



# WEST OK WEEKLY

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## Lyle Road Project still on schedule

Chase Wright  
Staff Writer



The Lyle Road Project is still underway as scheduled. The government shutdowns of non-essential businesses hasn't affected progression of the project in a meaningful way. While some engineers are working from home, right-of-way easements have been secured along the street line.

There were around 30 right-of-ways that needed to be secured, and only about 1 or 2 are left. These easements would allow the city to utilize the edge of residents' lands that align the street. These easements have no effect on ownership of land. They only would allow the road to be expanded and sidewalks added.

When they're ready to start construction, utilities would be worked on first. Then, the process of replacing the road would begin. To ensure that no unnecessary outages or road closures would be done, the process will take some time. Final construction should begin next year.

Lyle Road, like Davis, will become a new hotspot for traffic going to the park/golf course. It should make traffic to community events that take place in the park (like the 4th of July, The Car Show, and sport tournaments) much smoother.

Provided

Many local restaurants are offering curbside and delivery services. Mason Dempsey with Lucille's Roadhouse is one of many carhops, offering these services for the safety of their customers.

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**Vernon Lee Bomhoff**

Private family service for Vernon Lee Bomhoff, 81 year-old Weatherford resident, was held Friday, April 3, 2020, 10:00 A.M. in "The Chapel" of Lockstone Funeral Home with Bro. David Lawrence officiating. Burial followed in Greenwood Cemetery under the direction of Lockstone Funeral Home.



Vernon was born May 29, 1938, in El Reno to John Otto and Gladys (Brown) Bomhoff and passed away Tuesday, March 31, 2020, in Yukon. Vernon was raised and attended school in El Reno, graduating with the Class of 1956. He was drafted into the US Army, serving his country for 4 years. Vernon worked for the Federal Correctional Institute in El Reno in 1964 and retired at the age of 50. He married Joyce Janelle Hornbeck in 1977. Vernon worked at the Hinton Correctional Institute and retired as the assistant warden in 1994. He and Joyce were married for 44 years. Vernon enjoyed OU Football, traveling especially to Europe, and looking for antiques. His family will remember him as loving his grandchildren.

Vernon is survived by his wife Joyce Bomhoff of their home in Weatherford; daughter Susan Schwarz and husband Kelly of Yukon; son Bradley Bomhoff and wife Anna of Bethany; daughter Krista Bomhoff of Weatherford; step-children: Tony Holly of Dallas, TX and Vaughn Avritt and wife Carolyn of Weatherford; brother Earnie Bomhoff and wife JoAnn of El Reno; one sister Marie Davis of Wimberly, TX; and numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother "Buddy" Earl Bomhoff.

If you have ever traveled with her, you know her sense of direction would lead to many unexpected adventures. She was always up for a good laugh and loved to play chicken foot, canasta, and rook. She grew to love the name Grandma Weenie which came from one of her great-grand kids who was confused about her name. Memorials may be made to Hope Is Alive.

Rhowene is survived by one son Russell Bentley of Kansas City, MO; three daughters: Judy Carder and husband Matt of Sparks, NV, Wilma Killman and husband Darrell of Yukon, OK, and Cheryl Cates of Missoula, MT; one brother Earl McCarthy and wife Ellen of Killeen, TX; seven grandchildren; seventeen great-grandchildren; and one great-great-granddaughter.

She was preceded in death by her parents; two husbands; one brother Charles; two sisters Elaine and Barbara; and two sons Tommy Lynn and Gary Don.

Dickson area. On April 23, 1960, she married Bobby Dean Reynolds in Ardmore and made their home on the family farm, south of Hydro. June worked alongside of Bob on the farm. They retired in 2008 and moved into Hydro. June enjoyed her dog Pepper, watching the Game Show Network channel, her grandchildren and their activities and basketball. Memorials may be made to the Hydro First Responders.

June is survived by one son Jason Reynolds and wife Amy of Minco; one daughter Dana Hickman and husband Byron of Weatherford; three sisters: Nancy Smith of Ardmore, Nita Richards and husband Richard of Marietta, and Pat Clifton of Ardmore; eleven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; two daughters: Sandy Harvey and Cindy Sink; and one brother Glen Clifton.

**George Ogan**

Graveside Service for George Ogan, 90 year-old Weatherford resident were held Tuesday, March 31, 2020, at 2:00 pm at Greenwood Cemetery, with Terry Flansburg officiating, under the direction of Lockstone Funeral Home.



George was born September 16, 1929, in Tyrone, OK to Lester and Elizabeth (Grice) Ogan and passed away on Friday, March 27, 2020, at his home in Weatherford. George was raised and attended school in Tyrone until eighth grade. A few years later, he was drafted in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. He married Julia Canada on June 26, 1954, in Guymon. He moved to Weatherford in 1957 and worked as a farm hand, station attendant, and as an appliance technician for Tautfest for 30 years. He retired and started his own business, Lonesome George Ogan's Appliance Repairs. He married Barbara Harris on October 5, 2001, in Eureka Springs, Arkansas, and they made their home in Weatherford. George was a very devout believer in our God and Lord Jesus Christ, and he is now with our Lord in HEAVEN.

He was preceded in death by his wife Julia; one daughter Anna Marie; three brothers: Dexter, Frank, and Sam; and one sister Esther.

George is survived by his sister Norma Edens of Weatherford, OK; wife Barbara Ogan of their home in Weatherford, OK; son Locklin and wife Sheila Ogan of Rockwall, TX.; one daughter Ronda Ogan of Weatherford; three step-sons: Yancy Harris and wife Cami of Weatherford, Kevin Harris of Elk City and Terry Bob Harris and wife Leisa of Elk City; seven grandchildren; and thirteen great grandchildren.

**Alice Seger**

Family graveside services for Alice Seger, 70, lifelong Clinton resident were held Friday, April 3, 2020, in the Clinton Indian Cemetery, officiated by Gerald Panama and under the direction of the Kiesau-Lee Funeral Home.



Alice Marie Seger was born August 6, 1949, to Arthur and Bessie (Black Beard) Seger in Washita County, OK and passed away Tuesday, March 31, 2020, in the Mercy Hospital Emergency Room in Oklahoma City, OK.

Alice was raised in Clinton and attended Clinton Schools and the Chilocco Indian Boarding School where she graduated. She has been a stay-at-home mom and became a master seamstress. She was well known for the shawl making.

She married Roy Kester in 1990 in Clinton, OK, and they have made Clinton their home.

She was a member of the Indian Baptist Church and loved going to Powwows and Memorial Dances.

She was preceded in death by her parents; four brothers: Douglas Seger, Sterling Seger, John Homer Seger, and Cyrus Seger; and two sisters: Bertha Big Horse and Mary Seger.

She is survived by her husband Roy Kester and a son Christopher Kester, both of the home; and a daughter April Dawn Rivers, Clinton. She is also survived by six grandchildren: McKinley, Macey, Katie, Daniel, Jr., Alessandra, and Marylyn; four great-grandchildren: Karson, Edson, Juliana and Joshua; two Cheyenne sisters: Joan Swallow of Geary, OK and Patsy Jim of Chickasha, OK

**Erma Rhowene Bentley**

Graveside service for Erma Rhowene Bentley, 90 year-old Tulsa resident, were held on Wednesday, April 1, 2020, at 2:00 PM at Greenwood Cemetery in Weatherford, OK, under the direction of Lockstone Funeral Home.



Erma Rhowene Bentley was born on April 12, 1929, to Arlington and Letha (Stewart) McCarthy in Roosevelt, OK and passed away on Saturday, March 28, 2020, at Heritage Point Nursing Home in Tulsa, OK at the age of 90 years, 11 months, and 16 days.

Rhowene was raised near Santa Monica, CA until the age of 17 when her family moved to Vici, OK. On September 7, 1947, she married Wilbur Oro Bentley in Canadian, OK and they made their home in Vici, OK and several other places before moving to Weatherford in 1966. Rhowene worked for 3M from 1976 until 1989 doing color coding. Rhowene married Melvin Gossman in 1996, and they made their home in Weatherford and Yukon. Rhowene enjoyed dancing, sewing, going to the casino and traveling.

**Glenda "June" Reynolds**

Glenda "June" Reynolds was born June 26, 1943, in Ardmore to Carson and Rose (Royal) Clifton and passed away Monday, March 30, 2020, in Weatherford, at the age of 76 years, 9 months, and 4 days.



June was raised and attended school in the Ardmore and

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**Proverbs 18:21**

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# Coronavirus Masks, do you need one?

Chase Wright  
Staff Writer

Discussions in federal and state governments have begun regarding the use of face masks. As the number of positive cases of COVID-19 increase around the country, there is a growing pressure to adopt a regulation to have people cover their faces while in public. However, the question still remains: will this work?

The short, and probably controversial, answer would be that it won't do much. In fact, it may even have the opposite effect. But a face mask will protect us from transmitting and contracting the virus, right? Not necessarily. There are no regulations around face masks which means that some don't filter air, others let air through big pockets on the sides, and the type of material may even allow the virus to stay attached to it. Improper handling of face masks is just as likely to end up contaminating the mask instead.

Cloth masks (those typically seen in Asian communities) are cheap, washable, and reusable. They don't protect you though. If they're not properly washed and maintained, they may begin to absorb moisture and provide a breeding ground for bacteria.

Alternatively, the majority of masks that are being worn around the globe are surgical masks. These masks don't provide a seal around the face or filtrate airborne particles. Their primary use is to provide a physical barrier between your face and large droplets or splashes of liquid, i.e. their use in the OR. Surgical masks do provide a blocker from transferring the virus from your hand to your face; but, arguably, washing your hands before touching your face is a better deterrent for the virus.

PPE masks – N95 respirators, those mainly used by the health care and medical industry, meet the above criteria if used properly, but these masks should be retained for people in those fields. These are the gold standard for those on the frontlines, and there is a mass shortage of these masks. Hospital workers are having to choose surgical masks as their secondary option. NO ONE, even those advocating for the public to be masked, is recommending the N95 masks for the general population.

Masks are only as useful as the gross infection population size – meaning, the smaller the size of positive cases, the lower the need for a mask is. No one deals with a higher infection size than those in health care facilities. Over a quarter of all positive cases worldwide are people in the medical community. They are the ones dealing with the most extreme cases, and they're the ones in dire need of necessary medical equipment. Some hospitals have their staff using one mask each, which is dangerous and unfair. Home health workers are told to use cloth masks or face ties in lieu of a mask as a last resort. Without these highly trained and specialized people to help fight off this pandemic, the situation could worsen.

Well, if not all masks are created equal, and I shouldn't be purchasing PPE masks, what do I do? Can I wrap a scarf around my face? While the news about mask use and the shortage is scary, the best thing everyone can do is to remain distanced and continue washing your hands/disinfecting your home. Wrapping a scarf or any other piece of clothing around your face is not going to provide any substantial protection. They don't provide a

tight fit around the face in order to block air, and they are not designed to filter any air. They can protect your face from droplets like when someone sneezes, but they run the same risk of cloth masks in that they can become a breeding ground if not washed. Ideally, you shouldn't be using them, but it may become necessary to use one when going to heavily populated areas like the supermarket.

We're at an impasse here. The shortage of surgical masks for health care workers is impacting the government's response as to whether the public should start using them. Organizations and leaders around the world are in the same situation with many on both sides of the aisle. The CDC is on the fence about it, and the WHO has continued to deem them unnecessary for the public. Chinese government leaders have increased their mask use for the public, but that's understandable given the onset of the virus there.

Essentially, if you do use a face mask, you may reduce your chance of infection from sneezes or the unmoderated face touch, but hand washing still remains the best choice against the disease. Do not fidget with your mask, maintain your recommended social distance, and we may see a reduction in transmission. Do not think wearing a mask allows you more freedom or contact. They're only as successful as we let them be. They're a screen door, not a steel door.

If the government mandates masks to be worn by the public, make sure you educate yourself on proper handling of the mask and how to properly dispose of or wash your masks. Be smart and stay safe.

## SWOSU Reminds Area Residents About Importance of Having a Severe Weather Plan

When tornadic/stormy conditions exist, Southwestern Oklahoma State University reminds Weatherford residents to plan to seek shelter at home or in a personal shelter.

SWOSU has neither the capacity for its campus facilities to serve as volunteer storm shelters nor the personnel available to accommodate sheltering the public outside of the immediate campus, according to SWOSU Police Chief Kendra Brown.

In addition, local community spread of COVID-19 has made choosing a place of refuge much more difficult when severe weather threatens. During tornado threats, SWOSU will take as many precautions as possible to provide refuge for the reduced number of students, faculty and staff remaining on-campus. However, at this time, SWOSU

campus building access is restricted to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 to the campus community. Therefore, Brown said it is critical each individual review their home safety plans to prepare for severe weather.

Other factors involved in this practice are that many people face more danger in traveling to a shelter than remaining at home. The following information is taken from the City of Moore website:

“There is less overall risk by sheltering-in-place than by going to a community shelter. The average tornado warning time is generally only 10-15 minutes. That's just not enough time for a person to receive the warning, make a conscious decision to leave their home, gather the few things needed (family, keys, etc.), lock the house,

get into the car, drive to a shelter (including possibly experiencing a traffic jam of others trying to get to the same shelter!), get out of the car, and make the way into the community shelter. In this scenario, there's a far greater likelihood of getting caught in your car when the tornado strikes! And experience proves that cars are NOT the place you want to be during severe weather events!”

Brown said it is important that each individual person and family decide what their tornado preparedness procedures will be and to make those plans now.

Additional information about storm safety:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/features/tornadosafety/index.html>  
<https://www.weather.gov/safety/tornado-prepare>

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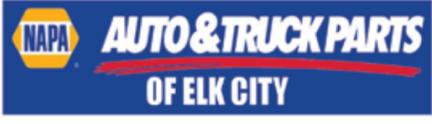
















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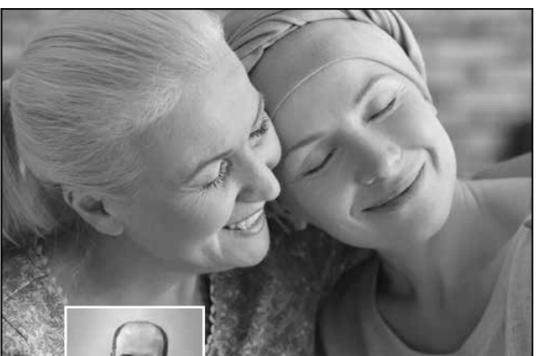
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# LOCAL AND AREA NEWS



Mike Smith News Director

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**CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO TRIBES-** Officials with the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes have decided to extend the "Return to Work" date for tribal and casino employees to April 20th. Tribal officials say it has become necessary to continue providing essential services only due to the ongoing and uncontained Covid 19 Pandemic.

graduation. Principal Garrett Smith said a parade-type event is in the works for May 16th. Smith said June 20th and July 11th are potential graduation ceremony dates. The district is looking at the different avenues to honor graduating seniors after cases of Covid 19 shut down school buildings for the remainder of the academic year.

**REAL ID DELAY-** The Federal Department of Homeland Security said the states that have not yet become Real ID Compliant now have another extension until October 1st, 2021. Weatherford Tag Agent Susan Steiner said this will be helpful in the area of training. Prior to this extension, starting in October of this year, a real ID Compliant Driver's License or other Federal-accepted form of identification would have been required for commercial airline travel and entrance to federal facilities.

**WEATHERFORD - RECYCLING EVENT CANCELLED-** A recycling event, planned this month, in the city of Weatherford has been cancelled due to Coronavirus. Weatherford environment group spokesperson Faye Henson said officials are getting close to announcing glass recycling for the city of Weatherford. She said that announcement will be coming soon.

**WEATHERFORD SCHOOL - GRADUATION-** Weatherford School Officials are working on how to recognize the 2020 Senior Class as they prepare for

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**Happy Birthday Wishes for April 8th-** Opal Boyd, Quinda Lane, Cory Price, Vincent Sperle, Jennifer Williams, Floyd Winn; **April 9th-** Lindy Charles, Geneva Carniore, Jace Huser, Angela Marsee, Trey Payne, George Roberts, Cathy Shadid, Virginia Strong, Chandler Turney; **April 10th-** Jessica Allisen, Mike Brown, Lacey Burdick, Chad Chaplin, PatsyChisum, Elmer Croaker, Shannon Duncan, Beau Ferrell, Jeffrey Maynard, Scott Moore, Brant Purdum, Sam Smith, Mark Stapleton; **April 11th-** Chuck Ackley, Ari Albrightson, Ian Brennforder, Charlene Cantrell, Darla Davenport, Patty Doran, Bill Mucker, Shelby Nance; **April 12th-** Billy Birkenfeld, Teri Boyd, Cindy Bruce, Rob Grogan, Rhewene Grossman, Leslie Harrison, Kelis Hart, Amy Hoffman, Sonny Makescry, Bobby Richardson, Lisa Stephens, Julie Weichel; **April 13th-** Emily Garrison, Donis Hardaway, Kim Heger, Mollie Reeves, Troy Shirey, Tristan Shirey; **April 14th-** Tisha Campbell, Bobbie Edwards, Rev. Harold Goldman, Clayton Johnson, Rickey Mackin, Pam Martin, Kim Pickett, Debra Purdum, Alfredo Reyes, Tinaya Sisler, Allan Weil.

# SPORTS *Presented by:*

## Behind the Lens: Jessica Quintero

Hi, my name is Jessica Quintero. I am a junior here at SWOSU as an Art Education major. I am also a mother to a 4-year old girl, named Alayah, she is my biggest motivation in life. While I love all of the arts, photography is a true passion of mine. My story of how I got involved with the SWOSU Media team is one of my favorites. Throughout the summer of 2019 I prayed to get more involved in the SWOSU community with my photography. I had no idea how that would happen or what that would look like, but I knew it was something I wanted to do. I wrote it down in a journal that I keep, putting it into existence.

Throughout my years here at SWOSU, it has brought me remarkable friendships. One day in an art class, I met my best artistic/photo friend, Klemson Lancaster. After Klem's athletic career, she started working for Doug Self and the media team. A few weeks before school picked back up, Klem called and explained they were looking for another photographer, (exactly after one month – to the day – of writing it in my journal) asking if I was interested in taking the position...and the rest is history. I love my job, the people, and moments that come with it. The quote "Living the Dream" is pretty accurate.



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# "The Coin Guy"



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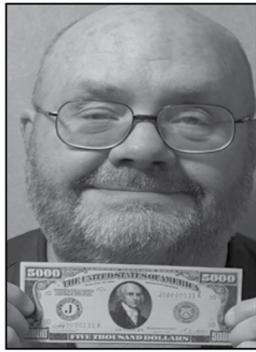
In late summer 1955, at the Philadelphia Mint, a Lincoln cent was destined to be the biggest error coin in modern history. A defective die was sent to the coining floor and installed on a coin press. The error is easily seen by the naked eye.

An estimated 40,000 cents were struck before the error was discovered. Since the error cent was mixed with other cents they were released for general circulation.

The above 1955 Double Die Lincoln cent was certified by the Professional Coin Grading Service as a Mint State 65+ Red. It sold on March 1, 2020 at auction for \$124,875.

Circulated examples can command hefty prices. Should one find a 1955 Double Die Lincoln cent, in any condition, it is advised to consult with a reputable coin dealer.

Do you have questions about coins but didn't know who to ask? Call 580-890-8076 for an appointment (we can meet once the Covid-19 pandemic is over). Thanks for reading.



Trent Boesen

## Dian Ray Named ITS Director at SWOSU

Dian Ray has been named director of the Information Technology Services office at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford.

Ray, who has been an application systems analyst in that same office, will start her new position on May 1.

A 1998 graduate of Middlebury Union (VT) High School, Ray earned a Bachelor of Science degree in computer science and mathematics and a Master of Science in management from SWOSU. She has over 14 years of information technology experience. Before joining the SWOSU IT Team in 2009, Ray served as a programmer analyst at Pioneer Telephone Cooperative, Inc., in Kingfisher.

For the past two years, Ray has served as the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Project manager at SWOSU and coordinated with Team Leads to implement SWOSU's new ERP system—Ellucian Colleague.

Ray said she enjoys working with SWOSU staff, faculty and students and hopes to continue serving the SWOSU community for many years to come.

She and her husband, Steve, reside in Weatherford and are the parents of Minnie, Christopher, Lilly, Grace and Hanna.

Ray replaces Karen Klein, who is retiring from SWOSU on June 30.



## House Proceedings Still Available Via Livestream

The Oklahoma House of Representatives will convene in Special Session at 8 a.m. Monday, April 6, followed by proceedings in Regular Session. All floor and committee proceedings will continue to be livestreamed on the House website at <https://okhouse.gov/video/default.aspx>.

With safety protocols in place limiting Capitol access in order to protect the public from the spread of COVID-19, this notice is to reassure members of the public that the House's existing online transparency efforts will continue. Proceedings will be modified to ensure no more than 10 people are in a room at once, but livestreaming will continue. In addition, credentialed members of the press will continue to be allowed behind glass portions of the gallery in the House chamber to watch the proceedings.

### Spring is Here!

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# Reminiscing while social distancing

Well I'm quarantined, sheltering in place, isolated, whatever you want to call it. Being elderly and asthmatic, corona-virus is a serious threat.

It gives you time to reminisce and for some reason, it came to mind on how my mother tried and succeeded to shelter me from a lot of unpleasant situations during the dust bowl and depression. It took years for me to come to that realization and then to deal with it, appreciate it, and question my own parenting skills.

As I recall, it was go out and play, get in the bathtub, come eat- now, sit down, I'm going to read to you whether you like it or not. (I was taking a children's literature class under Grace Burcham at SWOSU). I had lots of children's books to read, the very best. I see that part of my parenting as a plus. I had 3 really close friends, and we managed to meet for coffee several times a week at various houses, four



Maxine McCullough

of us and 13 children. This would have been mid-sixties when "supper" had to have a meat, two vegetables, a salad, and, oh yes, some sort of dessert.

When you have 3 children, trying to finish your college degree, laundry, cooking etc. you don't stop and consider if your parenting skills are damaging your children for life. (They all turned out just fine).

But I digress, my friends, the children and I would gather. We drank coffee, (my friends and me not the kids), smoked cigarettes, oblivious to the danger of nicotine and all in all had a great time. The kids ran in and out, sat on our laps or crawled around on the floors. We tried to learn to play bridge, but never could remember whether "we were on the board or in our hand." Anyways, we had to get up every five minutes to doctor a skinned knee, change a diaper or pass out a few more cookies as we ushered some kids back out the screen door to the back yard, Go Play.

Those are good memories to dwell on while being in self-incarceration. Oh, I just saw two chubby little robins out on my lawn. The leaves on my little rose bush outside my window are turning green. I'm going to take that as a sign that hope springs eternal. Take care of yourself and yours. This, too, shall pass.

## Residents in Long Term Care during Covid-19 restricted visitation

**Cherrie Nutley** Ombudsman Supervisor Western OK  
As Ombudsman Supervisor for western OK it is my job to be the advocate for residents in Long Term Care Facilities, under the auspices of SWODA and the State and Area Agency on Aging. At this time of restricted visitation for residents, it is important to maintain as much contact as possible with your loved ones

Although you cannot visit in person at the time, the area Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Centers have put in place ways to make communication easier including special rooms set up with large screens for Skype or assistance being made available to help residents utilize Face Time and dedicated land line phone areas for residents to make and/or receive phone calls. You can set up times to see your loved one through a window in their room as well. Good old fashioned letters and cards are a welcome

diversion at this time and everyone loves to receive those drawings and paintings done by grand kids stuck at home! If you have questions or concerns about your loved one during this time feel free to contact your area Ombudsman Supervisor; Cherrie Nutley at 580-821-4068.

Some things to remember: make sure the facility knows the best way to get in contact with you should they need to do so; update your contact information at the facility where your loved one resides; ask the staff if regular activities and therapies are being carried out and how they are doing so while keeping Social Distancing in place; ask how you can best communicate with your loved one and follow through on that information; how is the facility handling deliveries; and is it possible for you to send or drop off care packages.

## SWOSU's Sweeney Talks Innovating Partnerships at PLA

Southwestern Oklahoma State University Assistant Professor Dr. Karen Sweeney recently attended the Public Lands Alliance (PLA) conference in Arlington (VA).

The conference brings together all federal agencies, state agencies, the public/private sector and many other partners.

Sweeney's computer science capstone course has worked



with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Tulsa District, for two years. The students create applications and projects that can improve USACE's processes. Sweeney said the USACE has chosen to move forward with several of SWOSU students' capstone projects.

Her presentation at the conference was about the partnership that has formed with SWOSU's computer science students and USACE. She participated in the "Coffee and Case Studies" session, which was something new this year. The team's presentation—Innovating with Partners—drew a packed audience.

Also attending the conference was Nancy Rogers and Pep Persio from the USACE Foundation.

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### Higher Ground

**The Fulton Street Laymen-led Prayer Revival**

**Jim Morrison**

As we have observed the day set aside to pray for our country and its leadership it is well to remember the great prayer revival of 1857-60 that swept across our country leaving in its wake thousands of new converts and a new spirit of hope in the midst of the financial and spiritual collapse of that era.

In 1857, the Old Dutch North Church was about to close its doors because of dwindling attendance as population shifts brought a floating population of immigrants and laborers to the area. Before they made the decision to abandon the ship they tried one last effort; they hired Jeremiah Lamphier, a laymen to undertake a visitation program, hoping to generate interest and attendance. It seemed to have little effect. It occurred to him that the businessmen in the area might like to come apart for a brief prayer time during the noon hour when businesses were closed. With handbills and placards he let it be known that on September 23, a noon prayer meeting would be held on the third floor of the church.

At 12:30 he heard the footsteps of the first man on the stairs. Soon another came and finally six men showed for that first prayer meeting. The next week there were 20, the next 40 and it was decided to make it a daily prayer meeting. About that time Wall Street collapsed, banks failed, and soon 30,000 men were out of work. But the prayer meetings gained momentum and within six months 10,000 businessmen (out of a population of 800,000) were gathering daily at various locations in New York City for prayer. Newspapers and the telegraph picked up the story and soon prayer gatherings broke out across the nation. Early in 1858 the revival power poured over the Appalachian Mountains and broke out in Cleveland, Cincinnati, Detroit, Indianapolis, Minnesota, Chicago St. Louis, and Omaha and even to the West Coast. In Philadelphia ice was broken on the river for hundreds waiting to be baptized.

Word of the revival crossed the Atlantic and affected churches in England, Ireland, Wales, South Africa, India and Australia. Conservative estimates number the conversions at 300,000 during that period. Some say as many as 1,000,000 people came to faith.

The meetings were orderly, led by laymen, and prayer for the salvation of friends and family members was the main agenda. No one was allowed to speak or pray over five minutes. The first prayer meeting of six included five different denominations. This was the pattern for this greatest eruption of prayer power this nation has ever seen. It was prayer, not preaching, led by non-professionals, that brought this last great awakening to our nation. Could it be that God is waiting for His people to seek him in brokenness and repentance, so that he can pour out his blessings on our land.

"Lord, teach me to pray, teach me to pray! Fill my heart with your hunger, my eyes with your tears, my soul with your hatred for sin, my will with your strength to resist the Devil in prayer, my spirit with the mighty power of the Holy Spirit so I can prevail with you and for you with holy prevailing and mighty intercessions." Mighty Prevailing Prayer, Wesley Duewel.

# Paycheck Protection Program



What is the Paycheck Protection Program? The Paycheck Protection Program (“PPP”) is part of the recently passed “The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act” (also known as the CARES Act). This program provides small businesses access to short-term cash flow assistance aimed to help deal with the immediate global impact caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. These loans are made by approved lenders, certified by the SBA (Small Business Administration) and are guaranteed by the federal government of the United States.

Who Qualifies for the Paycheck Protection Program? A qualified small business borrower is defined as (i) one that does not have more than 500 employees or the maximum number of employees specified in the current SBA size standards, whichever is greater; or (ii) If the business has more than one location and has more than 500 employees, does not have more than 500 employees at any one location and the business' primary NAICS code starts with "72" (Accommodation and Food Service); or (iii) Is a franchisee holding a franchise listed on the SBA's registry of approved franchise agreements; or (iv) Has received financing from a Small Business Investment Corporation. Sole proprietorships and self-employed individuals may qualify under this program, as well as certain nonprofit organizations, qualified veterans' organizations and certain Tribal business concerns are also eligible.

What are the Key Provisions of the Paycheck Protection Program? Loans are made by SBA-approved lenders and are 100% guaranteed by the Small Business Association. Interest rates are limited to a maximum of 4.0%, and include deferral of payment for 6 to 12 months with no prepayment penalty. Loans are equal to up to the lesser of (i) 2.5 times average monthly payroll costs based on the prior year's

payroll costs (as defined, not including compensation in excess of \$100,000) plus other disaster loans taken out after January 1, 2020, or (ii) \$10,000,000. Guarantee fees are waived and there is no collateral requirement, as well as no personal guaranty requirement. Loans are non-recourse to the borrower and no "credit elsewhere test" is required, meaning that the borrower does not have to demonstrate it was unable to secure financing elsewhere before qualifying for SBA financing. Loans may be funded within three days of receipt of application by SBA.

What can the Loan Proceeds be used on? Permissible uses of the proceeds include payroll costs, interest payments on mortgages, rent, utilities and interest on existing debt. CLG recommends that any loan funds received under the Program be placed in a separate account with your lender so you can easily track and trace the funds, and the use of the funds. This is important, as forgiveness of the loan may be received so long as the proceeds are used on qualified items, as more fully explained below.

What is the Application Process? Those who wish to apply should contact any SBA-approved lender and provide the necessary documentation to that lender (or similar documentation based on lender specific requirements – contact your lender for specifics). CLG can assist you if you do not have an SBA-approved lender. In reviewing an application, a lender has to evaluate whether the borrower was in business on February 15, 2020 and had employees and paid salaries and taxes or had independent contractors and filed 1099-MISC for them. Along with business documentation, a Certification Form completed, signed, and dated by an authorized business representative stating that documentation provided is “true and correct” and “forgiveness is requested to retain employees and cover interest, rent, and utility expense” is also required.

Loan Forgiveness. The expected forgiveness amount is the amount of principal that a lender reasonably expects a

borrower to expend between February 15, 2020, and June 30, 2020, on payroll, mortgage interest payments (does not include mortgage principal on real or personal property acquired in ordinary course of business that was incurred before February 15, 2020), covered rent obligations, and covered utility payments. There are certain limits on the amount of forgiveness for which the loan will not be forgiven, which include the following: Amounts in excess of the principal on the SBA loan will not be forgiven; forgiveness will be reduced proportionately by any reduction in employees retained compared to either (i) the prior year, or (ii) the period of January 1, 2020, thru February 29, 2020 (measured based on average employees per month); forgiveness will be reduced proportionately by any reduction in pay of any employee beyond 25% of their prior year compensation; and payroll costs eligible for forgiveness do not include compensation paid to employees in excess of \$100,000 annually. A borrower seeking loan forgiveness must submit to the lender that is servicing the loan an application along with support documentation.

Who should I contact with questions? Christensen Law Group, PLLC (“CLG”) is a law firm based in Oklahoma City, with additional offices located in Clinton and Thomas, Oklahoma. CLG was founded on the principle of providing our clients and our community diverse, efficient and effective legal services. If you do not know of an SBA-approved lender, please contact us today and we will work with you to locate an SBA-approved lender. Additionally, if you are a lender and you have questions relating to the Paycheck Protection Program, or other programs available from the Small Business Administration, please contact us. Carissa C. King is an attorney with Christensen Law Group, PLLC. She is an expert in estate planning, business transactions, real estate and probates. You can reach her at 580-302-6400 or carissa@christensenlawgroup.com

## Senate leader agrees with Governor’s health emergency declaration; Says Senate will meet Monday to take action



Oklahoma Senate President Pro Tempore Greg Treat said he agrees with the governor’s health emergency declaration and that the Senate will convene Monday to take action on the order.

“This particular kind of order hasn’t ever been issued by the executive branch, but I agree it’s needed now during these extraordinary and unprecedented times. We must take this pandemic seriously as a state. Life, at every stage, is precious and we must do everything to protect it. The health emergency declaration gives the governor and his team greater authority to coordinate Oklahoma’s overall coronavirus response. Oklahoma will come through this health care crisis, and with a unified and statewide response, that comeback will happen quicker and more

effectively,” said Treat, R-Oklahoma City.

Last Thursday, Governor Kevin Stitt issued a health emergency declaration in accordance with the provisions of 63 O.S. § 6101 - 6900 due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The Governor’s Office said:

Under 63 O.S. § 6104 of the Oklahoma Statutes, the governor is granted broader powers during a health emergency, like the COVID-19 pandemic, to waive statutory or regulatory requirements as well as the ability to coordinate a cohesive statewide response among city and county health departments.

This declaration also gives the governor the authority to allow health care professionals who have left the workforce to quickly rejoin the front lines against COVID-19 and protect first responders by helping them manage their personal protective equipment (PPE). By loosening some restrictions, first responders will be able to know if the home they are dispatched to has a resident who has tested positive for COVID-19. Patient names

and other identifying information will still be restricted.

The issuance of the health emergency also triggers a special legislative session to approve or deny the governor’s actions. The special session is set for 8 a.m. Monday.

Treat said the Senate consulted with the Attorney General’s Office and legal staff since these statutes and provisions have never been invoked.

“The legal opinion is that the governor’s executive order is effective upon its issuance. The Senate is not currently in session; however, attorneys inform us the special session can be held next week. That will help us minimize the amount of time the Legislature meets so that we can adhere to social distancing guidelines,” Treat said.

Treat said the Senate was finalizing logistical plans for session, which include utilizing a minimum amount of Senate staff and rotating senators’ time on the Senate floor so that proper social distancing practices could be observed.

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