The All About

photo by AAH Jack Quirk

FRE

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FRIENDS, FOOD, AND A BIG WIN FOR THE OLD LACY SCHOOL

There was something special in the air at The Gathering Place on Saturday night, July 12. Nearly 100 friends, neighbors, and familiar faces came together with one shared goal: helping restore the Old Lacy School. What started with a pulled pork dinner turned into a night full of stories, laughter, and some good old-fashioned community generosity.

People showed up to give in different ways. Some donated while enjoying the pulled pork dinner. Others came ready to bid in both the silent and live auction. Plates were piled high with pulled pork sandwiches donated by Seaboard Food, slow-smoked by Danny Bossa, and served with the crowd favorite cowboy baked beans, thanks to Michael Drake and Dana Fuxa. The Lacy Card Club made sure dessert was handled, and nobody left hungry.

After dinner, the room shifted gears as Justin Choate and Kole Smith fired up the auction. It wasn't just about raising money. It was about pitching in. Whether folks were bidding on handmade quilts or handmade treasures, the spirit of giving was clear. It wasn't just a fundraiser. It felt like a family reunion with a purpose.

As the night went on, people lingered to talk and laugh. Former Lacy students swapped memories and stories from the old school days. A group photo was snapped of those who once filled its classrooms, a reminder that history isn't just something we preserve, it's something we live.

By night's end, the event had raised a whopping \$9,041.50 toward the Lacy Community Center Roof Project, thanks to the hard work of the Community Action Team (CAT). That puts the project within reach, with just about \$2,500 still needed to cross the finish line. If you'd like to help, donations can be made at CSB through CAT with "Lacy Roof Project" in the memo.

It was the kind of night that makes you glad to live in a small town. Good eats, great people, and everyone pitching in to keep a piece of history alive. You can't really put a price on that, though the money definitely helps.









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Hennessey' Hidden

Gem

By Bonny Flesher

Last week, I took a stroll down memory lane and visited one of Hennessey's hidden gems: the Senior Citizen's Center. I have a personal connection to the center, as my mother was its coordinator back in the day. I enjoyed some lunch while reminiscing with old friends. We chatted about the birthday parties, graduation parties, and reunions that were held at the center.



Transitions by Bonny Flesher

My sons also have fond memories of visiting their

grandmother and making friends with a different generation. I was reminded of all the activities the center has to offer the community. In addition to lunch, you can participate in spirited card games, play dominos, or even enjoy a game of pool. I learned there is a walking group and exercise classes coming soon. We exchanged favorite recipes and brainstormed more activity ideas.

If you'd like to order takeout or a delivered meal, you can call 405–853–6726 by 10:00 AM. You're also welcome to come in, enjoy a meal, and see what's happening at the center. The center always appreciates the donations it receives from the community. For instance, the generosity of Hennessey's residents recently allowed for the replacement of a freezer that had stopped working. Other donations, especially in the form of memorials, go towards meeting the everyday needs of the center.

There is no age limit for those who attend the center. One particular story from my visit warmed my heart and gave me hope for the next generation. Did you know that Hennessey has three new heroes walking around town? Lavonne is the coordinator at the center, and on this day, she had her three great-grandchildren visiting: Madi and Kenzi, who are 12-year-old twins, and their little brother Holden, who is 7.



During this visit, Lavonne took a fall, but her grandchildren acted quickly and calmly. They got a pillow for her head and a blanket to keep her comfortable, and they made a call that brought the Hennessey Cavalry to the rescue! Holden, who witnessed the incident, has been known to re-enact his grandmother's mishap. Lavonne suffered a broken hip, but the good news is that she is recovering nicely and hopes to return to work soon. Lavonne is one determined lady!

If you happen to run into our three local heroes, please let them know how well they managed a tough situation. In the meantime, volunteers have stepped in to help at the center. If you're hungry for lunch and have a desire to join in on a card game, there will surely be room at the table! There's always someone to visit with, and the day I was there, many memories were revisited. I even heard a story that was new to me!

I encourage everyone to reach out, grab a friend, and come for an afternoon. We all experience loss, and sometimes the gift of friendship can help heal ourselves. The Senior Citizen's Center is a perfect place to share your heart! After all, you are the reason they are here. Let's keep making memories; they are our gift to each other!

Where are they now? Carol Mewherter

by AAH Shelley Muzny



Many of you may know Carol Mewherter, the daughter of Jerry and Marilyn Mewherter and the sister of Tom and Scott Mewherter. She grew up in Marshall and attended Marshall Public Schools through the 8th grade before graduating from Covington-Douglas High School in 1983. After graduation, Carol embarked on a journey as a cross-country truck driver. Her travels eventually took her to Salt Lake City, Utah, where she welcomed her first daughter, Taylor Reed, in 1990. A few years

later, she returned to Oklahoma, settling in Hennessey in 1994, where she has remained ever since.

In 1998, Carol gave birth to her second daughter, Lacy Blu. Always hardworking and driven, Carol continued her truck driving career until 2016, when she decided to make a career change and start her own business. She purchased a skid steer and a forestry mulcher with her brothers and founded Mewherter Cedar Mulching, helping Tree landowners in the area clear and reclaim their property.

Today, Carol has sold the

mulching equipment and returned to her first love: the open road. She now drives for her brother, Scott, continuing to work hard and stay active, just as she always has.



NEW BAN ON ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN SCHOOLS

The Hennessey School Board met Monday night, July 14, and Superintendent Jason Sternberger introduced a new draft policy that would ban personal electronic devices during the school day. That means no phones, smartwatches, or even smart glasses from the first bell to dismissal—even during lunch.

The policy update comes after a change in state law and is designed to minimize distractions during the school day. Exceptions will be made for students with medical needs, those with IEPs or 504 plans, and school-issued devices used for learning.

If parents need to get a message to their child, they're encouraged to call the school office or reach out to the student's teacher directly.

As for what happens if a student pulls out a device during the day? It'll be taken up, and the first offense earns a detention. Consequences will increase with each violation.

Right now, the policy is still in draft form. School officials are inviting feedback from parents, students, and the community before any-thing is finalized.



FINAL DAY OF NEBRASKA WRESTLING CAMP

By AAH Cam Griffin

The Nebraska University Wrestling Camp at Kingfisher, the fourth camp of the year, provided a great experience for young wrestlers. July 9th was the final day of the camp. Wrestlers from Hennessey, Kingfisher, Cashion, El Reno, Geary, Watonga, and Enid came together to sharpen their skill set.

The camp was led by Nebraska Wrestling All-American Jacob Van Dee and three-time state champ Harley Andrews out of Tuttle. With that kind of leadership, the energy was high and the mats were busy. Wrestlers drilled hard, picked up new techniques, and pushed each other to get better.







Storms, Stories & Microwave Vans: A Look Back with KOCO Channel 5's Chris Lee by AAH Angela Bruner

When it comes to Oklahoma weather coverage, Chris Lee is a name that carries weight and plenty of stories. Recently, he sat down with longtime friend and fellow storm chaser, Jack Quirk, for a recent podcast to reflect on decades of wild weather, early tech, and how it all came together in the name of breaking news.

Chris started at KOCO Channel 5 in 1977, back when storm chasing was still mostly a government science project. Inspired by researchers collecting hail in station wagons, Chris helped pioneer TV storm coverage using whatever tools he could rig together. From mounting aircraft radar on his Ford Explorer to sending still photos over analog modems, he found ways to go live before cell phones and the internet existed.

"We were like the Skunk Works of TV news," he said, referencing his days of building portable microwave rigs to transmit video, mapping every hilltop in the state, and figuring out how to transmit from a moving car.

Storm chasing then wasn't about apps. It was about instincts. Today, KOCO's Meteorologist, "Michael Armstrong's watching six radar screens while chasing. I was hanging my head out the window, looking at the clouds," Chris joked.

He recalled the day a tornado touched down near Woodward. KOCO was the only station live with it, thanks to the coordination between him, a satellite truck, and an understanding of exactly where to be.

Now retired, but not really, Chris still grabs his camera and chases, often finding himself down dirt roads capturing Oklahoma's guieter moments.

His former KOCO van? It's now owned by Jack Quirk, the same longtime friend who once rode in the backseat, holding the cable reel on their first big story together.

"I just wanted to be where the news was happening," Chris said. And for nearly 50 years, he was.

You can watch the Webcast or listen to the audio at AllAbouHennessey.



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HENNESSEY BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVES SRO AGREEMENT, HEARS UTILITY BILLING COMPLAINT AT JULY MEETING



The Town of Hennessey Board of Trustees held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, July 8, 2025, at 6 p.m. at Town Hall. Trustees Randy Bohnstedt, John Peach, David Jones, and Harold Shaw were present, and the consent agenda was unanimously approved. This included last month's meeting minutes, approval of claims, and several key items of business.

A major agenda item was the approval of an interlocal cooperation agreement with Hennessey Public Schools to provide a School Resource Officer (SRO) for the upcoming school year. Trustees also received a quarterly financial report from Crawford

Associates and voted to engage Arledge and Associates to conduct the fiscal year 2024–2025 annual audit.

During public comments, Jack Quirk of All About Hennessey and Discover Hennessey extended appreciation to dozens of individuals and town departments who contributed to the town's recent community events. He praised the success of the go-kart races, car show, and fireworks, crediting Harold Shaw for organizing one of the town's largest two-day events, which drew nearly 800 attendees and encouraged overnight stays.

Quirk addressed criticism over holding the fireworks show after July 4th, explaining that the date was selected for practical reasons and ultimately drew the largest crowd in 20 years. He also recognized the efforts of town staff, police, fire, volunteers, and organizations such as Hennessey United for their support.

Town Administrator Tiffany Rowen reported on several administrative items, including ongoing grant projects. Updates included the Municipal Road Drilling Activity Fund for Mitchell Road (awaiting state and federal funds), upcoming REAP bid deadlines (July 22 at 10 a.m.), and a construction meeting for the RIG grant water station on July 25. The swimming pool will close for the season on August 10, and a staff appreciation pool party is scheduled for July 31.

A significant citizen complaint was raised by Kelly Bullis during the Hennessey Utility Authority portion of the meeting. Bullis cited multiple instances of water overbilling at commercial properties, including a recent discrepancy at 1341 South Main. Bullis called for a correction based on actual readings, verification of meter IDs, and a full review of billing anomalies at three properties. She criticized the town's response to previous concerns, including explanations involving leaks or hose usage, and argued that citizens should not bear the burden of proof.

In council remarks, council member Harold Shaw expressed frustration that the mayor, Randy Bohnstedt had previously apologized for comments made by Shaw during phone calls. The mayor responded that those statements, made in an official capacity, reflected on the entire board and thus warranted clarification, adding there were no hard feelings.

HENNESSEY POLICE REPORT July 7 - 14

Speeding 1-10 Over Speeding 16-20 Over Speeding 1-10 Over Speeding 16-20 Over Speeding 1-10 Over	\$185.00 \$227.00 \$185.00 \$185.00 \$185.00 \$185.00 \$185.00 \$185.00 \$185.00 \$185.00 \$185.00 \$227.00 \$227.00 \$185.00 \$185.00 \$185.00 \$185.00 \$185.00 \$185.00 \$185.00 \$212.00 \$185.00 \$235.00 \$235.00	Don Juan, Jennifer of Enid, OK Castillon, Karen Aracely of Liberal, KS Jurelong, Eric Angel of Enid, OK Hand, Patrick Xavier of Wichita, OK Garcia Carpenter, Dina Ann of Calumet, OK Kim, Daniel Chanki of Oklahoma City, OK Prado, Charles of Enid, OK Thomas, Marcia Lynn of Nash, OK Rodriguez, Cindy of Oklahoma City, OK Ray, Rebecca Ann of Moore, OK Hawkins, Cannon Austin Jade of Amarillo, TX Truesdale, Sara Jean of Perkins, OK Allison, Braydon James of Woodward, OK Serrano Grande, Jose Miguel Evans, CO Lankford, John Wesley of Talala, OK Wallace, April Gail of Starkville, MS Wood, John Allen of Oklahoma City, OK Kirchner, Colby Kyle of Amarillo, TX Bosch, Gabriel Stone of Sapulpa, OK Woods, Tead Jaxon of Hennessey, OK
Speeding 21-25 Over	\$267.00	Vegagutierrez, Jose Carlos of Rio Vista, CA
Speeding 1-10 Over	\$185.00	Gutierrez, Enrique of Stillwater, OK

INCIDENTS

According to reports, on July 8th, officers were called out to a possible vandalism report on East Iowa. When they arrived, the person who called said someone had thrown a golf ball at their car and pointed out a small dirt mark they believed was caused by it. They also mentioned ongoing harassment from someone who keeps showing up at their house uninvited.

Officers went to speak with the person accused. That individual denied everything-no golf ball, no harassment. The officers let him know he's now trespassed from the East Iowa property, and he said he understood. With that, officers went back on patrol.



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All About Hennessey Wednesday, July 16, 2025

The All About Hennessey POST

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Community Calendar

Wednesday, July 16 10 – 11am Littlest Patron Playtime

Thursday, July 17 12 – 1pm Lion's Club Family Cafe

> **Friday, July 18** 10am Library opens late

Tuesday, July 22 HS Softball Summer League (Tournament) 4 – 5pm Teen Funtivities Club

Hennessey Public Library

Wednesday, July 23 10 – 11am Littlest Patron Playtime

Thursday, July 24 12 – 1pm Lion's Club Family Cafe

Tuesday, July 29 4 – 5pm Teen Funtivities Club Hennessey Public Library

Wednesday, July 30 10 – 11am Littlest Patron Playtime

Thursday, July 31 12 – 1pm Lion's Club Family Cafe

> Friday, August 1 10am Library opens late (in-house training)

Sunday, August 3 5 – 6pm Back to School Bash

Monday, August 4 8am HS Summer Band (Day 1/5)

Tuesday, August 5 HS Summer Band (Day 2/5) 4 – 5pm Teen Funtivities Club Hennessey Public Library

Wednesday, August 6 HS Summer Band (Day 3/5) 10 – 11am Littlest Patron Playtime

Thursday, August 7 HS Summer Band (Day 4/5) 12 – 1pm Lion's Club Family Cafe 6:30 – 7:30pm OK2A Meeting Vernost Wine Co **Friday, August 8** HS Summer Band (Day 5/5)

Monday, August 11

- 4:30 5:30pm Library Board 5 – 6pm HS Softball vs Alva (A) 5 – 6pm JH Softball vs Perry (H)
- 7 8pm School Board Meeting

Tuesday, August 12

4 – 6pm Meet the Teacher
4 – 5pm Teen Funtivities Club Hennessey Public Library
4:30 – 5:30pm HS Softball vs Cashion (H)
4:30 – 5:30pm JH Softball vs Cashion (A)
6 – 7pm Hennessey Town Board Meeting

Wednesday, August 13 10 – 11am Littlest Patron Playtime

Thursday, August 14 1st Day of School 12 – 1pm Lion's Club Family Cafe 5 – 6pm HS Softball vs Blackwell (A) 5 – 6pm JH Softball vs Tonkawa (H)

Friday, August 15 HENNESSEY OPEN RODEO 10am Library opens late (in-house training)

2 – 3pm HS Sports Media Day 4:30 – 5:30pm JH Softball vs Chisholm (H) 6 – 7pm Meet the Eagles

Saturday, August 16 HENNESSEY OPEN RODEO 10 – 11am HS Football – Blue/White Scrimmage

Monday, August 18 4:30 – 5:30pm HS Softball vs Pioneer (H) 4:30 – 5:30pm JH Softball vs Pioneer (A)

Tuesday, August 19 Mason Meeting at Coronado Lodge 4 – 5pm Teen Funtivities Club Hennessey Public Library 4:30 – 5:30pm JH Softball vs Fairview (A)

5 – 6pm HS Softball vs Perry (H)

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