

FREE

Volume 6 • Number 44 • Wednesday, November 1, 2023

-HENNESSEY'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER-



### PRAIRIE QUILT CELEBRATES ONE YEAR!

Last October 27th and 28th, Prairie Quilt hosted their first annual birthday bash celebration that was filled with lots fun activities and giveaways. Over the course of two days, events included six live drawings and four big giveaways. Hundreds of people were there to participate each receiving swag bags, while viewing new products. Customers were also treated to live demonstrations, delicious sweets and refreshments, exclusive store specials, and informative presentations about new items available at the store. The festivities were not limited to the local community, as customers from neighboring states such as Kansas and Missouri also joined them for the event, making it a truly memorable and inclusive celebration.



### THE AROMA OF SMOKED MEAT

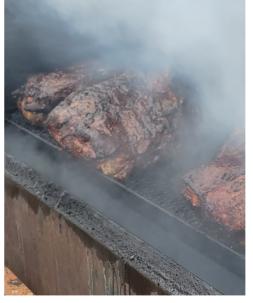
If you were anywhere on the Northeast side of Hennessey on Saturday the 29th you would have noticed the wonderful aroma of smoked meat in the air. Saturday was the Hennessey Reserve Angel's annual pork butt fundraiser where volunteers cooked 200 pork butts to help fund a very special Christmas project.

This is the Reserve Angel's largest fundraiser where the proceeds go to provide Christmas gifts for He

proceeds go to provide Christmas gifts for Hennessey families in need. This year all the meat for the fundraiser was donated by The Oklahoma Pork Council and Seaboard Foods allowing the group to put 100% of the proceeds to the cause.

Normally the meat is cooked at the Hennessey Fire Station but because of construction, it was moved to a shop building at the corner of Cleveland and N. Mitchell Rd.







# This paper

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## **CAT BACK IN ACTION**

Saturday, October 28th a small yet very determined Community Action Team (CAT) emerged onto the site of the Hillbolt property where the home of Jaime and Keri Keel burned on September 6th. David Fuksa with F5 Construction worked a couple days the previous week tearing down and piling the debris to prepare for the removal and cleaning up of the property. The goal Saturday was to load and haul off the debris to allow Jaime and Keri to return to their home soil.

There were several hurdles to jump that made it challenging to overcome so that the project could be completed. A plea for help was posted on FB and here they came. Scotty Hajek was the first one to pull up to the site with a dump truck and hauled a few loads before needing to leave for the OSU game. Right when we needed a replacement we looked up to see Clay Vincent pulling up with another truck. Perk (Terry) Choate and Tanner Beckner kept their skid-steers busy for 5 ½ hours and overcame the obstacles to complete the project.



It simply would not have happened without folks stepping up and giving their time and equipment. This day proved to be another testimony of this incredibly caring and loving town. Again we saw what we can overcome and accomplish when we all pitch in and get involved. There is always action one can take to help a neighbor in need and make this even a better place to call home.



Picture Names (L to R) Clay Vincent, Keri & Jaime Keel, Tanner Beckner, Perk Choate, Jimmy Berkenbile Tristan Castleberry, Not pictured: Scott Hajek and David Fuksa

### 5/6TH GRADE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS!

It was a cold Monday night, but the house was packed under the lights to see the 6-0 Hennessey Eagles take on the 5-1 Kingfisher Yellowiackets. scoring amounted in the first until some tough runs by Wyatt Brown and Case Shimanek took the Eagles to the goal line and allowed German Martinez to punch it in. PAT's are worth 2, so David Renteria booted it through the uprights to give them an 8-0 lead. Later in the game following some stout defensive play, Martinez would once again punch it in, and Renteria would nail the PAT for a 16-0 lead. Kingfisher finally got on the board in the 4th, but a failed PAT try proved it was too late. Final score was 16-6 for the 7-0 5/6th grade Champion Eagles! Story by Taylor Ladwig, photo by Jessi Cox







# POLICE REPORT October 23-30

No Driver's License Issued Lopez Ayala, Dennis of Oklahoma City,	\$365.00
Speeding 11-15 Over	\$212.00
Lopez Ayala, Dennis of Oklahoma City	<b>V</b> 212.00
Speeding 1-10 Over	\$185.00
Whisenhunt, Melissa Michelle of Hennessey	
Speeding 1-10 Over	\$185.00
Gonzalez, Denise of Hennessey	Å40E 00
Speeding 1-10 Over	\$185.00
Doughty, Dakota John, Brian of Norman	\$185.00
<b>Speeding 1-10 Over</b> Hernandez Guzman, Osvaldo of Enid	\$100.00
Speeding 1-10 Over	\$185.00
Torres Gonzalez, Marco of Kingfisher	ψ100.00
Speeding 1-10 Over	\$185.00
Gomez, Mariebel Isela of Enid	•
Expired Tag/Failure to Pay Taxes Due to State	\$265.00
Ramirez, Daniella Rios of Dover	
Failure to Stop at Stop Sign	\$197.00
Ramirez, Daniella Rios of Dover	4045.00
Expired Tag/Failure to Pay Taxes Due to State	\$265.00
Sanchez, Karina Alejandra of Hobbs, NM	¢105 00
Speeding 1-10 Over Stinson Jaicee Brooke of Enid	\$185.00
Speeding 11-15 Over	\$212.00
McConnell, Jane Marie of Oklahoma City	QZ 12.00
Failure to Stop at Stop Sign	\$197.00
Rodriguez, Evelyn Ramirez of Hennessey	,
Speeding 11-15 Over	\$212.00
Kirk, Misty Kay of Chickasha	



#### **ROOSTER'S \* ESTABLISHED BUSINESS \* HENNESSEY OK**

LARGE 1 ACRE LOT \* HIGHWAY 81 FRONTAGE \* NEW EQUIPMENT AUCTION DATE: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2023 @ 10AM AUCTION LOCATION: ON-SITE @ 7141 US HWY 81, HENNESSEY OK DESCRIPTION: THIS IS A FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE ROOSTER'S, AN ESTABLISHED BUSINESS ON BUSY HIGHWAY 81 JUST SOUTH OF HENNESSEY! LARGE 1 ACRE TRACT OFFERS ITSELF TO ALSO BE USED AS AN OUTDOOR VENUE. ALL INVENTORY AND EQUIPMENT WILL BE SOLD WITH THE PROPERTY AND BUILDING. WE ARE SELLING THIS AS A RUNNING BUSINESS. SELLER PLANS ON KEEPING ROOSTER'S RUNNING UNTIL THE CLOSING DATE, WHICH SHOULD BE ABOUT 30 DAYS. MOST OF THE EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN UPDATED SINCE 2018. NEW HVAC UNIT — 2021, NEW WALK-IN — 2022, NEW BOOTHS — 2020, NEW COMPUTER SYSTEMS BY HARBOR TOUCH — 2020

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: TRACT BEG 690' S & 50' E NW/COR NE/4 E 290.4' S 150' W 290.4' N 150' 1-18N-07W AKA 7141 US HWY 81, HENNESSEY, KINGFISHER COUNTY



#### **Fire Cider**

"An apple a day keeps the doctor away" (source unknown). Quite possibly you have heard this saying before. Perhaps when you were young to encourage you to eat your fruit. While it is most likely not inherently true..it implies that what we put in our bodies impacts our health. And this is undeniably true! There is much to discuss on this topic..but today I'm going to tell you about Fire Cider; the health-boosting drink that has a kick! Even Martha Stewart has shared a recipe or Fire Cider. Summer first learned about Fire Cider when she started learning more about herbs and the medicinal properties of plants. It really is fascinating.

This recipe is courtesy of Mel @theherbalistspath. You can follow her on Instagram, TikTok, as well as podcasts! She is a wealth of knowledge and a great jumping off point to help you learn.

This Fire Cider isn't so much a recipe as it is a method for getting the nutritional and health benefits of common foods in one powerful drink.

- -fresh ginger, chopped (or dried, if necessary. Better if fresh)
- -onion, chopped
- -fresh garlic, chopped
- -orange, chopped
- (unpeeled but washed)
- -lemon, chopped
- (unpeeled, but washed)
- -jalapeno, chopped
- -turmeric
- -whole peppercorns
- -pinch of cayenne pepper
- -thyme
- -rosemary
- -oregano
- -cinnamon
- -whole cloves



Prepare these ingredients and place them into mason jars (I use one large 1/2 gallon jar). Pour raw apple cider vinegar over all until covered. Let sit 4-6 weeks, shaking gently occasionally.

The apple cider vinegar will extract the medicinal/nutritional properties from the foods. After 4-6 weeks, strain out the liquid and save. Can add raw honey to sweeten. This will be shelf stable for at least a year.

You can take a tablespoon every day in the winter to boost your health, or only when you feel run down or like you are getting sick. Give that immune system a boost. Some even use it as a salad dressing or as a marinade. The benefits are there!

This information is not intended to treat or cure medical problems. Hopefully this will enhance your health and boost your immunity.

# CROSS COUNTRY STATE! HENNESSEY SCHOOLS The Lady Eagles once again took their talents to the state crosscountry meet on Saturday October 28th in Edmond. The tight-knit FEATURED INTERNS

The Lady Eagles once again took their talents to the state cross-country meet on Saturday, October 28th, in Edmond. The tight-knit group of girls bundled up for one last ride led by their seniors Taryn Jech and Jazzy Bullis. Despite their best efforts and some season-low times, the ladies finished 10th. Emma Sipe finished best for the Eagles, coming in 34th with a time of 13:21. See the others time below. Earlier this week the Hennessey Cross-country girls were named 2023, Class 3A State Academic Champions.

Joselyn Matousek - 13:53, Tayler Franklin - 14:00, Taryn Jech - 14:10 Marisol Valles - 15:45, Kate Curran - 15:47, Jazzy Bullis - 16:08 Story and Photos by Taylor Ladwig.



# WESTERN OKLAHOMA CHOIR DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION HONOR CHOIR FESTIVAL

On Monday, October 23rd, Hennessey students traveled to Elk City, OK to participate and perform in Western Oklahoma Choir **Directors Association Honor** Choir Festival. Students auditioned in September. The students accepted into the High School choir were Cameron Griffin, Jude Hestand, Jaret Matthews, Jenna Hladik, and Jayden Hladik. Students accepted into the Junior High choir were Barrit Hardin, Asher Ward, JoHanna Matousek, and Saydee Humphries.

Students spent the day rehearsing with their respective clinicians, perfecting their songs for the concert that evening. The concert consisted of



songs from the All State audition repertoire, helping to further prepare students for those auditions this Saturday. Story and photos by Jude Hestand.

Ivan Rivera is a senior at HHS this year. He is in his second year of internship with Triple M Transportation owned by Mike Vaverka and wishes to become a diesel mechanic after high school.

Ivan was born in Mexico. His family arrived in Hennessey in 2009 and he started Kindergarten in HPS that same year. Ivan hasn't participated in



extracurricular activities since entering high school, because he has spent the bulk of his time working when not in school. When asked about any favorite pastimes, he replied that he likes to spend time playing his accordion.

Ivan's first paid job came while in junior high and included cleaning up construction sites. Former Hennessey coach, Mike Driskill was instrumental in helping several students from Hennessey get those jobs. Ivan is still thankful to Coach Driskill for the opportunity. From there he moved on to farm work and has continued to do that in high school during those times of the year he is needed.

Ivan was the first intern placed when the program started last year and requested to be placed at Triple M Transportation and is now in his second year at Triple M. This has given him confidence in believing in his ability to become a diesel mechanic. Ivan is considering applying to OSU Technology in Okmulgee, Oklahoma after he graduates.



Marissa Marin is a senior at HHS. She is currently in her second year of internship under Beth Curran, HHS art teacher.

After attending school for a couple of years in Waukomis, Marissa began school in Hennessey as a first grader. Marissa has stayed active throughout high school and has been a member of the HHS speech and debate team for two years. Marissa plays the trombone in the Hennessey band and is also a member of the color

guard. She attends the First Christian Church youth group and has worked at Sonic for the past two and a half years.

When Marissa has the rare occasion of having a little free time to herself, she enjoys drawing and painting. It is this hobby that has led her to an interest in being an art teacher. She enjoys her internship with Mrs. Curran. Her favorite part is seeing the students' quick drawings they create at the beginning of the class period each day. Marissa is in the process of applying to Oklahoma State University and is considering a double major in studio art and art education.

Both Ivan and Marissa are part of the Hennessey School Career & Internship Program. This program, directed by Kim Hallmark matches students with business allowing them to experience real-life day-to-day operations in a career field they have an interest in.

#### HENNESSEY MIDDLE SCHOOL FOOTBALL

The Hennessey Middle School 7th & 8th Grade Football Eagles capped off a perfect (8-0) 2023 campaign this past Tuesday, with their final victory coming against the Crescent Tigers by a score of 22-6.

The Eagles, led by QB Beau Vinson, were an offensive juggernaut this season, averaging 40.5 points per game. The offensive fire power was provided by Vinson through the air to receivers Hagan Copeland, Brytan Gardner, and Brayan Soto, and on the ground with Vinson, Alex Gonzalez, and Kason Skruggs churning up yards and scoring close to 40 touchdowns on the season. One of the biggest and most talented offensive lines in Class 2A middle school football provided the protection and running lanes for this year's offensive outburst. Titan Root, Tyson Root, Kole Smith, Cam Dowell, and James Jones, with Brady Amburn at Tight End, and Jameson Ladwig at Fullback imposed their will on their opponents, and gave the Hennessey fans hope and expectations of things to come as these young men move up to the high school ranks next season.

The Eagles' defense, which posted 3 shutouts and allowed only 6.5 points per game, were anchored on the line with the Root brothers, Dowell, and Brayson Brinson providing the stone wall, and Linebackers Skruggs and Ladwig, with DB's Copeland, Gardner, and Vinson on the back end giving their opponent's offense no room to run and nowhere to go. Starters Kole Smith and Brytan Gardner have another year of middle school football, as they are both only 7 th graders, but look for the others to work their way into the Friday night Varsity lineup next season, as the future is bright for the Hennessey Football Eagles.



# TEEN REPRESENTS HENNESSEY IN DISTINGUISHED YOUNG WOMEN

Marisol Valles is the daughter of Francisco and Manuela Valles. She attends Hennessey High School and plans to attend the University of Oklahoma to study Health Sciences and specialize in dermatology. Her talent for the program is dance.

Distinguished Young Women is the oldest and largest scholarship program for high school girls. Distinguished Young Women partners with over 100 colleges and universities across the country to provide opportunities for their participants to further their education. Some of these scholarships are available to any participant who takes part in a local or state program.

The Kingfisher County Distinguished Young Women Program is on November 5th at Kingfisher Heritage Auditorium located at 600 S 9th St, Kingfisher, starting at 3 PM. All the girls have tickets to purchase, or tickets can be purchased at the door. Hennessey Public Schools and Kingfisher High School.

## **READY, SET, DARN IT'S COLD!**

The Hennessey Middle School held its annual Eagle Run last Friday morning (October 27th) the run featured a 1 and 2-mile course and 2 categories. The first off the line were the 5-6 grades followed by 7-8th grades. The cold wind blowing out of the north made it chilly but everyone seemed to have a good time. Several kids dressed up including one dinosaur. Hennessey Police helped close Mitchell Rd all morning during the race for safety.



### **HENNESSEY VS MILLWOOD!**

The 0-8 Eagles headed to #2 ranked Millwood last night still in search of some season momentum. Momentum is exactly what they got early, after punting it away, the Falcons muffed the punt and gave the Eagles perfect field position. Holder would fire to Weston Smith for a 15-yard touchdown to strike first in the Battle of the Birds. The Falcons would bust out an 80-yard touchdown run, but would fail on the point after and the Eagles maintained a 7-6 lead. The same connection would hit once more, and the man with the 2nd most receiving yards in Eagle history, Weston Smith, would bound into the endzone from 55 yards out. Unfortunately, that would be the last time the Eagles would garner the lead. Despite a field goal by Luis Montoya. The Falcons stomped their foot down and with the help of a few college levels athletes, throttled the Eagles for the rest of the football game. With a halftime score of 46-17, nothing would get better for Hennessey. The game would end 65-17. Story by Taylor Ladwig photo by Jude Hestand



# Calendar

#### Wednesday, November 1

5th/6th Basketball Okeene Tournament Reality Check (Seniors) First Day of American Indian Heritage Month 10 – 11am Littlest Patron Playtime

#### Thursday, November 2

5th/6th Basketball Okeene Tournament 12 – 1pm Lions Club Meeting at Family Cafe 6:30 – 7:30pm OK2A Vernost

#### Friday, November 3

5th/6th Basketball Okeene Tourn Speech & Debate - Okarche Tourn Pre-game meal hosted by the Hennessey Mother's Club 10am Library opens late 7 – 9pm HS Football vs Newkirk (H)

#### Saturday, November 4

5th/6th Basketball Okeene Tourn Speech & Debate - Okarche Tourn OkMEA All-State Band Auditions Red Carpet Honor Band Audition Sunday, November 5 Daylight Saving Time ends

#### Monday, November 6

4:30 - 6:30pm JH BB vs Fairview (A)

#### **Tuesday, November 7**

8am – 12pm Pre ACT (10th grade) 4 – 5pm Teen Funtivities Club Hennessey Public Library 4:30 – 6:30pm JH BB vs Kingfisher (A)

#### Wednesday, November 8

10 – 11am Littlest Patron Playtime 3 – 5pm HS Girls Basketball Scrimmage vs PCH (H)

#### **Thursday, November 9**

12 – 1pm Lions Club Family Cafe 6 – 8pm HS/JH Softball Banquet 6 – 7pm Town Board Meeting

#### Friday, November 10 Veteran's Day Program

#### Saturday, November 11

Academic Bowl Regional
HS Chorus All State 2nd Round @
Edmond

#### **VETERANS DAY**

10am – 1pm HS Girls Basketball Scrimmage (H)

# UPCOMING EVENTS



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#### **HENNESSEY SCHOOLS CAREER DAY 2023**



Marianna nursing student

Last Friday, October 27th, about 35 Business people, professionals, and former students converged to speak and educate HHS students in 9-12th grades about career choices. At the same time, students could be rated on their interview skills during mock interview sessions with a wide range of active and retired business leaders.

Students also had the opportunity to visit several branches of the armed forces.

During each session, students were quizzed on something during that time and

the winners were put into a drawing to win gifts donated by Simple Modern who donated 10 Trek tumblers, Interworks Inc. (Alonso Duran) donated a Nintendo Switch, PT Central of Kingfisher donated a deep tissue muscle massager.

This was a major undertaking assembling all of the speakers and arranging the schedules. David Tillman was the moderator for the Military session and Ish Engle worked with students to do a resume workshop. Mrs. Marie Parrish was key in helping to prepare students for their mock interviews and create resumes, Mrs. Jennifer Ullery hosted the college rep visits and coordinated the interview sessions, Mrs. Kim Hallmark and the internship students presented the opening career day session in the auditorium, Haley Fisher and FCCLA hosted the hospitality table, and Stacy Cline and Kacie LaPorte worked to make Career Day run smoothly.





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# HENNESSEY LISTINGS

### **GOLDEN CHICK IN HENNESSEY**

Is now hiring ALL SHIFTS **ALL POSITIONS** Apply at restaurant 618 N Main Street

#### **CAREER WITH SEABOARD FOODS**

Join one of our many teams dedicated to one purpose: Bringing Excellence to the Table. Applications can be obtained at the Seaboard Foods offer great benefits, competitive wages, and a unique career path based on your interests that helps you reach your full potential. If you enjoy a challenge and making an impact, apply today!

- •Truck Wash Team Member- Night LIV-9679
- Animal Caretaker LVA-9084
- Operations Management Trainee Hennessey LIV-9646
- Assistant Feedmill Manager LIV-9583

#### **Hennessey Couple looking** for IN-HOME CARE GIVER(S).

Could be a live-in caregiver or day/night shifts. Pay is according to experience. Please email your information or questions to caregivershennessey@gmail.com

#### **GAVIOTAS IS HIRING**

Gaviotas Mexican Grill is looking for Servers! Monday-Saturday if you're interested in more information or applying you can visit Gaviotas at 122 N Main St!

#### **HENNESSEY NURSING** & REHAB

CMA - Full time, weekdays CNA Full time, weekend doubles, 6/2 & 2/10 Contact Jill or Sugey for more information. Dietary full-time position Contact Reda for more information, 405-853-4390

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

The Hennessey Police Department is accepting applications for a fulltime 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.

police department Monday-Friday 7:00am - 5:00pm, 110 East 2nd Street, or Town Hall 123 S. Main in Hennessey. The Town is an equal opportunity employer. (405) 853-7130

#### **FARMERS ELECTRIC IS HIRING**

Journeymen Electricians go to farmerselec.com or call 405-853-2597 to apply today!



### **IRON EAGLE RESOURCES**

Iron Eagle Resources, a produced water hauling company, is looking to hire at least one diesel mechanic for its Hennessey location. Must have experience in MACK, KENWORTH, and PETERBILT.

Please send your resume and your information to Frank Patton; **Iron Eagle Resources** PO Box 143 Hennessey OK 73742 580-229-6164 ironeagle2021@yahoo.com

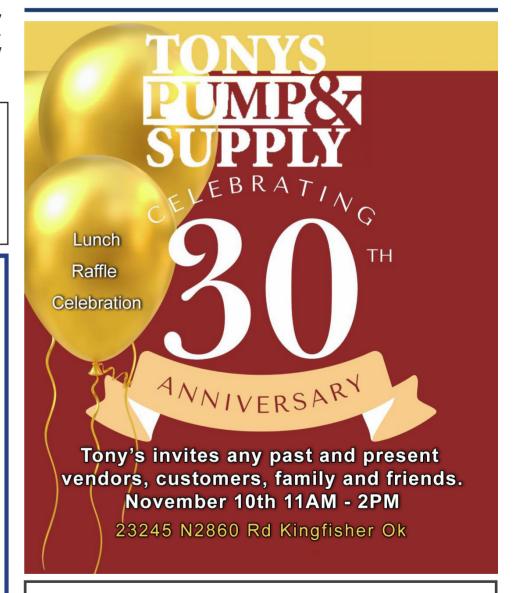
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- Overtime pay after 40.
  - Double pay on major holidays
- Incentive for hauling loads
- We have drivers that made \$100k last year.
- We have 2 spots open in trailer houses.1 Camper spot available
- Pay is by the load on by the bbl hauls & hourly on service work
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THE ALL ABOUT HENNESSEY POST **PUBLISHED WEEKLY ON WEDNESDAY** 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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# CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE STUDENTS OF THE WEEK OCTOBER 27TH!

Pre-K - Benjamin Huizar, Jazlynn Ramirez, Carson Robertson, Kassidy Blackwelder Kindergarten - Alexander Torres ,Rhett Haymaker, Graham Semrad 1st Grade - Leydi Avila, Harper Miller, Liam Valle, Keegan Hyatt 2nd Grade - Alex Garcia, Tempe Plumlee, Carmen Velasco-Garcia 3rd Grade - Joy Matousek, Olivia Henson, Carter Weimer, Lucia Cassel 4th Grade - Joselyn Gonzalez, Piper Zielny, Chance Morgan, Morgan Lester



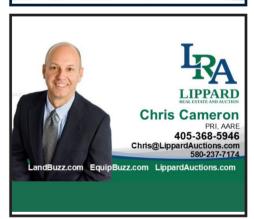


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### A FLOOD OF MEMORIES: RECALLING THE OCTOBER 1973 FLOOD

By Sara Jane Richter

The evening of October 10, 1973, was clear and bright—at least in Hennessey. My father Russel and my brother Kevin listened to a

game on KGWA radio in Enid that night and were amazed by the weather report: torrential rains in Enid. Looking from their front yard to the north, they saw heavy clouds and lightning—for hours. The rain storm just did not give up; a low pressure front had hit a cold front right over Enid, with Enid's east side bearing the brunt of the storm and its Enid the day after the big flood near St Mary's onslaught of water. The final Hospital. Photo courtesy of Cherokee Strip tally of rain ended up being 15 to



20 inches falling in a 100-square mile area with Enid's official count being 24 inches, the most rain that ever fell at one time in the State of Oklahoma. Seventy-five percent of that amount fell in less than four hours, and the entire storm lasted 12 hours according to the Oklahoma Climatology Office. Nine people died in Enid; heavy street flooding occurred; water covered the old highway patrol office at the corner of Van Buren and Garriott; St. Mary's Hospital's first floor was completely inundated; millions of dollars of damage occurred. It was a dark and stormy night, one that continues to live in infamy.

Hennessey didn't receive much rainfall at all that night, perhaps a half inch. However, communities and residents living along Turkey Creek and the Cimarron River had all the Enid rain to handle. An enormous wall of water swept down from Skeleton Creek into Turkey Creek and then on to the Cimarron River south of Dover. Ranchers and farmers with their livestock, newly planted wheat fields, expensive equipment, and stored grain anticipated and prepared for the worst.

Such was the situation that faced Hollis Berkenbile for example. Friends and neighbors like Keith Walterschiedt and Doyle Jones came to his rescue as the rain came and the water rose. His farm



Enid the day after the big flood near St Mary's Hospital. **Photo courtesy of Cherokee Strip** 

was right on Turkey Creek about 2 miles west of Taggart's Green House south of Hennessey.

In the dead of that wet night, men loaded cattle move them to higher ground, drove farm equipment to higher around where wouldn't flounder or float, gathered grain from granaries to carry it to safety,

and stacked household furniture as high as it would balance in the Berkenbile home. In the 1957 flood, the home had been flooded, so they expected the worst this time too. They sought refuge with friends and relatives along the 17-mile blacktop road west of Hennessey. Thankfully, the flood waters came to the threshold of the back door, but did not enter the house.

When the flood waters from Turkey Creek had gathered themselves some six hours after the rain started, it swept everything away in front of it, including about 8 inches of top soil, removing soil down to the plow pan level on its race to the Cimarron. It destroyed the Turkey Creek bridge west of Hennessey on Highway 51 at 2:30 a.m. on October 11. The Cimarron River at Dover eventually crested at 21 feet; the all-time record is 24 feet which occurred in the 1957 flood. The Dover bridge over the river was destroyed as well as much of Highway 81 between Dover and the river. The waters took out the entire railroad bridge west of Dover. Rebuilding that damage took months and months of intense work to complete.

Floodwaters which became a mile wide on Turkey Creek hit the Berkenbile home place at 9:30 a.m. Doyle Jones recalls saddling horses to ride to the Berkenbile farm to survey the damage, which was minimal because of the family's fast actions to preserve their home.

West of Hennessey, the flood corroded the land and left huge gouges in roads and fields, making roads impassable and fields unusable for a long, long time. Hay bales and unattended cars floated to who knows where. Thankfully, due to the quick thinking and acting of many rescuers, not many farm animals drowned. Kingfisher County saw no deaths during the flooding. Oklahoma Governor David Hall requested federal disaster relief funds for Garfield and Kingfisher counties.

The flooding did no damage in Hennessey itself, but Enid suffered greatly, and in Dover, nearly all buildings—homes and businesses except the school were damaged. Kingfisher also saw flooding



Flood waters south of Hennessey. Photo courtesy of Hennessey History Center.

especially on the north side and west side of town.

Oklahoma weather is always unpredictable. One never knows what to expect. However, no one expected the sweeping flood of 1973, a flood for the ages and the record book, even now 50 years later. Thankfully, our community was in comparison to Enid and Dover in particular unscathed in the disaster. The power of water is dangerous, destructive, and deadly. Quick thinking and concerned neighbors saved the day for many outlying Hennessey residents, taking chances with their property and lives to protect others' property and lives. That's the way America should run—and still does, at least in Hennessey. Lord knows we need rain, but we certainly don't need a repeat of October 10 and 11, 1973.



Flood waters south of Hennessey. Photo courtesy of Hennessey History Center.