



Barnes explains wind farms ...
Page 2

Tigers beat Pawnee ...
Page 8

The Newkirk Herald Journal

Volume 125, No. 18 • 50¢ • 8 Pages • USPS 384-180 • www.newkirkherald.com • Hometown of Neal Gardner Serving The Newkirk Community Since 1893 • Thursday, December 14, 2017

NHJ Briefs

Nominations for citizen of the year sought

The Chamber of Commerce is taking nominations for the 2018 Citizen of the Year.

Ballot boxes and cards are available at Equity Bank, the Chamber office, and Main Street Bakery. Nominations are due by Jan. 10 and the winner will be announced at the Chamber Banquet Jan. 16.

Blood drive

Newkirk DHS will host a blood drive from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Jan. 8. The bloodmobile will be in the parking lot of the DHS office. Slots available for individuals who would like to donate. Appointments can be scheduled by calling 362-5801.

Donations for homeless vets

Chaplain Michael Rix is still taking donations of warm clothing, food gift cards and other items for homeless veterans in Oklahoma City. Rix said he plans to travel to Oklahoma City this weekend to deliver the items. To donate, contact Rix at 362-3081.

Takedown Club

The Newkirk Takedown Club will host an open tournament at 9 a.m. Saturday at the Mark Branch Field

NHJ Weather

LAST WEEK'S WEATHER

Temperature	Precipitation		
	High	Low	Total
Tuesday:	62	38	53
Wednesday:	60	42	55 .23
Thursday:	70	50	66 0
Friday:	69	45	66 0
Saturday:	70	33	60 0
Sunday:	61	35	47 0
Monday:	59	33	49 0

Precipitation Total To Date.....2017: 46.24 2016: 36.57
Official Weather Report Courtesy of the
Newkirk Mesonet Reporting Station

Chilocco tribes oppose chemical testing

They claim DHS failed to properly consult them

By Cody Griesel and David A. Seaton
Winfield Publishing

The Native American tribes that own Chilocco have come out against the planned chemical testing there by

the Department of Homeland Security. The Council of Confederated Chilocco Tribes claims DHS never consulted the tribes about testing potentially carcinogenic and other hazardous substances at the former Chilocco Indian Schools, according a press release emailed Tuesday afternoon.

"We stand united in opposition to the use of Chilocco for testing of potentially dangerous substances," Council Speaker John Shotton and Otoe-Missouria Tribe chairman said. "Many of our tribal members went to school

here. Indian children are buried here" The council is an inter-tribal group made up of the Kaw Nation, the Otoe-Missouria Tribe, the Pawnee Nation, the Ponca Tribe and the Tonkawa Tribe.

The press release also states the tribes told DHS that release of chemicals of "hazardous" substances violates the lease with the council, as well as federal laws that require formal consultation with the tribes to protect cultural, religious and historically significant sites.

A letter from one of the tribes to

DHS ads detail about Native American opposition to the testing.

Kaw Nation leaders wrote the agency on Nov. 28 about the planned testing, which would simulate how biological agents released in an attack might penetrate residential buildings to learn how to protect them.

The tribe claims that not only was it not informed about the project before

(See Tribes, Page 3)

Joy to the World



Sounds of the season

A group of Newkirk students sing Christmas carols on the county court house steps to kick-off the annual Christmas parade. Many Newkirk residents stated that this year's event was one of the largest and best-attended in years. (Cody Griesel photo)

City approves street study, extends contract with Garver

By Cody Griesel
NHJ Editor

The Newkirk City Commission approved a contract Monday night with Wichita-based MKEC Engineering to review and rate a number of streets in the city.

All three commissioners

agreed that the price for the study — \$3,750 with an additional \$250 for travel expenses — was a good deal. The group will inspect the streets, make recommendations for possible repair or replacement and provide cost estimates. MKEC representatives had made an earlier presentation to the commission and will make an additional presentation after the study.

Garver contract

The commission also approved an extension of its contract with Garver for additional engineering and observation services for phase one of the water improvement project. The construction firm working on the water project, Marsau, has exceeded its time frame for completion of the project and is liable for the additional expenses, according to a Garver representative.

The additional \$15,625 cost for extending Garver's services can be billed to Marsau as damages from that firm not meeting deadline.

City manager Jane Thomas said the city has a list of other improvements for Marsau to do to offset the cost. The Garver representative said that the city could negotiate any form of compensation it wanted to pay for the damages.

City looks at Chamber change

Commission discusses future of chamber, possible sales tax

By Cody Griesel
NHJ Editor

The Newkirk City Commission discussed the future of the city's chamber of commerce and the possibility of merging it with the city clerk's office during its Monday night meeting.

Mayor Kirk Brown said the Chamber of Commerce had requested the item put on the agenda. He said the number of board members are down and that they feel they are using \$8,000 annually to raise money for the city but not progressing enough. Brown said that Glenna Blair, the current chamber director, is doing a great job, but the board only meets once a month and are not able to provide the chamber with enough direction.

"Glenna is a great director ... But, I have a feeling if we don't do something the chamber will disband" Brown said. Commissioner Jack Bagg agreed that the city should look into saving the entity if possible.

"I'd really hate to lose the chamber ... they do a lot for the community," he said.

City attorney Tom Rigdon told the commission that the chamber would lose its non-profit status if merged with the city office. That entity would then become an economic development group. Brown, who is on the chamber board, said the move would likely increase the amount of funds available to the chamber (See Chamber, Page 3)

Special holiday events, features

• List of area Christmas religious services inside ...

• Also, first installment of "Letters to Santa"



facebook

Like Us

www.facebook.com/newkirkheraldjournal



Follow Us

www.twitter.com/newkirkherald



Letters to Santa

Mrs. Horinek's kindergarten class

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year. I am always very happy to my life doll. I would love a few gifts for Christmas. Here is my list:

1. Shimmer bottle
2. Coloring supplies
3. Numbers
4. A lantern
5. A Barbie horse
6. A yo-yo
7. A calendar

Love,
Anna

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year. I am always very good to my family. I would love a few gifts for Christmas. Here is my list:

1. Yo-yo
2. Ball
3. Scooter
4. Skate board
5. A number chart
6. A doll with dress and high heels and lipstick
7. Trolls water bottle

Love,
Harper

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year. I am always very happy to my teacher. I would love a few gifts for Christmas. Here is my list:

1. remote control
2. Batman set
3. Monkey
4. Monopoly
5. Jacket
6. Kid car
7. Pool

Love,
Pierce

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year. I am always very nice to my mom. I would love a few gifts for Christmas. Here is my list:

1. Hatchable
2. Little Hatchable
3. Tablet
4. Elsa sled
5. Laptop
6. Rill play doh
7. Bike

Love,

Presaya

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year. I am always very nice to my friends. I would love a few gifts for Christmas. Here is my list:

1. Legos
2. Parking garage
3. Bike
4. Computer
5. Tablet
6. Nerf Gun
7. X-box

Love,
Landyn

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year. I am always very nice to my dad. I would love a few gifts for Christmas. Here is my list:

1. Te Rex control
2. Te Rex hatchable
3. Feet scooter
4. Laptop
5. Remote monster truck
6. Tablet
7. Rill play doh

Love,
Aigen

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year. I am always very nice to my sister. I would love a few gifts for Christmas. Here is my list:

1. Hover board white
2. Computer
3. mackentrol monster truck
4. Lego set
5. Coloring books
6. Racer
7. Paper and pencil sharpener

Love,
Jaxx

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year. I am always very nice to my mommy. I would love a few gifts for Christmas. Here is my list:

1. Pink car
2. Look out
3. New batteries
4. Toy Mrs. Clause
5. Toy Santa Clause
6. Elsa
7. Anna

Love,
McKayla

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year. I am always very happy to my brother. I would love a few gifts for Christmas. Here is my list:

1. Glow in the dark yo yo
2. Tea light
3. Make up
4. Hoverboard
5. Coloring books
6. Baby doll set with the luggage
7. Computer

Love,
Takota

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year. I am always very nice to my friends. I would love a few gifts for Christmas. Here is my list:

1. Base builder
2. A football
3. A baseball
4. Sport stuff
5. Newkirk armor
6. Sky lander Xbox 1s
7. Star Wars book

Editor's note: More letters to Santa will appear in next week's edition

Chamber

From Page 1

by cutting overhead for utilities at the present office.

Sales tax

The commission also dis-

cussed the possibility of adding an additional 1-percent to the city sales tax for capital outlay and economic development. The present 1-percent

tax will be up for vote in April. City manager Jane Thomas said she would like to see the two taxes listed as separate questions on the ballot. The

additional proposed tax would be split 50/50 between capital outlay and economic development, she said.

Bagg said that the city would

need to do something to support funding. Commissioner Dereck Cassady suggested the city should wait and not hold both questions on the

same ballot.

"I'm afraid if we put too much on there the citizens will vote the whole thing down," he said.

Tribes

From Page 1

it was announced to the public, but that it was misled.

It also claims the testing would violate the tribe's environmental protection laws.

"The Kaw Nation ... believes the entire process undertaken by UML related to the proposed airborne release has at best been flawed, and at the worst been a cynical attempt to circumvent the actual decision makers of the Kaw Nation," the tribe's letter states.

UML refers to Oklahoma State University-University Multispectral Laboratories, which supports vari-

ous federal agencies for testing and training, according to HDS.

The nonprofit lab, based in Ponca City, has an agreement with the five tribes to use Chilocco land.

The lab, in fact, attempted to circumvent the issue by attaching letters from affected tribes related to building rehabilitation, not chemical testing, the letter claims.

"The Kaw Nation considers this a dubious attempt to mislead it as to the true nature of the proposed release," the letter states. "UML cannot point to any evidence of any attempt to consult with the Kaw Nation" and

therefore the lab and DHS has not complied with the National Historic Preservation Act, the letter asserts.

The project is also in violation of the Kaw Nation Environmental Protection Code, the tribe states — something the lab would have discovered had it properly consulted with the tribe, according to the letter.

Efforts to reach the lab and DHS for comment Tuesday afternoon were not successful.

Estes' concerns

Congressman Ron Estes, R-Wichita, spoke to acting DHS secretary Elaine Duke to hold off on the testing

"until faith can be restored in the communities surrounding Chilocco Indian School," he wrote in a letter to a local constituent.

Estes said it is important for DHS to determine readiness in case of a bio-terrorism attack, but poor communication has fueled fears about the environmental and human impact of the inert chemical and biological simulant materials planned for use.

"I have also sent an official letter outline my concerns expressed by many constituents and addressing the department's failure to inform the local community," Estes wrote in the Dec. 8 letter.

DHS has said the testing is safe and would have little impact. Others in the local scientific community have supported that position, although one scientist at Northern Oklahoma College said more should be done to study the impacts on wildlife.

The testing, if allowed, is slated for late winter and late spring to early summer 2018.

A strong public backlash against the testing plans has drawn state and national media attention. Some politicians have voiced concern, but no city or county government has taken any official action or made any official statement against the testing.

Get your paper (bundles)!

Contact to the Newkirk Herald Journal for bundles and loose newprint today! (580) 362-2140

STOP BY NEWKIRK DENTAL CENTER AND

ENTER FOR A CHANCE TO WIN!

We will be GIVING AWAY a \$200 VISA GIFT CARD!

Drawing will be held December 15, 2017

NEWKIRK
dental center

580-362-2600

327 W. South Street / Newkirk, OK 74647 | www.newkirkdentalcenter.com / SINCE 2012

"I feel comfortable and at home when I am in the dental chair. I am always well informed about decisions that need to be made. Appointments are always on time and every effort is made to get you in as soon as possible." ~ Jacquelyn Heinrich

Now Taking New Patients!

Melinda Allen, D.O.
INTERNAL MEDICINE

.....

Same day appointments available!

580.363.9354

706 S. 13TH STREET, STE C
BLACKWELL, OK 74631
BLACKWELLREGIONAL.ORG

Blackwell
REGIONAL HOSPITAL
— PHYSICIANS CLINIC —