

NEWS



Miami group responds to tornado damaged states

Moira K. McGhee
news@reidnewspapers.com

By now, most Miami residents have probably seen the news about the severe onslaught of tornadoes that tore through six states on Friday, Dec. 10 and into the early morning hours of Saturday, Dec. 11. The overwhelming devastation a tornado can bring carries an emotional toll that often spans state lines. The Oklahoma Emergency Response Team (OKERT) plans to cross those lines to offer assistance to people impacted by the tornadoes.

OKERT has been around since 2014 and is led by Rick Aldridge. Two of his team members headed to Mayfield, Kentucky, Friday, Dec. 17.

Kentucky was hit the worst with at least 74 confirmed deaths by Tuesday night, including the youngest victim, a 5-month-old infant. The state still had over 100 people unaccounted for at that time. Other states in the path of the

40-plus confirmed tornadoes included Arkansas, Illinois, Missouri, Mississippi and Tennessee.

"We're doing a couple of trips," Aldridge said. "A couple of folks are heading to Kentucky and bringing everything they can get their hands on. The place in Kentucky has requested things like blankets, jackets and shoes, but no clothes. Also, hygiene products like soap, toothpaste and things like that."

Other items requested include water, extension cords, plywood, toilet paper, paper towels, and tarps. All items should be new or like new. The group asked people to please don't donate soiled or torn items.

"We're trying to get as much stuff ready to go as possible on Friday," said Aldridge. "It's kind of short notice, but we actually had people that were free that wanted to drive down there to help. We're working hard to try to get those things delivered."

Anyone wanting to donate items or make a monetary donation to help OKERT assist people affected in Kentucky should come by their warehouse Friday between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. The OKERT warehouse is located at 400 West Veterans Blvd. in the Westco warehouse building at the end closest to the yellow hanger.

"We're also going to be sending two big trucks down after Christmas for a Jan. 8 or 9 movement," said Aldridge. "This will be a large drive for items that are requested. That trip is going to go to Arkansas."

"They didn't get hit as bad, but the big government response agencies tend to go to the bigger disasters and forget about the little guys. So, we're going to take care of them, as well."

Aldridge said the group has posted a list of needed things they're going to be collecting on its Facebook page, but he expects this list to grow.

For updates on OKERT's efforts to help current tornado victims, visit the OKERT Facebook page at www.facebook.com/Oklahoma-Emergency-Response-Team-OKERT-633150436789934 or the Good Neighbor Coalition Facebook page at www.facebook.com/Good-Neighbor-Coalition-113236296982684.

Legion breakfast date moved

Floyd L Perry American Legion Post 147 has announced that its monthly Biscuits & Gravy Breakfast normally held on the last Saturday from 9 to 11 a.m. will be moved to the third Saturday (Dec. 18) for December only.

Post 147 commander Bill Trithart said the change was necessary because the last Saturday of the month is Christmas Day.

However, the upcoming holiday won't interfere with the organization's Coffee & Donuts Get-togethers held every Tuesday and Thursday from 9 to 10 a.m.

Both events are free and open to the public, but a donation to the nonprofit veteran's group is much appreciated.

You can attend either event at the American Legion Post located at 2129 Denver Harner Drive.



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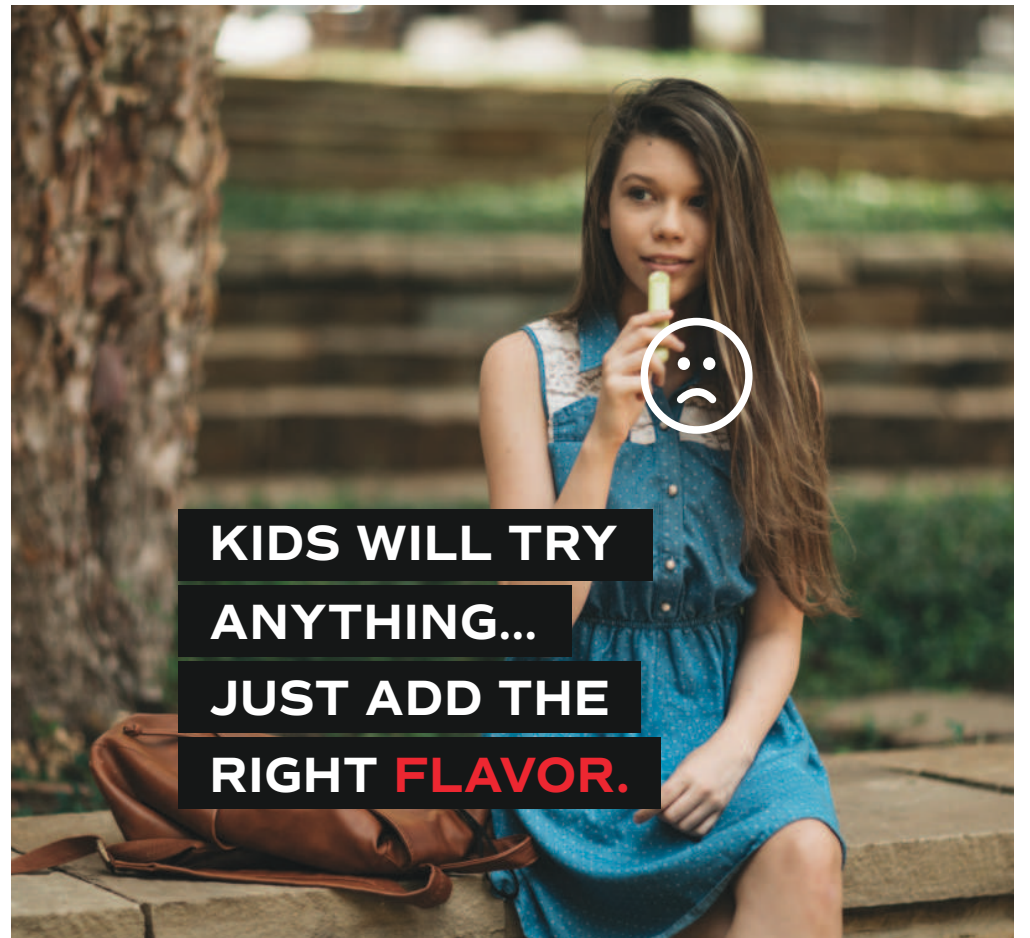
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