



**OKLAHOMA SPORTS HALL OF FAME ANNOUNCES 2022 CLASS**

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**NEWS**

*County hires new environmental deputy*

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A new deputy has been hired in Ottawa County that will focus on environmental issues, it was announced at the regular county commissioners' meeting Monday.

Eddie Webb was introduced to the commissioners by Undersheriff Rocky Ferdig.

“

The Sheriff's Office received a Department of Environmental Quality grant, which will cover the new deputy's salary.

Dean said. "He is doing some training and going to classes right now and will be monitoring dump sites and illegal dumps — things like that. He is an Ottawa County deputy, but his salary will be paid through the DEQ grant for

Ferdig said that the Sheriff's Office received a Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) grant, which will cover the new deputy's salary. "We got a grant from the DEQ that has allowed us to put on a deputy to monitor environmental quality issues," Sheriff David

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Students at Miami High School and Middle School listen to a presentation by Suzie Reece on the importance of dairy.

**COW TEACHES MIAMI STUDENTS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF DAIRY**

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Mo-o-ver for Snickers, a cow who knows her stuff about dairy products. She, along with her human counterpart Suzie Reece, is part of the Mobile Dairy Classroom, a traveling milking parlor operated by the Southwest Dairy Farmers. The free program teaches kids of all ages about the importance of dairy products and dairy farming overall.

"When I was in high school, Southwest Dairy would come during our 'Aggie Day,' said Shelby Bergman, agricultural education assistant at Miami High School. "My teaching partner and I strive to create hands-on opportunities for students to connect with industry leaders and potential employers within the agricultural field, so we reached out to Southwest Dairy."

Bergman likes to schedule events well in advance, so she scheduled the mobile



Suzie Reece and Snickers the cow taught Miami High School and Miami Junior High students all about the dairy industry during their mobile dairyclassroom presentation.

dairy classroom back in August. She also wanted the program to be available to all Miami High School and Miami Junior High School students. She roughly estimated the program would be available to 200 students.

"This is our first year teaching at MHS," Bergman said, "but from what I understand, this is the first time Southwest Dairy has

come to Miami. We truly believe it's a great program. We're excited about their visit."

Reece is a trained Mobile Dairy Classroom instructor and their cow, Snickers' owner. She brought the innovative dairy experience to the fascinated group of Miami students, which

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**EVENT**

**G.A.R. Cemetery plans Angel of Hope candlelight ceremony**



The fourth annual Angel of Hope Candlelight Remembrance Ceremony will be 7 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 6 at G.A.R. Cemetery.

The ceremony will be at the Angel of Hope statue which is located on cemetery grounds. Enter through the third gate, which is the furthest north entrance.

There will be lighting in place to help with visibility, according to cemetery office manager Nancy Bro.

The Christmas Box Angel statue was introduced to the world in the book "The Christmas Box," a worldwide bestseller by author Richard Paul Evans.

In the book, a woman mourns

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**EFFORT OF HOPE BRINGS CHRISTMAS CHEER TO THE ELDERLY**

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A desire to carry on her grandmother's legacy of giving to others prompted Kemberly Miller to start Effort of Hope, a charitable endeavor that delivers Christmas gift bags to the elderly.

Now in its ninth year, EOH has gone from distributing about 50 bags its first year to around 350 bags today.

"We would like this number to keep growing," Miller said.

The idea for EOH came about after Miller's grandmother passed away in September 2013.



Effort of Hope volunteers getting ready to deliver bags two years ago. Pictured from left are Lexie Neil, Almeda Brown, Gay Bentley, Kembli Miller and Sarah Cardwell.

"I was wanting to do something to carry on her legacy," said Miller. "She was just a giver and she always did for others, so I wanted to do something to honor her. The idea came to me to make gift bags for the elderly."

She felt every good project needed a good name and Effort of Hope came to her. Miller said she was really excited and thought it was going to be a great name.

"I liked the way it sounded. Then, it hit me that EOH was my grandma's initials. Her name was

Edith O. Holt. At that point, I just knew that this was what I was supposed to do and had to do."

All the gift bags are filled with things Miller's grandma liked, as well as what she feels other elderly folks would enjoy. She regularly includes fleece blankets, socks, hand lotion, shampoo, body wash, snacks, cherry chocolates, crossword puzzle books and various other things. All the items and funds to

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**Home fire risks increase during the holidays**

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The holidays are in full swing and many people have already trimmed their trees and hung Christmas decorations. It's important when decorating to make sure you're not accidentally creating a fire hazard.

Poor decorating habits and additional fire dangers brought on by wintertime heating can increase your home's fire risk. As you enjoy the season, don't forget basic fire safety tips to ensure your family stays safe during Christmas and throughout the New Year.

Check Christmas lights for cracked or frayed cords and bad sockets because damaged cords can be a fire hazard. Toss damaged cords and replace them. All your light and extension cords should have a tag that says, "UL tested." This indicates they've been through an independent testing lab for safety. Always unplug all your indoor and outdoor Christmas lights when you leave your house.

"Almost one-third of Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical problems," said Miami Fire Department chief Robert Wright. "Although Christmas tree fires aren't common, when they do occur, they're more likely to be serious."

When plugging in lights and other electrified Christmas decorations, make sure you don't



overload your electrical outlets. Like your Christmas lights, check all extension cords for cracked or frayed spots that could make them a fire hazard. Don't use indoor extension cords outdoors and use one long extension cord instead of stringing together several shorter cords. Extension cords should never be hot to the touch, which could indicate the cord is damaged or it's overloaded.

If you're buying or have already bought a fresh Christmas tree, make sure it's not shedding needles, which can indicate the tree has dried out. According to a study by the National Institute of Standards and Technology, a dry tree will ignite faster and burn much hotter than a tree with high moisture content that's continuously watered. Check the water level in your tree stand daily.

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Part of the items collected to put in last year's gift bags.



## SPORTS

## Lady Norse fall to 0-2 in OCAC with loss to Northern-Tonkawa

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Northeastern A&M held the edge in three of the four quarters of Tuesday's OCAC game against Northern Oklahoma-Tonkawa, but it was the one where they were outscored by nine that made the difference in a 66-60 loss.

That and the fact the Lady Norse gave up 19 offensive rebounds.

"You can't give up that many offensive rebounds to anybody and expect to win," Rowland said. "You look at the possessions: we had 57 and they had 79 and 19 of those were offensive rebounds. That's a lot of possessions you have given up. We have to be better in that area.

"If it's not one thing, it's the other that we're doing. We've got to fight to the finish. We've got to start finishing ballgames," he said. "We have to start playing with passion and heart and that drive to say 'let's go finish.' They have to step up and go do that. Right now, we don't have that one single person who will step up and finish a game. We have to figure that out."

The Lady Norse (3-5) battled to a 14-14 stalemate in the first quarter but fell victim to a 21-12 burst by Northern (6-4, 2-0) in the second frame.

They held 17-15 and 17-12 advantages in the second half.

"That's a problem: you've got to stay locked in and keep competing — have the will to fight — and stick with the gameplay," Rowland said.

This is the first time the Lady Norse have started conference play 0-2 in Rowland's tenure as head coach.

"The race is still there. We've still got a lot of games to play," he said.

NEO played at Western Oklahoma State College Monday night, then will be off until Monday, Dec. 6, when they host the Bethany (Kansas) College JV.

The Lady Norse shot 36.8% from the field (21 of 57) but were 3 of 18 (16.7%) from 3-point range. On the season, they're shooting only 25.7% from behind the arc.

Kristina Okafo — named the Region 2 Athlete of the Week for the week of Nov. 15-21 — scored a game-high 23 points to lead NEO.

Others with points were Miyah McGee, nine; Dariann Myles, eight; Trinity Jackson, six; Sydney Ellis and Danelle Arigbabu, four each, and Sai Johnson and Jada Hytche, three each.

Jordan Holman had 21 points and Shelby Rayner added 17 for the Lady Mavs.



Photo courtesy Northern Oklahoma-Tonkawa

A Northern Oklahoma-Tonkawa player squeezes between Kristina Okafo (left) and Danelle Arigbabu of Northeastern A&M.

## OKLAHOMA SPORTS HALL OF FAME ANNOUNCES 2022 CLASS

Three of the six inductees in the 2022 Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame have ties to Miami.

Chuck Bowman, who guided Northeastern A&M to national football titles in 1967 and 1960; Tinker Owens, a 2019 inductee into the Miami Athletics Hall of Fame, and R.W. McQuarters, whose son, Rylan, earned all-SWJFCFC honorable mention honors at NEO.

The Class of '22 will be inducted on Aug. 4 at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City.

Owens was a member of Miami's 1972 state championship basketball team as well as the Wardogs' 1971 football team that reached the 3A finals.

"I am very honored and it was totally unexpected," said Owens, who earned all-state honors for Coach L.D. Bains' Wardogs.

MVP of the 1972 Sugar Bowl as a freshman at Oklahoma, Owens was a member of the Sooners' 1974 and 1975 national championship teams.

He went on to play for the New Orleans Saints for four seasons from 1976-1980,

After retiring, he founded his own insurance and marketing service company.

With his selection, Tinker and his brother, Steve, are the only brother combination to be

elected to the State Sports Hall.

Steve Owens was inducted in 2000.

Bowman became head football coach and athletic director at NEO, compiling a 41-8 record.

In his first season, the Norse won the NJCAA national championship, then did it again in 1969.

Bowman left NEO to become Oklahoma's first Fellowship of Christian Athletes state director in 1973.

He created FCA's endowment and he and his wife, Betty, helped with the growth of the organization both in Oklahoma and nationally.

R.W. McQuarters was a standout multi-sport athlete at Tulsa Washington and Oklahoma State. He earned All-Big Eight first-team honors in football in 1997.

He was a first round pick of the San Francisco 49ers in 1998 and played nine years with the 49ers, Chicago Bears, Detroit Lions and New York Giants.

McQuarters won a Super Bowl in 2007 while playing for the Giants.

Bowman, Tinker Owens and R.W. McQuarters will be joined by Lane Frost (rodeo), Wilcy Moore (baseball) and Lee Roy Smith (wrestling).

## 3 Norsemen receive first-team all-conference honors

Three players from Northeastern A&M were named to the All-Southwest Junior College Football Conference first team.

Freshman center Max Johnson (6-2, 295), sophomore defensive tackle Damien Lowery (6-2, 270) and freshman linebacker Darius Moore were honored by conference coaches.

New Mexico Military Institute offensive tackle Tyron Webber (6-4, 295) was named the most valuable player in the conference.

He's an Oklahoma State commit.

Teammate Anthony Grant, a 6-0, 205-pound running back, was named the SWJFCFC offensive player of the year.

Tyler outside linebacker Xavier Benson (6-3, 220) was honored as the defensive player of the year.

NMMI rolled to a 45-10 victory over Tyler Junior College in the conference championship game Saturday, Nov. 20 in Roswell, New Mexico.

Second team picks from NEO were freshman tight end Bo Estes (6-4, 235), freshman offensive lineman Kobe

Sixkiller (6-3, 290), freshman defensive back CJ Clendon (6-2, 190) and freshman punter James Allen (6-4, 185) were second-team honorees.

Fifteen Norsemen received honorable mention recognition, including six defensive backs: sophomore Stanley Wynn (6-3, 205) and freshmen Devin Hembree (6-2, 190), Kendel Dolby (5-11, 185), Nate Bryant (6-2, 200), Daniel Howard (6-2, 195) and Brandon Hicks (6-2, 200).

Others receiving honorable mention from NEO were freshman tight end Owen Olsen (6-4, 235), sophomore wide receiver Isiah Willhoite (6-1, 185), sophomore wide receiver Kobe Washington (6-4, 205), sophomore quarterback Quintevin Cherry (6-4, 220), sophomore running back Jamoni Jones (6-2, 220), sophomore running back Tre'juan Shaw (5-8, 185), sophomore kick returner Rylan McQuarters (5-11, 180), sophomore defensive lineman Ron Tatum (6-5, 275), sophomore defensive lineman John Goree (6-0 275) and freshman linebacker Daryan Moss (6-2, 235).

## Elderly

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purchase items are through donations.

"I send out donation cards and I have a Facebook page where people can donate," said Miller.

She expects a lot of items to start coming in between now and the next couple of weeks. Miller said she and her helpers will probably start putting the bags together around Dec. 11 and start distributing them Dec. 11 to 18.

Each year, she comes up with a different bag to put all the items in for easy distribution. She likes to try to fill the bags really full and include lots of good stuff.

"The last couple of years,

I've been able to find bags that are actually reusable, so individuals can use those as well," she said.

"We distribute the gift bags by word of mouth and churches give us names of individuals that could use a bag. Nursing homes are also a great outlet that we reach out to. We see how many elderly residents they have that don't really have any family or don't have any local family."

Miller said she likes to focus on the elderly because they're often forgotten. She also likes to try to do something for anyone who's lost a loved one and it's their first Christmas without them.

Although the initial idea began as a way to carry on her grandma's legacy, it now includes her mom, as well. When her mom passed away unexpectedly in August of 2020, she felt EOH was also a great way to carry on her legacy.

"My mom and my grandma both were the most genuine, loving and giving people," she said. "I just feel like it's a great way to honor both of them."

Miller is getting help with her gift bags again this year from the young students at Wilson Early Childhood

Center. Principal Courtney Yunt reached out to her about the school helping with EOH about three years ago.

"We've partnered with them the last few years and the kiddos gather items," Miller said. "Courtney always gets a list from me each year of what we could use help with."

This year, Miller is also getting help through a partnership with Alex Acupan at Edward Jones in Miami.

"They're doing a fund drive on the 6th through the 11th," Miller said. "They're going to collect items for EOH and for the Animal Alliance. We're really excited to see how that turns out."

EOH's motto is "no donation is too big or too small and together we can all make a difference." Miller says she tells people this all the time and truly believes it.

"Some people might have the capability and the means to make a large donation, while others may be able to just do a small donation," she said. "But together, we can all make these gift bags happen."

Her gift bag project is also catching on in other

places. There's now a branch of EOH in Edmond and an individual effort all the way in California.

"I have a really dear friend who lives in the Anaheim area named Carrie Murphy. I send stuff out there and she puts together about five to 10 bags to give out to elderly homeless. She's been doing that out there for about the last four years."

Murphy literally goes out herself to find elderly, homeless people who could use a gift bag for Christmas. Unfortunately, it doesn't take long.

"We customize the bags a little more for out there," said Miller. "We do a poncho and focus more on food and nourishment for them."

In Edmond, Miller's friend Emily White distributes as many bags as she can each year, based on the funds she receives. White does her own fundraising and puts together her own bags, but she also operates under the EOH name.

Besides Christmas gift bags, Miller said individuals or other organizations sometimes notify her about a family in need. When she's contacted about a family needing something, she does her best to try and make sure



These gift bags were put together last year and were picked up by several of the local nursing homes for distribution to their residents.

their need gets met. She said this happens maybe three or four times a year and is only possible through donations.

"I just sincerely want to thank everybody who helps me in every aspect," she said. "Whether it's putting the bags together, buying items or making monetary donations, I appreciate everyone's help."

Anyone who would like to make a monetary donation can mail a check to Effort of

Hope, PO Box 244, Miami, Ok 74355 or donate via PayPal at [Kembimiller@icloud.com](mailto:Kembimiller@icloud.com).

Donations can also be dropped off at Ann's Flowers at the corner of the Coleman Theatre at 101 N. Main from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

For more information, visit Effort of Hope's Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/KembieOH/](http://www.facebook.com/KembieOH/).

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