

Merritt wins regionals
p. 7A

Save up to \$283.30
with coupons inside!



The Elk City News

Serving
Western Oklahoma
Since 1901

Sunday, September 24, 2017

Historic military vehicles on display MVPA Route 66 Convoy coming Thursday



The Military Vehicle Preservation Association rolls into Elk City Thursday displaying the history of American Armed Forces' vehicles as a part of their MVPA 2017 Route 66 Convoy.

"Elk City is honored to be one of the lunch stops for 2017 MVPA Convoy," Elk City Convention & Visitors Bureau Director Julie Lenius said.

The convoy will arrive in Elk City on Thursday at approximately 11 a.m. and will receive a police escort from I-40 Exit 41 to the National Route 66 Museum Complex where the vehicles will be staged for the public to view. Viewing is free to the public.

Veterans of all generations are encouraged to view and sit in these vehicles while they are here.

"We encourage all of our local businesses to display their American flags as we roll out the red carpet and welcome this historic convoy to town," Lenius added.

In addition, the General Tommy Franks

The 2,400-mile, 29-day convoy represents America's longest Veterans' parade honoring the service and sacrifice of all Veterans and active military.

Leadership Institute mobile museum will also be on display.

The MVPA Route 66 Convoy 91st Anniversary launched on Sept. 16 in Chicago, Illinois and will travel Route 66 making lunch and overnight stops as they travel to Santa Monica, California.

The 2,400-mile, 29-day convoy represents America's longest Veterans' parade honoring the service and sacrifice of all Veterans and active military.

During WWI, Route 66 acted as a military transport corridor moving troops and supplies from one military base to another. Motels saw an increase in occupancy as families of servicemen stationed at military bases stayed for long stretches.

Route 66 facilitated perhaps the single

greatest wartime mobilization, as thousands of job-seekers headed to California, Oregon and Washington to work in defense plants.

Eighty historic military vehicles will retrace the original 1926 Route 66 to honor the service and sacrifice of veterans of all generations.

These vehicles will range from WWI-era to those just released from the US Armed Forces inventories; motorcycles, jeeps and large cargo trucks.

For more information go to www.visitelkcity.com or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/visitelkcity.

Contact the Elk City Convention & Visitors Bureau at 580-225-0906.

To follow the convoy progress online, visit www.convoyontheair.org/.

First LightGuard System in state installed

LED warning lights installed in pavement at railroad crossing

On Monday, a TraxAlert System was installed on the Farmrail crossing on East 7th Street. A demonstration was held at noon Tuesday with representatives from several agencies.

Attendees included Bill Baron, senior project manager, Volpe National Transportation Systems Center; Judy Petry, president, Farmrail; Blake Ausbrooks, senior signal manager, Farmrail; Walter Floyd, president, Track and Lighting Systems; Luis Delgado, senior electrician, Traffic and Lighting Systems; Lee Litterell, city manager, City of Elk City; Larry Hart, signal supervisor, City of Elk City; Craig Moody, division manager, ODOT

Rail Programs Division; Dorothy Heatwole, safety project manager, ODOT Rail Programs Division; and Dr. Jack Webb, RR safety manager, ODOT Rail Programs Division.

Tuesday's event commemorated the first installation and study of LED in-roadway warning lights used at a railroad grade crossing in the state of Oklahoma.

Funded by the USDOT Volpe National Research Center, the study will evaluate traffic behavior and motorist stopping yield rates before and after the IRWL installation.

TraxAlert™ is an in-pavement LED warning-light signaling system designed for rail grade crossing

See RR, p. 2A



A Farmrail locomotive helps with the demonstration of the new warning lights on East 7th Street. Staff photo by Isaac Wyant.

'Look for the helpers'

Two Elk City residents helping after Hurricane Harvey

Cheryl Overstreet
Community Editor

Children's television host Mr. Rogers said his mother responded to scary news by telling him to look for the helpers. He said the world is full of doctors and nurses, police and firemen, volunteers, neighbors and friends who are ready to jump in to help when things go wrong.

Two of the helpers in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey are from Elk City.

Maurice Wade and Jim Coffey traveled to the Texas coast with the Oklahoma Southern Baptist Disaster Relief teams.

Wade went in as an assessor. He and a chaplain were assigned the duty along the coastline.

Wade went to Texas from Aug. 30, only five days after Harvey hit the Texas Gulf Coast with winds topping 130 mph.

Coffey traveled to the northern area of Houston on Sept. 5 where he worked with the mud-out crews assigned there.

"Our incident command center was in Portland, Texas near Corpus Christi," Wade said. "We traveled from one community to the next along the coast."

He said small towns were scattered every six or seven miles.

"We never ran out of the dam-

age path," Wade added.

As an assessor, Wade's job was to go house to house and find people who remained in their homes through the hurricane. Then he would assess the damage, document the damage before sending in chain saw crews to remove debris and tarp the roofs.

One gentleman stands out in Wade's recollection of the 10 days he spent in Texas.

"A lot of them rode out the storm. One was a man named Mr. Jones who lives in Refugio, Texas," Wade explained. "He lived in a small shack of a house - about 8 feet by 20 feet."

Wade said they knocked on the

door of the little house and Mr. Jones answered from inside.

"He lived there by himself. He said he had been there since 1923," Wade continued. "He was in an electric wheelchair and his battery was dead. Two huge trees lay across the roof."

Wade said the man desperately needed help. He took the name of the property owner and made a phone call.

"We went back the next day and the property owner was in the yard," Wade said. "It had been raining heavy that day but as we pulled up and got the papers signed to allow the crews to come

See *Helpers*, p. 2A



One of the thousands of residents affected by Hurricane Harvey, Mr. Jones is seen with a new quilt made by a quilting group in Oklahoma City. Submitted photo.



Weather
tomorrow



91/68

Vol. 115, No. 115
75 cents, 20 pgs.

Home delivery
580.225.3000

View online
ecdailynewsonline.com

RR safety



A TraxAlert System was installed on the Farmrail crossing on East 7th Street Monday. A demonstration was held at noon Tuesday with representatives from several agencies. Staff photo by Isaac Wyant.

RR

From p. 1A
safety. The TraxAlert System installed in Elk City is for railroad crossings without the crossbar to stop traffic.

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, 240,528 at-grade highway-rail crossings exist in the United States. Even with gates and signal lights, nearly 50 percent of vehicle-train collisions occur at crossings, creating the need for a more effective traffic warning device.

TraxAlert's red and amber LED in-roadway warning lights are embedded into and across the roadway, creating two LED flashing warning lines in front of the railroad tracks.

The amber IRWLs are located at the stop bar line and define where motorists should stop.

The IRWL lights flash automatically, activated by the approaching train. First the red IRWL flash in a quick strobe pattern, then remain on until the train clears the track crossing zone.

The amber lights continually flash for the duration of the train crossing.

These devices are an effective system reducing accidents that occur on a regular basis at railroad crossings across the country.

For more information, go to <https://www.lightguardsystems.com/traxalert-safer-highway-railroad-grade-crossings/>.

Helpers

From p. 1A
in, the rains stopped and the sun came out."

At about the same time, the chainsaw crew arrived to remove the trees and tarp Mr. Jones' roof. The disaster relief team also brought a generator to charge the resident's wheelchair.

"A quilt group in Oklahoma City sent quilts to the residents of the area," Wade said.

"We went back the next day and gave him a new quilt."

Wade said he witnessed "many poor people there" who lost everything.

Another man Wade met called himself Rattlesnake Bob. He lived on Rattlesnake Lane.

"His front yard was full of debris from the storm but he had gathered some wood and had a fire going in the front yard and a pot of coffee on the fire," Wade explained. "He rode out the storm. Everything was in shambles except his trailer. He cautioned us

about snakes."

"Those were some of the biggest trees I had ever seen," he said. "I have a lot of respect for the chainsaw crew and mud-out crews. Their job is very difficult."

Wade said the majority of the volunteers are "old retired men."

One of the mud-out crew members, Jim Coffey spent his time in the northern subdivisions of Houston.

"After a house is flooded and the water recedes, we can see the waterline and know how much of the wall we need

to remove," Coffey explained. "We cut sheet rock away 2-feet above the level of the water and remove the insulation too."

He said the debris is then hauled to the curb for pickup.

"Workers wear masks and protective gear to prevent inhaling the mold," he said. "After the debris removal, a solution is sprayed to kill mold spores."

Coffey said in Conroe, Spring and The Woodlands, water levels were as high as six feet deep in the homes.

The Southern Baptist Di-

saster Relief teams provided shower stations, feeding units and laundry units to help residents and the crews, as well.

"The Texas people were amazing," Wade said. "People were on corners cooking food and were there to help each other. We would show up at a house and the residents would send us to their neighbors because they believed the neighbors needed us more."

He said that he and the chaplain stopped once to offer prayer with a family and the family declined.

"They said they were praying for us," Wade concluded.

Oklahoma Southern Baptist Disaster Relief teams will return to the area in a few weeks. Don Williams, state director of Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, said their presence will be needed through 2018.

The Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma is a convention consisting of 1,800-plus churches throughout the state. For more information on the BGCO disaster relief operation, visit www.OKDisasterHelp.org.

'Round town

Monday

Western Oklahoma Historical Society board, noon, Western Sizzlin.

Thursday

MVPA Route 66 Convoy, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Elk City Museum Complex.

Monday, Oct. 2

City Commission, 7 p.m., City Hall.

Friday, Oct. 6

WOHS Flea Market, 8 a.m., Ackley Park.

Saturday, Oct. 7

WOHS Flea Market, 8 a.m., Ackley Park.

Farm and Ranch Museum Chili Cook-off, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Farm and Ranch Museum.

Sunday, Oct. 8

WOHS Flea Market, 8 a.m., Ackley Park.

Give blood, celebrate bedlam spirit



Oklahoma Blood Institute is kicking off football season with this season's new "Win from Within" Bedlam t-shirts, free for blood donors.

Join Sweetwater Community at a blood drive with Oklahoma Blood Institute from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., on Wednesday in the High School Multipurpose Room.

Anyone who is healthy and 16 years old* or older can make a life-saving difference for their fellow Oklahomans by giving blood.

"Whether you bleed crimson or orange, our love of football runs deep here in Oklahoma," said John Armitage, M.D., president and CEO of Oklahoma Blood Institute, "But

saving the lives of our neighbors and friends through blood donation takes the definition of winning to a new level."

Oklahoma Blood Institute relies solely on 1,200 volunteer blood donors a day to meet the needs of patients at more than 160 hospitals and medical facilities as well as all air ambulances statewide. There is no substitute for blood, and the donation process takes about an hour. Blood can be donated every 56 days. Platelets can be given as often as every seven days, up to 24 times a year.

Health screenings and Donor Rewards points, redeemable for gift cards and apparel in Oklahoma Blood Institute's online store, are also provided to donors. If donors opt not to take the t-shirt, funds will be given to Global Blood Fund, a 501(c)(3) charity organization helping to procure much-needed blood center supplies in developing countries.

For appointments to give blood contact Marsha Richardson at 580-534-2272.

16 year olds must weigh at least 125 pounds and provide

signed parental permission; 17 year olds must weigh at least 125 pounds; 18+ year olds must weigh at least 110 pounds.

Area deaths

Billie Ruth Jones

Funeral services for Billie Ruth Jones, 86 of Cheyenne were held at 10 a.m. Friday at the Crawford Magnolia Baptist Church in Crawford. Interment followed services

at 2 p.m. at the Rhea Cemetery in Leedey.

She was a homemaker. She was born Sept. 28, 1930 in Trail and died Sept. 18 in Elk City.

More than 7,000 of your friends like us on Facebook. Join them.

HEARING AID CENTERS
2900 W 3rd St. • Elk City, OK 73644
(580) 302-6130
www.heargearok.com

FREE HEARING SCREENING AND CONSULTATION

Your time is now, call today!