



The Mooreland Leader

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— Always for the Interests of Mooreland, and Woodward County —

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ONE-HUNDRED-TWELFTH YEAR

Mooreland, Oklahoma 73852 — Thursday, March 12, 2015

NUMBER 48

This, That & The Other

By
Hodge Podge



• Kudos to Coach Frank Howard and the Mooreland powerlifting team for winning the Class A Region One championship Monday, March 9, in Cashion. See page 6.

• Good luck to the Mooreland High School slow-pitch softball team as they begin their season in the Fort Cobb-Broxton Bash Thursday (today), March 12. The tournament runs through Saturday, March 14. Twenty-one teams are scheduled to participate.

• Golf season is now officially under way. The Bearcat boys played in Sayre Wednesday, March 11, and the Lady Cats play there Thursday (today), March 12.

• High school baseball opens Friday, March 13, in Watonga. The Bearcats play in the Covington-Glencoe Spring Break Festival Monday, March 16. Mooreland plays Ripley at noon in Covington and Glencoe in Glencoe at 4:00 p.m. All spring sports (track, golf, baseball and softball) schedules can be found on page 5.

• Don't forget, no school Friday (by design), March 12, and next week is Spring Break. Classes will resume Monday, March 23.

• A whopping 10 gallons of pop tabs were brought in last week by John and Neta Copenhaver, from Lonnie Bolar and Scoobs Tavern in Waynoka. On behalf of Collin Curry, we thank the business for this large contribution.

• Although it is still a couple weeks away, for those who were unable to view the two Blood Moons last year, the first of two this year will occur in the early morning hours of April 4. For those who may not be familiar with a Blood Moon, it is caused when the earth's shadow is red at the edges for the same reason a sunset is red — when sunlight is scattered by passing through Earth's atmosphere, the other colors of the spectrum are removed.

• Happy Birthday this week to (March 12) Quinton Hill, Joleen Hensley, Eileen Hensley, Dustin Clark, Kelly Wooldridge, (March 13) Suzanne Rooney, Bobby Gainer, Taylor Evans, Holly Carson,

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Town Goes With OMPA As Wholesale Power Provider

Mooreland Public Works Authority (MPWA) and Town Board approved a whopping seven resolutions during regular meetings Monday, March 9, at City Hall. All but one was in conjunction with the decision to change where the town's wholesale electricity is purchased from.

This change has been in the works since August 11, 2014, when Western Farmers Electric Cooperative (WFEC) notified the town it planned to terminate its current contract, and offer a new contract, to sell wholesale electricity to the town, effective March 31, 2016.

After the resolutions were passed, it became official the town will enter into a contract with Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority (OMPA) to provide wholesale

electricity beginning April 1, 2016. It was pointed out that Western Farmers Electric Cooperative could not terminate their contract with the Public Works Authority, however if an agreement could be reached by Western Farmers, OMPA and the Southwest Power Pool. OMPA could become the official power supplier before the April 1, 2016, date.

The change will end a 25-year relationship with Western Farmers Electric Cooperative as the town's wholesale supplier of electricity.

Sandwiched between the MPWA and Town Board meetings was a Public Hearing to discuss Resolution 2015-5, which concerns adopting a written Citizens Participation Plan; and affirming its commitment to apply for and

receive funds from the Oklahoma Department of Commerce through the Community Development Block Grant Program for small cities in Oklahoma. It was noted the grant would be in the amount of \$300,000 and would be for infrastructure improvements at the sewer lagoons.

It was noted that as part of the improvements, a new pump would be added and existing equipment would be upgraded. Currently the town only has one pump at the lagoons.

Monday's round of meetings began with the MPWA at 6:30 p.m. with Phillip Ludwyck, pastor of First Assembly of God Church, offering invocation. Roll was called

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— Mooreland...Is This A Great Town Or What? — (spotlight on businesses that make Mooreland a great place to live) Twelfth in a Series



Get-N-Buy convenience store located on the west side of Mooreland.

Get-N-Buy

By Travis Barnard

Located on the west side of Mooreland, Get-N-Buy has been serving Mooreland since 2012. Owners Elmer and Kim Aldridge purchased the vacant building in early 2012 and began remodeling the inside and making repairs.

The building was constructed in the mid 1970s and served as Sym's Stop and Shop until January, 2011.

Get-N-Buy carries Broaster foods, Doughboyz Pizza and a large assortment of deli and grocery items. The store is also one of the few remaining gas stations in the area to carry 100 percent gasoline in all their grades.

In July, 2014, the business became famous in

Mooreland and surrounding area when it began serving smoked meats at the store on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Whether it is racks of ribs, smoked bologna, chicken, hot links or other meats, the smoked items are highly sought after and are usually quick to sell out.

The store employees 15 and hours of operation are 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Sunday. To contact the store or place food orders, call (580) 994-2292.

In December, 2014, owner Elmer Aldridge also opened Front Porch Liquor in the building just west of Get-N-Buy. Front Porch Liquor offers a full line of alcohol brands as well as wines. You can reach them at (580) 994-5326.



DISCOVER
AMERICA'S STORY.

One of the greatest frustrations of a newspaper staff focused on serving its community day in and day out, is not being able to provide information the public wants and needs. It's a frustration we're familiar with as our neighbors routinely approach us wanting to access and search our archives. Accessing our archived issues is essential for a growing number of individuals interested in researching their genealogy and events of our past.

As is common in the newspaper industry, over the years, we created microfilm scans of our past issues but have now discovered that many of the images are of poor quality and accessing and searching the film remains an arduous and time consuming process.

The newspaper has long wanted to digitize its archive to make the pages easy to access and search online. This would also provide us with a way to digitally preserve the historical record contained in our archive and prevent loss due to an event such as a fire. However, high quality processing of the reels of microfilm, making the images completely searchable and hosting the archive online has been a process we simply haven't been able to afford.

But that is about to change.

We're excited to announce we are participating in a new program called Discover America's Story that makes it possible for us to digitize our archive and place it online where it can be accessed and searched for free from any Internet connection. Key to this initiative are partnerships with the local business community.

We look forward to keeping you updated on this wonderful new project and the local sponsors who are making it possible.
—T.S.

Principals' Contracts Renewed

Mooreland School Board members went into executive session during a regular meeting Monday, March 9, to "discuss the evaluations of the principals for the purpose of hiring, non-renewal or tabling of the high school principal's and elementary principal's contracts for the 2015-16 school year."

After coming out of the session, the board voted to re-hire High School Principal Ron Wilson and Elementary Principal Mickey Gregory for the 2015-16 year.

The board also voted later in the meeting to hire Dirk Allen as high school science teacher for the 2015-16 school year.

Monday's meeting was attended by board members Brett Bates, Wendell Brandenburg, Dustin Donley, Sammy Stubbs and Troy White, Superintendent Terry Kellner, Mintues Clerk Chris Callison, Gregory and Wilson.

Brett Bates, re-elected board member for seat 5, signed the Oath of Office and the Loyalty Oath. Minutes of the February 9 regu-

lar board meeting were approved. Board members also approved the treasurer's report and activity fund report as presented.

General fund 2014-15 encumbrances in the amount of \$41,094.97, building fund 2014-15 encumbrances in the amount of \$5,507.14 and child nutrition fund 2014-15 encumbrances in the amount of \$12,133.23 were all approved for payment.

After reviewing the remediation report for 2013 college students, the board voted to approve the report as presented.

The board voted to approve and sign an auditing contract with Britton, Kuykendall and Miller, CPA as presented for the school year ending June 30, 2015.

After reviewing the service software agreement with MAS for the 2015-16 school year, the board voted to approve agreement as presented.

Superintendent Kellner informed the board of new member

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Mooreland's Brooke Tate On Fire On Mound At NOC

By Jennifer Smith
NOC Director of Marketing
Special to The Leader

It may not sparkle, but she guards this diamond with her life.

Brooke Tate, Northern Oklahoma College Enid's freshman softball pitcher, commands the game from the mound. One advantage she has over other opponents? She doesn't have to worry about jeering fans or players because she has a gift: she's deaf.

"I like being deaf; I can eavesdrop on people's lips. It's kind of an advantage. Being deaf gives me an edge that I can read lips," Tate said.

Although an implant allows her to hear, she still has to rely on her other senses.

"Being deaf has made me a visual person. I have to think ahead on the plays and decide what's best. If I hear the calls from the players, it helps, but I can't always rely on that when it's so loud on the field," Tate said.

Jamie Roberts, Jets head softball coach, agrees. With the aid of a cochlear implant, Tate can hear at a level of 98 percent.



Brooke Tate at NOC

"When we first signed her, I wasn't sure how much sign language we as a team needed to learn. With the help of an implant, she can hear and read lips well. It has been beneficial on our road trips because it gets loud on the bus," Roberts said.

Tate pitched four years for the Mooreland Lady Bearcats,

graduating in 2014. Her success began at an early age when her dad noticed her ability and strongly encouraged it.

"My dad coached my first team," Tate said. "I started pitching at 10 years old. I got lessons at 12. Almost every weekend or twice a week we would drive to Oklahoma City with pitching instructors. I ended up falling in love with it. He saw I had the patience for it."

Currently, Tate is hitting at .364 average, 10 runs batted in (RBIs) and 5 doubles.

"She's pitching one of the two games in a double header. And when she doesn't pitch, she's first base," Roberts said. "She's a starter either way. When I signed her, she had a lot of success at Mooreland High School. I expected her to come in immediately in the circle and offensively."

Tate doesn't just love softball; she lives it.

"When she comes through the gate on the field, she's happy to be there," Roberts said; "I think her love and passion for the game is contagious. No one is going to say anything negative about practice

because they know how much she loves it.

"She carries a lot of confidence on the field. She has an aura about her; she knows what she's capable of doing. It's not an arrogance, [just] a good, confident demeanor on the field. She knows she's going to get the job done. There's certain people they would want at the plate, and right now Brooke is on fire at the mound."

Tragedy struck this winter as Tate lost her mother suddenly. Although still grieving, she has been surrounded by her coaches and teammates.

"I was worried at semester," Roberts said. "How is this going to affect her? Not all people grieve immediately. Is she going to still come out and play softball?"

"Brooke is so mature about it all. She hasn't missed a beat. She knows she has this angel in heaven watching over her. She's not afraid to talk about the life her mom lived. She does feel comfortable with her support system and her dad and grandpa come to all the games."

Tate aspires to become an athletic trainer and physical therapist.



Brooke Tate on the mound for the Lady Bearcats in 2013.