



**TURNOVERS HELP WAGONER  
COAST PAST WARDOGS** Page 8



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**NEWS**

*Miami hosts  
Lt. Governor's  
Tourism Summit*

The City of Miami, Visit Miami OK (CVB) and the Coleman Theatre Beautiful will host the Lt. Governor's Tourism Summit on Tuesday, Nov. 2.



Geist

The event, held in partnership with the Oklahoma Travel Industry Association (OTIA), will feature a half-day of education to learn best practices and how to grow tourism and hospitality in cities, counties, and tribal nations across the region.

The event is sure to draw attendees from across the region, according to CVB executive director Amanda Davis.

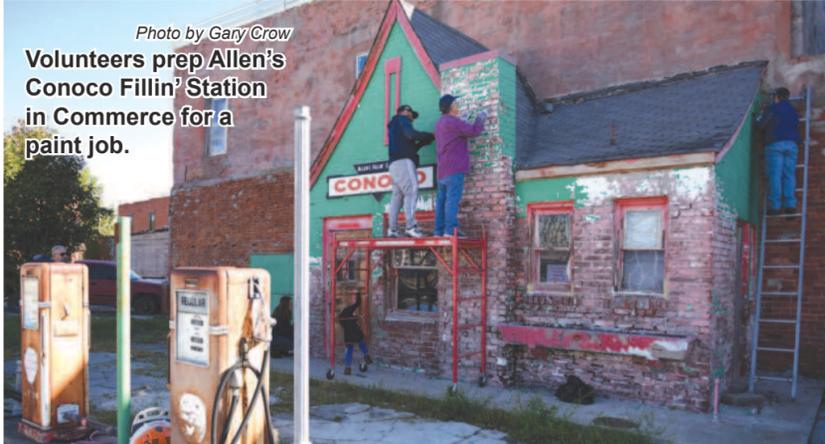
"We are very excited to team up with the OTIA to host Lt. Governor Matt Pinnell for another great tourism event in northeast Oklahoma," she said. "Pinnell's passion for what tourism affords communities like Miami is encouraging and we are excited to lock arms with him as this industry rebounds from a year of challenges."

The education session will feature Bill Geist, the Chief Instigator at DMOproz (aka Zeitgeist Consulting).

This firm specializing in strategic planning, governance, marketing and legislative issues for destination marketing and management organizations (convention and visitor bureaus, tourism-focused chambers of commerce, economic development organizations and communities).

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Photo by Gary Crow  
**Volunteers prep Allen's Conoco Fillin' Station in Commerce for a paint job.**



**COMMERCE LANDMARK GETS SPRUCED UP**  
*Allen's Conoco Fillin' Station get new paint job, cleanup*

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Thanks to help from volunteers and the Oklahoma Route 66 Association, Larry Allen said he probably will be able to hold on to Allen's Conoco Fillin' Station, a Commerce landmark.

"With them helping, it was mainly the upkeep and refurbishing that was holding me back," Allen said Saturday morning while a



**Larry Allen (left) walks about what he would like to see done with the landmark station he owns.**

group of volunteers were scraping and preparing the

classic building located at 101 South Main at the intersection of Commerce Avenue and Main Street, for a facelift.

"As far as paying the taxes and being able to keep it up, I'll probably be able to go ahead and keep it for a while anyway now. I'm planning to do that."

"As long as i can, I am going to hang on to it."

The station — also called the "Hole in the Wall Conoco Station" — was built in either



**Here's what the station looks like after getting some TLC.**

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**EVENT**

**NEO announces  
online gala for  
2021**

Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College and the NEO Development Foundation announced that the annual NEO Gala auction fundraiser will be held through an online format this year.

The in-person gala event was canceled due to COVID concerns, but officials at NEO are excited about proceeding with the fundraiser.

Mobile bidding has proven to be quite successful over the past few years, raising funds to provide needed scholarships for students.

In addition, it has allowed NEO to highlight a particular program on campus each year.

The online auction will begin on Nov. 1 and close at midnight on Nov. 7. Additional details about the online auction will be released in the coming weeks.

Every year, the NEO Development Foundation raises money at the gala to provide scholarships to students and support to a program on campus. This year the fundraising committee has selected to support the NEO Honors Program.

A portion of the proceeds from the online auction will provide student scholarships and financial support for the honors program to hold its first-ever study abroad trip to Italy in spring 2022.

The honors program began in

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**BFTS remembrance  
ceremony is Saturday**

The event honors the 15 Royal Air Force cadets that were killed while training at British Flying Training School #3 in Miami during World War II.

Derek Farrell with The Royal British Legion, Tulsa Detachment, will be the speaker at the annual British Flyers Remembrance Ceremony which will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 23 at GAR Cemetery.

The event honors the 15 Royal Air Force cadets that were killed while training at British Flying Training School #3 in Miami during World War II.

Returning participants include Rob Jemmett, RAF Liaison officer at Tinker Air Force base in Midwest City, the City of Tulsa Pipes and Drums, the American Legion, the Marine Corps League and Roger Meyer,



Bugles Across America.

Placement of the roses will be performed by Aisley and Brentlee Judd, children of City of Miami Fire Department employee Brent Judd and his wife, Whitney.

The prayer will be led by

Pastor Herb Young of One Church Miami.

Following the ceremony, tours of the Coleman Theatre will be available.

Many of the trainees at BFTS #3 visited the Coleman during their time here.

**Four State Museum of Natural History Curator Bradly Shelby stands next to his replica of an Allosaurus skull, the largest piece currently on display.**



**DINOSAUR EXHIBIT AT COMMERCE HUGE SUCCESS**

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Bradly Shelby, the curator of Four State Museum of Natural History, had visitors waiting for him to open as he was setting up his traveling museum Saturday morning at Commerce City Hall.

The exhibit was such a success that he's already been asked to come back again in a couple of months. He's hoping by then he'll

have his new pieces in.

"I'm expecting two Tyrannosaurus rex skulls and a Triceratops skull," said Shelby. "They're all being created by a company in England and should be ready about the same time."

One T-Rex skull is the profile of a half skull lying flat so you can see everything inside. The other is a full 3-D skull like the Allosaurus skull he currently displays, only the T-Rex skull is significantly larger. He said it will be

the largest piece in his collection to date. The Triceratops skull will also be a full 3-D version.

"I'm constantly adding to my collection, so there's always something new to see," said Shelby. "I'm also getting a baby T-Rex skull."

His traveling museum features both authentic fossils and life-size museum-quality replicas. Using replicas is a necessity because real pieces are

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## Town of Fairland delays decisions while waiting on financial information



A special election to fill the fifth seat on the Fairland Board of Trustees will be held Nov. 9. Several issues have been left undecided as the Board splits on a 2-2 vote with (left to right) Lee Hall and Brent Davis on one side and Mayor Trevor Berger and Trustee BJ Jacobberger on the opposite side.

The Fairland Board of Trustees delayed a number of decisions because the town has yet to receive from its accountant an estimate of needs which outlines how much funding the town will have for this fiscal year.

In addition, votes on a critical issue remain stagnated on a two to two vote. The vote concerned whether to honor a commitment to the town's new police chief to provide him health insurance.

The town committed to providing the health insurance coverage by Oct. 1. However, because of the lack of financial information that decision was delayed.

An attempt to honor the promise by providing a stipend of \$250 a month until the end of the year to help him personally pay for his health insurance failed on a two-to-two vote with Trustees Trevor Berger and B.J. Jacobberger supporting the plan and Lee Hall and Brent Davis opposing the measure.

A special election to fill the fifth and deciding seat is set for Tuesday, Nov. 9. Two people are seeking the seat vacated in July by former resident John Tunnell. Both Nick Bowers and Jack Crossley are candidates.

In other action, the board did approve several increases in fees including an increase in dog tags from \$10 to \$50, and an occupation license of \$200.

Both will require an actual ordinance be passed by the board at an upcoming meeting.

The board did appoint members to the Economic Development Board for the Industrial Park. The board had basically dissolved after members became inactive. The board appoint both Lee Hall and Brent Davis to the revised board as well as approved the appointments of Jim Love, Nick Bowers and Bret Wilson to the Board.

The board needs three additional members and the Trustees agreed to ask Time York, Mark Stunkard and Jim Clapp to appear at the next meeting to see if they might be interested in filling the vacant slots.

Agenda items to discuss whether to hire an animal control officer and the possible purchase of new bunker gear for the fire department were tabled until the town's financial statement is available.

The board did approve the resignation of Joy Bryant as the town's financial officer. She had agreed to take the position until the town could hire someone to serve in that position.

Last month the trustees approved the hiring of Brenda Burchette to the position of assistant to the town clerk and filling that role.

The Public Works Authority meeting included approval of an increase in tapping fees for both water and natural gas. The water tapping fee will be increased from \$75 to \$100 and the tapping fee for natural gas will be increased to \$1,000.

Both require the board to pass an ordinance before becoming effective.

## Exhibit

• Continued from Page 1

extremely expensive.

"The most expensive piece that sold was a full skeleton of a T-Rex, which went for \$32 million," Shelby said.

Several companies make replicas, which Shelby explained are cast from original fossils. Companies that make replicas also dig for dinosaurs. They use their finds to make casts to create and sell replicas, then they eventually sell the original fossils.

One replica he's particularly proud of his Heterodontosaurus tucki. It's based on the original, which was the most complete fossil ever discovered of the species. It's so rare, he said it's kept safely behind bulletproof glass at a museum in South Africa, where it was discovered on the Eastern Cape. His Stegosaurus piece and several others were also cast from fossils that were dug up.

As often happens during a discussion about dinosaurs, the conversation turned to the relationship between dinosaurs and birds. Shelby mentioned that many of the meat-eating dinosaurs

had feathers, despite generally being depicted with scales in the movies.

"Feathers aren't scary," joked Shelby. "Go catch a hawk. Which would you rather deal with, a hawk or an iguana? I'd choose the iguana every time."

While his exhibit at the Commerce City Hall was quite extensive, it still only included part of his collection.

"This display includes most of my larger pieces," he said. "Some of my authentic fossils are fragile and don't travel well, so I don't bring them."

The logistics of a traveling museum can be challenging, and Shelby said it would be nice to one day have a permanent home for the Four State Museum of Natural History.

"It's my dream to one day have a type of natural history museum and nature preserve combo," he said.

For more information about the museum, including upcoming events and updates on new pieces, or to inquire about scheduling a free event, visit the Four State Museum of Natural History website at [www.fourstatemuseum.com](http://www.fourstatemuseum.com).

## WARRIOR CHALLENGE IS AN SUCCESSFUL EVENT

The M'seh-weh (Eastern Shawnee word for 'Horse') Warrior Challenge, hosted by the Central Welsh Pony and Cob Association and the Eastern Shawnee Tribe's Wellness Center, was held Oct. 9.

Special guests were the Harvard Fox Hounds, who came in force with 24 participants.

There were a total of 30 riders composing 11 teams. The Rent-A-Warriors were

the Lions Basketball team from Lighthouse Christian Academy and included coach Nathan Taylor.

Riders who chose not to dismount to do the obstacles could Rent-A-Warrior to do it for them and the Warriors kept the proceeds.

"It was a beautiful day and everyone had a blast doing the obstacles, the jumps and loved the Eastern Shawnee Wellness Center's beautiful Outpost Trail," said Tammy Lux, who was one of the event's



The winner of the Rachel Wright Memorial time winners were Tessa Russell and Jenna Clark.

organizers.

A Spring Tecumseh Hunter Pace, a team event which is basically a timed, fast trail ride with optional jumps. Immediately following will be a hunt relay — a relay race on horseback with two identical obstacle courses and two teams start at the same time.

Carrying the baton, each member must complete the course then pass the baton to the next member.

"It should be a lot of fun and we have competitive folks around here," Lux said. "We are also toying with inviting the different tribes to field a team."



Michelle Seigel is shown jumping.

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