

Hometown News

Remember When?

10 Years Ago

Chelsey Denac Riddles of Rush Springs and Jason Poudrier of Klamath Falls, Ore., now of Lawton have announced their engagement and approaching marriage on May 27, 2006 in a 3 o'clock ceremony Saturday afternoon in Shannon Springs Park in Chickasha.

Redskin Basketball Coach Jeff Tompkins received the Grady County Conference Athletic Coach of the Year and junior Trent Parrish received the Athletic conference MVP award.

The Town of Rush Springs offered a settlement in the lawsuit over the water tower construction fiasco. The water tower project had been beset with problems even before it got started.

20 Years Ago

Demolition has begun on three vacant Main Street buildings that will soon be a part of Rush Springs' history. The buildings once housed the *Rush Springs Gazette*, plumbing shops for Curtis Nixon and Bill Townsend, and Hix Insurance Agency. The second story over the former *Gazette* building once served as offices and a clinic for Dr. Hall. Several babies were born in that clinic.

These are the last of the original buildings that are left standing on Main Street's south side. The property now

belongs to the Southern Baptist Church which plans to build a family life center on the location.

The second grade class of Kim Jones participated in the "adopt a business" program by adopting S&S Flowers & Gifts. Florists Sonjia Dalrymple and Sandra Pate let the children design their own fresh flower arrangement. Students were Amber Funk, C.J. Stewart, Derek Loyd, Tiffany Foster, Chris Lamar, Ashley Morgan, Michael Chambers, Mikki Gifford, Blake Trammell, Timmy Fitzpatrick, Michelle Young, Heather Fitch, Ricky Sanders, Jacob Pendley, Ange Amstutz, Erica Rice, Cody Amstutz and Andrea Brown.

30 Years Ago

Five generations were present recently in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Smith. They were Roy Smith, now of Kalmath Falls, Ore; Stanley Smith of Rush Springs; Rosaline Hilderbrandt, and Tammy Beverly and her daughter, Ashlynn Beverly, all of Lindsey.

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Riddles are planning a move to New Jersey where he is employed. Mrs. Riddles is the former Sherry Pendley.

Roxanna Halbert, 14-year-old daughter of Ray and Wanda Halbert, was awarded the Best of Show plaque at the Art Show held Friday in the Rush Springs Lions Den and

sponsored by the Sorosis Study Club.

The Sooner Girl Scout Council has chosen Kirsten Stewart for a trip to San Antonio, Texas, for the Junior Jet Away.

40 Years Ago

The Rush Springs girls track team will be participating in the state track meet to be held in Edmond. Competitors are Beth Heilman, Linda Grider, Sandra Jordan, Lori Laing, Kim Allred, Laurie Grider, Joan Titus, Brenda Stringfellow, Sheryl Stewart, and Max Laing Coach.

Technical Sergeant Melvin L. Douthit, son of Mrs. Letha Brooks of Rush Springs, has graduated from the U.S. Air Force recruiter school at Lackland AFB, Texas. Sergeant Douthit, who will be an official Air Force recruiter at Oklahoma City, was selected for the special school as a volunteer with an outstanding military record.

Attending the 50th Annual State Future Farmers of America Convention in Oklahoma City from Rush Springs were James C. Heilman, FFA advisor, Jim Gilbert, Lynn Barrington, Phillip Myers, Randy Moon, Jim Davis and Rick Heard.

50 Years Ago

Mr. and Mrs. F.X. Sewell of Weatherford, Texas, and Mr. and Mrs. O.L. Moore of Wichita Falls, Texas, were

recent guests of Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Graves.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Faulkner spent the first of the week with their daughter Kay who underwent surgery at Mercy Hospital in Oklahoma City Monday.

The Bon Temps Club met on Thursday, May 14th in the home of Mrs. Jim Reynolds in Marlow.

Visitors over the weekend in the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Banks were Mr. and Mrs. W.E. Mack of Haywood, Calif.—Cox City News.

Tuesday guests in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Johnson were Mr. and Mrs. Bill Sweat of Rush Springs.—Cox City News.

60 Years Ago

The Rush Springs Church of Christ will officially open the doors of a new educational building Sunday afternoon at 2:30, according to J.W. Andrews.

Linda Lindsey and Sue Jackson won a 10-day camping trip to Lake Murray the last of June by writing the best essay on "Why I Would Like to Go To Lake Murray." The contest was sponsored by the Girl Scout organization. Judges were Mrs. Al Lawrence, Mrs. Wirt Stone and Mrs. Chester Davis.

Mr. and Mrs. Lee Club and Greg from Shreveport, La. spent the weekend with he parents Mr. and Mrs. Lavoice Crittendon.

Don Dowling, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Dowling, has been employed as a pharmacist at Wichita Falls, Texas. He is graduating senior from Southwestern State College School of Pharmacy, Weatherford.

Mr. and Mrs. Pat Dowling and family visited Sunday in Oklahoma City in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Roden.

70 Years Ago

Mrs. R.W. Sharp and Mrs. Clyde Irwin attended the State Federation of Women's Clubs in Oklahoma City Friday and Saturday.

Stanley Marion Pierce received his discharge April 23rd from the Navy in Norman. He had spent six months in the Pacific and European theatres.

Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Birmingham have moved to Meridian where they are both teaching school. They were teachers at Acme for 13 years. Mrs. Claude Underwood will finish the term at Acme.

Charlie Howell returned Saturday from the Lindley Hospital at Duncan where he had an appendectomy.

Mrs. Leola Graham, whose home is in California, returned here Wednesday from a Chickasha hospital and is in the home of her son Edgie. She was visiting here and underwent a major operation. She is improving.

The SWCS of the Methodist Church met Wednesday

in the home of Mrs. Waldo Wettengel.

80 Years Ago

The Pea Ridge school house burned about 11 o'clock last night. It has been reported as a complete loss. Pea Ridge is located 10 miles northeast of Rush Springs.

The Rush Springs Lions club softball team defeated the Slaton team here Wednesday by the score of 18 to 5. The game was featured with a home run by Babe Ruth Davis. The Lions lineup consisted Of: Jeff Davis, Virgil Bernard, Roy Smith, R.O. Gibbs, George Gauger, C.E. Horn, Terrel Hutchens, L.W. Raley, Agent S. Dizier, C.C. Jinks, Mr. McDowell and Bill McWilliams.

Mrs. Mary Glover was the winner of a beauty contest harvest 1,800,000 acres of alfalfa and all other hays, an Marlow last Thursday night. Competing teams were Chickasha, Blanchard and Rush Springs.

Bert Lowry and his brothers, Jack and Buster, went to Ardmore Lake Monday to fish.

Mrs. Viola Roberts is ill this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Carr of Ada visited her father, Joe Warren, who has been ill this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Verdine Morris, moved from Clarendon, Texas, Tuesday, and will make their home here for the present.

NEXTERA ENERGY RESOURCES

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Wednesday, May 4

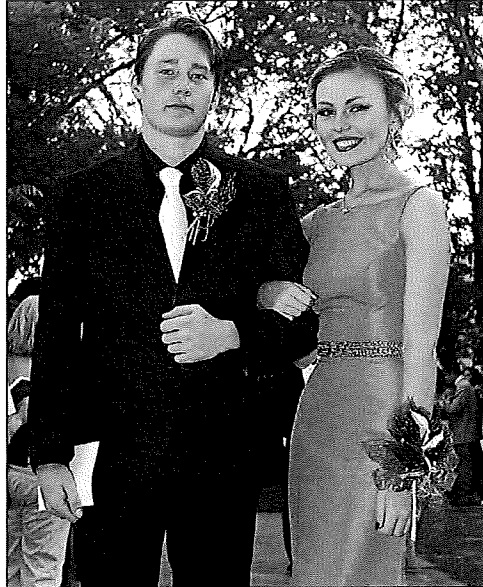
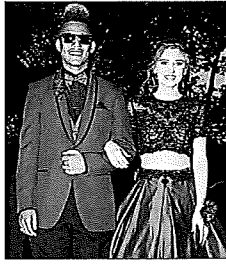
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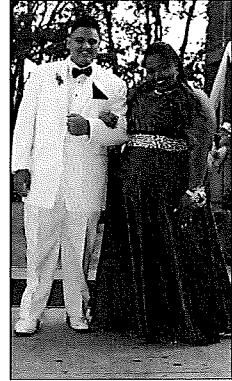
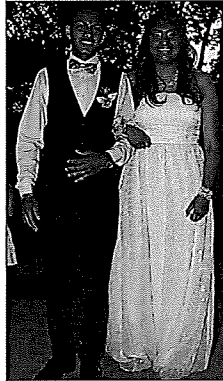
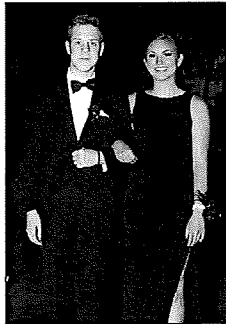
5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Place:
Grady County Fairgrounds
500 E. Choctaw Ave., Chickasha, OK

Refreshments will be served.



2016 Pauls Valley Promade



NEXtera ENERGY RESOURCES

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Officials push proposal to rebalance state's Medicaid program

CNH News Service Oklahoma Health Care Authority officials will wind up a series of public forums across the state this week that they are using to peddle a plan they say will rebalance the state's Medicaid program.

The plan would rely on a \$1.50 tax on cigarettes and shift 22 percent of SoonerCare participants to an expanded Insure Oklahoma Plan, which relies on private coverage by commercial insurers. Proponents say the Medicaid Rebalancing Act of 2020 would reduce the number of uninsured Oklahomans from more than 578,000 to 403,000, a reduction of roughly 30 percent.

The plan is expected to offset anticipated cuts to the agency's appropriated funds resulting from two state revenue failures this year and a projected \$1.3 billion hole in the budget for the fiscal year that begins July 1. It also would help the agency avoid a 25 percent cut in the reimbursement rate to physicians who treat Medicaid patients.

Nico Gomez, OHCA's chief executive officer, said the cut to the reimbursement rate to health care providers who treat patients who receive Medicaid benefits could result in the loss of 90

percent or more of the state's nursing homes. In the worst case, it also could cause many rural hospitals to close or terminate provision of critical services.

"We are hearing from providers that if we are cut ... we are going to have to change our business models," Gomez said about the 25 percent cut to Medicaid reimbursement rates, which is slated to take effect June 1. Nursing home operators "are asking where are we going to put these patients? We are not going to stay open — you are going to have to find a place for these patients."

Tony Young, chief executive officer for FASTAR Health System, confirmed the negative impact that cut would have locally if the rebalancing plan — or something similar — is not implemented. It could, he said, force the regional hospital to shutter its obstetrics division.

"It is putting us in a very difficult position," said Young, who attended a recent OHCA forum in Muskogee. "I understand these cuts will take effect June 1 — that doesn't give us too much time to react ... (and) that is very serious for us and our health system here in Muskogee."

Gomez, who urged everybody who is concerned about the "crisis" his agency and others face as a result of the fiscal fiasco that state officials seem to have created for themselves, said he believes health care for low-income Oklahomans probably would be in the same situation even if federal funds offered for Medicaid expansion were made available through the Affordable Care Act. But the situation, he said, "may not be as deep and dire."

"If we went back and did certain things differently, we may not be in this position, and I can

say that about other things as well," said Gomez, who expressed reluctance of trying to play Monday-morning quarterback. "I think nobody could have predicted ... the economic failure we have had and the strain it has had on all state resources — it's been a crisis that has been deeper than what anybody expected."

Not everybody at the Muskogee forum agreed entirely with that assessment. Dwayne Atwell, the chair of surgery at EASTAR, said the situation largely exists as a result of state officials "playing politics with people's lives" and an over-reliance on the oil and gas industry as the state's primary economic driver.

"We never really have developed another source of revenue, so every time that bubble has broken we have more people who are unemployed ..., looking for jobs and losing their health insurance,"


Atwell said about the cyclical booms and busts in the oil patch. "What is happening here in this part of the state is the number of Medicaid adults goes up, we are going to cut back on Medicaid" reimbursement rates.

Gomez said a \$1.50 tax on a pack of cigarettes would generate \$182 million, which would offset a projected cut of \$100 million to OHCA's budget and provide additional funds to offset cuts for mental health and substance abuse programs. That, along with moving clients from SoonerCare to the new Insure Oklahoma Plan with financial incentives for healthy lifestyles and individual accounts to help program participants pay health care costs, would stabilize OHCA programs and restore Medicaid reimbursement rates to present levels.


All of these things, he said, would require legislative action. He urged

those at the forum to encourage lawmakers to support the Medicaid rebalancing plan.

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5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Place:
Grady County Fairgrounds
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Refreshments will be served.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Blood drive

Curwood in PV, 200 N. Indian Meridian, will host an Oklahoma Blood Institute blood drive from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, May 3.

Antioch lunch

A First Tuesday lunch at the Antioch School/Senior Center will be at noon May 3. There is no charge but desserts are appreciated.

Wynnewood history

The Wynnewood Historical Society will meet at 6 p.m. Tuesday, May 3 at the Eskridge Hotel. On the agenda is discussion on the reinstallation of the local war memorial and veterans exhibit. A membership drive is also underway.

Panther sports

The Panther Athletic Club will next meet at 4 p.m. Wednesday, May 4 at PV High School.

Day of Prayer

A National Day of Prayer gathering will be at noon Thursday, May 5 on the county courthouse lawn. In case of rain it would be at the Presbyterian Church.

Vintage aprons

A Vintage Apron Show will be 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, May 5 at the Garvin County Fairgrounds. There is no admission. Call the Garvin County Cooperative Extension Service at 405-238-6681 for more.

Spring concert

Pauls Valley's spring band concert is at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 5 at the band shell in Wacker Park.

Shriner onions

The Garvin County Shrine Club will be selling Vidalia onions starting at 9 a.m. Friday, May 6 on the Grant Avenue lot across from the county courthouse and Love's store in PV. Call Joe Menefee at 405-830-7826.

Church fundraiser

A church fundraising sale by Iglesia de Cristo Ministerios Mi Libertador for its missions program will be 8 a.m. to 5



Elmore City-Pernell Elementary students Dillon Wood, a third-grader in Maegan McConnell's classroom, and Maci Cornforth, a fourth-grader in Teri Allison's classroom, were Badgers of the Week for March 28-April 1. (Courtesy photo)

p.m. Friday, May 6 and 8 a.m. to dark Saturday, May 7 at the corner of Spruce and Charles.

Thunder in Valley

The 14th annual Thunder in the Valley event is Saturday, May 7 at the PV rodeo arena. Mutton bustin' is at 5 p.m. and bull riding at 7 p.m. More on advance tickets available at Reynolds Recreation Center.

Pet food pantry

A PAWS food pantry for dogs and cats is available at PV's animal shelter 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month. For information on receiving help or making donations to the effort, call 405-238-1303.

Sports awards

The Panther Athletic Award Ceremony will be at 6:30 p.m. Monday, May 16 at the Bosa Community Center. Doors will open at 6 p.m. With no meal this year the event has no charge for admittance. Cookies and punch will be served. RSVP by May 11.

Voters' deadline

Voters wanting to register for a June 28 primary election have until June 3 to apply online or at the Garvin County Election Board.

Relay For Life

The Garvin County Relay For Life in PV is June 3. This year's event is from 6 p.m. to midnight at the PV football stadium.

Arts Council

The Pauls Valley Arts Council meets at 6 p.m. the first Thursday of the month at the PV Arts and Cultural Center. The next one is May 5.

Democratic Party

The Garvin County Democratic Party holds regular meetings at 10 a.m. the first Saturday of the month at the PV General Hospital conference room. The next one is May 7.

EC bingo

An Elmore City community bingo

game is offered 6:30 to 9 p.m. the first Saturday of the month at the EC Community Center. Bring finger foods. The next one is May 7.

PV workshops

The next one-day business workshops at the PV Chamber of Commerce, presented by Mid America Tech Center, are basket weaving II on May 12 and Windows 10 on May 26. Call 405-449-3391 or 1-800-232-5580 for more.

Blood drive

Lindsay will host an Oklahoma Blood Institute blood drive from 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday, May 12 at 114 W. Chickasaw.

Horse club

The next Garvin County 4-H Horse Club Playday is at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 14 at the PV rodeo arena. Call Melani Kemp at 405-588-3573 for more.

Blood drive

Two free tickets to the Oklahoma City Zoo await each blood donor at Pauls Valley Guns and Hoses blood drive with the Oklahoma Blood Institute from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday, May 19 at the PV fire station, Walnut and McClure.

Library hours

PV's public library now has new hours - 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday; and 9 a.m. to noon Saturday.

Book sale

An ongoing book sale to benefit the PV Public Library is now being offered during regular hours of the Main Street Mercantile store, located in the PV Arts and Cultural Center, Paul and Walnut. Donations will be accepted.

Voters' deadline

Voters wanting to register for a June 28 primary election have until June 3 to apply at the Election Board.

Voters are reminded changes to political affiliations from now through Aug. 31 won't take effect until after the June vote.




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Merger of oil titans terminated

BY CHRISTIAN BETTANCOURT
Special to The Express-Star

The highly publicized merger between Halliburton Company and Baker Hughes Incorporated was terminated Sunday according to a joint press release from the companies.

In connection with the termination agreement, Halliburton will have to pay Baker Hughes a termination fee of \$3.5 billion by Wednesday.

In the original merger, Halliburton was going

to buy its rival company for cash and stock worth \$34.6 billion.

The merger faced opposition from the United States Department of Justice who investigated the transaction concerned about anti-trust laws violations.

A prior press release from Halliburton stated the extension of the deadline for the merger to obtain regulatory approvals would be extended.

"If the judicial review extends beyond April 30, 2016, the parties

may continue to seek relevant regulatory approvals or either of the parties may terminate the merger agreement," stated the release. "Early in the process, Halliburton proposed to the DOJ a divestiture package worth billions of dollars that will facilitate the entry of new competition in markets in which products and services are being divested. Both companies strongly believe that the proposed divestiture package, which was significantly enhanced, is more than sufficient to address the

DOJ's specific competitive concerns."

In December of last year, the companies announced in a press release they continued cooperation with the DOJ and expected the deadline to pass without reaching a settlement or the agency starting litigation to block the transaction.

The extension came and went without the approvals and both companies decided to terminate the agreement.

"While both companies expected the proposed merger to result in compelling benefits

... challenges in obtaining remaining regulatory approvals and general industry conditions that severely damaged deal economics led to the conclusion that termination is the best course of action," said Chief Executive Officer Halliburton and Chairman Dave Lesar. "While disappointing, Halliburton remains strong. We are the execution company -- our strategy, technologies and service quality are focused on helping customers maximize production at the lowest cost and driving industry leading growth, mar-

gins and returns."

Martin Craighead, CEO and Chairman for Baker Hughes echoed his sentiments.

"Today's outcome is disappointing because of our strong belief in the vast potential of the business combination to deliver benefits for shareholders, customers and both companies' employees," he said. "This was an extremely complex, global transaction and, ultimately, a solution could not be found to satisfy the anti-trust concerns of regulators, both in the United States and abroad."

After 145 years, Ringling Bros. Circus elephants perform for the last time



Courtesy photo

Washington Post

The circus's leading ladies wore nothing special for their farewell performance Sunday -- no extra bedazzle, no added flair -- just the traditional blue head-dresses declaring their expiring part in "The Greatest Show on Earth."

Through the lush red curtain they sashayed, all six, all endangered Asian elephants, weighing a combined 30 tons. At the command of the ringmaster, the girls lumbered about, dancing and spinning, standing on pedestals and standing on each other, standing on their heads.

They'd spent the last two and a half years traveling 36,000 miles on a 64-car train, performing 900 times in over 80 cities for the world-renowned Ringling Bros. and Barnum and Bailey Circus. Elephants just like them had done the same for 145 years.

Now it was time to say goodbye.

"That's history right there ladies and gentlemen," ringmaster Johnathan Lee Iverson told a roaring crowd inside the Dunkin' Donuts Center in Providence, R.I., the circus's final stop of its "Legends" show circuit.

"True American icons," Iverson added.

Then the elephants sashayed one last time, back through the curtain and out of sight, closing a popular, though deeply controversial, chapter of the famous enterprise's history.

Decades of litigation, protest and mounting scrutiny from swaths of animal rights activists, as well as a shifting public opinion toward the captivity and use of wild animals for entertainment, forced the circus to phase out its long-running elephant act for good. Feld Entertainment Inc., the circus's parent company, announced the decision in March 2015, initially planning to retire their remaining touring elephants by 2018. But nearly a year later, the company said their elephants would perform for the final time in May, at least 18 months earlier than expected.

After their performance Sunday in Rhode Island, the six female

elephants joined five others the Ringling Bros. and Barnum and Bailey

Center for Elephant Conservation in central Florida. There, the show's 11

remaining elephants will join its herd of 29 to live out their days.

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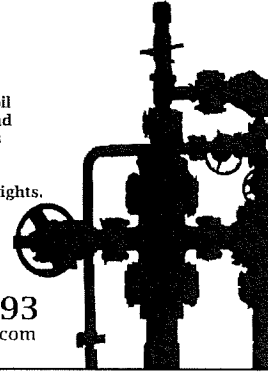
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