



# LITTLE RIVER NEWS

★ THE OLDEST BUSINESS INSTITUTION IN LITTLE RIVER COUNTY ~ EST. 1898 ★



**RIDE 'EM COWBOY** Kenneth Willis from Simms, Texas won the bull riding contest this past weekend scoring 78 points out of 100. The bull's brand is 160 and is called The Heat.

## GENEALOGY SOCIETY EXCITED ABOUT ADDING NEW SOURCES

BY CAROLYN MYERS  
LR News CONTRIBUTOR

ASHDOWN - Anyone interested in finding information about their ancestors might consider attending meetings of the Little River Genealogy Society in Ashdown. This group meets the second Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. in Cossatot College. Jenny Stone and Wynelle Choate, president and treasurer, respectively, are happily optimistic about the new genealogical material the Society has acquired recently and its potential for helping many people who want to learn more about long-deceased relatives.

Stone said that she and Choate were looking at all the various types of records available in the Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives (SARA) building in Historic Old Washington when they came across area school censuses. They agreed that a number of those would be a great asset to Little River Genealogy Society and would bring their microfilm records up to date.

Choate said, "We ordered them from the Arkansas State Archives and we now have census records from 1941 in Plainview Schools, from 1956 in Ashdown, from 1978 in Ashdown and Winthrop, from 1937 in Alleene and from 1941 in Peyton, back to schools that aren't even here anymore. So you can go through these on microfilm reader and see when your mother or grandmother was in school and who their teacher was. It's just fascinating!"

Stone and Choate both explained that, although the Society meets monthly at the college, their records are actually kept in an upstairs room at Three Rivers Museum in Ashdown. The room contains all sorts of records, as well as microfilm and a microfilm reader and printer. If a seeker finds records they need on microfilm, Stone or Choate will be able to print that information for the person.

"We have books, books and more books," Choate said. "Over a period of years, we've bought marriage records from other counties and states; we've probably got books on just about every state. We have cemetery records, lots of those. We concentrated a lot on McCurtain County, Okla., Bowie County, Texas, and Little River and Sevier counties. And we have all Arkansas Census Records on microfilm through about 1930 or so."

The two officers are delighted that the Society now has on microfilm copies of the Little River News through February 2019 and also some film of the Foreman Sun newspaper.

"So many people were looking for things in the *Little River News* and we didn't have that information. Now we have it. We want everyone to know that if you're looking for records you haven't been able to find before, come and see the new sources we have."

The officers explained that anyone is welcome to check the records, no matter if they live out of this area or out of this state. The books may not be taken out but a patron is welcome to sit upstairs and go through them as long as they want. Those wanting to use the microfilm reader and/or printer should phone Stone or Choate to come and operate the equipment. Their phone numbers are available at the museum and they will be on call from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. - the same hours that the museum is

See GENEALOGY on page 6

## INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE LITTLE RIVER COUNTY JAIL: Part One of Two

### Limited jail space leads to inmate distribution, lower felony bonds

BY JESSIE SMITH  
LR News CONTRIBUTOR

ASHDOWN - The Little River County jail holds a maximum of 24 inmates. As a result, the sheriff's office often houses inmates in other county jails which leads to higher costs in housing and transportation as well as lower felony bonds.

#### Housing

The Little River County Sheriff's Office pays \$38 per day to house an inmate in the Sevier County jail and \$35 per day to house an inmate in the Nevada County jail.

In July 2019, inmates from Little River County spent a total of 95 days in Sevier County and 267 days in Nevada County due to the limited space in the Little River County jail. However, these neighboring jails do not have an obligation to house Little River County inmates or continue with the same prices, according to Sheriff Bobby Walraven.

"There have been certain inmates we've had that other jails would not take," Chief Deputy Kevin Sanders said.

In that situation, the sheriff houses the unwanted inmate in the Little River County jail and sends other inmates to other county jails to make room,

uses the video arraignment system.

"That saves several hundred miles of traveling for my guys," Walraven said. "After the first appearance and the arraignment, then the judge requires them to be in front of him, so we have to transport them."

#### Felony Bonds

The 24-bed jail impacts the costs of housing and transportation, but another effect lies in the bonds set for felonies. Sometimes felony bonds are lowered in order to create more space within the jail. Forty-six people were out on felony bond as of Aug. 27, and the charges of those 46 people range from possession of a controlled substance to aggravated assault to rape.

"When we have the space to hold them, I would a whole lot rather be holding somebody [who] committed a violent crime in jail than to let them walk straight," Walraven said.

The low bonds free up bed space so the sheriff's office is not charged more than necessary to house inmates in other facilities, according to Jail Administrator Gina Butler.

Walraven said this would change if a new jail was built with more space. If the county votes not to build a new jail, the current jail will close in December



Little River County Sheriff Bobby Walraven (left) and Chief Deputy Kevin Sanders (center) describe the current status of the overcrowded county jail and the effect it has on the legal system to LR News reporter Jessie Smith (right).

according to Walraven.

#### Transportation

Every month, the two transport officers of Little River County travel approximately 4,000 to 5,000 miles to transport inmates to district court and circuit court, and since the Little River County jail holds a maximum of 24 inmates, the transport officers often travel to and from jails in Sevier County and Nevada County.

"These two transport officers stay pretty busy going back and forth," Walraven said.

However, a new system does cut down on some of the traveling. Beginning in January 2018, Little River County started using a video arraignment system that allows the judge to grant a first appearance and arraignment through video, and the Sevier County jail also

2019 in favor of a 24-hour holding facility.

Walraven became the Little River County sheriff in 2017, but he said he had wanted the job since he was a child. He said he wanted to do something for the community.

"We start doing this job, and we can continue to do it every day to help people," Walraven said.

#### Next Week

Next week, Part Two will look into the number of outstanding warrants in Little River County and how a limited number of beds in a jail can impact the crime in an area.

**STOP**  
*Don't Forget!*

#### FHS CLASS OF '69 PLANS REUNION

Foreman High School Class of '69 is planning for its 50th reunion. For more information, please contact Rick Gregory at (970) 533-7180.

#### STRONG WOMEN CLASS HELD

The "Strong Women" (PEPPI) exercise class meets at UA Cossatot each Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10-11 a.m. This class helps increase bone strength, flexibility, balance and mobility. Most exercises can be done sitting or holding onto the back of a chair. The cost of the class is \$20 per year. Call Bethany Barney, LRCO Extension Agent, at 898-7224 for more information.

#### TWO RIVERS MUSEUM

Two Rivers Museum in Ashdown is seeking volunteers for at least three hours a month. Please contact Carolyn at 870-898-2642 or 898-9080 or go by the museum, or call 870-898-7200 Tuesday through Saturday between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. for an application.

#### FOREMAN CITY MUSEUM

Foreman City Museum at 507 3rd Ave will be open each Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. and on special occasions.

#### AMERICAN LEGION POST #124

at 2115 Buck Wright Road has an American Flag drop box in front of the Post Headquarters, 2115 Buck Wright Road, Ashdown, AR, for use by the Little River County Community to deposit worn, tattered and unserviceable American flags. The Post will properly dispose of the deposited flags with respect in keeping with traditions and laws of the United States. The deposit box is located 10-15 feet west of the post entrance door in a weather proof plastic container mounted on the fence four feet from the ground. The post requests the flags by folded before being placed into the deposit box and that no other items be placed in the box. The post establishes this service so that the residents of our community have the opportunity to properly retire unserviceable American flags with respect.

| FOREMAN CITY COUNCIL         | WINTHROP CITY COUNCIL      | FOREMAN SCHOOL              | BOARD QUORUM COURT           | ASHDOWN CITY COUNCIL       | ASHDOWN SCHOOL BOARD        | WILTON CITY COUNCIL        | OGDEN CITY COUNCIL          |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| WHEN<br>4 p.m., 3rd Monday   | WHEN<br>7 p.m., 3rd Monday | WHEN<br>4 p.m., 3rd Tuesday | WHEN<br>4 p.m., 3rd Monday   | WHEN<br>7 p.m., 3rd Monday | WHEN<br>4 p.m., 3rd Tuesday | WHEN<br>7 p.m., 3rd Monday | WHEN<br>4 p.m., 3rd Tuesday |
| WHERE<br>Foreman Comm. Bldg. | WHERE<br>City Hall         | WHERE<br>OHE Library        | WHERE<br>Foreman Comm. Bldg. | WHERE<br>City Hall         | WHERE<br>OHE Library        | WHERE<br>City Hall         | WHERE<br>OHE Library        |
| NEXT<br>Sept. 16, 2019       | NEXT<br>Sept. 16, 2019     | NEXT<br>Sept. 17, 2019      | NEXT<br>Sept. 16, 2019       | NEXT<br>Sept. 16, 2019     | NEXT<br>Sept. 17, 2019      | NEXT<br>Sept. 16, 2019     | NEXT<br>Sept. 17, 2019      |



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Editorial

Page 2

Area Churches

Page 4

Kid's Activities

Page 5

Obituaries

Page 6

Classifieds

Pages 7

Sports & Outdoors

Page 8

VOL. 122 | ISSUE 33