

FREE



The All About HENNESSEY POST

Volume 6 • Number 12 • Wednesday, March 22, 2023

A NEW LOOK ON MAIN ST NEW VISITOR SIGNAGE

Several months ago Sara Fisher was ready for a change, something to freshen up the front of her Family Café. As part of the Discover Hennessey program created by All About Hennessey, she got a new storefront designed. Step one was to paint the building, install the sign, and now the red and black awning. The Hennessey Metal Buildings crew spent today installing the new awning on the front of the café. The final step will be graphics for the windows. Stay tuned for the final look coming soon!



If you have been on Main St. in the last few days you may have noticed the new QR Code signs. These new interactive signs are designed to allow anyone to quickly see where to EAT, SHOP, ENJOY, or STAY in Hennessey. The system is designed for visitors but can be used by anyone needing information. Scanning the QR Code with your phone takes you to the Discover Hennessey website page where you can find details on any of the categories. This includes all of the restaurants, shops, and things to do in Hennessey. There is also an interactive map of where all of these businesses are located.

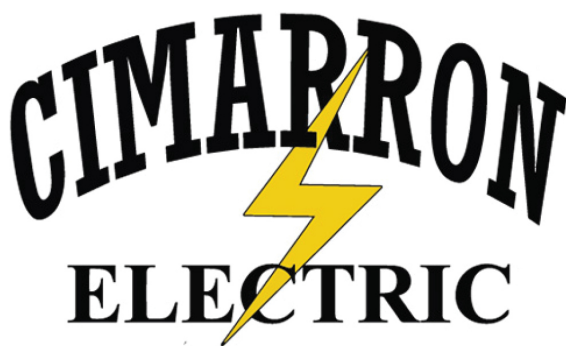
In the next few days, these signs will be placed at all of the athletic fields, the Eagle Event Center, and all of the town parks. All About Hennessey will work with event planners and make businesses aware of when an influx of visitors will be in town so they can plan to be open.

There is also a small, ticket-like paper version of this QR Code that will be handed out at events to further reinforce that Hennessey welcomes visitors and we are open for business. Discover Hennessey is part of the partnership between All About Hennessey and the Town of Hennessey to create a welcoming environment for visitors to our town. According to the Department of Commerce, the average visitor will spend \$91 per day on food, gas, and miscellaneous items. This increases to over \$200 if they spend the night. It is estimated that last week's HHS baseball tournament brought in over 1000 visitors and last year's car show brought over 2,000 to our town.

The next time you spot one of the new Discover Hennessey QR Code signs check it out!

This paper

Cimarron Electric Cooperative is an electricity cooperative. The largest county serviced by Cimarron Electric Cooperative is Canadian County, but the company also provides electricity in 8 counties in the state of Oklahoma. The company last reported a total of 18,029 customers, 14,012 of which are residential accounts, 4,008 are commercial customers and 9 of which are industrial properties.



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Cimarron Electric Coop

19306 US-81 N, Kingfisher, OK 73750
405-375-4121 • www.cimarronelectric.com

-HENNESSEY'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER-

77 YEAR OLD OKLAHOMA FAMILY COMPANY ANNOUNCES NAME CHANGE; COMBINES TWO SISTER COMPANIES UNDER NEW NAME & BRANDING; NEW FAMILY LEADERSHIP ANNOUNCED

Hennessey, OK – March 21, 2023 – Longtime sister companies Thurmond McGlothlin and Energy Meter Systems announced that they have combined under a new name, Thurmond, and have launched a rebranding campaign. Ken Hudgeons has been named Chairman, and Hudgeons' two sons, Trevor Hudgeons and Chris Mitchel, have been named Co-CEOs. Thurmond McGlothlin has been in continuous operation since 1946, and Energy Meter Systems was founded in 1985. The company provides comprehensive field services and manufactured equipment to the natural gas measurement industry.



"This is an exciting day for our family company," said Ken Hudgeons, Chairman. "By uniting our two companies and simplifying our name and branding, we are able to provide more shared value for our customers, streamline operations for our suppliers and partners, and establish a renewed focus for our 70+ employees."

"Our goal is to position Thurmond as a one stop shop for natural gas measurement services and products," said Trevor Hudgeons, Co-CEO. "Our combined company gives us a strategic edge that allows us to better serve our customers and provides greater opportunities for enhanced service and product offerings down the road."

"A lot of visible changes will take place in the marketplace with our new name and branding, but there are some things that will never change," added Chris Mitchel, Co CEO. "Our 75+ years of expertise and experience in natural gas measurement and manufacturing; our exemplary safety record; and the high quality, hardworking and talented team of employees we have across our six offices in Oklahoma and Texas."

Since 1946, Thurmond has been a leader in the natural gas measurement industry, manufacturing meter runs and custom instrumentation buildings, and providing full-service measurement and turnkey solutions to the natural gas industry, from the well head to the sales point.

Thurmond's new website is available at www.ThurmondGas.com. To view a video about the company's 77 year history and a Q&A about the company's name change and re-branding, visit <http://www.youtube.com/@thurmondgas>.



JOIN THE A-TEAM

All About Hennessey is working to create an Ambassador Team that will help with events and other activities such as the Car Show, Wine Festival, Christmas, and the 4th of July. Tasks would include set-up and tear-down, traffic direction, helping visitors with Information as well as beautification tasks. This will be part of the new Discover Hennessey program that creates a positive environment for visitors. If you are interested please contact Jack@KJFilmWorks.com

GETTING THE JOB DONE
No matter how hard the job is,
Hennessey Septic can get it done right!



Eric Smith 405-853-1367
Preston Smith 405-853-1398
Auston Smith 405-853-1362

800 N Mitchell Rd, Hennessey



Obituaries

Mike Blaser

The funeral for Mike Blaser, 76 will be at 1:00 PM Thursday March 23, 2023 at Hennessey High School Auditorium officiated by Jimmy Berkenbile. Burial will follow at Garber Cemetery under the direction of Cordry-Gritz Funeral Home.

Mike was born in Enid on July 9, 1946 to Freddie C. and Irene Rose Blaser and died Saturday March 18, 2023 at OU Medical Center in Oklahoma City.

Mike married Rita Brimm in Oklahoma City May 25, 1968.

Mike coached fifth and sixth grade peewee football in Hennessey for thirty-two years. He took great

pride in the kids he coached. He was known for The Big Hit Award where he bought his players a Snickers bar and a Coke when they made a big hit on the field.

He was also well known for his giving and generosity. Many children called him the "M&M Man" because he would buy M&M's for children at every game he attended whether he knew the child or not.

Mike is survived by his wife Rita of the home; two sons Kyle Blaser and wife Krista of Edmond, Benny Blaser and wife Karen of Scroggins, Texas; one daughter Chelli Rapp and husband Chris of Hennessey; six grandchildren Blake, Carson, and Chase Blaser, Ashton, Kaden, and Kalli Rapp; two sisters Vicki Brown and husband David, Vonda Benton, one brother Fred Blaser and wife Cindy, all of Enid.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made in Mike's name to Forgotten Ministries with the funeral home serving as custodian of the fund.



Glenda Marsh

Graveside services for Glenda Marsh, 76 will be at 1:00 PM Wednesday March 22, 2023

at Hennessey Cemetery Pavilion officiated by Rev. Gene Moore. Arrangements are by Cordry-Gritz Funeral Home.

Glenda was born in Purcell on August 13, 1946 to E. J. and Irene Coward Brooks and died Friday March 17, 2023 at her home southwest of Hennessey.

She married John D. Marsh in Hennessey on September 18, 1965.

Glenda is survived by one daughter Cheri Hardin of Hennessey; two brothers Charley Brooks of Kingston, Paul Brooks and wife Pat of Enid; one sister-in-law Mary Ellyson and husband Winston of Hennessey.

Glenda was preceded in death by her parents, her husband John Marsh, one brother David Brooks, and her son-in-law Tracy Hardin.

Memorial donations may be made in her name to Hospice Circle of Love with the funeral home serving as custodian of the fund.

March 25th!
Last Breakfast until winter

Breakfast at
Gail's
GRILL

210 S Main St
Hennessey, OK 73742
405-853-9947



Start your day with a
delicious breakfast from Gail's Grill
BREAKFAST SERVED 6:30 - 10:30 a.m.



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VOTE FOR BERT GRITZ

EXPERIENCE IS VITAL

EXPERIENCE is necessary now more than ever. Three members of the Town Board are up for election. Of the two that are not up for election, the longest-serving member has been on the board for two years. With our town administrator position being vacant, it is vital to keep someone on the board with experience in dealing with municipal finance and legalities. When the Town Administrator position has been filled this EXPERIENCE will be critical in bringing this new person up to speed quickly.

EXPERIENCE: Bert Gritz served on the Town Board from 1979-1983. At 22 he was the youngest person to ever hold town office. He was elected Mayor in 1981, the youngest in Oklahoma. He ran again in 2003 and has served since that time.

Hennessey has a financial reserve of nearly \$5,000,000.00 which is very unusual for a town our size. We need to keep a budget-conscious person on the board who watches spending and understands the inner workings of local government.

Bert Gritz has been a member of the volunteer fire department for 45 years, and understands the importance of serving the community.

Bert Gritz has owned and successfully operated small businesses all his adult life understanding the inner workings of running a business and finance.

Bert Gritz graduated from Hennessey High School in 1975, earned a Bachelor of Science from University of Central Oklahoma in 1999, and a Master of Education Degree from Oklahoma City University in 2018.

On Tuesday, April 4th vote for EXPERIENCE. Vote for Bert Gritz.

Bert Gritz will be offering free rides to the polls April 4th from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM. Call (405) 853-5106 for a ride.

Approved and Paid for by Bert Gritz



POLICE REPORT MARCH 13-20

| | | |
|---|----------|--|
| Failure to Stop at Stop Sign | \$197.00 | Fonsecagarcia, Rosalio of Enid, OK |
| Speeding 11-15 Over | \$212.00 | Werdel, Brock Allen of Edmond, OK |
| Speeding 11-15 Over | \$212.00 | Kokojan, Ben Robert of Hinton, OK |
| Expired Tag/Failure to Pay Taxes Due to State | \$265.00 | Buxton, William Wilcox of Oklahoma City, OK |
| Speeding 11-15 Over | \$212.00 | Rodriguez Trejo, Jesus of Norman, OK |
| Speeding 1-10 Over | \$185.00 | Shutler, Karma Elise of Enid, OK |
| Speeding 1-10 Over | \$185.00 | Calzadillas, Salem of Hennessey, OK |
| Speeding 1-10 Over | \$185.00 | Hoogendoorn, Jeremy Scott of Blackwell, OK |
| Speeding 16-20 Over | \$227.00 | Green, Mallory McKenzie of Enid, OK |
| Speeding 11-15 Over | \$212.00 | Rodriguez, Julio Cezar of Enid, OK |
| Speeding 16-20 Over | \$227.00 | Lara, Trystan Paige of Hennessey, OK |
| Speeding 11-15 Over | \$212.00 | Arney, Angela Sue of Clinton, OK |
| Speeding 1-10 Over | \$185.00 | Kasper, Cammey Lee of Enid, OK |
| Speeding 11-15 Over | \$212.00 | Woods, Todd Ryan of Perry, OK |
| Speeding 16-20 Over | \$227.00 | Allison, Antonio of Chicago, IL |
| Speeding 1-10 Over | \$185.00 | Oruna, Juan Albert of Enid, OK |
| Speeding 11-15 Over | \$212.00 | Duncan, Mary Elizabeth of Enid, OK |
| Speeding 1-10 Over | \$185.00 | Jones, Haley Cheyenne, Demille of Enid, OK |
| Expired Tag/Failure to Pay Taxes Due to State | \$265.00 | Lara, Karlyee Ann-Marie of Guthrie, OK |
| Speeding 11-15 Over | \$212.00 | Dirksen, Micha Rose of Kingfisher, OK |
| Speeding 11-15 Over | \$212.00 | Montenegroestrada, Jose Alfredo of Compton, CA |

INCIDENTS

03/14/23 - Theft
03/19/23 - Report of fire. Control burn

HHS BASEBALL TOURNAMENT

With the opening week of the 2023 Hennessey High School Baseball season pushed back ten days due to the State Tournament Playoff run by HHS Boys Basketball, the Baseball Eagles came out swinging in the opener against the Garber Wolverines in the Pioneer Festival at Pioneer-Pleasant Vale High School. After giving up 2 runs in the top of the first inning, one earned, one unearned, Eagles starter Jakob Johns settled in and pitched all three innings, giving up only 1 hit and 1 walk, striking out 6 Wolverines, doing his part in getting the Eagles a 12-2 run-rule win. Sophomore 2nd baseman Westyn Hopkins led the Eagles at the plate, going 2 for 3 with 1 RBI and 2 runs scored. Every Eagle starter scored at least one run, reaching base on 5 Hits, 5 Walks, 1 Hit by Pitch, and 4 Garber Errors, while testing the Wolverine catcher with 10 Stolen Bases on 10 attempts. The biggest hit of the game came when Senior Designated Hitter Regan Sturgill's bases loaded, bases clearing double broke the game open, pushing the Eagles to an 8 run bottom of the first, kicking off the 2023 baseball season with a bang.



Game #2 for the Eagles in the Pioneer Festival was also the 2023 baseball home opener, as the Festival sites are split between Drummond, Pioneer, and Hennessey. The weather for the noon start versus the Stonewall Longhorns was cold yet sunny, as the Eagles started hot as their first three hitters reached base, with Seth Simunek leading off his second consecutive game with a Hit Batsman, and Westyn Hopkins and Hunter Weber getting on via walks. Things quickly cooled off from there as the Longhorns starting pitcher struck out 3 straight Eagles to end the first inning threat without allowing a run. Zeros covered the scoreboard for the first 4 ½ innings, as both teams threatened, but none scored until the bottom of the 5th. Simunek lead off the 5th with an infield hit to 3rd. Seth steals 2nd then 3rd on consecutive pitches. After Westyn Hopkins walks, the Stonewall pitcher executes a "3rd to 1st" pickoff attempt. Hopkins is ruled safe at 2nd, his second SB in two games, as Simunek slides across home plate for the first run of the ballgame. Langston Smith adds a run with an RBI single just inside the 3rd base bag. Freshman Jarrett Smith bags his first base hit and first RBI as a Varsity Eagle two batters later, before Regan Sturgill plates two more on an 0-2 pop up that settles in no-man's-land behind 1st base, giving the Senior DH 5 RBI in the first two games of the season. With the bases loaded, Hopkins walks for the second time in the inning, forcing Jarrett Smith home to seal the run-rule victory 6-0 over Stonewall.



Games 3 and 4 of the Pioneer Mustang Festival did not fare as well for the Eagles. After committing only one error in the first two games combined, Eagles' defense fumbled away nine fielding/throwing opportunities in the 19-4 run-rule loss on Friday night to the Class 4A Dewey Bulldoggers. Eagles' batters also struck out nine times in five innings, overshadowing the 3 for 3 Varsity hitting debut of Freshman Catcher Hayden Hubbard. Hubbard also scored one run and added one RBI. Fellow frosh Jarrett Smith went 2 for 2, with one walk and one run scored from the plate, while giving up three hits, three walks, and six runs (only 2 earned runs), striking out three in his first pitching start of the season. With the top 2/3 of the lineup going a combined 1 for 11, and the pitching staff giving up 12 walks and 7 total hits, with 19 runs (10 unearned) given up, the Eagles were as cold as the late-winter air in their loss.

Cold bats and iron gloves on a frigid Saturday evening led to the Eagles'



downfall in the final game of the weekend festival, with Hennessey mustering only one hit - a 2 out, 2 RBI single in the first inning by Sebastian Gonzalez, while walking 7 batters and committing 5 errors on defense, gifting the host Pioneer Mustangs the 10-2 win to wrap up the week. Regan Sturgill got the start, giving up only three hits, striking out six Mustangs. Of the 10 runs scored, only 3 were earned.

The Eagles, now 2-2 on the season, begin District play Monday night at the Chisholm Longhorns.

Story by Eaglevoice, Photos by Kenda Copeland

SHREK
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AND THE BOOK BY WILLIAM STEIG

BOOK AND LYRICS BY
DAVID LINDSAY-ABAIRE

MUSIC BY
JEANINE TESORI

ORIGINALLY PRODUCED ON BROADWAY BY DREAMWORKS THEATRICALS AND
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ORIGINAL PRODUCTION DIRECTED BY JASON MOORE AND ROB ASHFORD
"I'M A BELIEVER" BY NEIL DIAMOND

PERFORMANCE DATES:
MARCH 24TH & 25TH, 7PM

MARCH 26TH, 2PM
TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR ONLY

TICKETS:
ADULTS- \$12
STUDENTS-\$8
3 AND UNDER FREE

Hennessey Fire Department

OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, April 1st
5:00 - 7:30 PM

MEAL BY DONATION

PRESENTED BY **Cruisin' Oklahoma**

CRUIS'N OKLAHOMA
HENNESSEY EDITION

EVENTS

April 23, 2023 12 - 6pm

Burnout Box • 12- 5pm East end of W. First Street Parking lot.

Dyno Pulls • D&G Dyno Tune D&G Auto 301 S Main • Horsepower & Torque pulling numbers. Register at 9am - First come first serve pulls from 10-5pm 3 pulls for \$50 - gasoline only no diesel, no wideband and data logging , no tuning.

ATV & UTV Barrel Racing • North of Dollar General on N Main signed waiver, license and helmet required

ATV Racing kids 13-17 • signed waiver & helmet required.

ATV Racing kids 13-17 • Signed waiver & helmet required.

Drifting Ride Along North of Dollar General

Helicopter Rides • 12-6pm North of Dollar General \$40 per person

Music • Enjoy Matthew Streck at Memorial Park

Food and Shopping • All Hennessey locally owned Restaurants and shops will be open during this event. (no food trucks will be allowed)

Stuff for Kids • Bouncy Houses and an exotic petting zoo by A to Z Therapeutic Petting Zoo at Interbank parking lot

FOLLOW THE SIGNS FOR SPECTATOR - CRUISER PARKING
LOOK FOR FEATHER FLAG FOR PARTICIPATING LOCATIONS



CARS



ATV/UTV



MUCH MORE

Easter Sunrise Service

April 9 7:00 AM

First Christian Church
500 E 3rd Street, Hennessey

All denominations Welcome

UPCOMING EVENTS



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At Bullfoot Park

8
APRIL

EASTER
EGG
HUNT

ALL AGE GROUPS

START AT
12 PM SHARP

Parking at Dollar Yard
South of Bullfoot Park

ECC Art Show

April 6, 2023

Outdoor Classroom

5:30-7:30 pm.

Food, Music, and Art Creation Stations!

Upcoming events

Wednesday, March 22

Boys Golf @ Enid

10 – 11am Littlest Patron Playtime 23

Thursday, March 23

JH Baseball Kingfisher Tournament (Day 1/3)

HS Softball Hennessey Tournament (Day 1/2)

All-Area Honor Band (5th/6th grade)

Girls Golf @ Enid

9am – 2pm Pre-K Enrollment (Last name N-Z)

9:45am – 3pm 5th/6th Track @ Thomas

12 – 1pm Lions Club Meeting at Family Cafe

Friday, March 24

JH Baseball Kingfisher Tournament (Day 2/3)

HS Softball Hennessey Tournament (Day 2/2)

Shrek Jr. Musical (Day 1/3)

Speech & Debate Regional Tournament (Day 1/2)

ECC/Elementary Volunteer Luncheon

4 – 8pm HS Baseball vs Garber/Frontier @ Garber

Saturday, March 25

JH Baseball Kingfisher Tournament (Day 3/3)

Shrek Jr. Musical (Day 2/3)

Speech & Debate Regional Tournament (Day 2/2)

9:45am – 4pm JH/HS Track @ Thomas

Sunday, March 26

Shrek Jr. Musical (Day 3/3)

Monday, March 27

4:30 – 6:30pm JH Baseball vs Dover (Home)

4:30 – 5:30pm JH Softball vs Frontier (A)

5 – 8pm HS Baseball vs Alva (A)

5:30 – 6:30pm HS Softball vs Frontier (A)

Tuesday, March 28

FFA - Redlands Livestock Judging Contest - El Reno

OSSAA State Band Contest

4 – 5pm Teen Funtivities Club Public Library

4:30 – 5:30pm JH Softball vs Glencoe (A)

5:30 – 6:30pm HS Softball vs Glencoe (A)

5:30 – 6:30pm NOC Concurrent Enrollment

Parent/Student Night

-HENNESSEY'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER-

HENNESSEY LISTINGS

HENNESSEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS HIRING FOR

Middle School Art Teacher
Middle School Language Arts
Middle/High School Special Education
Teacher
High School Science Teacher
High School Computer Teacher
High School English Teacher
Certified Athletic Trainer
Substitute Teacher
ELL Paraprofessional
Bus Driver
visit https://www.hps.k12.ok.us/54031_1

HENNESSEY NURSING AND REHAB IS NOW HIRING FOR

WANTED - DIETARY HELP NEEDED. FULL-TIME
COOK. \$10/HOUR. HOURS VARY. NO NIGHTS.
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405-853-4390 705 East 3rd, Hennessey

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Is now hiring ALL SHIFTS / ALL
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HIRING EXPERIENCED HOT OILER OPERATOR OR PUMP TRUCK OPERATING THAT HAS HAZMAT WILLING TO LEARN

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after 6 months • 80 Hours paid time off
after 1 year
Overtime pay after 40. • Double pay on
major holidays • Last Operator was on
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We have 1 spot open in trailer houses.
1 Camper spot available Job Type: Full-
time

Pay: \$26.00 - \$27.00 per hour
Benefits: 401(k) 401(k) matching •
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Paid time off
Vision insurance
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To Apply in Person
6388 N 2860 Rd Hennessey Ok

Carter Chevrolet

Now Hiring - Fleet Administrative Assistant

Daily duties include assisting the fleet sales team with various tasks including but not limited to: tracking vehicle status • updating (inputting) computer software with the status information • submitting data on various suppliers websites • Receiving in parts on purchase orders • Closing completed work orders or jobs in company computer software

Looking for a self-driven, motivated person with great attention to detail. This position does work with others on the team and a friendly, positive work ethic is important. On the job training is provided. Previous work in Microsoft Excel and Word is beneficial. There are opportunities to grow within the company and learn additional tasks. This job is from 8 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday with a 1 hour lunch break from 12-1 pm. 6 paid holidays are included for full-time employees and vacation benefits are provided as they are earned. Health and dental insurance are available and optional. All inquiries to trobenson@carterchev.biz

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Have something for the paper? contact
angie@kjfilmworks.com

THE ALL ABOUT HENNESSEY POST
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BY KJ FILMWORKS
AT PO BOX 332
HENNESSEY, OKLAHOMA 73742

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The All About Hennessey POST

-HENNESSEY'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER-



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RedLeve
DANCE STUDIO



*Congratulations to the
New RedLeve Dance Team*

The Hennessey dance studio's new dance team will compete for the first time in Oklahoma City in April with six dancers ages 7-10.



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Open Mon-Fri: 8:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. • Sat: 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.



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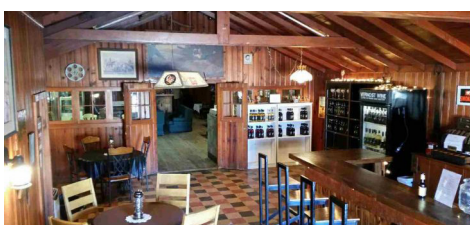
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Vernost Winery
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VOTE FOR A BRIGHTER HENNESSEY FUTURE! ELECT SIMUNEK HENNESSEY TOWN COUNCIL

Hennessey's small town budget makes it extremely difficult to maintain existing amenities. Improving or adding amenities is almost impossible. How small is Hennessey's budget? Hennessey sales tax collections are about 50% less per citizen as compared to Kingfisher. If Hennessey is to maintain and add amenities, it must be thru grants and legacy giving programs. There is no alternative. Grants involve long range planning. Priorities are established and the grant submission is made in advance of the needed project. Hennessey's great mistake, a mistake that has existed over decades, is not pursuing grants. This has cost Hennessey not thousands and thousands of dollars but hundreds of thousands of dollars. Let's go thru some examples. Hennessey has installed automatic reading water meters, a project costing about \$500,000. The Hennessey Town Council never applied for available grants to pay for them. But several small towns have thru the Northern Oklahoma Development Authority (NODA).

Canton, a small town of 400, applied for and received a grant of \$272,000 for street improvement thru NODA. Hennessey has never applied for a street improvement grant.

The Hennessey Town Council just approved \$175,000 to install a new storm warning siren system. I voted for it as the sirens are very old and need to be replaced now. But if the Town Council did long term planning, a grant request could have been submitted to FEMA's Warning Sirens and Systems Grant Program to pay for the new storm siren system.



Residents Voice Flooding Frustrations in Hennessey, Kingfisher Times and Free Press, June 16, 2019.

Then there is Hennessey's water drainage issue, an issue that has existed apparently for decades but nothing done to correct the problem. Frustrated and angry Hennessey citizens appeared at the June 2019 Town Council meeting voicing their complaints. This was my second town council meeting as a town council member. The next day I called Kingfisher Manager David Sleziekey and asked for help. Kingfisher has been applying and receiving grants worth millions to solve their flooding problems. David told me to start with the Northern Oklahoma Development Authority (NODA). So I did.

It was there I learned that all these grants were available but the Hennessey Town Council was not applying for them. From there, I raised the question in town council meetings why we were not applying for grants? The town council sessions were taped and the information made available to all Hennessey citizens. My intention was to create public pressure to apply for NODA grants to fix the drainage problem. It worked.

I have strongly advocated securing grants as a Town Council member. As a result, Hennessey has received three REAP Grants totaling \$237,800 and two CDBG grants totaling \$450,000 in a three year period. The REAP and CDBG grants total \$687,800. The two CDBG grants of \$450,000 have gone for the drainage problems. The three REAP grants have gone to water line rehabilitation and replacement. REAP and CDBG grants applications are submitted and approved thru NODA.

How much money has Hennessey's Town Council left on the table? It is hard to say. No one knows what will happen in the future. Getting a grant is not an automatic and the competition is fierce. But what we can say is the Hennessey Town Council has left not thousands and thousands of dollars on the table, but hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The basic problem is that Town Council members do not attend the community development programs and workshops sponsored by such organizations as NODA, the Oklahoma Municipal League, and the state government of Oklahoma. Because Hennessey Town Council members do not attend these informational programs and workshops, they do not know what is available.



Hennessey citizens attend town council meeting demanding the preservation of the Hennessey Library and Museum.

In his letter to the Editor in the Hennessey Post, Mayor Bert Gritz states "I have not attended grant writing classes nor would I expect any present or future Town Trustee to do so. This is simply not our job." I would like to comment on Bert's statements.

If Bert attended a grant workshop, he would discover that it is attended by Mayors, Town Council members, town employees, and volunteers. The reason the water drainage problem has existed for decades in Hennessey is that Town Council members were not aware that there were grants available to pay for the improvements needed. As an aside, these are not grant writing classes. Rather, they are informational programs discussing the grants available that can help small towns like Hennessey. How can one criticize a grant informational class that they know nothing about and have never attended?

Hennessey has one of the worst and most expensive Town Councils in the state of Oklahoma for three reasons.

One, the Town Council has historically not pursued grants. I would like to "institutionalize" a framework ensuring that Hennessey consistently applies for available grants. This can be simply done. First, require the Town Council to issue an annual report of grants applied for and received. Second, the salary of the Town Administrator needs to be set up with a base salary plus bonuses. The bonus would (among other factors) be determined by the grants applied for.

Two, I know of no other town council so intent on tearing down its main street and historical buildings. The east side of North Main was torn down in order to put in a huge bank parking lot. Then, thru bank consolidations, much of the bank's work was transferred out of Hennessey. Employees processing checks and bank statements were transferred or laid off. That huge bank parking lot was not needed. Contrast that to Main Street's busiest building, the Post Office. There are four street parking spaces on the west side and five street spaces on the south side including a handicap space. There are no parking issues for the Post Office.

One cannot anticipate the future. So don't tear down historic buildings because the future may not turn out as envisioned. Instead, reconfigure the interior of existing historic buildings. Preservationists pound and pound on this issue.

Pioneer woman Doctor Sturgeon's historic medical office building was almost torn down. The old horse stable was almost torn down. I asked the Town Council not to tear down these buildings for a parking lot. These two buildings are now part of Prairie Quilt generating sales tax for Hennessey. Have you seen Main Street lately? Parking is not an issue.

And our legacy is at risk because the Town Council has not developed a plan to maintain the old High School building and the library, museum, war memorial, and archives contained within it. The Town Council took possession of the buildings in 1983, four decades ago, and has done nothing. Something as simple as gutters have not been maintained which has caused interior flooding and mold damage.

Third, the Town Council is lethargic and hostile to change. In terms of community development, the two greatest recent accomplishments were solving the water drainage problem and establishing a framework to preserve the old high school building, auditorium, and old gym. Both of these huge accomplishments are not due to the town council. Rather, these two accomplishments have come to pass because Hennessey citizens appeared at the town council meeting and demanded change and action.

Let's make this election an opportunity for change. I am unable to make change happen. But you can just as you did with the water drainage issue and the library and museum.

Those in the past have had their opportunities. It is time for a change for a better Hennessey future.

Approved and Paid for by Richard Simunek