



**SECOND HALF EXPLOSION  
CARRIES NORSEMEN**

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**MIAMI News-Record**

REID NEWSPAPER GROUP

Serving Miami and surrounding communities since 1903.

Friday, December 3, 2021 | Vol. 120 No.94 | 50¢

**DOUBLE CAST BRINGS THE  
NUTCRACKER TO LIFE**

**Moira K. McGhee**  
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Christi Leonard has been teaching children to dance for the past 42 years. She faces one of the biggest challenges of her career this year with a double cast for her Nutcracker ballet.

"I only do Nutcracker every other year," explained Leonard. "Last year should have been the year, but we couldn't get into the NEO theatre because of COVID. The kids were just devastated.

"I have 20 kids that this is their last Nutcracker and some of those kids should have got to do two Nutcrackers. Because we couldn't do it last year, they were only going to get one. So, I did two casts. In double casting, I gave them the opportunity to have their two Nutcrackers and be able to audition for bigger parts that they had wanted and they weren't going to be able to do."

The Nutcracker Ballet you see at many productions has a slightly different storyline from the original, but Leonard says her Nutcracker follows the traditional

story.

The Nutcracker is the story of Clara, a young girl who receives a magical Nutcracker as a gift from her uncle at her family's annual Christmas party. Later that night, her Nutcracker grows to life-size and defeats the villainous Rat King. The Nutcracker turns into a Prince who takes Clara on a grand adventure in the Kingdom of Snow and the Land of Sweets.

It's a fantastic story with a large cast and lots of costumes under normal circumstances, which is where it gets complicated for Leonard.

"I have 125 kids cast in the Nutcracker," she said. "Some roles are being played by two kids. Like the Arabian Queen, there were two girls who have always wanted that role and only one could get it if I just did one cast. By double casting, it allows one to do two shows and the other one to do two shows. That's why there are four shows."

Leonard's youngest cast member is just three years old.

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Christi Leonard efficiently faced the challenge of having a double cast for her Nutcracker Ballet this year to ensure all the kids had a chance to be part of the production that was cancelled last year due to COVID. On the left, Taytum Scott holds her green nutcracker, she plays Clara in the two Green Cast productions. On the right, Brynna Brodrick holds her red nutcracker, she plays Clara in the two Red Cast productions.

**EVENT**

*Rotary offers  
pancakes to support  
great causes'*

**Moira K. McGhee**  
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Saturday, Dec. 4 is the Rotary Club's annual pancake breakfast, one of the club's three annual fundraisers.

As you're enjoying your fluffy cakes of yumminess, consider all the good causes your dollars are helping the Rotary to support.

"Our pancake breakfast has been going on for more years than anybody in our club knows," joked Michael Addington, the Rotary Club's current Treasurer, Youth Exchange Officer and RYLA Chair.



As you're enjoying your fluffy cakes of yumminess, consider all the good causes your dollars are helping the Rotary to support.

"It's always the first Saturday in December every year on the same day as the Christmas parade."

The club also does a food drive during the pancake breakfast, so they'll have a box set up for people to drop off non-perishable foods. They donate these

items to a local food bank.

Current Rotarians are given \$80 worth of tickets, which they're responsible for paying for so the Club gets most of the money for the event upfront. You can also buy a ticket at

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**NEWS**

**No major  
redistricting  
plans for the  
county**

**Carla Nielsen**  
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As Oklahoma has been working through redistricting issues, Ottawa County will remain largely unaffected by any major changes.

Russell Earls, Ottawa County District 3 Commissioner and chairman, said, "What we did in order to get our population within the margin of error is we came inside the city of Miami and swapped blocks. In other words, we moved blocks from one district or another to get the population where we need it."

"Then there was one slight change, which had been in place for years, but they left it out when they drew the maps; I'm talking about Senate staff."

He said Districts 2 and 3 lines followed Highway 10 to Welch. That's where it was split.

"Years ago we had two what they call dead man's curves, two 90's, going to Welch. That was our district line between Districts 2 and 3," Earls said. "When the state straightened those out, we voted to follow the highway as we always have. When the senate staff drew the new lines a few weeks ago,

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Photo by Gary Crow

Miami's Christmas tree was set up Wednesday morning in preparation for Saturday night's parade along Main Street.

**PARADE GRAND MARSHALS ANNOUNCED**  
*4 Christmas parades Saturday*

Community leaders have been announced as grand marshals for two of Saturday's Christmas parades.

Ethel Cook, chief of the Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma, will be honored during Miami's "Music of Christmas" parade.

Burly Grimes, who has been a longtime supporter of sports and other activities at Picher, will lead its seventh annual "Coming Home for Christmas" parade.

The schedule for Saturday includes Picher at 10 a.m., Quapaw at noon, Commerce at 2 p.m. and Miami at 6 p.m.

In addition to her duties with the Ottawa Tribe, Cook is chairman of the Inter Tribal Council and serves



**Ethel Cook**

on a number of committees that supports Miami, Ottawa County and northeast Oklahoma.

The Miami parade will follow Main Street from 5th North to 2nd Street South.

There will be awards for first, second and third places in best float, best vehicle, best pedestrian and best overall entries.



**Burly Grimes**

Winners will be announced at a ceremony on Wednesday, Dec. 8 at the Miami Regional Chamber of Commerce office.

Grimes coached girls softball for 33 years,

He coached in the MKO League and assisted several coaches at Picher-Cardin

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# Second half explosion carries Norsemen

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Once the Northeastern A&M men got dialed in, it was curtains for Western Oklahoma State College.

The Norse struggled against a 2-3 zone utilized by WOSC and managed only 31 first-half points.

But they exploded for 60 points over the final 20 minutes and pocketed a 91-80 OCAC win Monday night at the NEO Field House.

“We got out of our execution and quit worrying about details in that first half and that hurt us,” Norse coach Jeremy Jackson said. “We kinda just tried to make plays randomly. We’re just happy we turned it on in the second half and we’re able to get out of here with the win.”

“We had missed dunks, layups, free throws.” The Pioneers went into the half with a 34-31 advantage before things started to click for NEO.

Of the 60 points the Norse scored in the second half, 34 of that came in the first 11 minutes, primarily when shots began to

fall. “One thing that really turned things around were our 3-point shooters got hot,” Jackson said. “Adnan (Hussein) got dialed in and started hitting shots. That gave us the momentum and energy we needed.”

Hussein finished with 19 points, all but one coming on treys.

“He’s a spark plug for us,” Jackson said. “He started getting hot and that started opening up lanes for Brian (Moore).”

Moore also had 19 points in the game.

The Norse were 4 of 18 behind the arc in the first half, then went 8 for 9 over the final 20 minutes.

Kamryn Edwards drained four 3-point goals while Moore and Thomasi Gilgeous-Alexander had one each.

The game wrapped up the 2021 portion of the schedule for NEO, which improved to 11-4 overall and 2-1 in Oklahoma Collegiate Athletic Conference play.

“Now we’ve got some momentum going into the



Eric Rustin of Northeastern A&M is pressured by a pair of Western Oklahoma State College defenders.

break,” Jackson said. “We completed a breakneck schedule (playing 15 games in 28 days). I think all of us need a break, a little from each other but our bodies are tired. We are going to be rejuvenated and ready to finish the second season.”

The Norse are idle until Thursday, Jan. 6 when they host Labette (Kansas) Community College.

“Our guys are tired. It’s been a wear on them,” Jackson said.

Three other players were in double figures for NEO:

Edwards finished with 16 points. Jonathan Mogbo had another double double, scoring with 10 rebounds, and Eric Rustin chipped in with 12.

Tyren Collins and Gilgeous-Alexander scored seven and three points, respectively.

Isaiah Griffin scored 26 and Ziri Blackwood contributed 18 for the Pioneers.

## AREA PREP TEAMS ENTER TOURNAMENTS

It’s Tournament Week 1 for Oklahoma high school basketball teams. All six Ottawa County schools will fan out across the state for competition. The Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association has blocked out the weeks of Dec. 6-11, Dec. 13-18, Dec. 27-31, Jan. 3-8 and Jan. 17-22 for invitational tournaments.

Miami and Quapaw are at the Vinita Big Dawg Shoot-Out, Commerce will be at the Indianola Warrior Classic, Fairland will be part of the field for the Ty Hewitt Memorial Tournament at Nowata, Wyandotte returns to the Adair Invitational and Afton plays in a tournament at Dale.

Miami’s boys are returning to the Vinita Big Dawg Shoot-Out after playing in a tournament

at Seneca since the 2010-2011 season.

Play at Vinita starts Thursday, when both MHS teams face Stilwell at 4 and 5:30 p.m.

The Quapaw girls meet Tulsa Lincoln Christian at 10 a.m. while the Wildcats meet Grove at 2:30 p.m.

Play at Adair and Nowata tips off Monday.

At Nowata, it’s the Fairland girls vs. South Coffeyville, Tuesday at 4 p.m. while the Owls square off against Oklahoma Union in Tuesday’s 8:30 p.m. nightcap.

Wyandotte has been paired against Adair in play on Tuesday with the games tipping off at 7 and 8:30 p.m.

The Commerce girls meet Weleetka at 12:40 p.m. Thursday. The Tigers will battle Lakewood — a private school at McAlester — at 4:20 p.m.

## OBITUARY

### Albert Earl Woods 1934 - 2021



Albert Earl Woods

Albert Earl Woods of Miami, OK passed from this life Sunday, November 28, 2021 at his home. He was 87.

Albert was born June 26, 1934 in Fort Gibson, OK to Charles Albert and Ruth (Holcolm) Woods. He had lived in Miami since 1964 moving from Tulsa, OK. Albert graduated from Central High School in Tulsa, Class of 1952. He worked at First National Bank in Tulsa and then at First National Bank in Miami. He owned and operated Skater’s World Skating Rink and Al’s Kountry Korner in Miami. He was a member of the First Baptist Church

in Miami, OK where he sang in the choir. He had been a member of Miami Jaycees, Kiwanis and Rotary Club of Miami.

Albert was preceded in death by his parents and brother Harold Woods.

Survivors include his wife Virginia (Gilmore) Woods of the home, 1 son Steven Woods and wife Lori of Miami, OK, 1 daughter Debra Borgstom of Chelsea, OK, 1 brother Lonnie Woods and wife Lillian of Miami, OK, 1 sister Margaret Miller of Wagoner, OK, 6 grandchildren, 9 great grandchildren and 1 great-great granddaughter.

Funeral Service will be 10:00 a.m. Thursday, December 2, 2021 at the Paul Thomas Funeral Home Chapel in Miami, OK. Chaplain Michael Hopper will officiate. Interment will be 2:00 p.m. December 2, 2021 at Rose Hill Cemetery in Tulsa, OK. Steven Woods, Caleb Woods, Cody Woods, Able Stose, Nelson Hicks and William Brown will serve as pallbearers. Services have been placed in the care of Paul Thomas Funeral Home and Cremation Service of Miami, OK. Online condolences may be made at [www.paulthomasfuneralhomes.com](http://www.paulthomasfuneralhomes.com).

## Rotary

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the door on the day of the event. “Generally, we’ll make about \$5,000 off the tickets from the Rotarians and another \$2,000 at the door,” Addington said. “It’s usually about a \$7,000 to \$8,000 fundraiser for us.”

The Rotary’s biggest fundraiser is its annual Willie Run, also known as the Willie Osborn Memorial 5K Run. This year, they also put on the Slightly Batty Halloween Wing Ding, which was a fundraiser, auction and Halloween party.

All the Rotary’s fundraisers work together to help the club do what they do, which is a whole lot of great stuff.

Addington said the Rotary spends most of its money on its youth services.

“We have a four-day leadership camp called RYLA, Rotary Youth Leadership Award,” he said. “It’s for high school juniors and it’s outside Tahlequah. There are generally about 400 kids there from four states. It costs us \$300 per student to send them to this camp and last year we had 40 kids at camp, so we spent \$12,000 sending kids to camp.”

Another one of the Rotary’s youth programs is what the group calls its Interact Clubs, which are Rotary sponsored clubs at Miami High School, Welch High School and Afton High School.

“They recruit kids to be in those clubs and then they teach those kids to be service-oriented,” explained Addington. “We help sponsor the teachers that run those clubs because they’re generally doing it after school hours. We help stipend the teachers and we help the students with their fundraising ideas and their service projects.”

The Rotary also operates a youth exchange program that helps students go to school in another country for a year. The program also brings students back to the local community for a year. So far, they’ve had two students go out and three students come in since they started the program in Miami.

“In 2017, we had a young man that went to Spain and we brought in a Spanish boy to the United States,” Addington said. “In 2018, our student ended up not exchanging but we still got a boy from Taiwan. Last year, we had a young lady that went to Sweden and we got a girl from Japan. This next year, we have a young lady from Afton who wants to exchange. She wants to go to Sweden. We have our district interviews on the 11th of Dec. to see if she gets to go or not.”

The Rotary Club offers several scholarships through its youth services, which include:

- Two - \$1,000 scholarship to MHS seniors attending NEO
- One - \$1,000 scholarship to a Welch senior attending NEO
- One - \$1,000 scholarship to an Afton senior attending NEO
- One - \$1,000 scholarship awarded to an adult going to Vo-Tech

Addington said the Vo-Tech scholarships don’t generally go to a senior straight out of high school because that’s usually already paid for. This scholarship is meant for someone going back to school trying to get a profession, usually an adult.

“This year our scholarship went to a lady whose husband died and she had two kids at home and she was trying to make a better life for her and her two kids.”

The Rotary recognizes top high school seniors each month for its Student of the Month award. These presentations are usually made on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. November’s recipients were Darci Edmondson and Michael Bunch from Miami High School and Rose Small and Sam Schaper from Welch High School.

For Miami and Wyandotte fifth graders, the Rotary has a program called “Don’t Meth With Us.” This is a meth education program the Club does once a year. Its dictionary project provides personalized dictionaries to every third grader in Ottawa County each year.

For Miami citizens, its Neighborhood Pride project encourages residents to make the outside of their homes shine.

“We have a metal sign that we transport from yard to yard and we have plaques that we give away to people who pick up their yards and make their house stand out compared to the houses around them,” said Addington. “We recognize one of those each month.”

The Rotarians also help on district and international levels. One International Service Project that Addington is particularly proud of is called the “Shoes for Orphan Souls” project.

“We raise shoes from Dec 1 to Jan 31,” he said. “We raise money or as many shoes as we can to send to Buckner Shies in Dallas, Texas, and they distribute the shoes around the world to orphanages to kids who’ve never had shoes before.”

The Rotary also gives out donations, including \$500 a year to the Boys and Girls Club of Ottawa County. Another \$3,500 in miscellaneous donations goes to different

organizations each year. Its members also try to save \$6,000 each year for a large project once every five years. The most recent project was paying to have the gazebo built at the splash pad.

“All these different projects is where 90% of our money goes,” said Addington, “It all adds up and we can only spend as much as we raise.”

Although the club usually gets a district grant each year, this is never guaranteed. If they do a project that meets the grant guidelines, they’re reimbursed 60% of the cost of the project up to \$3,000. They also get to keep a small portion of the membership dues it collects twice a year, but a majority of these funds go to support Rotary International and Rotary District 6110.

Anyone interested in becoming a Rotarian can attend one of its meetings, which are held every Tuesday at noon at the Paul Thomas Family Center.

“There will probably be about 25 or 30 Rotarians there that would be glad to sponsor them,” Addington joked.

He said he was motivated to join the Rotary Club while he was still living in Mount Pleasant, Texas.

“A good friend invited me to lunch and I just saw the good that the Rotary Club did and that inspired me to join,” he said. “When I moved to Miami, another friend invited me to Rotary. At that point, to be honest with you, it was just a place to have lunch with a lot of good people.”

He said that changed when he became the local Rotary president in 2015-2016 and got to be an assistant governor in 2017-2018 and 2018-2019.

“It just opened my eyes that Rotary is bigger than just Miami, Okla.,” he said.

“Rotary International in 1985 made it a

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