Residents in LeFlore County who suffered damage during storms from April 28 through May 2 may be eligible for disaster aid from the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Gov. Mary Fallin announced SBA low-interest disaster loans would be available to homeowners and business owners in Cherokee and Haskell counties to replace storm-damaged property not covered by insurance or other assistance programs. The loan program also is open to businesses that suffered economic injury due to the storm.

Under SBA rules, the contiguous counties of Adair, Delaware, Latimer, LeFlore, Mayes, McIntosh, Muskogee, Pittsburg, Sequoyah and Wagoner are eligible for disaster loans.

Volunteers Pitch In

Busy travel weekend nears
Gasoline prices stable

Drive-through food bank serves 125

Special Olympians Bring Home Awards from State Meet

Countians may be eligible for disaster aid

By Ken Milam
PDN News Editor

Busy travel weekend nears
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By Amanda Corbin
PDN Reporter

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Drive-through food bank serves 125

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The average price for a gallon of gasoline in Oklahoma has remained unchanged for six consecutive days, AAA Oklahoma reports.

Around 125 LeFlore County families were served groceries Tuesday morning by Disabled American Veterans and Panama and Wister student volunteers as part of a drive-through food bank.

“It was a really good turnout,” said Wanda Ludwig of the DA V. Ludwig said there will be another event in the future.

Volunteers from Panama and Winter schools and Disabled American Veterans work Tuesday morning to stock bags for the drive-through food giveaway.

The Poteau Pirate Special Athletes competed in the Special Olympic Oklahoma Summer Games last Wednesday through Friday in Stillwater. Athletes competed in power lifting, bocce and track and field.

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The governor also requested a disaster declaration for public assistance for 18 counties from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. LeFlore County was not included, but neighboring Haskell and Sequoyah counties were. FEMA has not responded. Hutchinson said it was not at $12.7 million in infrastructure damage, according to preliminary reports.

“By the time we've paid all of our expenses and private nonprofit organization expenses, we've got to make up to $2 million to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory and other business assets. SBA can also lend additional funds to businesses and homeowners to help with the cost of improvements to protect, prevent or minimize the same type of disaster damage from occurring in the future,” she said. For small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses owned by disproportionately served minorities and private nonprofit organizations of any size, SBA offers Economic Injury Disaster loan. It can help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster. Economic injury assistance is available regardless of whether the business suffered any property damage.

Statewide, the statistics were 16.8 percent overall food insecurity rate, and 23.8 percent child food insecurity. She said the average cost per meal is $2.80. Most of the food from the giveaway will be distributed locally.

**LOCAL**

Vehicles line up in the Donald W. Reynolds Community Center parking lot and down McKenna Street for the food giveaway.

**Photos by Amanda Corbin**

**AID**

SBA Disaster Loan Outreach Centers are set to open today at Kiita School in Haskell County and Tahlequah Police Department in Cherokee County. The Kinta center will be open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays. Hours at the Tahlequah site will be 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays. Both centers will close June 6 and will be closed on Memorial Day. No appointments are needed.

At least 63 homes and businesses were affected by the storms in Cherokee and Haskell counties, and Fallin requested the SBA declaration on May 16.

**Fish Day**

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**Gas**

"It's kind of funny," said Chuck Mui, spokesman for AAA Oklahoma. "There are a number of factors pushing and pulling gasoline prices right now, but for every one that is putting upward pressure on prices, there's another that is keeping prices low." In LeFlore County, on Monday and Tuesday, Gus Buddy posted these prices:

• Paul's Country Junction (Poteau) $2.89
• E-Z Mart (Tahlequah) $2.89
• Short Stop (Wister) $2.87
• Finish Line (Poteau) $2.89

Local travelers may be hitting the lakes for the Memorial Day weekend and low gas prices may help. The Lake Wister State Park splash pad will open for its season Friday. The splash pad will run from noon to 6 p.m. Thursday and on holidays through Sept. 4. Admission is $2 per vehicle. Children 5 and under are free. Parents or supervising adults also will be free. A snack bar also has been added.

More than 34 Americans will take to the roads for the weekend, AAA said, with 32 million drivers more than last year. AAA said the increase in drivers could also lead to an increase of 7.5 percent in travel over the summer months. Memorial Day travel is from this Thursday through Monday.

Nationwide, 39.3 million total will travel, a 12.1 increase. Of those, 34.6 million will be by car and 2.6 million by air.

"The expected spike in Memorial Day travel mirrors the positive growth seen throughout the travel industry this year," said Mui. "Higher confidence has led to more consumer spending and many of us are putting that extra cash into travel." A AAA said the top ten Memorial Day weekend destinations ranked by travel bookings were Orlando, Fla., Rome, Italy, London, England, Dublin, Ireland, Vancouver, B.C., Las Vegas, Nev., Las Vegas, Nev., New York City, Paris and Honolulu, Hawaii.

**New Choctaw center opens**

**From the Choctaw Nation Special to The PDN**

TALIHNA—Shovels turned on Sept. 27 last year breaking ground for a new Choctaw Nation Community Center in Talihna.

Last Thursday, a ribbon was cut opening the new facility. Choctaw Nation leaders, tribal elders, Talihna officials and residents flew to Talihna to open the ceremony.

"It's an awesome turnout here in Talihna," said Chief Gary Button. "It's for all of our elders," he said of the new center. He gave credit to the Choctaw Tribal Council, saying, "They're the ones who made the deal, the ones who provided not only good meals, but services from social work to community center helpers."

He noted it was the latest of several in construction by the Choctaw Nation.

Located at 201 Dallas St., the new Choctaw Nation Community Center replaces the previous one, which had been at the same downtown site. With the accompanying storage unit, the new construction totals 11,815 square feet.

**POTEAU DAILY NEWS**

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**FOOD**

scholarships, and encouraged schools to get involved. Ludwig said it more than the scholarships volunteers hours. The students, she said, "learn to be humble." Volunteer Tonika Smith, 19, agreed.

"It just feels great giving back," she said. Smith manned the bell pepper station, where she lifted bags into vehicles one, two and even three bags at a time. Volunteers worked together to fill vehicles and received several "thank yous" in return for their time.

"There's definitely more we can do — more volunteering," Smith said. She said she became involved because her father, Jeff Smith, is a 20-year Marine vet and active with the DA V. "I've always liked helping out the community," she said.

In 2016, the Community Food Bank distributed 461,298 meals in Flow County. The bank reported LeFlore County's efforts were 7.9 percent food insecurity rate and having 15.1 percent of seniors living in poverty.

"It just feels great giving back," Smith said. She said she became involved because her father, Jeff Smith, is a 20-year Marine vet and active with the DA V. "I've always liked helping out the community," she said.
Outstanding CASC students recognized

An end of year faculty-student appreciation luncheon was held at the Carl Albert State College campus as the semester came to an end in May. At the event, the CASC faculty took the opportunity to recognize outstanding students from various academic areas for the 2016-2017 academic year.

The academic areas and the students honored at the event included:

- Business — Breanna Sampson
- Computer Science — Justin Towner
- Child Development — Ciera Rice
- Allied Health — Sydni Austin
- Social Science — Amanda Moore
- General Studies — Grace Mangrum
- Sociology - Psychology — Jaylyn Holloway
- Biological and Pre-Professional Sciences — Luca Marinoni
- Math - Physical Science Pre-engineering — Plainfield Bland
- Nursing — Daniel Jacobs
- Occupation Health and Safety — Rob Gillespie

The students honored at the 2017 academic year included:

- William Pendergrass, a U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class from Poteau.
- Ciera Rice, a graduate of Cookeville High School, Cookeville, Tenn.
- Brickason Loftis is the grand-daughter of Irene M. Loftis of Poteau. She is a 2017 graduate of Cookeville Area Community College.
- The airman completed an extensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness and basic warfare principles and skills.

Pictured are some, but not all, of the recognized students receiving congratulations from their academic areas.


Loftis is the grand-daughter of Irene M. Loftis of Poteau. She is a 2017 graduate of Cookeville Area Community College.

Each puzzle is divided into nine sections and each section has nine blank squares. Fill in all 81 squares in the puzzle with numbers 1-9. You may not repeat any numbers in any row or column, nor in any of the nine sections that you've already filled in that share a side with this section. Also, you can use each number 1-9 only once in the academic areas of nine squares and in each vertical and horizontal nine squares.

Solution to May 23 puzzle

The family will visit with relatives and friends from 6-8 p.m. Friday at Evans and Miller Funeral Home, officiating. Burial will be in Ellis Chapel Cemetery, Wister.

The family will visit with relatives and friends from 6-8 p.m. Friday at Evans and Miller Funeral Home, Poteau.

William Ellis Pendergrass

William Ellis “Buck” Pendergrass, 66, of Poteau passed away Sunday, May 21, 2017, in Poteau. He was born March 25, 1951, at Poteau to William and Lois (Collier) Pendergrass. He was a heavy equipment operator.

He was preceded in death by his parents; beloved wife, Kathy Pendergrass, a son, Donnie Pendergrass; and a sister, Betty Johnson.

Survivors include two sons, Robert Pendergrass of the home and Mark and wife Carla Crenshaw of Spiro; three daughters, Christine Fountain and husband Deswey of Rock Island, Texas; Doree Dora of Poteau, Angela Cox and husband Shane of Cameron; a brother, Delk Pendergrass and with Partner Patricia; three sisters, Linda Bundy of Poteau, Lougal Stewart and husband James and Jurl Reynolds all of Fort Smith, Ark.; 19 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren; a host of other family members, friends, and loved ones.

A memorial service will be held at 4 p.m. Saturday, May 27, at 18164 Cow Shed Crossing Road, Spiro. Arbor Manor Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Obituary

Denver Dickson


Services will be held at 3 p.m. Saturday, May 27, at Church of God Seventh Day in Wister with Don Martin officiating. Burial will be in Ellis Chapel Cemetery, Wister.

The family will visit with relatives and friends from 6-8 p.m. Friday at Evans and Miller Funeral Home, Poteau.

The storm system will produce heavy rain and thunderstorms after 1 p.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 67. South wind 5-10 mph.

Winds could gust as high as 20 mph.

5-10 mph increasing to 10-15 mph in the afternoon.

Winds could gust as high as 20 mph.

Partly cloudy, with a low around 65. South wind 5-10 mph.

Partly cloudy, with a low around 59. North wind 5-10 mph.

Partly cloudy, with a low near 48. South wind 5-10 mph.

Partly cloudy, with a low near 80. South wind 10-15 mph.

Partly cloudy, with a low near 84. South wind 5-10 mph.

Saturday Night — Showers and thunderstorms likely. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 66. Southwest wind 5-10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60 percent.

Sunday — A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near 81. North wind 5-10 mph.

Sunday Night — Partly cloudy, with a low around 59.

North wind around 5 mph becoming calm in the evening.

Memorial Day — Mostly sunny, with a high near 84.

West wind around 5 mph.

The National Weather Service / Tulsa — Mostly clear, with a low around 57. North wind 5-10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60 percent.

Mostly cloudy, with a low around 58. Southwest wind around 10 mph.

Thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 89. South wind 5-10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60 percent.

Friday Night — Partly cloudy, with a low near 64. Southwest wind 5-10 mph.

Last chance: 5 p.m. Tuesday, June 20.
Last week I had the opportunity to attend the 2017 Oklahoma Special Olympics Summer Games. While this was my first trip to the games, I was amazed by the experience it was. It was something that I hope I have a chance to attend many more times throughout the years. We got to脆 Special Olympics a couple years ago and we were looking for something for Kenon to do get him out of the house and away from the electronics. My wife, Jones, and I kind of fell into the soccer program with the Oklahoma Special Olympics. Tanna and Randy Weaver, along with Barbara and Trudy, were as good to him and made sure that he got the chance to go out on the field and off the field.

We saw their compassion for the athletes, their desire to see the first glimpse into what it's like to be involved in Special Olympics, and they were both very supportive of the decision. It's been a big learning experience so far to help with paper work, and even great advice during our first trip to the State Games. I was looking forward to the running because I know that all of our athletes would do well, but mother nature had other plans, and because of the storms they were unable to spread their wings.

However, one of the best decisions was this competition is about happened in a very small gymnasium in a small stadium when we were waiting for the rains to pass. It was a great trip even though we didn't compete with all of us, and we didn't decide to cut. The moment they went.

We came home with two gold medals (Komer), a fifth and a sixth place ribbon in the softball throw competition. I was looking forward to the running because I know that all of our athletes would do well, but mother nature had other plans, and because of the storms they were unable to spread their wings.

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Silenced, scared or cooked in your favor- ite recipe; tomatoes are a favorite and versatile vegetable. What’s more, they taste best when grown and harvested in your own garden or orchard.

Choose tomato varieties suited to your needs

By Melinda Myers

Stephen Strasburg gave the Washington Nationals all he had, but the 28-year-old right-hander was out-dueled by Michael Pineda of the Yankees on Wednesday in Detroit.

The game was 9-9 through nine innings at Comerica Park.

"It was fun," said Pineda, who had three strikeouts and one walk in nine innings. "It means a lot," he said. "I didn't know that ball was fair or foul, but [Ryan Zimmerman] is the one that makes the call, so I just move on."

"I feel bad for [Ryan] because you'd hate for him to do something like that again," Baker said. "It's the fourth time this season he's been brushed back, so I don't know if it's fair or foul, but it was fair."
TODAY’S BIRTHDAYS: Queen Victoria (1819-1901), British monarch; H.B. Reese (1879-1956), candy maker; Tommy Cheng (1915- ), actor/semiologist; Bob Dylan (1941- ), singer-songwriter; Patricia Polansky (1945- ), actress; James Braidwood (1949- ), actor; Kristin Scott Thomas (1960- ), actress; Michael Chabon (1963- ), author; John C. Reilly (1965- ), actor; Ivo Lopez (1960- ), sax & clarinet player.

DEAR HARRIETTE: A friend of mine and I were both part of the main clique of friends, but the other is now part of another friend group. When my friend mentioned it to me, I thought she would, because she does not need to lose weight. A few days later, I walked into her house and there were sticky notes on the food cabinets and the refrigerator. One of them said, “Do not eat unless you are hungry.” The other one said, “Are you hungry?” I tried to act as if everything was normal, but I knew she was under pressure, they decided to lie about what she is doing. Is this normal? My friend always tells me to stop eating or not to try stopping because she is mean. I am sure of my best friends, and I want to keep our relationship, but I don’t know how this can be done. Personal gains made. A proper approach will help you achieve your goal. Don’t lose time now, please. You can do the work yourself.

DEAR BARBETTE: Two of my friends are very close. One of them is in another friend group. It is hard for me to keep a friendship with her. If your other friends call you about someone whom you consider a friend, let them be. Look at them over to welcome your friend, but tell them over to welcome your other friend if you are not a doctor, and neither is your appearance and demeanor important. A physical from a medical professional can be more important than you. It is OK for you to be part of more than one friend group and you can do it without advertising to others. How are you going to handle this? Are you going to handle this? You can stop talking about her. If you talk about someone who is not interested in you, it is not going to help. If you talk about someone who is not interested in you, it is not going to help. If you talk about someone who is not interested in you, it is not going to help. If you talk about someone who is not interested in you, it is not going to help. If you talk about someone who is not interested in you, it is not going to help.