

## LIFESTYLES

Fundraising lunch and auction set in Welch.

Page 3

## SPORTS

Lady Hornets avoid letdown, rout Locust Grove.

Page 4

Today

58/47

Tomorrow

60/29

Friday

35/23

Find us on facebook

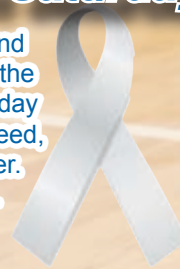
Published by Vinita Printing Co., a division of Reid Publishing



## Hornets hope to 'white-out' arena on Saturday to honor Linda Reed



The Vinita basketball family is asking all Hornet and Lady Hornet fans to wear white for a 'white-out' at the district tournament games against Stilwell this Saturday in honor of Coach Scott Reed's late mother, Linda Reed, who recently passed away after battling lung cancer. Linda was an avid Hornet and Lady Hornet fan. The shirts are on sale at 66 Apparel, \$10 each, or \$15 for long-sleeve.



VINITA DAILY JOURNAL, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2019

50¢

# Woman charged in false rape report

Denton Thomason  
Journal Reporter

A Vinita woman who assaulted a man with a golf club has been charged with filing a false police report after wrongfully accusing the man of raping a teenager the morning after a drug- and alcohol-fueled party.

Danyall Opal Colvard, 32, has been charged with a felony count of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, along with a misdemeanor

count of false reporting of a crime, stemming from a Jan. 4 episode that occurred at her residence, located in the 300 block of E. Sequoyah Avenue, court records show.

Police responded to the residence at approximately 11:08 a.m. after Colvard called saying that she needed help because a 17-year-old female friend had just been sexually assaulted by Monte Hardrick, 23, a probable cause affidavit said.

When police arrived, Colvard said that she arrived home and saw Colvard on top of the juvenile female in a bedroom and that the teenager was screaming for him to stop assaulting her, court records show.

She alleged that she grabbed a golf club and struck Hardrick several times as he fled the residence.

The teenager was shaking and crying, but

See False Page 12



Photo by Mary Claiborne

Manager of Grand Meridian RV Resort Gregg Knotts reaches out to the public with an interview on KJRH News concerning the closing of the bridge over Duck Creek between Cleora and Ketchum. "The closing will definitely affect our business," said Knotts.

## Bad timing for bridge to be built

### Commentary

Mary Claiborne  
Staff Reporter

No one is opposed to a new bridge being built over Duck Creek, on Hwy. 85, but the timing could not be worse. Businesses on Grand Lake depend on that artery being open. Welcome Back Weekend is March 1-2. It is the opening of the season on Grand Lake. Yet one week from that date the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) will be closing Hwy. 85 for a minimum of 180 days to build a new bridge.

It is enough that businesses on Grand Lake face Mother Nature's wrath at times with green algae and flooding. Now they will lose business from March through August, and possibly longer. For many businesses it will be a struggle to stay afloat.

It is as though ODOT doesn't care if the number one tourist attraction of Oklahoma suffers. There were no meetings of discussion with business owners, as took

place in Bernice with the discussion of replacing Horse Creek Bridge, before the date was set to close Hwy. 85 to build a new bridge over Duck Creek. It came as a surprise to all Grand Lakers. Grand Lake businesses are dependent on traffic through spring and summer months. What they make during these months means death or survival through the winter.

People who come to Grand Lake, after driving several hours to get to the lake, are not going to drive on a rocky, dirt road to get around the construction, unless they have an old pickup that they don't care about, nor are they going to drive an extra 30 minutes on pavement to get around the building project. They want and expect convenience at the number one tourist attraction in Oklahoma.

See Bridge Page 12

## Java & Jazz perfect for Valentine's Day date

Angela Thomason  
Journal Reporter

Still trying to plan something nice for Valentine's Day? How about dessert and a concert featuring jazz and folk music - for only \$5 each?

The VHS Blue Notes Show Choir will once again host their popular Java & Jazz event Thursday night for the public at the Vinita High School cafeteria.

Doors will open at 6 p.m., with live musical performances to start at 6:30 p.m.

Tables will be decorated with candlelight. The room will be dimly lit, and attendees will be treated to a large selection of desserts to go with their choice of coffee, tea or water.

Then, the talented VHS Blue Notes Show Choir, under direction of vocal music instructor Shelley Reed, will perform some favorite jazz, romance and other songs, featuring the award-winning talents of the show choir members.

They will also add some

See Java Page 12

## Bluejacket re-hires principals, announces grant for \$12,000

Denton Thomason  
Journal Reporter

The Bluejacket school board approved to re-hire two principals during their regular monthly business meeting held earlier this month.

The board approved the re-hiring of Elementary Principal Amy Rogers and Middle School Principal Tracy Mendez for the 2019-20 school year during the Feb. 4 board meeting.

"They do a great job. They're leaders and they know what direction their schools need to go. They steer this ship and do a terrific job," Superintendent Shellie Baker said in an interview.

In other news:

- Baker reported that the district is going to receive a \$12,000 Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust Grant that will be used for repairs and upgrades to the walking track.

Baker said that the district is qualified as a healthy fit school, which allows the district to apply for TSET grants.

"We'll use the grant to fill in the cracks and have it resurfaced, and may paint some lines on it. We will also have fitness stations around the track for things like pull-ups and will add a balance beam," Baker said.

The Cherokee Nation also recently awarded the district \$3,000 to expand the breakfast and lunch choices for the cafeteria. New breakfast choices include more variety of fresh fruit and more selections of cereal, and lunch options would include a sandwich and potato bar.

- During college remediation report, Baker said that the district graduated 19 students in the Class of 2018. Five are currently attending Northeast Technology Center, three are attending four-year universities, four are attending two-year colleges and seven joined the workforce.

- The board also held a five-year evaluation of the agriculture program and discussed top-notch areas, but also other areas that need improvement, Baker reported.

- The board approved Jon Herlan as a baseball lay coach and game-day bus driver for the spring baseball season.



Photo by Hornet Media

VHS Blue Note Show Choir soloist Samantha Mahurin sings some sweet notes during the Java & Jazz event last year. She will return Thursday night, Valentine's Day, as a senior to perform at the fundraiser.

### Today's Inserts



### STREET SCENES

Ronnie Harlan happy birthday...Jimmie Sooter climbing over a railing...Jennifer Garland watching a game...Hugh Gordon stopping to talk...Ja'Bree Ramsey saying hello...Kay Stout calling about upgrades at the PAAS facility...Vinita High School seniors Samantha Mahurin and Makenzie Brown being complimented on their singing of the national anthem...Jake says he certainly believes in telling his wife everything he thinks she is going to find out anyway.





Photo by Mary Claiborne

The beginning of the shortest way to get around bridge construction over Duck Creek is this rough dirt road that emergency vehicles will have to travel.

## Bridge

Continued from Page 1

Not only will this affect marinas, restaurants and other businesses that depend on Hwy. 85 being open, but also emergency vehicles being able to get from one side of Duck Creek to the other in a matter of minutes. It will take them approximately 10 minutes longer to reach their destination by taking the dirt road. Ten minutes can mean life or death in a vehicle accident, a heart attack victim, or saving a

home from burning to the ground. And there are more calls for help when the lake is busy.

Businesses are begging ODOT to reconsider and start building the new Duck Creek Bridge after Labor Day, or leave the old bridge intact for transportation while building the new bridge.

They are urging all to contact Senator Michael Bergstrom's office at 405-521-5561 in hopes that he may be able to help postpone the construction of the new bridge for their survival through the spring and summer months.

## Java

Continued from Page 1

choreography to give the audience an early glimpse of some of their performances that will be showcased in Branson, Mo., this spring.

A pie auction will also be held for those who just didn't get enough dessert at the event, and all proceeds raised will go toward the Branson trip.

The evening is a perfect setting for a Valentine's date, or just a relaxing evening for those who enjoy some great music, dancing, and, of course, pie.

## News Briefs

### County Democrats to meet March 14

The Craig County Democratic Party will be hosting a meeting for all precincts on Thursday, March 14, at the Cherokee Nation Vinita Health Center, beginning at 7 p.m. The purpose will be to organize county precincts.

**SELL IT FAST IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!**  
Vinita Daily Journal 918-256-6422

**TRIBAL NATIONS CBD OUTLET**  
STOP PAYING TOO MUCH FOR CBD PRODUCTS!!!  
SHOP US LAST!  
418-B E. ILLINOIS 918-568-0297

## False

Continued from Page 1

did not disclose details of the alleged assault to police. She was transported to Saint Francis Hospital Vinita, where a sexual assault examination was performed.

Police began an investigation and later arrested Hardrick at his residence on Clyde Street on a felony complaint of first-degree rape.

However, when investigators conducted a followup interview with Colvard she gave conflicting statements about what happened. She admitted that she made up the alleged rape because she was fearful of being arrested for assaulting Hardrick with the golf club, reports said.

Colvard admitted to police that she, the 17-year-old girl, Hardrick and others had been partying at her residence the night before. She said they all were drinking vodka and Kentucky Deluxe whiskey, and had also smoked meth-

amphetamine and marijuana, reports said.

Colvard also said that what really happened was that she returned home from grocery shopping the next morning and saw the teen sitting in a chair visibly upset about alleged sexual advances Hardrick had made, reports said.

Colvard said that she yelled "hell no," grabbed a golf club, struck Hardrick several times while he was sleeping in a bed, and yelled obscenities for him to get out of her residence, reports said.

He was released after spending four days in the county jail after a judge was told of the false allegations made by Colvard, police said.

Colvard also admitted that it wasn't the first time that the teenager had partied at her residence, reports said.

Police Chief Bobby Floyd said that making a false report of first-degree rape is a serious matter.

"Given this day and time with the MeToo movement,

we encourage victims to come forward, but this is a case where we have to honor the investigation. We will work diligently if the evidence goes the other way. We pursued the truth and it's justice for Monte. This is one of those serious crimes where if a victim makes it up, it can destroy someone's life. We have to diligently find out the truth and that's what we did," Floyd said.

Floyd noted that police are currently investigating more crimes than ever, and that investigating a false report takes officers away from time better spent tracking down actual crimes.

"When somebody comes forward with false accusations, they waste our time and the public's time. On top of it, it's not fair to the suspect. You have to act on it because they always say that they didn't do it. It was a bad deal for Monte," Floyd said.

Colvard remained jailed as of noon Tuesday with bail set at \$20,000, jail records show.

Summer will be here before you know it....get ready now!

**New OP Polarized Sunglasses \$60**

**Dr. Sherl Moore**  
120 W. Delaware • Vinita  
Mon-Thur 8-5 • Closed Fri  
918-256-5646

S. Grand Lake Delivery!

p.s. I love you  
love lives here

ORDER EARLY For Best Selection

**Lucille's Flowers & Gifts**

Mon-Fri 8am-5pm • Sat 9am-Noon  
411 N. Wilson • Vinita, Ok  
918-256-6187

At Freeman Health System  
**EVERY DELIVERY is a SPECIAL DELIVERY**

That's why we've taken care to provide our community with the most experienced NICU team in the area. With over 23 years of experience, we routinely take care of the most high-risk pregnancies. We have you and your precious little ones' best interests in mind.

The area's most **EXPERIENCED NICU TEAM**  
freemanhealth.com/NICU

**FREEMAN** Neonatal Intensive Care Unit  
Health System