks stars as a WWII Captain tasked with retrieving the last surviving brother of a four brother military family. An all-star cast and the definitive D-Day opening sequence, make this film a must watch in commemoration of Memorial Day.

"Black Hawk Down" (2001)- Available now on HBO Max

Ridley Scott directs the film based on a book of the same name detailing the events of a battle be-

tween American soldiers and Somali militia. The film stands out for its depiction of the terror in facing an overwhelming number of insurgents, bringing the audience up close and personal to the horrors our military have faced in battle.

"American Sniper" (2014)- Available to rent on Amazon Prime/iTunes

"American Sniper" focuses on the pain and grief of veterans suffering from PTSD after returning home from the horrors of war. Directed by Clint Eastwood and featuring an emotional and powerful performance by Bradley Cooper as the Navy SEAL marksman, Chris Kyle.

"Sand Castle" (2017)- Available now on Netflix

This mostly underseen Netflix original movie starring Nicholas Hoult as a young private fighting in Iraq in 2003 captures the conflicts and small victories of war. Based on true events witnessed by the film's screenwriter this movie features beautiful cinematography and kinetic action sequences that feel grounded in the reality of war.

3.5 out of 5 stars

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Tom Hanks, right, starred in 1998's 'Saving Private Ryan.'

Answers appearing on Page 19

Genealogical meeting to look at heritage of Viet Nam

Dr. May Griffin will speak at the June 15, meeting of the Oklahoma County Genealogical Group. A Doctor of Philosophy, Pharmaceutical Sciences/Medicinal Chemistry, Dr. Griffin holds degrees in Biochemistry and Agricultural Chemistry.

She has been a member of Adjunct Faculties at both Oklahoma Christian University in Oklahoma City, and the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond.

Dr. Griffin is an Oklahoma State Regents Doctoral Scholar. Among her numerous honors and awards, she has received the John B. Bruce Pharmaceutical Sciences Award for Outstanding Achievement in Medicinal Chemistry, and the Blanche E. Sommers Pharmaceutical Sciences Award. Dr. Griffin will be sharing experiences from her Viet Nam heritage, education at universities in Taiwan and Oklahoma, and her work and life's challenges along the way. The meeting will be held at the Oklahoma county OSU Extension Center, 2500 N.E. 63rd Street, Oklahoma City, and will begin at 10 a.m.

Crossword Puzzle

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD
THEME:
Stephen King

ACROSS

1. Mauritania's neighbor
5. Arrest
8. Daughter of Zeus and Hera
12. Like fist of some rulers
13. Containing limestone
14. "Misery" Oscar winner
15. Gulf War missile
16. Throat-clearing sound
17. Earp of the Wild West
18. "58 Plymouth Fury in a Stephen King novel
20. Hole punchers
21. G in SAG
22. Lennon's wife
23. Napoleon's hat
26. Old tree description
30. Ryder Cup team
31. Forecastle, for short
34. Ruptured
35. Harangues
37. Tiny guitar
38. East side of Jersey
39. Brussels' org.
40. Genie, alt. sp.
42. Soak through
43. Autumnal zodiac sign
45. Stomach sores
47. Basketball hoop
48. Down Under marsupial
50. Ginger-flavored cookie
52. "It" clown
56. Nary a soul
57. Larger-than-life
58. Like some rumors
59. Smart _____, pl.
60. Pilaf grain
61. Close in proximity
62. "The Green _____"
63. Don't waste
64. Risque

DOWN

1. Catchall abbr.
2. St. Louis tourist attraction
3. Displeasure on one's face
4. Rainbow color

5. Root of nihilism
6. Set right
7. "Stand _____," film based on "The Body"
8. "Rita _____ and the Shawshank Redemption"
9. Bibliographical abbr. (2 words)
10. Risky business, pl.
11. "Is" in Paris
13. Hispanic American
14. Boss, in Swahili
19. Rides the waves
22. Buck
23. "Auld Lang Syne" poet
24. "Children of the Corn" cult leader Chroner
25. Subsection of a poem
26. "Rhinstone Cowboy" singer
27. Kind of change
28. Mistake
29. Oceanic trenches
32. *Rabid Saint Bernard in

- Stephen King book
33. Mogul rider
36. *Nicholson in "The Shining"
38. Foolish
40. Not bright
41. Subtlety
44. Plumber's concern, pl.
46. Crying like crow
48. Type of cap, pl.
49. Chilled (2 words)
50. Same as solos
51. Yuletide
52. Paddington Bear's homeland
53. Beginning of a story?
54. Grand _____
55. *Like a Stephen King story
56. "Platoon" setting

Answers on Page 19

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11	
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Marco Tello



Felix Linden

At Arcadia Round Barn

Two Memorial Day weekend concerts scheduled

ARCADIA – Elm Tree Concerts are planned for Saturday, May 28, and Sunday, May 29, at the Arcadia Round Barn.

Susan Herndon and Felix Linden will play from 1 to 3 p.m. May 28, beneath the shade of the giant elm tree on the north side of the barn.

"Felix and I have done several song swaps together," said Herndon, who grew up in Tulsa and lived in Norman and Okemah before moving to San Antonio. Linden lives in Oklahoma City.

Herndon said she has known Linden since becoming a fan of his reggae band, "The Whale and the Flea," more than 30 years ago.

"I used to go out and hear reggae and dance like a fool," Herndon said. "The whole reggae

scene was really great back then. I'm really always thrilled to play a gig with him."

Herndon said she loves all music but most often plays folk-Americana. She's a regular at the Woody Guthrie Festival and has performed at the Blue Door in Oklahoma City, the AllGood Café in Dallas and New World Deli in Austin.

Linden writes rhythm and blues, pop, reggae and gospel, which he performs with a mellow and memorable delivery. His music has been featured on network daytime dramas and a number of movies.

Oklahoma City singer-songwriter Marco Tello will perform at 1 p.m. May 29.

Tello has worked in such genres as rock, bluegrass, country, reggae, folk and funk, all of which

have affected his musical style. He was influenced by the musical tastes of his mother, as he was exposed to the music of Woodstock, mariachi, the great classical composers and the British invasion.

Elm Tree concerts are free but donations are accepted for the maintenance of the nonprofit Round Barn. Guests can bring a lawn chair or sit at the picnic tables.

The Round Barn is six miles east of Interstate 35 on Historic Route 66 and is owned and operated by the Arcadia Historical and Preservation Society. The museum and loft are open every day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information about live music at the barn, call Joe Baxter at 405-833-1350.

OSU women advance to Nationals

By Steve Steele

The Oklahoma State Cowgirls golf team got the job done at the 2022 NCAA Stillwater Regional they hosted at Karsten Creek May 9-11. OSU's Madison Hinson-Tolchard of Perth, Australia was the medalist with rounds of 72-71-69-212 (-4) in the 54 hole qualifier to advance to the NCAA National Championship held at Grayhawk Golf Club in Scottsdale, Ariz. May 20-25.

The top four teams advanced to Nationals and the Cowgirls tied Auburn for third with team scores of 296-298-287-881. OSU's Han-Hsuan Yu of Taoyan, Taiwan T22nd with rounds of 74-76-74-224. Rina Tatematsu from Bangkok, Thailand was next at 74-74-77-225 T24. Lianna Bailey of Leicester, England contributed 76-81-71-228 and finished 31st. Hailey Jones of Dallas, TX fired rounds of 82-77-73-232 and T35. The Baylor Bears won the event with a strong +1 performance shooting 292-285-288-865. Three ladies from Baylor tied for second, Gurlean Kaur, Britta Snyder and Rosie Belsham each with two under par three round totals of 214. Arizona State was second at 879 and had three ladies finish in the top ten. Last year at Grayhawk the Cowgirls finished second to Ole Miss.

The Oklahoma City University Stars Mens golf team played in the 2022 NAIA Mens Golf Championships at TPC Deere Run in Silvis, IL on the same course that hosts the John Deere Classic on the PGA Tour. The Stars struggled at the start, making the 17 team 36 hole cut on the number, tied with Southeastern University for 16th place. The Stars shot a third round 294 after firing rounds of 294 and 293 the first two days. The Stars played well the last round in windy conditions and shot 289 (+5) the final round to work their way up to 11th place. Only the top two teams shot lower scores than the Stars in the final round. 1st place Keiser University shot 287 for a four round total of 1130 and they clipped 2nd place Dalton State who shot a

fourth round score of 288 and a four round total of 1133. The Stars Dalton Daniel and Dylan Teeter tied for 19th with four round totals of 286 (+2). Between 2001 and 2018 OCU Mens Golf has won 11 National Championships.

On Wednesday May 18th in the Dallas area there was a qualifier for the 2022 US Senior Open Championship at The Courses at Watters Creek in Plano, TX. Several Edmond and OKC 50 and over golfers made the trek down to Dallas to give it a shot. There were 130 golfers playing for four spots and two alternates. Harrison Frazar of Dallas was the medalist, he shot 65(-7) and had ten birdies in the 25 mph winds that day. Claiming the second spot was Rob Labritz of Pound Ridge, NY, he posted a 66(-6) and had a clean card with four birdies and an eagle. The third qualifier was Oak Tree National's own, Willie Wood, Willie had seven birdies and two bogeys for a 67(-5). John Senden of Australia got the last spot in a playoff with Fort Worth's Clark Dennis, they shot 68(-4). The second Alternate position went to Chris Gum of Fort Worth with a 70. New Edmond resident, Billy Mayfair, also shot a 70 early in the day and drove back to Edmond with his caddie/wife Tammy Mayfair. Tammy is the daughter of former longtime KickingBird Head Professional Art Proctor and his wife Connie. Billy is the first alternate in the championship based on his career money earnings on the PGA Tour and Champions Tour and expects to play in the tournament at Saucan Valley CC in Bethlehem, PA June 23-26. Also playing well at Watters Creek were Pat Bates, former tour pro and the former UCO Mens golf coach and son-in-law of Doug and Pam Tewell. Pat fired a one under 71 with five birdies and Oklahoma City's Rocky Walcher, who also kept it under par at 71 with six birdies.

The OCU Stars Womens golf team is hosting the 2022 NAIA Womens Championship at Lincoln Park West Golf Course this week.



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Arledge & Associates Q&A

Inflation's impact on financial statements

(Editor's Note: below LaDonna Sinning of Arledge & Associates, addresses financial issues connected to inflation.)

How do economic factors change the way business owners should look at financials?

As a business owner, your company's financial statements play a significant role in monitoring your company's performance and financial standing. However, the information presented in financial statements is susceptible to distortion when certain economic factors come into play, notably inflation.

The cumulative impact of a global pandemic, labor shortages and supply chain disruptions have merged to create the highest inflation rates the United States has seen this century. In fact, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 7.9% between February 2021 and February 2022, representing the most significant annualized growth in CPI inflation since 1982.

While the tangible effects of inflation vary by company and industry, the national and global implications are widespread and generally impact at least some aspects of every business. Even if the obvious effects feel minimal, it's essential to understand inflation often trickles down to affect the most basic accounting and financial reporting information.

How does inflation impact reported profits?

Inflation can most heavily affect companies' reported profits with considerable inventories when it comes to financial reporting. Imagine, for example; a widget company reported \$100,000 in sales last year with \$75,000 in cost of goods sold and a gross profit of \$25,000. Since widgets do not expire, the company keeps and sells unsold inventory year after year.

The company sells the same number of widgets the following year, but because of a rising inflation rate, it decides to raise its prices by 5% to offset a 5% increase in its costs of goods. Half of its sales this year were taken from the prior year's inventory, and the other half comprised the new inventory carrying the 5% production increase.

Because of its 5% increase in both cost of goods sold and widget sales price, the company reports \$105,000 in sales and \$76,875 in cost of goods sold, totaling \$28,125 in gross profits. The company reports an increase of \$3,125 in gross profits, half of

which is attributable to selling prior year inventory that was produced at prior year costs.

This is called "inflation profit," meaning the increased profit results from inflation rather than an actual improvement in business performance. For businesses looking to impress investors or potential purchasers, this is just one example of how inflation could distort financial planning efforts if not properly recognized and considered.

What about supply chain disruptions?

Many businesses rely on a complex network of supply chains to manufacture and deliver goods. These systems become particularly volatile when one or more parts of that supply chain begin raising prices because of factors such as labor shortages, freight costs, increased employee wages, and material costs.

When companies have existing long-term revenue contracts with customers, it may be difficult, or even impossible, to break those contracts and raise prices enough to offset any increase in production costs.

Companies should consider the monthly implications caused by reduced or negative profitability and the period in which to record the loss, if applicable. Business owners should also be conscientious of the repercussions lost contracts and unstable profits may have on monthly planning and forecasting.

Should I adjust my accounting procedures?

Despite its increased prevalence this past year, inflation always impacts reporting and accounting. Although generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) largely combat the most glaring discrepancies among financial statements, some variations may still occur based on how your particular business accounts for inflation.

LaDonna Sinning, CPA, CFE, is a partner at Arledge, an Edmond-based public accounting firm. Arledge is a recognized leader in the accounting industry offering practical solutions in the areas of tax planning, auditing, consulting, accounting advisory services and client accounting.

This article contains general information only and does not constitute tax advice or any other professional services. Before making any decisions or taking any action that might affect your income taxes, you should consult a professional tax advisor. This article is not intended for and cannot be used to avoid future penalties that may be imposed by the Internal Revenue Service.

Pioneer Woman's advice to grads

The newest Oklahoma State University graduating class was treated to an encouraging address from celebrity Ree Drummond, the "Pioneer Woman," at Saturday's spring commencement ceremonies inside Gallagher-Iba Arena.

OSU President Kayse Shrum presided over commencement as more than 3,400 undergraduate and graduate students walked across the stage for OSU's 144th graduation.

Drummond — a famed author, TV personality, cooking icon and renowned businesswoman — was the keynote speaker at all four undergraduate ceremonies, imparting wisdom and advice that she has learned throughout her career.

Despite not being an OSU alumna, Drummond joked that since her parents both graduated from OSU — as well as her husband, Ladd's parents — that her blood was as orange as her hair.

"I have never spoken at a graduation before," said Drummond, whose own college graduation was 30 years ago at the University of Southern California. "Thank you for letting me try it out on

you guys. Thank you to Dr. Shrum and the entire OSU faculty for letting me be a part of this incredible day."

Drummond read graduates a list of things she wished she had known at her own graduation:

Always be ready to say yes, but don't be afraid to say no.

Let your passion drive you and love what you do, but don't expect it to always tickle.

Stick to your guns and stand up for what you believe in, but know you will change and evolve throughout your life.

Speak up and let your voice be heard, but also be willing to listen and understand.

Believe in yourself and be proud of what you accomplish, but stay humble, too.

"The last item on my list is to buckle up, you have good times and rough seas ahead," Drummond said. "It is just part of life, but enjoy the ride and laugh a lot. In many ways, you guys are several steps ahead of my generation when we were in your shoes."

BUSINESS NEWS

State fiscal year budget at \$9.7 billion

The Oklahoma House of Representatives this week approved a general appropriations bill that includes funding of about \$9.7 billion for state services for Fiscal Year 2023, which starts July 1.

Senate Bill 1040 now moves to the governor for his final action. The governor has until Thursday, May 26 at midnight to act on the bill.

House Appropriations & Budget Chair, Rep. Kevin Wallace, R-Wellston, said the bill includes historic savings deposits, money returned to taxpayers, continued record funding for education, pay increases for law enforcement, enough money to completely eliminate the developmentally disabled services waiting list, to continue fighting federal overreach, and to make generational investments in economic development.

"This is a solid, comprehensive budget that is the effort of nearly a year's worth of work held in numerous public meetings," Wallace said. "It generously funds public services important to all Oklahomans, including education, health and mental health care, transportation, law enforcement and public safety and many other areas as well as record amounts of investments in economic development. This is also a fiscally conservative budget that prepares us for any potential future economic

To help Oklahomans offset historic inflation making everyday life more expensive, the budget returns \$181 million to taxpayers in the form of one-time rebates of \$75 for individuals and \$150 for families, to be paid in December.

downturn so that we can continue to fund core government services without the need for across-the-board cuts."

HIGHLIGHTS

Savings: Continuing a successful practice from recent years, the Legislature did not appropriate its full authority in order to reserve more funds for savings and avoid overspending. Thanks to this practice and state revenues, savings are projected to increase to \$2.7 billion next year – the highest level in state history.

Inflation relief: To help Oklahomans offset historic inflation making everyday life more expensive, the budget returns \$181 million to taxpayers

in the form of one-time rebates of \$75 for individuals and \$150 for families, to be paid in December. It also makes vehicle purchases more affordable beginning July 1, 2022 by reinstating the 1.25% sales tax exemption on motor vehicle sales that was rescinded in 2017, returning an estimated \$188 million to taxpayers.

Funding the police: The budget grants 30% pay raises to Oklahoma Highway Patrol troopers, valued at \$14.2 million, and Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation agents, valued at \$5.3 million. Department of Corrections and Pardon and Parole officers receive pay raises of 30% and 20%, respectively. Pay increases also are approved for law enforcement officers who work for the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department, the Attorney General's office, the Bureau of Narcotics, the Alcoholic Beverage Laws Enforcement Commission and the Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training. The budget also increases funding for law enforcement training and academies, fighting crimes against children and officer mental health support.

Fighting federal overreach: The budget con-
See Budget, Page 18

The rich & tasty tradition of The Gourmet Gallery

By Alexx Harms
EL&L Business Editor

The Gourmet Gallery here in Edmond has been in business for 21 years now. Owners, Janet McDonald and Cindy Utecht, were motivated to open this business as they saw a need and also had the passion for it.

The 2001 Edmond Arts Festival is where The Gourmet Gallery got its start. They also had a booth at the Edmond Farmers Market until opening their first storefront in September 2001.

Offering specialty food items, Riedel Crystal and

custom gift baskets, you are sure to find everything you want for that special recipe or person you are buying for.

Some other items offered include fine chocolates, infused oils and vinegars, pastas and sauces, premium coffees and teas, grilling products and Made in Oklahoma items. They are also going to be adding wine selections to their inventory.

When asked what sets them apart from other businesses they say their customer service, attention to detail with corporate clients and also that they offer a paid subscription to a monthly Gour-

met Club. Through the Gourmet Club you receive an array of different gourmet products to try out, including recipe suggestions.

McDonald and Utecht say being able to treat customers and employees as they would like to be treated is the best part of owning The Gourmet Gallery. To them, the customers are the best part of their every day experience.

For more information on the Gourmet Club and other items at The Gourmet Gallery visit www.thegourmetgallery.com or call 405-715-3663. They are located at 3325 S. Boulevard, Ste. 107.

Public asked to view area solar company

As temperatures soar this summer, more Oklahomans will consider making the move to solar power. Solar Power of Oklahoma announced its showroom will open to the public this month with a ribbon-cutting ceremony from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on May 27 at 14800 Santa Fe Crossing in Oklahoma City.

"Rate hikes and increased usage throughout Oklahoma's hottest months of the year loom large in consumers' minds. Interest in solar has steadily increased, with more electric vehicle owners also seeking low-cost charging options," said J.W. Peters, president of Solar Power of Oklahoma. "Our new showroom gives consumers a firsthand look at how solar panels work, with knowledgeable staff on-hand to explain tax credits and financing options. It's a great way to see what's new and get your questions answered."

Solar Power of Oklahoma reported a 275% increase in system installa-

tions in 2021, with projections for additional increases in 2022. The company's Tulsa location will also open this summer, adding jobs in the eastern region of the state.

Solar generation systems provide a long-term investment for homeowners and commercial property owners, with significant savings on utility bills. On average, houses with solar power increase their residential property value by at least \$15,000. Tax credits are available to offset up to 26 percent of installation costs through 2022.

Founded in 2017, Solar Power of Oklahoma is fully-owned and operated in Oklahoma.

The company's solar advisors work with home and business owners to custom design solar systems, which are then installed by SPO installers. Solar Power has installed more than 2,000 solar energy systems for customers throughout Oklahoma. Learn more at www.solarpowerok.com.

City rolling out 'Smart Choice' meters

Smart Choice, a group of programs and services designed to provide utility customers with more information about their electric and water usage, is coming to City of Edmond electric and water utility customers.

Starting in the summer of 2022, the multi-year process will see all current Edmond electric and water meters upgraded in homes and businesses to Smart Choice meters. That installation is expected to take 18 months to two years. These new meters allow the customer to access detailed usage information to better monitor and control their electric and water usage while allowing for automatic meter readings, automatic outage no-

tifications and other tools to enhance service to the customer.

Approved by City Council in October 2019, the citywide implementation will take place in stages at no additional cost to utility customers. Utility Partners of America (UPA) – the approved metering service provider for Smart Choice – will do the meter change-outs Monday through Fridays during the hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

UPA representatives will be in a marked vehicle and have visible identification while working.

For additional information on Smart Choice, please visit edmondok.com/smartchoice.

For more information
edmondok.com/smartchoice

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11 Honda Odyssey EX.....	18 Honda Accord Sport.....	\$28,988
12 Honda Civic EX.....	19 Honda CR-V EX.....	\$30,788
16 Honda Civic EX.....	18 Honda CR-V EX.....	\$30,788
16 Honda HR-V LX.....	18 Honda Accord Touring.....	\$32,988
14 Honda Ridgeline Sport.....	19 Honda CR-V EX.....	\$32,788
17 Honda HR-V EX-L Navi.....	18 Honda CR-V EX-L.....	\$33,988
15 Honda Accord EX.....	18 Honda Odyssey EX-L.....	\$36,788
19 Honda HR-V LX.....	19 Honda Ridgeline RTL.....	\$37,888
15 Honda Accord Touring.....	19 Honda Odyssey EX-L.....	\$38,888
18 Honda Civic EX-L.....	21 Honda Pilot Special Edition.....	\$42,488
19 Honda Civic LX.....	20 Honda Odyssey EX-L.....	\$43,688
17 Honda Civic 4-Door Si.....	20 Honda Pilot Elite.....	\$45,588
19 Honda HR-V EX.....	20 Honda Odyssey Elite.....	\$46,488
20 Honda Civic EX-L.....	19 Honda Odyssey Touring.....	\$46,688
Hot Deals!	13 Toyota Tacoma.....	\$25,188
14 Volkswagen Passat 1.8T S.....	13 Lexus GX 460.....	\$27,388
12 Nissan Juke SL.....	16 Ford F-150 XLT.....	\$29,988
15 Kia Soul.....	15 GMC Sierra 1500 SLT.....	\$33,188
20 Toyota 4Runner Ltd.....	20 Chevy Traverse LS.....	\$33,588
08 GMC Yukon Denali.....	19 Buick Enclave Essence.....	\$34,888
17 Kia Sorrento LX.....	19 Ram 1500 Lone Star 4WD.....	\$34,988
18 Buick Encore.....	19 Nissan Armada SL.....	\$41,988
17 Volkswagen Golf GT-i.....	19 Range Rover Velar.....	\$49,788
19 Nissan Kicks SV.....	21 Volvo XC60 T5.....	\$51,288
BARGAIN SPECIAL! 07 Volvo S40 T5..... \$6,888		

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Budget

From Page 17

tinues an appropriation of \$10 million to the Office of the Attorney General to fight federal overreach by asserting Oklahoma's powers as a state under the U.S. Constitution to overturn or block unconstitutional federal policies.

Developmentally disabled waiting list: For the first time in state history, sufficient funding to eliminate the developmentally disabled waiting list at the Department of Human Services is contained in the budget. The \$32.5 million increase for the waiting list – the largest single-year increase in state history – will provide critical services to more than 5,100 developmentally disabled Oklahomans who have requested but are not yet receiving state services.

Economic development: The budget reserves nearly \$1 billion for economic development contingent upon Oklahoma being awarded Project Ocean, which would receive nearly \$698 million under the Large-scale Economic Activity Development Act (LEAD Act) while another \$250 million would retrofit areas in Okla-

homa such as industrial parks to help recruit similar economic development megaprojects in the future. The nearly \$700 million that makes up the majority of these appropriations would come from FY22 general revenue cash surplus.

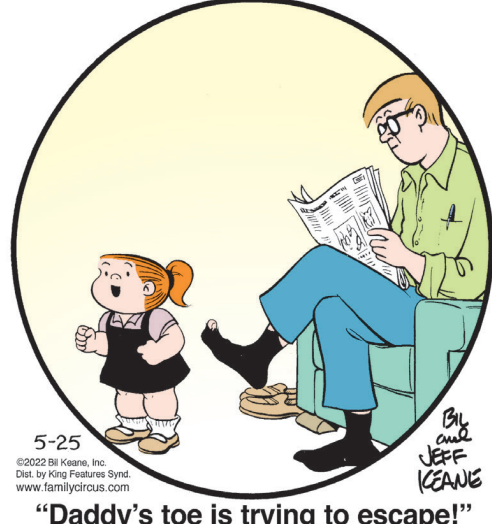
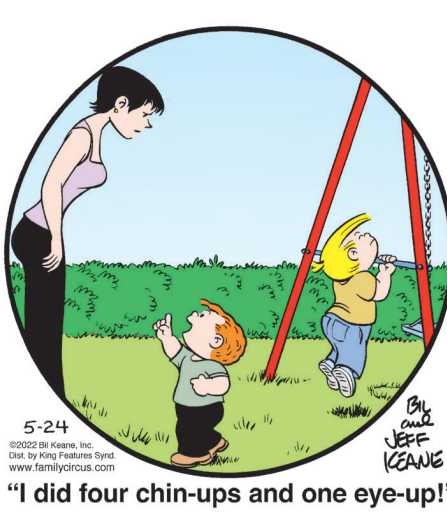
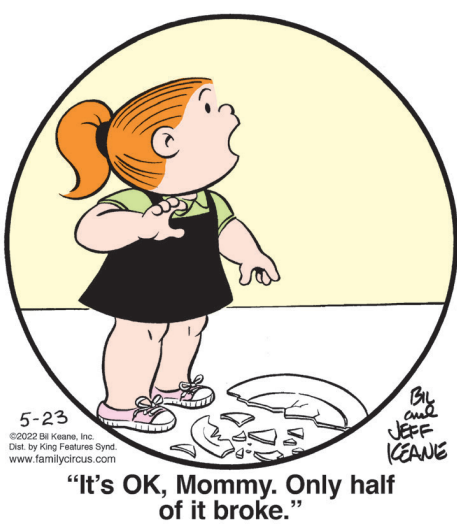
KEY FACTS

The FY 2023 legislatively-appropriated budget for state agencies is about \$9.7 billion, which is 9.8%, or almost \$869.5 million, more than FY 2022. The total includes, for the first time, an authorization of \$401,906,190 for the Oklahoma Teachers' Retirement System Dedicated Revenue Revolving Fund. While not new money, the authorization provides visibility and transparency to the budget, taking the total to \$9.84 billion.

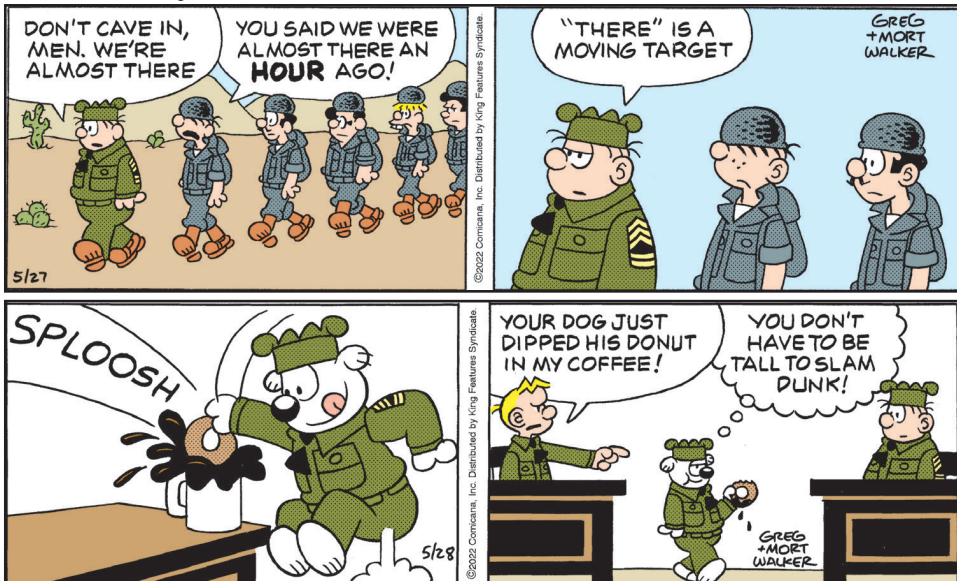
The largest area of the budget continues to be education, at \$4.2 billion, or 44%. In the agreement, public K-12 schools continue to be funded at the highest level in state history, \$3.2 billion, on top of billions of dollars in federal pandemic aid for schools.

Edmond Antics comics section

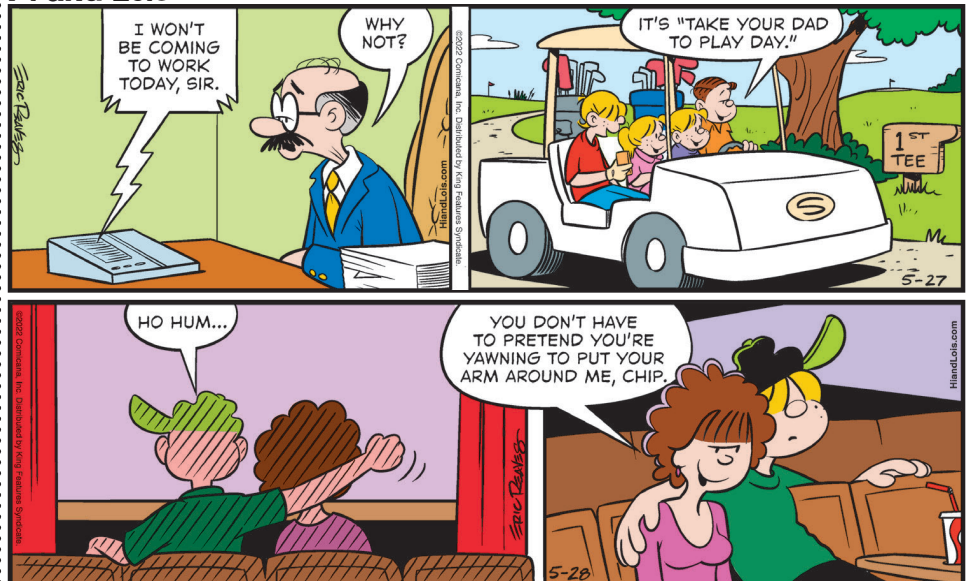
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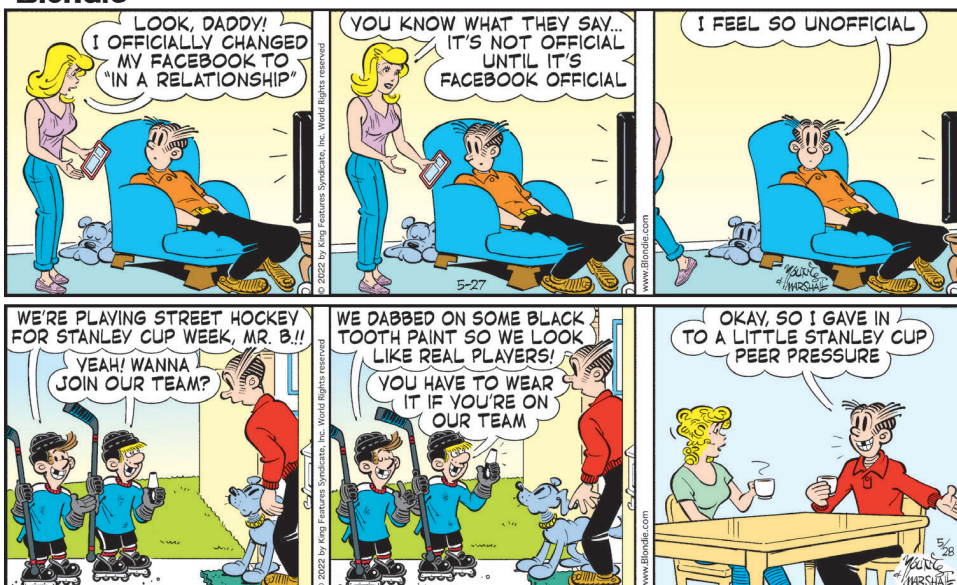
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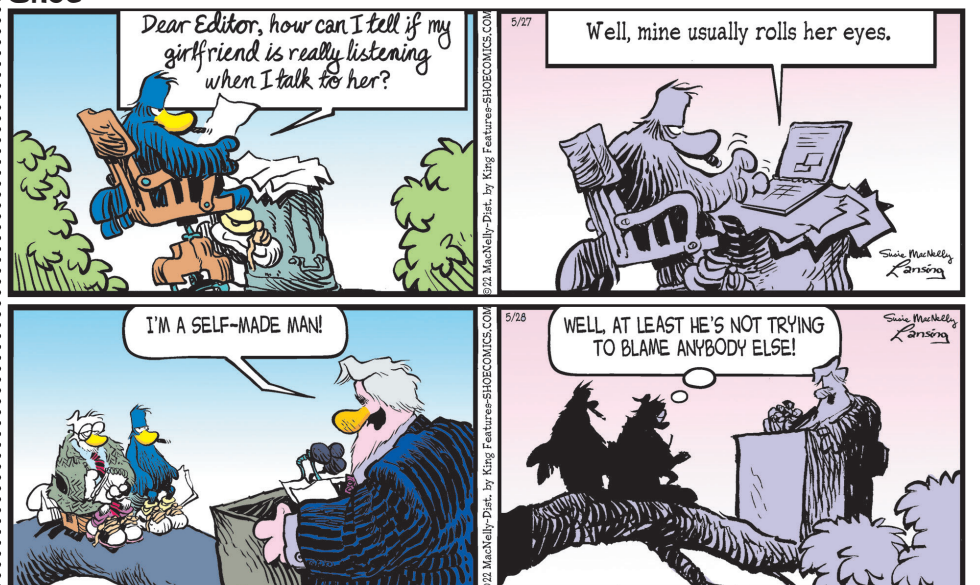
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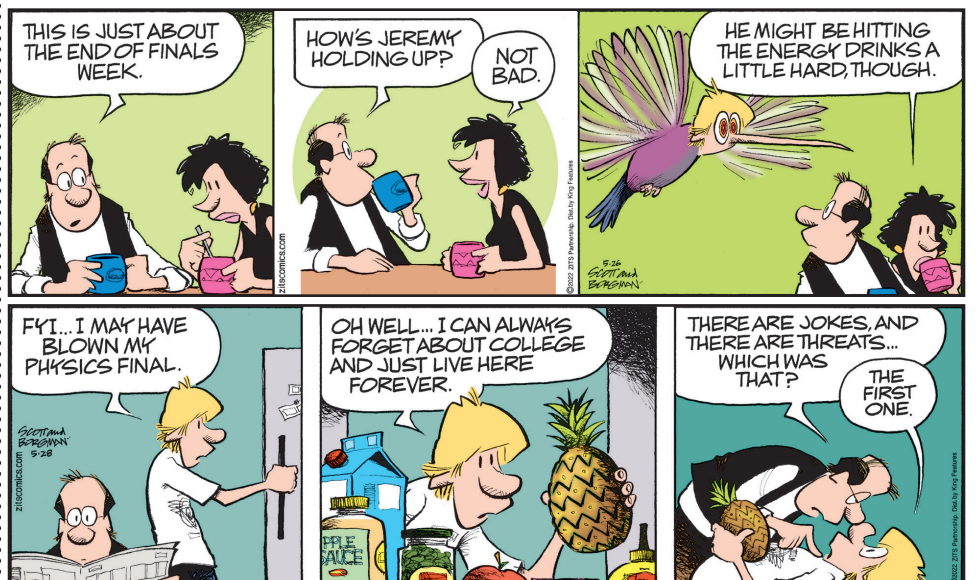
Shoe



Hägar the Horrible



Zits



New law expected to help tobacco use prevention

Officials at the Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust (TSET) praised the signing of a new state law last week that will modify youth purchase, use, or possession (PUP) laws to hold the tobacco industry responsible for their efforts to addict children.

PUP laws were passed in the 1990s to reduce youth access to tobacco but the policies did not stop retailers from illegally selling tobacco products to children. The new law will eliminate fines for youth caught with tobacco and instead require them to attend a course about tobacco addiction through the Alcoholic Beverage Laws Enforcement (ABLE) Commission. The new law also requires parents to be notified.

"Penalizing children is not effective in reducing youth tobacco use," said Julie Bisbee, TSET executive director. "Interventions that provide young people with the tools they need to quit are much more effective. This new law restores the burden of responsibility to those who illegally sell tobacco products to children. I want to thank the legislature and Gov. Stitt for protecting Oklahoma's youth from Big Tobacco."

Store clerks who sell tobacco to those under 21 years old could still face a \$100 fine for a first offense.

Nearly 75 percent of youth who tried to buy tobacco products reported they were not refused sale, according to the American Heart Association.

The tobacco industry spends \$137 million every year marketing their products in Oklahoma. About 28 percent of Oklahoma high school students have reported vaping at least once in the past 30 days, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System.

"With vaping flavors like gummy bear, strawberry, chocolate and cotton candy, it's clear that Big Tobacco is marketing to young people to replace their customer base," said Michelle Stephens, chair of the TSET Board of Directors. "Fining youth can have harmful unintended consequences. I want to thank state leaders for doing away with a counterproductive policy and I look forward to working on more effective strategies to protect youth from a lifetime of nicotine addiction."

A more effective youth prevention program

should include routine education and compliance checks with retailers and support for young people who want to quit tobacco, she added.

In several counties across Oklahoma, TSET Healthy Living Program grantees are educating local retailers and working with them to reduce and prevent the sale of tobacco and vaping products to youth under the age of 21. That work is happening in coordination with the ABLE Commission, Oklahoma State Department of Health and the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.

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Puzzles appear on Page 14



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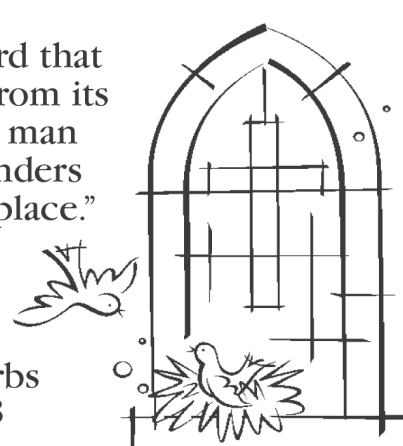
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