

# The Newkirk Herald Journal

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## NHJ Briefs

### Kildare School Alumni reunion

The Kildare School Alumni have announced the first bi-annual school reunion on Oct. 13. They are looking for donations of hot dogs, pork shoulder or hamburgers. For more information, call Darlene Engelking at (580) 763-3326.

### Chicken noodle dinner for FD

The Dale Township Volunteer Fire District Association in partnership with the Newkirk Masonic Lodge is holding a chicken noodle dinner from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Oct. 14 at First Christian Church, Ninth Street and Walnut. The meal includes chicken noodles, mashed potatoes, green beans, dessert and drink. The cost is \$6 for adults and \$4 for children younger than 12. All proceeds go to purchase fire equipment.

### Wind farm meeting set

PNE Wind USA will host a public meeting to receive comments from the public regarding the construction of the Chilocco Wind Farm project, proposed on tribal land in Kay County. The meeting is at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 16 in the Main Street Society Meeting Room, 116 N. Main St., in Newkirk.

### Lunch Mob at Cheeky Burger

The Newkirk Main Street will hold a Lunch Mob at Cheeky Burger at 12 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 17.

Peckham School is in the opening stages of a new construction project, which will enhance educational opportunities at the school. From left, Superintendent Gary Young, students Tripp Briggs, Cameron Neese and Jake Locke and teacher Amy Luck. (Photo by EVERETT BRAZIL III/The Newkirk Herald Journal)



## Peckham School construction continuing

By EVERETT BRAZIL III  
The Newkirk Herald Journal

PECKHAM — Peckham Public School (PPS) has educated northern Kay County students for more than 100 years, and even with a small population, the school is still holding on, and is now looking to the future as they construct a new building and parking lot, as well as increase school safety, to continue serving the children for many more years.

The school serves many students in pre-K through eighth grade, with graduates attending high school in Newkirk, Blackwell or Ponca City. "We recently celebrated our 120 year anniversary, and had alumni come. It started out as a white, wooden two-story building," superin-

endent Gary Young said. "It used to be a fairly large town — stores, two lumber yards and at one time, there five to six times (the population of what it is now)." The current school building opened about 70 years ago, he said, which led to a need to present the facility with a facelift.

PPS began the construction project at the end of the 2017-18 school year in May, and is funded through a \$6.875 million bond, with most of the funding coming from area wind farms, including the Kay Wind Farm and Frontier Wind Farm. "The wind companies are paying about 80 percent of it. Our local taxes are still in the low to mid range, compared to other schools in the county,"

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## Election board warns of scam

By EVERETT BRAZIL III  
The Newkirk Herald Journal

A new scam is circulating across the state, asking Oklahomans to share personal information to register to vote over the phone. The Oklahoma State Election Board (OSEB) is sending out word to not give out personal information, as voters cannot be registered over the phone.

The OSEB was notified by the National Association of Secretaries of State and the National Association of State Election Directors of the scam, which has been reported in other states, and is under investigation by the FBI and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

"You cannot be registered on the phone at any time," said Kay County Election Board Secretary Cheryl Howard.

Voters seeking register or change voting addresses can receive a form from many locations, including the Election Board office, located in the basement of the Kay County Courthouse, Newkirk, as well as tag agencies, public libraries and U.S. Post Offices.

"We're happy to hand them a registration form, and they can go online to fill out the form, print it out and bring it to us, or mail it to us or the state election board," Howard said.

The Kay County Election Board address is P.O. Box 331, Newkirk, OK 74647, and the OSEB is P.O. Box 53156, Oklahoma City, OK, 73512.

Voters who receive a call to register to vote over the phone are asked to contact the election board.

"Please don't give out personal information on the phone to register to vote," Howard said. "If you receive a call like that, please contact the County Election Board, or you can contact the State Election Board."

## Harmony House to hold baked potato fundraiser

By EVERETT BRAZIL III  
The Newkirk Herald Journal

PONCA CITY — Harmony House has long served as a place for people with substance abuse issues to be able to meet and receive help. The organization is now reaching out to the community with a fundraiser to help continue serving Northern Oklahoma.

Harmony House is a 501 © 3 nonprofit organization in Ponca City. A board of directors who maintain the facility governs it.

The organization was created in the 1980s to serve those suffering with substance abuse.

"In the late 1980s, there was a group of Ponca City citizens concerned with a lack of meeting places for 12-step substance abuse people to meet," said Board Treasurer Joe Fowler.

Fowler added that only Alcoholics Anonymous were meeting in Ponca City at the time, but they now include Narcotics Anonymous, and Al-Anon, for family and friends of alcoholics. Citizens soon gathered together to find a meeting place, and funding

donors and supporters through the community.

"They purchased, through funds from individuals and businesses — Conoco, at that time, was the largest donor — the old Salvation Army building," Fowler said. "They renovated it and converted it to a 12-step recovery house, where they can relax."

Today, Harmony House is a meeting place for multiple support groups.

However, Harmony House is not tied to any of the groups, and solely operates the facility.

"The board's purpose is to keep the doors open. The reason we're trying to raise funds is because without the funds, we have to shut the doors," he said.

The board has held many fundraisers, including bowling events in Ponca City, as well as a current event selling beef sticks, which has proven to be profitable, he said.

Supporters will soon have another chance to help the group through an upcoming "Loaded Baked Potato" fundraiser, scheduled from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Oct. 26 in the Fireside Room at Hospice

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## Vaccinations help prevent deadly canine virus

By EVERETT BRAZIL III  
The Newkirk Herald Journal

The fall season has arrived, and for many people, that means a higher risk of influenza infection. For puppies, it means an increased risk of canine parvovirus, a disease that can prove fatal if not treated in time. The good news is that the disease is preventable with vaccines, helping to lead to a long, happy life for the family pet.

"Parvovirus is a virus that affects usually puppies less than a year of age, and it is highly contagious from dog-to-dog, and also from contaminated soil," said Dr. Adam Free, DVM, North Central Veterinary Service, in Newkirk. "Parvovirus is most prevalent in warm, moist conditions — that typically means spring and fall."

Symptoms include fever, lethargy, vomiting and bloody diarrhea.

"These symptoms usually arrive three to six days after exposure," Free said. "If they go to a park and they are sick with parvovirus five days later, that is usually where they got it."

The virus can live in the soil for up

to five years, meaning a puppy can be exposed to the virus, even if the family recently moved to a new property. It can also be found in many areas where dogs tend to congregate, such as parks and grooming facilities.

The disease is typically fatal to infected puppies that are not treated with a vaccination, unless the pet is treated by a veterinarian.

"If it's infected, there is a high fatality rate. Puppies have 85-90 percent survival rate with treatment, which includes IV fluids, antibiotics and special diets," Free said. "The survival rate without treatment is 10 percent, so treatment is important."

If a puppy contracts parvovirus, the animal will be isolated at the veterinary clinic to prevent further spread. Owners must take steps to clean the home of the virus before the puppy returns from the clinic.

"Using a 10-percent bleach-in-water solution, you can mop the floor with it, and the kennel. It'll sterilize hard surfaces, but not the soil," he said. "When you get a new puppy, you should keep

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## NHJ Weather

### UPCOMING WEATHER

Today  
58 45



Sunday  
48 36



Friday  
56 45



Monday  
48 36



Saturday  
61 45



Tuesday  
58 42



Weather Report  
Courtesy of the  
The Weather Channel

Wednesday  
61 45



## Newkirk Chamber to hold 'Monsters on Main Street'

By EVERETT BRAZIL III  
The Newkirk Herald Journal

Halloween is one of the most fun holidays of the year for children, as it allows them an opportunity to dress up in colorful costumes to receive candy and other goodies. The Newkirk Chamber of Commerce is now offering a new opportunity for those kids, through the first "Monsters on Main Street" program from 5 to 7 p.m. Oct. 31 on the north parking lot of the Kay County Courthouse.

The chamber has held costume contests previously, but it is the first year for

the Monsters on Main Street, which also seeks to bring new attention to downtown Newkirk.

"This is our first year, but we've done the costume contest for many years," Chamber president Debbie Leaming said. "We're hoping it'll grow a little bit every year."

The idea behind the event is to offer Halloween at an earlier time to kids on weeknights.

"When Halloween is on a weeknight, the parents have such a limited time — eating dinner, doing homework, so there is not much time for them to have a fun Halloween, so this is one area where the kids can do

a lot of Trick or Treating, and see friends," she said.

Children will be able to visit a number of vehicles in the parking lot, with games and candy available for all. Several groups have already signed on to participate including the Fire Department, City of Newkirk, First United Methodist Church, Newkirk Dental Center and Senior Citizens center.

However, individuals are also invited to participate.

"It is open to anyone that wants to come and hand out candy, especially rural people that don't get children, and miss the experience."

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