



**DOGS TACKLE OLD NEMESIS  
OOLOGAH**

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**MIAMI** *News-Record*

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**SHERIFF DONATES VEHICLES TO  
AFTON AND FAIRLAND**

**Carla Nielsen**  
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Ottawa County commissioners approved the Sheriff's Office donating two 2011 Ford Crown Victoria police cars to the town of Afton, and one 2011 Ford Crown Victoria police car to the town of Fairland at their regular meeting Monday in Miami.

In other matters during discussion and review of the county's COVID-19 policies, District 2 commissioner Steven Chasteen said he thinks the matter should be reviewed next time all three commissioners are present.

Chairman and District 3 Commissioner Russell Earls could not attend Monday.

"I am in favor of removing all

restrictions. I don't want to be part of the government entity forcing them on folks. It's getting so out of hand. Get your shots if you want and wash your darn hands," Chasteen said.

The commissioners also approved Chad Holcomb's Ottawa County Emergency Management request to accept 10,000 surgical masks from the Cherokee Nation to be used by local first responders and courthouse employees against COVID-19.

District 1's request to add to the existing bid for an asphalt overlay project from Teeter's Paving was also approved.

The change order consists of an additional .2 of a mile of 3/4" leveling course which will add an additional \$3,500 to the bid.

District 1 commissioner Mike

Furnas said, "After further review we felt this would be better to stabilize the overlay we are going to put on top of it."

The board also approved contracts for a basic fax/credit card phone line for the courthouse in the amount of \$23.74 a month, and the same for multiple basic fax/credit card phone lines for the county annex for \$71.22 a month with Sparklight.

In addition, they approved the county treasurer's transcript of proceedings and the county deed on the sale of several county properties acquired at resale by Brian Brock.

The commissioners also approved the treasurer's transcript of proceedings and the county

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New central dispatch system will improve response times, increase safety.

**City teams with tribes to expand Splashpad complex**

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A landmark decision was made by the city council here Monday evening that will mean area 911 and emergency dispatchers will combine to create a single, central dispatch service.

Approved by the council was a contract with the Ottawa County Sheriff's Office to provide dispatch services for the county.

"The sheriff's office dispatches for their agency and our goal has always been to combine them," said Miami Police Chief Thomas Anderson. "When we redid our dispatch center last year, we designed it for extra staff. This year the Quapaw Nation

approached us because they are building a facility that they will lease space to us in and we will move out there when it's ready."

Anderson said the ultimate goal is to have 15 dispatchers.

"A lot of the tribal partners are giving us pledge money for additional 24-7 staff. This will improve safety around town and will save minutes," Anderson said. "Combining the dispatch centers is a great thing for public safety. The county will pay the city for two people to add to our staff and we will take the calls that come in for them...we take the work. Employees will still be City of Miami employees after the

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**NEWS**

**Ottawa County Conservation District celebrates 75 years**



Ottawa County Conservation District chairman Justin Miller (center) receives a citation of conservation service in Ottawa County from state senator Micheal Bergstrom. Also pictured is state representative Steve Bashore.

If you take a ride down any county road in Ottawa County, you are likely to pass many conservation practices without even knowing it.

Seventy-five years ago, the Ottawa County Conservation District formed, forever changing the landscape. Since that time, wetlands have been restored, terraces, grassed waterways, livestock watering facilities, and ponds have been constructed to control gully erosion, farmers have implemented conservation tillage and trees have been planted in Ottawa County. These accomplishments did not happen overnight.

They took years of planning and countless hours of cooperation between landowners, the Ottawa County Conservation District and cooperative partners like the Natural Resources

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**23<sup>RD</sup> TAR CREEK CONFERENCE IS VIRTUAL**



Tar Creek remains toxic after being polluted by what used to be the world's largest lead and zinc mine

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Plans are being finalized for the 23rd annual Tar Creek Conference, which will be held virtually Oct. 26 through Oct. 28.

Rebecca Jim, executive director of the LEAD (Local Environmental Action Demand) Agency, said this year's conference will focus on Tar Creek, including sessions on progress, plans and vision.

"In other years, it's been climate change and other environmental issues," said Jim. "This year it's all Tar Creek, because we've got to catch this community up on what's happening, the hopes for the future and what could happen. We also need to let them know what the EPA is doing and what (Oklahoma) DEQ is doing."

The water in Tar Creek was polluted by what used to be the world's largest lead and zinc mine, which left the creek orange and killed aquatic life that previously made the creek home. American Rivers named Tar

Creek 6th among America's Most Endangered Rivers of 2021.

The organization cited toxic pollution from one of the nation's largest Superfund sites as causing a serious threat to public health. American Rivers has been protecting wild rivers, restoring damaged rivers and conserving clean water since 1973.

Topics to be discussed at this year's Tar Creek Conference include "Defining Our Toxic Flood," "Surface Water and Aquifers," "Superfund Progress" and "Future Tar Creek."

Jim also said a map has been drawn up and will be shared with the community that shows how flooding will affect everyone. The virtual conference will have two segments each day.

The event will wrap up with the keynote address from Niall Kirkwood, Professor of Landscape Architecture and Technology at the Harvard Graduate School of Design.

Kirkwood will talk about all the projects students have come up with that cover what

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**EVENT**

**Miami Rotary plans 'Slightly Batty Halloween Wing Ding'**



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The Miami Rotary Club's first "Slightly Batty Halloween Wing Ding" is set to kick off the Halloween festivities in Miami on Thursday, Oct. 28, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Buffalo Run Showplace.

You are invited to dress in your favorite costume for this Halloween party and to compete in the costume contests for your chance to win the group, couple, man, and woman's best costume prizes. There will also be carnival games that include chances to win prizes worth over \$200.

The Peoria Showplace is located inside the Buffalo Run

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# IN THE KNOW



Rebecca Jim

## ALPHABET SOUP FOR TAR CREEK

This year our Tar Creek was number 6 of the 10 most Endangered Rivers in the country.

Throughout the summer she got lots of positive attention. Over 600 people signed the Clean Water Protection Ordinance petitions circulators carried throughout Miami to grant the citizens the Right to clean water and a Healthy Tar Creek and would give Tar Creek the Rights nature had bestowed to her. Those rights would allow her to flow...

We were proud of the great attention this effort brought to our often neglected stream by you, your neighbors, friends and family members. More registered voters were needed to get the ordinance to the ballot for a vote by the people. But really we feel the people did vote in a way. They spoke up with each stroke of their pen as they signed their name acknowledging the need

the ordinance would have addressed.

In July, Todd Stewart, the Oklahoma University photography professor, came to Tar Creek to take a few photos for the Anthrocepe Alliance. A couple of children met us there and were part of the story he was shooting. But others arrived unperplexed by our presence and jumped right into the water our two girls had been so careful not to allow their skin to touch. The set of boys did the improbable. They swam. Diving under and through the culverts at the low water bridge and laughing. It was a dream. Something I longed to see: children loving the creek and using the water as their grandparents would have been able to do. My teacher friend spoke to them about the water and that it was bad water, but from their reaction those words made no impact on the summer's

fun as they persisted with their frolicking.

The good times at the creek persisted through the rest of July, all of August and September, the end of their summer.

Over 25 years ago, we crafted warning signs for bumper stickers Don't swim or fish in Tar Creek funded by the ATSDR and the Ottawa County Health Department. Then 10 years later we had them printed again, mindful that DON'T messages are a turn-off. So we did the same design but added NOT YET. But who wouldn't begin to wonder if NOT YET... THEN WHEN???? When happened this summer in a big way with the swimming and the fishing. Our children decided that message would not deter them in any way. The city was told at a city council meeting that children were swimming in the creek. Not once but twice.

“

More registered voters were needed to get the ordinance to the ballot for a vote by the people.

Reclaiming that water showed their belief it was not harming them with exposures to it. They also claimed it by damming it. Trapping it as their own. They dammed to the north and put effort in constructing a bigger dam so the water would become deeper.

We discovered this before Labor Day and a small

team of us breeched both of those dams so water could flow through. Many of the rocks that were used were heavy, taking me and another person to move. Our deconstruction continued until the syringe was found among the rocks. We had no protective gear so we stopped our actions.

I attended a public meeting held by the city about zoning, speaking before it convened to city representatives about the dam and the Clean Water Act violation it was, since restricting the flow of any stream in that way breaks the law. I stood at the microphone to say the same and that it had been reported as a complaint to the state.

We were sure the city would remove the dams and post signage to protect our children from the heavy metals we know are in Tar Creek. There was more evidence of use every time we have gone. More rocks

on the dam, the trees had been hacked with a small ax to make footholds to climb for jumping into water. Later rope swings, steps hammered into a tree to leap in the water. More old trees are cut and injured, the very trees that are keeping the streambed from eroding in flood events. The fire circle and then the continued effort to dam under the BNSF railroad bridge, using the chat as fill. The very same chat that EPA is spending millions to rid from your county to protect children from lead poisoning.

So the alphabet soup of federal and state agencies have been notified: ATSDR, ODEQ, EPA, USFW, OCC, OWRB, GRDA including Army Corps. If we use these letters like the game SCRABBLE we can spell many words like: GREED, DROP, DEAD, SOAP, FEE, but we cannot spell the one word we need which is HELP.

Forty-two years this community has waited to use their Tar Creek. It is time EPA does their work.

## Pilot Club plans drive-thru bean dinner

The Pilot Club of Miami will be having a "drive-thru-only" Bean Dinner Oct. 29.

Tickets at \$5 each, are

available from any Pilot member or by calling 918-533-8230 to leave a message. Orders may be picked up in the First United Methodist Church north portico at 200

B NW from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The menu will be white or brown beans, plain or jalapeno cornbread, a simple dessert, but no slaw.

## Musician

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Tar Creek could look like. "He came to our very first Tar Creek Conference," Jim said. "He never forgot about it and wanted to come back. It's his keystone project — it's what he can give us with

hopes for the future."

The Mike Synar awards and LEAD Agency scholarships for 2020 and 2021 also will be announced during the virtual event. Registration for the conference will be announced

soon.

Visit the L.E.A.D. Agency website ([www.leadagency.org](http://www.leadagency.org)) for updates on the event or access archived recordings of last year's virtual conference.

# Nutting Collision

**918-257-8795**

ACROSS FROM BUFFALO RANCH IN AFTON

Owned and Operated by The Nutting Family  
Formerly of Nutting Paint & Body  
Doug Nutting & Whitney Nutting Judd

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Due to the amount of confusion there has been, it has been asked of us to clarify the ownership of these businesses. Doug Nutting, of Nutting Collision, in Afton, OK, is not in any way affiliated with Nutting Paint & Body located in Miami, OK. The autobody shop operating under the name Nutting Paint and Body was sold in 2006 and since then, Doug Nutting hasn't had any affiliation with that autobody business. This is to include any new shops opened under the name Nutting Paint and Body, including the shop in Grove, OK. The only autobody shop that Doug Nutting has any affiliation to is Nutting Collision located in Afton, OK.

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**OCTOBER 9TH, 2021**  
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**AUCTIONEER'S NOTE**

FANTASTIC AUCTION! Due To The Passing Of Mr. Allman, Mrs. Allman Is Selling The Farm By Private Treaty And Moving! There Are Tractors, Trucks, Trailer, Eqp., Household Collectables, Antiques Of All Kinds!! Check Both Auctions On Website! If You Need It We Probably Have It! You Will Want To Attend Both Sales! Don't Miss! See You Sat. 2ND & 9TH 10 AM Both Days!!

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