

**FREE**



# The All About HENNESSEY POST

photo by Shelby Horton  
Draggin SH Co.

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-HENNESSEY'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER-

## The "Penmanship" of David Koons

by Sara Jane Richter

David Koons is a down-to-earth, practical, fearless, and creative man. He welcomes change and accepts all challenges. The son of a US Air Force father and born in England, Koons has traveled the world and the US, served his country, had a professional business career in the world of computers, and has rustled up his share of meals from a food truck. Nowadays though, this retired veteran lives in Hennessey and keeps busy as a craftsman, a "maker" as such folks are called today.



After serving six years in the US Navy, he entered the business world as a computer genius and contractor, operating tandem computers, the first main frame machines. He has lived all over the world and the US, residing in Colorado, Nebraska, and Washington, while working in a high tech, high pressure world. While working as a computer consultant at Oklahoma's Tinker Air Force Base in 1991, he met his wife, Shirley Kelly, originally from Hennessey.

The business rat race finally made retirement look good, so he and Shirley moved to Hennessey in 2001, just in time to experience the horrible ice storm of that year. The Koonses determined to travel the nation, enjoy each other's company, and see the sights. For an

income, they developed their own food truck, the Long Branch Saloon which they frequently positioned at the intersection of Highways 81 and 51 on the north end of Main Street. Their catering and concession business has taken

continued on page 2



## HOT SUMMER RODEO TIME

Last weekend the Hennessey Rodeo packed the arena with cowboys and cowgirls of all sizes and ages on Friday and Saturday nights. The festivities kicked off with the mutton busting where youngsters tried their skills at riding a bucking bronc, well, actually a sheep. The full rodeo schedule followed and went well into the night both Friday and Saturday nights. The events included Ranch Bronc, Tie-down Roping, Breakaway Topping, Steer Wrestling, Open Barrels, Jr. Barrels, Team Roping, and Bull Riding. Additional events included wild cow milking, greased pig, and calf scramble.



The temperatures were in the 90s, but that didn't discourage the hundreds of attendees and spectators at the annual event put on by the Hennessey Round up Club. The concession stand was operated by the Hennessey Lions Club. This is the second year that the organization has run the food concession as a fundraiser.

Saturday night served up something a little different. The dance, normally held in the Cow Palace was moved to W. Oklahoma Street because there was no electricity in the building. The Dance under the Stars featured Richard Clift Jr. opening the show, then at about 9 PM, he was followed by the Zach Crow Band. Photos by Shelby with Draggin SH Co.

**This paper**



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David Koons continued

them to many events, such as craft shows and annual community celebrations. For 17 years, they worked 6 months a year following the event trail in states such as Kansas, Missouri, and Iowa. This schedule made for a fast-paced life. Settling down in Oklahoma was just what the couple needed—and wanted.

David always searched for new interests and hobbies. About 25 years ago, his father-in-law got into making pens—writing instruments—and the activity peaked David's imagination and creativity. He soon followed suit. After honing his craft to fine tune his efforts, he makes hand-made pens. Now, he even has his own company—Windwalker Lathe Works—which he operates from his own workshop behind his house on Oklahoma Street.

Koons takes pride in the fact that the pens' components are all made in the USA and that he spearheads a veteran-owned and -operated enterprise. He takes many steps to complete a pen. First comes a 5" x 3" block of wood or Alumilite, an acrylic that comes in a myriad of colors; Koons drills a small hole through these pen blanks. A brass tube containing the pen's mechanism gets placed and glued inside the hole. After securing the brass tube, Koons turns the wood on his American-made lathe to achieve the pen shape. Then, the craftsman sands the shape to a smooth surface and polishes the wooden pen barrels smooth and shiny by applying several coats of long-lasting friction lacquer.

Clients can ask that a logo, design, or image become part of the finished product; the addition of a symbol of a sports team, military insignia, favorite animal, or ranch brand make the pen a one-of-a-kind, highly personalized item. For example, the pen recently presented to Bert Gritz boasted the fire department insignia. If a customer does not want a pen with a wooden or plastic barrel, he or she can have one made from embossed aluminum or even a rifle shell casing.

Koons doesn't find it odd that his favorite hobby is pen making as he's always loved the scent and feel of sawdust. He gets to design, create, and play daily in his personal woodshop. As he suffers from insomnia, he'll often rise early, early in the morning, feed his dogs, walk to his shop, and spend upwards of 12 hours inside, using his hands creating unique pieces of art.

The end product never fails to amaze him as the wood grain shows its beauty under the many coats of lacquer; Koons says that he's never created the same pen twice. He claims that the time investment—at least two days per pen—is well worth the effort. Each pen is useable, yet practical, and each comes with a five-year warranty.

David Koons takes great pride in creating his unique writing instruments as they always make people smile and marvel at his handiwork when they buy one—or better yet, receive one as an unexpected gift. If you're interested, he'd probably love to give scheduled tours of his shop where you can see the magic happen. After all, we still need pens nowadays, and having one specially made with love and respect cannot be found just everywhere. David Koons possesses a powerful brand of "penmanship."



## STORM BRINGS BOTH GOOD AND BAD TO HENNESSEY

The clean-up process for the destructive storm that hit Hennessey on August 13th is coming to a close this week. The town hired a contractor to collect fallen branches on August 21st and 22nd for those within town limits. Residents have been busy repairing roofs and demolishing damaged structures, while Pioneer and OG&E have been seen around town finishing up their work.



The storm caused a clear division in the town between those with power and those without. Roosters, for example, lost all of their food inventory and remained closed for several days, while businesses like Casa Teja on Main Street, which had power, were very busy. Owner Flor Velasco stated that it was "crazy" at her establishment, with a busy period lasting from 11am until closing time at 8pm for several days. Diane Garrison, owner of Garrison Lumber, reported being busier than usual due to people needing building supplies.

Help arrived in the form of dozens of crews that converged on Hennessey from Monday through Thursday. Many of the power line contractors came from as far away as Illinois, and they worked with OG&E to repair the 50+ damaged utility poles. These crews needed food and lodging, and the manager of the Hennessey Sleep Inn Hotel reported being fully booked and having to turn people away at one point. Golden Chick owner Tony Blackburn stated that they were very busy, with the extra money going towards making repairs.

Blackburn also revealed that the storm had damaged his freezer, putting his frozen inventory at risk. However, Tim Taylor at 4Ts Family Market allowed him to store his frozen goods until repairs could be made, preventing a total loss.

Town officials and emergency services teams held a debriefing on Tuesday night to assess what worked and what needs improvement in the event of a similar disaster.





# POLICE REPORT AUGUST 14-21

<b>Speeding 1-10 Over</b> James, Rachel Gail of Stillwater, OK	\$185.00
<b>No Drivers License Issued</b> Rea, Sergio of Hennessey, OK	\$365.00
<b>Improper/Defective Equipment</b> Rea, Sergio of Hennessey, OK	\$90.00
<b>Expired Tag/Failure to Pay Taxes Due to State</b> Bryson, Jon Douglas of Hennessey, OK	\$265.00
<b>Speeding 1-10 Over</b> Rodriguez Guevara, Daniel of Oklahoma City, OK	\$185.00
<b>No Drivers License Issued</b> Palacios Rosales, Jose Eduardo of Hennessey, OK	\$365.00
<b>Improper/Defective Equipment</b> Fleshman, Jesse Paul of Oklahoma City, OK	\$90.00
<b>Speeding 1-10 Over</b> Skaggs, Shelby Denise of Nash, OK	\$185.00
<b>Speeding 11-15 Over</b> Hammons, Robert Dean of Newcastle, OK	\$212.00
<b>Speeding 11-15 Over</b> Flores, Juan Hernandez of Oklahoma City	\$212.00
<b>No Drivers License Issued</b> Flores, Juan Hernandez of Oklahoma City	\$365.00
<b>Improper/Defective Equipment</b> Rodriguez Parrilla, Jose Antonio of Riverdale, IL	\$90.00
<b>Improper Turn</b> Torres, Monica of Hennessey, OK	\$197.00
<b>Expired Tag/Failure to Pay Taxes Due to State</b> Torres, Monica of Hennessey, OK	\$265.00
<b>Improper/Defective Equipment</b> Rojo-Medina, Monica of Enid, OK	\$90.00
<b>Driving Left of Center</b> Gallupe, Grant Jerome of Oklahoma City, OK	\$197.00

## FIRE REPORT

8/13/2023 23:08 813 - Wind storm, tornado/hurricane assessment  
8/13/2023 18:03 311 - Medical assist, assist EMS crew  
8/19/2023 03:45 311 - Medical assist, assist EMS crew  
8/18/2023 11:19 311 - Medical assist, assist EMS crew  
8/16/2023 08:54 531 - Smoke or odor removal

# HENNESSEY FIRE FIGHTERS ANNUAL WATER WARS 2023 WET, WILD, AND LOUD!

The 2023 edition of the Hennessey Fire Department annual water wars commenced on the evening of August 9th as a fun wrap-up to summer. With blaring sirens, the firefighters traveled up and down pretty much every street in Hennessey hosing down anyone in reach, but it was not a one-way fight! The citizens fought back with everything from water balloons and garden hoses to full-blown tank trucks with large hoses. The firefighters placed buckets of water balloons around town in the parks and at street corners for kids to use.

This is the second year of this event that has become a huge success. Fun rivalries have started against the firefighters from the Kingfisher County workers, LiFE EMS, and Hennessey Septic, each having a large team and a lot of water to shoot back.

This is a free, fun event that the Hennessey volunteer firefighters do for nothing more than to have a good time and to entertain the community.

This video quickly went viral, garnering 1,209,812 views in just a few days. People from all over the world have viewed it and have left over 1,100 positive comments about our charming small town, encouraging their own departments to do this for their communities. Head to [AllAboutHennessey.com](http://AllAboutHennessey.com) to watch the video and share it with your friends.



# TESTING, TESTING

The Hennessey Firetrucks were all tested this week but no studying was required. The full fleet of firetrucks and hoses were all pressure tested by Sharp Testing a Houston-based company. One of Sharp's workers said, "We travel all over the country doing this for fire departments big and small." Each truck and its hoses are tested annually to be sure they are up to the task when called for an emergency situation.



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AUTUMN & SUMMER



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### Lazy Mom's Dinner

This is for the days when you realize it's time to eat..and you don't have any meat thawed out. ugh. You know the day- nothing has gone right and now you have to make supper. "Why do they want to eat every night?!" (I don't know who to give credit to for that quote ..but it's funny because it's true.) Lazy Mom's Dinner to the rescue!

Or as Summer prefers to call it: Salisbury Rice Bowls.

She likes to call it Salisbury Rice Bowls because it brings back fond memories of her and mom eating Salisbury steak and rice when she was very young. Not sure why we remember the strangest things in life but are thankful for the random memories that pop up outta nowhere.

#### Recipe:

2 lbs frozen ground beef (very important to be lean)  
Seasonings for beef (use your favorite seasonings here!)  
-1-2 tsp seasoned salt  
-garlic  
-onion  
-pepper  
-Cavendars (one of my favorite seasoning mixes)  
2 cans cream of mushroom  
2 cans rotel  
1/4 c water

Empty the cans of rotel and cream of mushroom into the instant pot. Add the seasonings and the water and stir well to combine it all together. Place your frozen ground beef in instant pot next.

Cook in instant pot on high pressure for 20 minutes. After cooking, allow to de-pressurize and then chop up the beef into small pieces. The beef should be cooked through, but if it is not, it is completely fine to cook it again for however many minutes you feel will get the job done. Taste it to see if you need more seasonings..don't be shocked when you are pleasantly surprised by how good this is!

If you decide to serve it over rice (HIGHLY RECOMMEND TO!) then cook your rice while the meat is cooking. Our favorite rice is Jasmine rice, but not sure there's a wrong option here.

Quinoa, Minute Rice, brown rice, Jasmine rice, wild rice...whatever your heart desires.

Summer's favorite method for cooking Jasmine rice is this:

4 cups water  
2 Tbsp butter  
2 tsp salt

combine these in a saucepan and bring to a boil. Add 2 cups Jasmine rice

Stir the rice and then cover and reduce heat to simmer. Allow to simmer for 15 minutes, stirring occasionally. Be sure to enjoy the smell if you choose to cook Jasmine rice. It is so good!

Autumn's favorite method for cooking Jasmine rice is buying the 90 second microwave pouches... so we are giving you all the options here!

Serve the meat mixture over the rice in bowls. Our family favorite toppings are cheese, hot sauce, or nothing! Enjoy!

#### Tips:

Lean meats work best. We use farm fresh beef, which is very lean. There is very little grease even without draining it. When cooking ground beef in an instant pot together with the rest of the ingredients please, please choose the leanest beef you can get. You could probably use pork or ground turkey in this recipe with good results too. Autumn options for this recipe include using 4-6 chicken breasts instead of beef and any seasoning, sauce, or soup variations that your tastebuds desire.

We hope that this recipe serves you well when you have that day. And, rest assured: we've all had those days... you're doing great. Blessings!

*Summer & Autumn*





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## LADY EAGLES VS TONKAWA BUCCANEERS

The Lady Eagles faced off against the Tonkawa Buccaneers at home yesterday evening, August 15th. Coming into their 3rd game of the season, the ladies are 1-1. They got off to a slow start, giving up 3 runs in the first inning. They pitched a scoreless second, though, and put one run on the board in the 2nd. Tonkawa gave themselves a 3-run cushion again and then made 3 nice plays to hold the Eagles scoreless and maintain that 4-1 headed to the 4th. The Eagles would mount an astounding comeback late in the game, with timely hits to help topple the Buccaneers late into the night. The final score was 13-12. Story by Taylor Wrigley, Photos By Jude Nihiser.



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# Hennessey Volleyball Tournament

The Lady Eagles volleyball team kicked off an amazing start for this year’s season. The Eagles won two games, then, unfortunately, lost one. In the first round, Hennessey defeated Yale 2-1. In the second Hennessey defeated Sharon-Mutual 2-0. Chisholm, a top 10 team in Class 3A, defeated Hennessey, 2-0 to win the championship. After losing 25-8 in set 1, the Lady Eagles fought back only to lose 25-22 in set 2. With two wins and experiences well gained the Lady Eagles volleyball team is sure to have a great season this year! Photos and story by All About Hennessey intern, Jude Nihiser.



# THE OTHER SIDE OF FOOTBALL

With football season just around the corner, the excitement is building in Hennessey. However, let’s not forget about the spectator side of the sport. Last week, the school took a huge step in improving the game day experience by completing a new pavilion on the west side of the concession stand. The work was carried out by two Hennessey companies, Hennessey Metal Buildings and Buddy Daniels Company (concrete), who did an outstanding job. This new pavilion will not only provide a shaded area for fans to relax in during the games but can also be used for fundraiser dinners and other events.



## HENNESSEY IS ABLE TO OFFER STUDENTS FREE LUNCH

According to a USDA press release, Hennessey is able to offer all students regardless of income free breakfast and lunch.

Hennessey Schools Superintendent, Jason Sternberger said, “So far it seems to be working well since our participation numbers have increased a little bit. Hopefully, more students will take advantage of a breakfast or lunch they otherwise wouldn’t have. We will continue with this program as long as it is feasible for the district. It is still very important that families fill out the lunch application each year whether their children eat in the cafeteria or not. This program and others are funded based on the responses we get back from parents. I commend our Child Nutrition Director Frances Streck for putting us in this position to offer free meals for all children in the district.”

By providing breakfast and/or lunch to all children at no charge, they can create a better learning environment for our students. The school breakfast and lunch program follows U.S. Department of Agriculture guidelines for healthy school meals. The program cannot succeed without your Support. Please encourage your children to participate in the school meal programs. All meals are served to all students at no charge.





## CROSS COUNTRY WEATHERFORD MEET RESULTS:

**HENNESSEY HIGH SCHOOL  
GIRLS TEAM PLACED 2ND.  
HENNESSEY JUNIOR HIGH BOYS  
TEAM PLACED 4TH.**

**High School Medalist:**  
Jocelyn Matousek 11th  
Emma Sipe 20th

**Junior High Medalist:**  
Asher Ward 13th  
Barrit Hardin 14th  
Brandt Beaman 30th  
Julianne Matousek 16th  
Camila Rios 29th

Check out my classroom project at  
[donorschoose.org/CoachBaxter](https://donorschoose.org/CoachBaxter)





# HOT WORK!

The crew from Hennessey Metal Buildings was working early Tuesday morning trying to get the roof done on the new Eagles baseball seating area. Temperatures were well over 100 that afternoon so the crew was anxious to get it wrapped up before noon. This is one of several projects that Hennessey Metal Buildings has completed for the school in the past few weeks.



# 1st & 2nd WIN IN ONE CAR!

Hennessey's Tyler Scruggs is a 3rd generation race car builder and driver. Last Saturday 8/19 Tyler competed at Longdale Speedway and ran both Factory Stock which is what my car is, and then USRA Stock Car classes. Tyler said, "I got second in Factory Stock and 1st in USRA Stock Car with the same car. USRA Stock Cars, are faster, more powerful, and better-handling cars than Factory stock, I made some changes to the car for it to make a little more power to run with the USRA stock cars." Tyler has raced approximately 10-12 races this year between 4 different tracks, and won 2 so far this year. Next race he plans on going to is Caney Valley Speedway in Caney, KS.



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#### EAGLES OF THE WEEK AUGUST 18

Pre-K - Marlea McNeil, Nova Daniel, Julianna Shields, Blaire Lott  
Kindergarten - Jake Koehn, Grant Matthews, Victoria Oropeza  
1st Grade - Kensley Moulton, Sofia Ramirez, Aleissa Cabral, Olivia Olmos  
2nd Grade - Aspen Lott, Carlynn Rojo, Emeri Miller  
3rd Grade - Breleigh Buller, Sebastian Talamantes, Anelisse Duron, Emily Meza  
4th Grade - Jensen Wymore, Kam Weber, Joel Ramirez, Sofia Hernandez

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## Upcoming Events

Wednesday, August 23

Picture Day

10 – 11am Littlest Patron Playtime

Thursday, August 24

HS Softball Cherokee Tournament (Day 1/3)

12 – 1pm Lions Club Meeting at Family Cafe

4:30 – 6:30pm JH Softball vs Covington/  
Douglas (H)

Saturday, August 26

HS Softball Cherokee Tournament (Day 3/3)

Volleyball Chouteau Tournament

Monday, August 28

Chorus CTSWS Auditions

HS Softball vs Frontier/Glencoe (A)

4 – 7pm Volleyball vs Life Christian Academy (A)

4:30 – 6:30pm JH Softball vs Fairview (H)

Tuesday, August 29

4 – 5pm Teen Funtivities Club

Hennessey Public Library

Wednesday, August 30

10 – 11am Littlest Patron Playtime

Thursday, August 31

12 – 1pm Lions Club Meeting at Family Cafe

4 – 7pm Volleyball vs Erick (A)

4:30 – 7:30pm HS Softball vs OCA (A)

4:30 – 6:30pm JH Softball vs Covington/Douglas (A)

Friday, September 1

Pre-game meal hosted by Redleve Dance Studio

10am Library opens late (in-house training)

7 – 9pm HS Football vs Crossings Christian (H)

Saturday, September 2

JH/HS Cross Country @ Kingfisher

8 – 9am Men's Breakfast

First Christian Church 500 E 3rd St,

Monday, September 4

Labor Day - No School

Tuesday, September 5

4 – 7pm Volleyball vs Yale (A)

4 – 6pm JH Softball vs Chisholm/Enid (A)

4 – 5pm Teen Funtivities Club

Hennessey Public Library

5 – 7:30pm HS Softball vs Dale (A)

5:30 – 7:30pm JH Football vs Hinton (A)

Wednesday, September 6

10 – 11am Littlest Patron Playtime

Thursday, September 7

12 – 1pm Lions Club Meeting at Family Cafe

4 – 7pm Volleyball vs Chisholm (H)

6:30 – 7:30pm OK2A Meeting Vernost

## UPCOMING EVENTS



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**September 16th**



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**Mistletoe Magic**  
**December 9th**



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## GAVIOTAS IS HIRING

Gaviotas Mexican Grill is looking for Servers!  
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## HENNESSEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS IS HIRING

Hennessey Elementary School is accepting applications for a **4TH GRADE TEACHER** for the 2023-2024 school year. College degree is required. Certification is preferred but not required. Interested applicants should fill out the application above and send resume and other related paperwork to Elementary Principal at [bcrosswhite@hps.k12.ok.us](mailto:bcrosswhite@hps.k12.ok.us).

### BUS DRIVER

### SUBSTITUTE TEACHER

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  - We have 2 spots open in trailer houses. 1 Camper spot available
  - Pay is by the load on by the bbl hauls & hourly on service work
  - Opportunity to make a lot more.
- Job Type: Full-time Pay: \$19.00 - \$20.00 per hour Benefits: 401(k) 401(k) matching-Dental insurance •Health insurance - Paid time off - Vision insurance

**CHOATE OILFIELD SERVICES 580-402-0272 TO APPLY IN PERSON  
6388 N 2860 RD HENNESSEY OK**

## HENNESSEY PD IS HIRING FOR A FULL-TIME OFFICER

The Hennessey Police Department is accepting applications for a full-time police officer. Must be at least 21 years old, no felony convictions, crimes of moral turpitude or convictions of domestic violence. CLEET certification is desired but not required. Competitive salary and benefits package. Most equipment provided. Applications can be obtained at the police department Monday - Friday 7:00am - 5:00pm, 110 East 2nd Street, in Hennessey. The Town is an equal opportunity employer. (405)853-7130

## GOLDEN CHICK IN HENNESSEY

Is now hiring ALL SHIFTS  
ALL POSITIONS  
Apply at restaurant  
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- Truck Wash Team Member- Night LIV-9679
- Animal Caretaker LVA-9084
- Farm Operations Management Trainee Hennessey LIV-9646
- Assistant Feedmill Manager LIV-9583



## RENTAL HOME AVAILABLE

517 S Cimarron St,  
Hennessey Ok 73742  
\$900 Rent / \$900  
Deposit  
2 Bed  
1 Bathroom  
Central Heat & Air  
Attached Garage  
No Pets



If interested, give Sonny Patel a Call: 405-473-0320



Have something  
for the paper?

Contact [angie@kjfilmworks.com](mailto:angie@kjfilmworks.com)

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