



MIAMI News-Record

REID NEWSPAPER GROUP

Serving Miami and surrounding communities since 1903.

Friday, December 31, 2021 | Vol. 120 No.101 | 50¢

JAIL, FORMER SHERIFF DOMINATE 2021 OTTAWA COUNTY HEADLINES



Issues at the Ottawa County Jail were among the top stories in 2021.



Former Ottawa County Sheriff Jeremy Floyd accepting a plea agreement on several charges that had been filed against him.

The Ottawa County jail and the former sheriff dominated local headlines in 2021. Other top stories included economic boosts and the emergency evacuation of a Miami high-rise.

New sheriff quells small riot

Disgruntled inmates caused a small riot at the Ottawa County jail on April 26, but the new sheriff reported no injuries to law enforcement or inmates.

Dispatch reported that there were several inmates in one of the jail pods at the county jail in Miami that had barricaded the doors and were smashing windows. Several members of local law enforcement agencies were able to enter the jail pod and regain control of the inmates.

According to Sheriff David Dean, inmates Trinton Cole and Tristen Tiffany were the two main instigators.

Both will now be

charged with rioting and malicious injury to property. Other inmates could face charges after completion of the full investigation.

Detention officers arrested

Two former detention officers at the Ottawa County jail were arrested in June for allegedly assisting in bringing contraband into the jail.

According to the report, Detective Justin Berry found that a detention officer at the jail might be assisting in bringing contraband into the jail while listening to jail telephone calls during an investigation of another case. He reported that an inmate was allegedly making plans with a friend to bring contraband to the sheriff's office/jail lobby and that a detention officer was going to allegedly receive the contraband and give it to the inmate. While

•Please see Ottawa, Page 3



An illegal dam had to be removed from Tar Creek which was named among America's Most Endangered Rivers of 2021 by American Rivers.



Work is nearing completion on a new Pete's convenience store on North Main in Miami.

NEWS

ROCMND tackles marijuana misuse among youth



Kaytlynn Owens (left) and Kim Horn manning their ROCMND Prevention Program booth at the Quapaw All School Carnival earlier this year.

Moira K. McGhee
news@reidnewspapers.com

Despite being known as a "natural" substance, marijuana can impact children and adolescents, especially since their brains are still developing. It can also lead to a substance use disorder. To address the issue of underage marijuana misuse, ROCMND Ottawa County Prevention Program was recently awarded a four-year grant from the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health Substance Abuse Services (ODMHSAS).

The grant started in July 2021 and provides \$125,000 per year to focus on this issue. It was one of only nine grants awarded specifically for marijuana prevention in the entire state.

Ottawa County was chosen for a youth marijuana misuse grant, instead of a youth alcohol misuse or an opioids grant, because it ranked eighth out of 77 counties statewide on ODMHSAS' list of High Need Communities needing to address youth marijuana misuse.

•Please see Youth, Page 12

LOCAL

Jail rehabilitation project gets green light

Carla Nielsen
news@reidnewspapers.com

A long awaited agreement that will allow the county to move forward with jail rehabilitation projects was approved by the county commissioners at their regular meeting here Monday.

The agreement is between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer Interagency/Support (servicing entity) and Grand Gateway (the receiving entity) for the design and construction of the county jail rehabilitation project in the amount of \$80,000.

Chairman and District 3 commissioner Russell Earls said, "We finally got through this. It got held up in legal until they could figure out if they could (legally) do business with Grand Gateway. We sent them our charter and information from the state and now they are good to go. And (district attorney) Kenny Wright has looked at and approved it. This will get us some help at the jail."

"The recent inmate escape is a direct result of this work needing to get done (fixing door locks and security issues) and Sheriff David Dean is very happy it is finally happening. And this wouldn't have happened without the help of a lot of folks."

•Please see Project, Page 2



The Yellowstone buffalo herd recently received by the Modoc Nation are temporarily kept separate from their other buffalo herds.

Modoc Nation gets 28 Yellowstone buffalo

Moira K. McGhee
news@reidnewspapers.com

The Modoc Nation recently received a herd of buffalo from Yellowstone National Park. The herd is an entire family from babies to bulls and considered some of the purest buffalo in the nation.

On Dec. 16, Defenders of Wildlife announced that they along with the Fort Peck Tribes and the InterTribal Buffalo Council (ITBC) were facilitating the transfer of 56 Yellowstone buffalo.

The Yakama Nation in Washington and the Modoc Nation in Oklahoma would each receive 28 buffalo.

It's the first time it transferred two large intact bison families under the Bison Conservation Transfer

Program, which began in 2019.

To date, more than 150 healthy bison have been quarantined at Fort Peck before being sent to tribes across the United States. These include the 28 that now make their home at the 600-acre Modoc Nation Bison Range just outside of Miami near the Oklahoma-Missouri border.

These buffalo are direct descendants of the last survivors of the mass slaughters during the 19th century. Chamois Anderson, senior representative of the Rockies and Plains Program at Defenders of Wildlife, explains how this came about.

"Back in the late 1800s and early 1900s there was a mass slaughter of bison

across the Great Plains," Anderson said. "At that time there were more than 30 million animals. Then, there were only about 1,000 animals left, including one herd that was sort of holed up in a remote area of Yellowstone National Park called Pelican Valley."

She said what's important about these animals is that they are of that wild DNA. The wild genetics of the buffalo from the past.

"When we work on our restoration opportunities, we partner with tribes to bring back the buffalo to tribal lands as well as developing conservation herds on public lands," said Anderson. "A big component of that is considering the stock. Where did these animals come from? The Yellowstone bison because that wild DNA is still contained in those animals, they're highly valued."

Anderson explained that there are about half a million

•Please see Buffalo, Page 4



Other Modoc herds are seen grazing throughout the vast 600-acre range where 28 Yellowstone buffalo recently arrived.



Buffalo

•Continued from Page 1

buffalo on the Plains. The majority of them are managed for agriculture, so they've had some cattle integration.

"Years ago, we had this idea, let's create a beefalo and we forced bison to intermingle with cattle," she said. "Well, that wasn't a good idea because bison don't really want to be with cattle. They know they're a different animal. A lot of the animals out there have some cattle DNA, but that's not the animals we're talking about."

She explained that the Yellowstone buffalo have 99% pure, wild DNA and no cattle. There are about 40,000 of these buffalo in tribal herds and public herds, such as at Yellowstone. Because of the wild genetics of these buffalo, they have bigger heads, they're able to withstand harsh winters and they have different mating techniques.

Overall, Anderson said they're just a different animal.

"It's complicated, there's a lot to the story. The Yellowstone ones don't have cow in them. We recently tested them and that's why they're of so high value for building up these tribal herds."

Getting the buffalo from Yellowstone to Miami, Oklahoma, wasn't an easy feat, but it was made possible through the Bison Conservation Transfer Program. This program is part of a team effort between the national parks, tribes and partners like Defenders of Wildlife.

When the Yellowstone park population goes beyond 3,000 animals, the bison that migrate out of the park are rounded up as part

of this interagency agreement. The animals are tested because of the risk of brucellosis, a disease that affects bison, elk and cattle.

"The cattle industry is very interested in this disease," said Anderson. "They don't want it to go beyond Yellowstone where it's contained because it can cause female cows to abort their young."

"There's never been a case of bison giving it to cattle, it's usually elk that transmit this into the environment. But we have to go through testing of these wild bison to get them out of the park and make them available to places like Fort Peck and beyond to other tribal nations."

Through a cooperative effort, the animals are tested and go through quarantine at Fort Peck so they can be utilized for tribal buffalo programs. Fort Peck is the clearinghouse where they do the final brucellosis test to fully ensure the animals are disease-free. Once the buffalo receive a negative result, they're cleared for shipment.

"That's what we did with these two families," Anderson said. "Two big families. We sent 28 animals each to the Modoc and the Yakama. It's pretty cool. They're bringing back their buffalo."

Defenders of Wildlife also partners with tribal nations to help financially support tribal buffalo programs.

"We help them secure additional land within their reservation for buffalo habitat. We also help them with fencing because the buffalo ultimately have to run up against a fence. There's never going to be open,

gigantic landscapes. But if we can get large landscapes on tribal lands with big herds, we're doing a good thing."

They also help pay for the cost to transport the animals from Yellowstone to Fort Peck for quarantine. Then, they help pay to transport the buffalo beyond Fort Peck to the tribes. Anderson said part of her job is meeting with their tribal partners to find out what they need and where they can support them.

The Yellowstone buffalo that left Fort Peck to travel to Oklahoma and join the Modoc found a good home waiting for them.

Modoc Bison Manager Jeremy Garrett is completely dedicated to all the buffalo under his care but even more so when it comes to the Yellowstone buffalo they just received. Although this isn't the first buffalo the tribe has received from another place, it's a big herd.

"The herd sitting closest to the road, a vast majority of them are from national parks from across the country," said Garrett. "We have South Dakota buffalo, Wind Cave buffalo, Wichita Mountain buffalo and we just got a shipment of Colorado buffalo a few weeks ago."

However, he said the Yellowstone herd is probably the most genetically tested herd in North America right now.

"The herd's been sitting for 17 months undergoing testing before it got to us," he said. "They're from the wild. They were rounded up and darted, then took to that facility where they stayed for 17 months and were tested because they were yanked straight

out of the wild."

He explained that they have an abundance of buffalo in Yellowstone and in a lot of the national parks and sometimes too much inbreeding can occur.

"What can happen is the younger buffalo will trickle in because they don't leave as fast and so they basically end up breeding their sister. If you don't have a bunch of really good, big males running the herd, these dinky guys will get in and inbreed."

"A lot of places are having issues with this, so part of the program is that they're going to send us these 28 buffalo and we'll let them interbreed with ours and then we have to return two new bull bison every year so that we can put a new strain of genetics out there."

He said the Modoc facility is well set up to do that because of its new fencing and his absolute dedication to what they're doing.

"It's just that we're capable of integrating them into our current situation and really give them a great place to go. Through a lot of hard work, we're capable of providing one of the best places in the area, in my opinion, to house these animals."

Garrett said he only cares about the buffalo and that it's been a life-long dream of his to be where he's at now.

"I get to be around the buffalo and I've always wanted to be part of that," he said. "I've always wanted to be part of the Native culture . . . I'm just very appreciative of the position I have and we're just very fortunate to have these buffalo."

S U D O K U

	4			3	1			5
			9	5				
						7	2	
1						4		8
5	7		6		4		1	2
4		8						7
	1	4						
				1	2			
2		3	4				9	

Tuesday's Sudoku

7	5	3	9	8	4	2	1	6
6	1	8	5	3	2	7	9	4
2	9	4	6	7	1	3	8	5
5	4	7	8	6	9	1	3	2
3	2	9	1	4	7	5	6	8
8	6	1	3	2	5	4	7	9
1	3	2	4	9	8	6	5	7
4	8	6	7	5	3	9	2	1
9	7	5	2	1	6	8	4	3

Sudoku uses pure logic and requires no math to solve. It is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers.

The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once.

C R Y P T O Q U I P

Q P J X P X P D I J X C K D K D I D Z L
 N X X H Y R J Z C W H Z U C Z X D J Z
 I N H L P N Y S C Z R Q J L P L C R L D
 W H U R ? L N Z S H D - R L D Z .

Tuesday's Cryptoquip: SUPPOSING JUVENILE KANGAROOS PLAYED VIDEO GAMES, WOULD THEY CONTROL THEM WITH JOEY-STICKS?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals H

C R O S S W O R D

Across

- 1) Spanish dwelling
- 5) _ myrtle
- 10) Ship's post
- 14) Unknown quote source, for short
- 15) Edmonton pro
- 16) Asian housemaid
- 17) Thirty-two-card game
- 18) Lasting impressions
- 19) "Batman" cartoonist Bob
- 20) Some quick breakfast orders
- 23) Capital of Rhone
- 24) Regular writing
- 25) Carpenters' grooves
- 28) Helen of_
- 30) " ... and make it fast!"
- 31) Expressed awe
- 33) Blooming loop
- 36) It's indexed?
- 40) Sailor's "yes"
- 41) Attempts at waist removal?
- 42) Perfect, as one's skills
- 43) What wavy lines in comics represent
- 44) Keeps smiling
- 46) Hindu sage
- 49) Shish_
- 51) Bogus monetary unit
- 57) Stir up sediment
- 58) Abdominal ailment
- 59) It can be good, bad or bright
- 60) Place for a lighthouse
- 61) Say "I'm thinkin'," e.g.
- 62) Ardor
- 63) Exterminator's quarry
- 64) Lions' prides?
- 65) Tear with force

Down

- 1) Playbill listing
- 2) Egyptian life symbol
- 3) Emulate eagles
- 4) Range rover
- 5) Earth and beyond
- 6) Poisonous protein in castor beans
- 7) Thicke and Rickman
- 8) South American nation

9) Prefix for "while"

- 10) Place to buy pies
- 11) Insect's adult stage
- 12) Tart flavors
- 13) The ones here
- 21) Seeing_ dog
- 22) Lyrical poem
- 25) Computer input
- 26) Like an uncleaned hearth
- 27) It might begin "Bet you can't!"

28) Not that

- 29) Make go "vroom"
- 31) Legal hearing
- 32) Frequently, to Shakespeare
- 33) "Land of a million elephants"
- 34) Fish-eating bird
- 35) "Beware the_ of March"
- 37) Murphy of Hollywood
- 38) Condensed lifetime account
- 39) More plump
- 43) Common breakfast dish
- 44) Lowers in esteem
- 45) Damage, as a surface
- 46) "77 Sunset "
- 47) Question of possession
- 48) Hard seed coverings
- 49) Anne or Calvin of fashion
- 50) Escape detection
- 52) Per_ expenses
- 53) Earthenware jar
- 54) Run at the light
- 55) Trimmed of fat
- 56) Attain, as a job

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14				15					16				
17				18					19				
20				21					22				
			23						24				
25	26	27					28	29					
30						31	32				33	34	35
36				37	38						39		
40				41							42		
			43						44	45			
46	47	48					49	50					
51						52	53				54	55	56
57						58					59		
60						61					62		
63						64					65		

Answers to Tuesday's crossword

O	R	A	T	E	N	I	N	E	S	U	K	E			
H	E	L	I	X	A	D	O	P	T	N	E	O			
O	V	E	R	A	N	D	O	V	E	R	D	E	C		
				E	M	A	I	L	E	U	G	E	N		
S	P	U	D		E	R	I	K		M	O	R	A	N	
E	O	N			Z	A	G		A	C	N	E			
C	U	D		T	E	L	E	P	H	O	T	O			
T	R	E	M	O		P	A	R	O	N	S				
				R	E	P	L	I	C	A	T	E	K	E	A
A	G	H	A		A	N	A			E	E	N			
L	O	A	N	T		S	L	O	T		O	D	D	S	
C	A	N	T	L	E		O	N	E	O	N				
O	L	D		O	V	E	R	A	C	H	I	E	V	E	
T	I	E		G	E	N	I			M	O	R	A	L	
T	E	D		S	N	E	E	R		S	N	A	R	L	