

MUSEUM

A look at Vinita's oil refinery in the early 1900s.

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SPORTS

Lady Hornets split a pair of regional softball games.

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Today



Tomorrow



Sunday



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VINITA DAILY JOURNAL, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2019

50¢



Photo by Angela Thomason

From left, retired judge and U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. Bud Wyatt, serving as Rotarian of the Day, stands with special guest speakers Lorraine Butters of Grand Aces Foundation and Bruce 'Boston' Butters, retired USAF Colonel, along with Rotarian Bob Hart, who is sponsoring a military recognition flyover at the Vinita-Cascia Hall football game Friday night, weather permitting.

## Friday night flyover

Flyover at Vinita-Cascia Hall game to recognize deployed military

Angela Thomason  
Journal Reporter

Weather permitting, on Friday night while the VHS band plays the national anthem at Vinita's football game, attendees will be in for a treat as two aircraft are scheduled to conduct a flyover.

The aircraft are a 1953 Beechcraft T-34 Mentor, a single engine training aircraft used by the U.S. Air Force, and a Yakovlev Yak-52, a Russian single engine trainer aircraft.

The flyover will take place during the last three seconds of the national anthem, as part of Vinita Public Schools' recognition of those who are deployed in the military.

Retired USAF Colonel Bruce 'Boston' Butters will be flying one of the aircrafts, with help from his wife, Lorraine, who will be monitoring the timing to get the flight just right. The second aircraft will be flown by Warbird pilot and aircraft mechanic Alex Rabbit.

Butters was a special guest speaker at the Vinita Rotary Club on Wednesday, when retired judge and U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. Bud Wyatt was the Rotarian of the Day.

Butters and his wife established Grand Aces



Foundation, which is a non-profit foundation that provides scholarships for young adults looking into a career in aviation or STEAM-related careers involving science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics.

Butters explained that every cent of donations given to the foundation goes toward their scholarship program and activities that help educate and train future aviators.

The flyovers which he performs at different community events, such as Vinita's football military appreciation night, are privately funded.

The Vinita flyover planned for Friday night is being provided courtesy of Bob and Pam Hart of Bob Hart Chevrolet.

See Flyover Page 12

## County dismissed from fed lawsuit

Denton Thomason  
Journal Reporter

The Craig County commissioners have been dismissed from a federal lawsuit filed by three Tulsa women who alleged that their civil rights were violated while incarcerated at the Craig County Jail.

The civil lawsuit was filed in federal court in October 2017 by three women who are alleging that their civil rights were violated by fired jailer Shea Dillon Barr.

Barr was employed as a jailer from August 2015 until being fired in April 2016.

The women, who are seeking damages in excess of \$75,000, are not being identified, as their allegations include sexual grievances such as rape, sexual degradation, sexual harassment and blackmail, court filings show.

While Barr remains listed as the sole defendant in the pending lawsuit, U.S. District Court Chief Judge John Dowdell of the Northern District of Oklahoma, ruled last month that the Craig County Board of Commissioners has been dismissed from the lawsuit.

The Craig County Sheriff's Office and Sheriff Heath Winfrey were dismissed as defendants in October 2018, court records show.

While Sheriff Winfrey was individually named in the lawsuit, he had not yet been elected to office and was employed by the Department of Public Safety at the time. The alleged misconduct occurred during the administration of retired sheriff Jimmie Sooter, who is not a defendant in the suit.

See County Page 12

## Chili supper tickets on sale now

Angela Thomason  
Journal Reporter

With fall comes chili weather, and the Vinita Lions Club will be hosting a chili supper fundraiser in a few weeks to benefit three different organizations.

On Thursday, Nov. 7, the benefit chili supper will be held at the American Legion Hut, from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Tickets are \$6 in advance and \$7 at the door the day of the event.

The chili supper will also include a dessert auction, with guest auctioneer J.B. Robison Sr. emceeding.

This year's Lionschili supper will benefit the Vinita Lions Club, the Neighbors Helping Neighbors programs, and the Community Crisis Center of Northeast Oklahoma.

Tickets can be purchased from any Lions Club member.

Vinita High School Senior Night Bonfire and Pep Assembly Thursday, Oct. 21, Bill Morgan Sports Complex. Public is invited. 5 to 8 p.m. This will be the night before the last home football game.



CCSO photo

Members of the American Legion make a \$250 donation to the Craig County Sheriff's Office on Wednesday that will be used for Halloween's Trunk or Treat fun. (From left) American Legion member Daniel Garrett presents the donation to Sheriff's Capt. Frank Miller and administrative assistant Megan Purcell with Adjutant Tim Carter. Trunk or Treat will coincide with the annual Treat in the Street that will be held Oct. 31.

## STREET SCENES

Pete Schofield asking a fellow Walmart shopper, "Are you having fun yet?" (The answer was no.)...Jewell Morgan sending information about a Cherokee Adult Choir performance Oct. 20 at the Pilgrim Presbyterian

Church...Tom Allard in to pick up the Football Bucks he won in last week's Journal football contest...Betty Haynes paying for a classified ad...Tiffany Hayes providing information about a special election that will be held Nov. 12 in Welch...Jake says he has found out that there is no job so simple that it can't be done wrong.

## Flyover

Continued from Page 1

Hart, also a Vinita Rotarian, has had the opportunity to ride in one of Butters' aircraft, and a short clip of that experience was shown to Rotarians on Wednesday.

Butters also showed a short video of a flyover conducted at a Ketchum football game.

Butters explained that there is a significant reduction in the number of young people who are interested in careers in aviation, so in his retirement, he and his wife decided

to establish a foundation to encourage young people who are interested in learning to fly and to train others.

Their goal is to provide four area scholarships in 2020.

Butters, who served in several military combat tours, logged over 4,300 hours of military combat fly time in the F-16 Fighting Falcon, and retired from the Tulsa Air National Guard as Air Commander.

After 27 years in the military, he has served more than 20 years as a flight officer for a major airline flying the Boeing 777.

Butters explained that patriotism has always been important to him, as he was a 10th-generation veteran, with his family's military history reaching as far back as 1775, when five members of his family marched from Wilmington to Concord in the Revolutionary War, to his grandfather and father serving in wars that followed, to his own military service tours in the Middle East.

"One of the things we are interested in doing at Grand Aces is to help young people who lack the financial means to pursue a career in aviation,

or a STEAM-related career," said Butters. "The flyovers we do are one small way to show thanks to the communities that support our goal to provide scholarships."

As far as the expertise involved in timing the flight just right, Butters said they have it down to an art, but it's very challenging.

The flight starts from four miles away from the stadium, and the timing of the band's performance of the national anthem is a minute and a few seconds. He times the flight so that the aircraft sails over the stadium during the final three seconds of the song.

Butters said that he uses his own timer in the plane, as

well as receives a text from his wife when the band starts playing so he can adjust the timing to make it exact.

For those who are interested in learning more about Grand Aces Foundation, check out their website at [www.GrandAces.org](http://www.GrandAces.org), or email them at [Boston@GrandAces.org](mailto:Boston@GrandAces.org) or [Lorraine@GrandAces.org](mailto:Lorraine@GrandAces.org).

## County

Continued from Page 1

The judge said that Craig County officials were dismissed as defendants under the Oklahoma Governmental Tort Claims Act, which protects governmental bodies, prisons and even school districts from being sued over illegal misconduct by employees committed during the scope of their duties.

"The county is immune pursuant to the GTCA's prohibition of suits arising out of the 'operation or maintenance of any prison, jail or correctional facility,' even when the claims are premised upon alleged

violations of the Oklahoma Constitution," the judge wrote in a response to a court motion.

The plaintiffs have a deadline to file a written appeal of the decision, but no appeal has yet been filed, court records show.

Barr pleaded guilty to a felony count of second-degree rape in June 2016 and received a 10-year suspended sentence for having sex with a female prisoner while she was detained at the Craig County Jail awaiting trial, court records show.

When questioned by the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation, Barr admitted to having sex with one of the

plaintiffs. The OSBI said at the time that even though the encounter was consensual between adults, the fact that Barr held a position of authority over the inmate made the contact illegal, according to reports.

A second woman accused Barr of offering to exchange chewing tobacco for oral sex, court records show.

A third woman accused Barr of harassing her at a local motel shortly after she was released from jail, citing that Barr wanted to "party" with her, court records show.

A jury trial has been scheduled for July 2020 at a Tulsa federal building.



Photo by Denton Thomason

A curtain flutters in the breeze after Thursday morning's high winds blew a window out of the second floor of the Coats Furniture building, located in 100 block of S. Wilson Street, at approximately 8:30 a.m. The falling glass shattered on the sidewalk and parking space below, but was quickly cleaned up courtesy of the Vinita Street Department.

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