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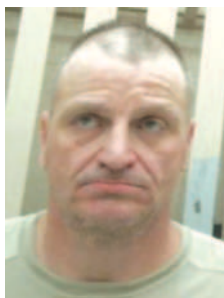
Tuesday, December 14, 2021 | Vol. 120 No.96 | 50¢

NEWS

Inmate escapes county jail Saturday

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The area is on high alert after an inmate at the Ottawa County jail managed to escape in the wee hours Saturday morning, triggering an active man hunt that continues.



Chance

Charles Craig Chance, a.k.a. Chuck, escaped from the jail in Miami on Saturday, Dec. 11, at approximately 1 a.m., according to Undersheriff Rocky Ferdig Saturday morning.

The escape allegedly occurred while jailers were assisting another officer with an intoxicated person just inside the intake area at the jail.

It is known that Chance exited out the north door after breaking the lock on his interior cell.

"How he got out of the building is still under investigation, Ferdig said Sunday, "and he is believed to still be in the area."

There were no new leads as of Sunday morning, after all leads that had come in so far were followed up on Saturday night, Ferdig added.

Chance was being held on multiple charges of possessing stolen property and was last seen wearing a white T-shirt and gray issued sweat pants. He is approximately 5-10, weighs 200 pounds, has brown hair and blue eyes.

Anyone with information should call the Ottawa County Sheriff's Office at 918-542-2806, or central dispatch at 918-542-5585, if you have any information on the escaped inmate's whereabouts.

MPS COLLECTS FOOD FOR CHRISTMAS BREAK DELIVERIES



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Coming off a successful Peanut Butter & Jelly Drive that provided food to more than 150 households during the Thanksgiving break, Miami Public Schools has set its sights on collecting snacks and easy-to-prepare foods to deliver to students during the much longer Christmas break. Whitney McGhee, the school district's new Mental and Behavioral Health Liaison, is spearheading the Christmas Break Food Drive/Delivery.

She said they're primarily looking for donations of low-maintenance, easy preparation items. Things like granola bars, Pop-Tarts, Easy Mac, individual applesauce cups and fruit cups or anything else kids can easily prepare themselves. While the program does benefit students in low-income households, it also helps many other students across

the entire school district. "We have lots of students who go home with snacks on the weekends for lots of different reasons," McGhee said. "We took those lists from each of the school sites to build a district list and that's the list we go off of." Every household on the list will receive its own bag of food based on the size of the household. The plan is to have enough items to help cover breakfast, lunch and snacks for about a week.

“The plan is to have enough items to help cover breakfast, lunch and snacks for about a week.”

and maybe a whole box of granola bars rather than one or two granola bars like what they go home with on the weekends. I would just love to have full grocery bags for every household. That would be my vision."

To make her vision a reality, McGhee and her team are accepting food

items as donations. She said people can send things to the different schools or she can pick stuff up or meet people who want to drop off items. Whatever works for both individuals and businesses. Because it's a much bigger food drive, they're relying more heavily on the generosity of local businesses.

They also already have some funds that have been donated to purchase items. They have some money from the school district that was allocated for the project and Bright Futures also donated money to the cause. These funds will help fill the gaps of missing food items still needed to fill the bags.

"We have some businesses just making a monetary donation, then letting us do the shopping and that's obviously just fine," McGhee said. "This helps those who might not have the time to go do the shopping. It's going to be a lot of food."

Like the previous project over Thanksgiving break, the Christmas break food drive will deliver bags to 150 households with over 300 enrolled students. That's not counting any

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LOCAL

Citizens encouraged to contact FEMA about floodplain management

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The regular Miami city council meeting kicked off Monday evening with an appearance by Rebecca Jim with the LEAD Agency, which monitors Tar Creek and the floodplains here.

"There is an issue that has come up that I think you would like to ask citizens in the community to do," Jim said. "Individually and in your own capacity, we need to write comments to FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency), which has requested public input on revising the national flood insurance program, which will be helpful to communities that have flooded."

She noted that FEMA had not updated its standards in about 50 years.

"In their instruction comments, FEMA says that heartfelt letters mean more than form letters while they are trying to figure out how floodplain management standards can be changed to make communities better," Jim said. "One would be to not build where it floods. There are several recommendations being made throughout the country, including asking for prohibition of construction in 100-year floodplains, and that critical infrastructure not be put in 500-year floodplains in an attempt to establish a basis to go on in the future."

Jim also said, "It's an opportunity for people in your standing to make a comment that could change history for the generations that follow. We also need to have the rules changed so that future buyers know that a property is in a floodplain, to protect citizens and make flood insurance fair."

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Three seek board seat at Wyandotte other districts in county have one candidate each

Wyandotte is the only school district that will have an election.

Keisa Billings, Mark A. Buzzard and Alvin Kihenia are the only persons that have filed for any of the positions in Ottawa County. Kihenia had been appointed to fill Seat 2 on the Wyandotte board, but now will seek a full 5-year term.

Others who have filed with no opposition are:

Afton — Teresa McCoin (Seat 2 incumbent, 5-year term)

Commerce — Herb Logan (Seat 2 incumbent, 5-year term) and Tony Durham (Seat 4 unexpired 2-year team)

Fairland — Crystal Wyrick (Seat 2 incumbent, 5-year term)

Miami — Harley Turner (Seat 2 incumbent, 5-year term) and Brandon Foster (Seat 1 unexpired 4-year term)

Quapaw — Paula Suman (Seat 2 incumbent, 5-year term)

Turkey Ford — Clarence Jones (Seat 1 incumbent, 3-year term)

The primary will be held Feb. 8, 2022 with the general election on April 5.

The voter registration deadline is Jan. 14, 2020 and the last day to request an absentee ballot is Jan. 24, 2022.

The early voting period is Thursday, Feb. 3 and Friday, Feb. 4.

Spirits were high at the Fairland Christmas parade

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The Fairland High School cheerleading squad gave a rousing performance of "Jingle Bell Rock," which included singing and dancing that rocked the show and delighted audience members at the Fairland Christmas Parade on Saturday.

The squad was nestled between the Fairland High School and Quapaw High School marching bands, who both added their own music to the festivities with versions of classic Christmas tunes that jingled all the way down Highway 60.



The Fairland High School cheerleaders performed at Saturday's parade.

The annual event saw about 25 entrants this year, many of which

wowed kids and adults alike. Parade attendees were heard commenting on how cute the little angels were on the First Baptist Church of Fairland's float and they loved the Quick Care (opening soon) float because it spewed bubbles.

Other notable entrants included the Craig County Shriners (The Rascals) with their miniature car and dune buggies and the Grand Lake Shrine Club with their boats.

These were just some of the many modes of transportation that cruised along the parade route. Parade

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Santa gets a special escort while riding a Fairland Fire Department truck



