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Pick 3 8-2-7 **LOTTO AMERICA** 1-8-17-35-45 9

Cash 5 9-10-12-21-33

POWER BALL Numbers are 13-23-47-55-58 23
Jackpot: \$22 million **POWER PLAY** x10



Reflections with Purpose

By James Neal
 Every Friday in the News & Eagle

Page designed by: David Christy

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Recall organizers upset by Enid City Commission vote

By Alexander Ewald
 Staff Writer

The Enid group seeking to recall Ward 3 City Commissioner Ben Ezzell said its members are “disappointed and perplexed” by the city commission’s decision to table the vote for a recall election Tuesday.

Enid Freedom Fighters, who collected 204 signatures for the petition to recall Ezzell, said in a press release late Tuesday night that Enid City Commission showed “indifference to and ignorance of” the city charter’s recall process.

In their release, Freedom Fighters defended their right to petition a recall, but did not make it clear if they would seek recalls of the rest of the city commissioners.

“The grandstanding by the commissioners to rally a defense of Ezzell was a slap in the face to the residents of Ward 3 that signed the petition for his recall,” the release stated. “We look forward to working in each of Enid’s wards as we restore our local government to we the people of Enid.”

“We are dedicated to ensuring our elected officials uphold the laws of Enid as they are written in our charter, and that they oblige to submit themselves as well,” the press release stated.

City commissioners voted unanimously to table the decision until the next meeting after Ezzell’s Sept. 8 court hearing protesting the recall petition’s sufficiency. City Clerk Alissa Lack verified 87 signatures were sufficient and 69 were not. Taylor Venus is listed in the filing as counsel for the proponents of the petition.

Commissioners now will vote on a date at their Sept. 15 regular meeting. They had two date options, though Wednesday was the deadline for the city to notify the Garfield County Election Board of a Nov. 3 ballot item.

The tabling leaves the other date, Feb. 9, 2021, as the only possible valid election if an assigned judge affirms the city clerk’s sufficiency. Feb. 9 is the same day an election will take place for Ezzell’s successor. His term expires in May 2021.

Lahman, who prepared the meeting’s agenda prior to Ezzell’s filing, said there is nothing in the city charter that said the commission couldn’t have tabled the vote.

Enid’s city charter, written in 1909, provides that the city is to hold a recall election no sooner than 30 days from the clerk’s certification, and no later than 40 days. However, the Oklahoma Supreme Court determined that state statutes that restrict when the people can call elections are a matter of statewide concern and take precedence over the charter, invalidating the time frame and allowing for the November and February elections, the only valid statewide election dates left.

There is no mention in the city charter of tabling a city commission’s election date vote.

Prior to the vote, motioned by Ward 4 Commissioner Jonathan Waddell, commissioners and Mayor George Pankonin proceeded to tell audience members they were voting to respect



Ezzell’s due process. Some, including Ward 2’s Derwin Norwood, took to defending Ezzell’s behavior.

“You all don’t get an opportunity to see the talent level, how instrumental he is in the decision-making when it comes to business for the city of Enid,” Norwood said. “Yes, there were some mistakes made, even by (Ezzell) himself, but as Christian brothers and sisters, you have to be willing to forgive.”

Ezzell drew criticism for an email to fellow commissioners and city officials pushing for a proposed citywide COVID-19 mandate system and criticizing the public comments Enid’s police chief made. The Freedom Fighters said they formed after the July 15 meeting when commissioners voted down a previous mask mandate proposal.

“Unfortunately, what some of you were exposed to was some of the discourse that goes on behind closed doors,” Waddell said. “I don’t say that to exonerate him for his behavior, but I can look at it from a view of grace.”

Ward 1 Commissioner Jerry Allen took issue with how the recall and other city issues related to COVID-19 were dominating regular city meeting business.

“We have been putting off doing a lot of very important city business ... like Kaw Lake or Suddenlink,” Allen said. “When we have these kinds of meetings, we don’t get to address those kinds of issues.”

Grants available to bring art to military communities in Okla.

Enid News & Eagle

Oklahoma Arts Council is offering grants to bring more art to Oklahoma’s military communities.

The state agency’s Oklahoma Arts and the Military Grants program can provide up to \$5,000 to nonprofit organizations, local and tribal governments, universities and public libraries for eligible arts programming including classes, workshops, professional development, performances and exhibitions. Military and veteran support organizations are encouraged to apply. Applications will be accepted until Sept. 15.

Grant funds can be used to cover artist fees, consultant fees, art supplies, marketing expenses and other approved costs. Online and virtual programming also can be supported as Oklahoma Arts Council responds to needs amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Activities must take place between July 1, 2020, and June 30, 2021.

“Oklahoma Arts and the Military Grants can empower organizations to tap the transformative qualities of the arts to serve active-duty service members, reservists, National Guard members, veterans and immediate family and caregivers,” said Oklahoma Arts Council Executive Director Amber Sharples. “Meaningful needs within the military community can be met through engagement with the literary, performing and visual arts. Following the lead of the National Endowment for the Arts’ Creative Forces initiative, our agency is proud to offer this to organizations wishing to serve military-connected Oklahomans.”

Applications and guidelines are available at arts.ok.gov. For more information, contact Oklahoma Arts Council Arts Education Director Jennifer Allen-Barron at (405) 521-2036 or jennifer.allen-barron@arts.ok.gov.

Oklahoma Arts and the Military Grants are made possible in part by funding from National Endowment for the Arts and Mid-America Arts Alliance.

Local news online at enidnews.com



Elinore Beitler, project developer for NextEra Skeleton Creek, speaks during a virtual meeting Wednesday to update stakeholders on the progress of the wind farm. (James Neal / Enid News & Eagle)

SKELETON CREEK PROJECT

Continued from Page A1

laid to bring power from the turbines to the end customer. And that end customer will be close to home, Beitler said.

Western Farmers Cooperative of Moore has signed a contract to purchase all the project’s electricity, which will be about enough to power 150,000 homes, Beitler said.

“This will be Oklahoma power, being used by an Oklahoma company to power Oklahoma homes,” she said. “It’s clean, it’s homegrown and it’s affordable.”

Contractor for the wind turbine project is Blattner Energy. Brink Constructors will follow with the transmission lines, and Ryan Company will build the substations. But, Beitler said the project couldn’t progress without the support of its many local vendors and subcontractors.

“It’s really a community effort,” she said, “and everyone should be proud of themselves for the work that’s going into getting this project up and running.”

At the height of construction the project will employ about 300 workers, and once it is operational it will employ 8-10 wind technicians.

Getting the project from blueprint to construction has been a long process, that has included building a new working relationship with the Air Force and Department of Defense.

The project, which has been planned since 2015, originally was scheduled for completion by the end of 2019. But, it was pushed back a year over concerns the wind farm might conflict with airspace used by Vance Air Force Base. Those concerns potentially pitted two massive industries against each other: wind power, which accounts for about a third of the state’s energy production; and the military, which is the state’s largest employer.

But, retired Air Force Lt. Gen. Anthony Rock said during Wednesday’s meeting that potential conflict turned instead into a productive relationship, where both sides worked hard to “cooperate, collaborate, innovate and compromise,” and found ways to get to “yes, if” instead of focusing on “no, because.”

Rock, who served as inspector general of the Air Force before his retirement, was brought in by NextEra as a consultant to help deconflict the wind developer’s building plans with the Air Force’s airspace needs.

“We’ve definitely had a ton of stakeholders involved throughout this process,” Rock said. “The amount of approval we’ve gotten has been amazing, but it took a lot of teamwork to get there.”

Rock specifically credited former 71st Flying Training Wing commander Col. Corey Simmons, who now is the commander of the 60th Air Mobility Wing at Travis Air Force Base, Calif., with working to find a “beneficial outcome for all.”

“We’ve all learned some hard lessons,” Rock said, “about the value of early and constant engagement with all stakeholders.”

Beitler said NextEra plans to continue that level of engagement with the community as the wind farm nears completion, and well beyond.

“We almost treat this like a marriage,” she said. “You have to put in what you want to get out. We love working here, and we think it’s great for everyone.”

The company already has made charitable contributions to a number of local nonprofits and service agencies, including United Way of Enid & Northwest Oklahoma, Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma, Integris Foundation, 4RKids Foundation, local school districts and Greater Enid Chamber of Commerce.

When Skeleton Creek is complete it will join a NextEra portfolio that includes 54,000 megawatts of wind and solar production in 37 states, plus projects in battery storage, nuclear power and natural gas. The company has been in Oklahoma for 17 years, and currently has 15 operational projects and two in development, including Skeleton Creek.

“We really do think diversity in the energy field is important,” Beitler said, “and renewable energy plays a very important part in that, and it will play a much more important role in years to come.”

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PUBLIC NOTICE
 Published in the Enid News & Eagle
 August 6, 13 & 20, 2020 LPXLX
 (210)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT WITHIN AND FOR GARFIELD COUNTY STATE OF OKLAHOMA
 MIDFIRST BANK, Plaintiff,
 vs.
 TIMOTHY STEPHENS, II, et al., Defendant(s).
 No. CJ-2020-62
 NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
 THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA TO: Timothy Stephens, II Timothy Stephens Brooke Stephens
 TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued by MIDFIRST BANK, and that you must answer the Petition of said Plaintiff on file in said cause on or before September 24, 2020, or the allegations of said Petition will be taken as true and judgment rendered, foreclosing any interest you may have in the following-described real estate (property) situated in Garfield County, Oklahoma, to-wit:
 Lot Fifteen (15), Block Seven (7), Tara Estates Addition to the City of Enid, Garfield County, Oklahoma, according to the recorded plat thereof,
 for the sum of:
 Reason Amount
 Unpaid Principal \$221,436.17
 Date of Default: 06/01/2019
 Interest Due From: 05/01/2019
 Lender’s Fees & Costs:
 Escrow Advance \$4,247.40
 Accrued Late Charges \$42.54
 including all subsequent advances by Plaintiff, if any, for taxes, insurance premiums, or expenses necessary for the preservation of the subject property, all costs of this action; reasonable attorney’s fees and costs as the Court may allow, and the costs of foreclosing your interest in the property and ordering said property sold with or without appraisal as Plaintiff may elect, all of which you will take due notice.
 WITNESS my hand and official seal this 31st day of July, 2020.
 Janelle Sharp, Court Clerk
 By: /s/ Holly Harris Deputy DEPUTY COURT CLERK
 Don Timberlake - # 9021
 Chynna Scruggs - # 32663
 Kim S. Jenkins - # 32809
 William H. Sullivan - # 8761
 BAER & TIMBERLAKE, P.C.
 P.O. Box 18486
 Oklahoma City, OK 73154-0486
 Telephone: (405) 842-7722
 Facsimile: (405) 848-9349
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 DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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		9						6

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PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

HOW TO PLAY:
 Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.