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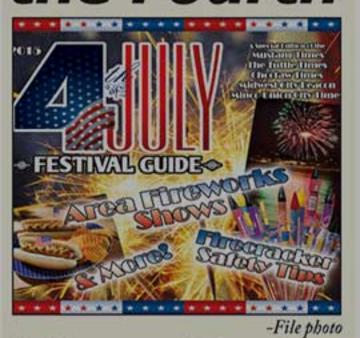
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MIDWESTCITYBEACON.COM

Inside the Beacon

SPECIAL

Celebrate the Fourth



Get the scoop on Independence Day celebrations around the area. See Special Insert

14 PAGES

Animal shelter hit with \$11k theft

By Jeff Harrison Managing Editor

Thieves rode off with a horse trailer, lawn equipment and animal supplies from the Midwest City Animal Welfare Center last weekend, according to police.

THE GUIDING LIGHT OF MIDWEST CITY

Midwest City Police say thieves cut through a fence at the Animal Welfare Center, 7221 NE 36th St., and broke into a garage. They took the trailer and several items, including a zero-radius lawnmower, lawn chemicals, pet food, and others.

Adrian Sanders, Animal Welfare supervisor, said the stolen items were worth about \$11,000. The trailer was purchased with donations from the community.

"This was a big loss," Sanders said. "It's irritating that thieves think they can just come in and take these things. And it's especially hard when it was equipment that had

been donated."

W&W 2015 The 15-foot trailer is painted maroon. The trailer was marked with City of Midwest City logo on three sides and a decal "Tom Farrel Trailer Sales."

Sanders said he noticed the theft about 7 a.m. Sunday. He said the shelter had been closed since 6 p.m. Saturday.

"I noticed the garage door was wide open, but I



-Provided photo

Police say thieves stole \$11,000 worth of equipment See TRAILER, page 3A from the Midwest City Animal Welfare last weekend.

LOCAL

Comic convention



SoonerCon 24, a multi-genre, convention will be in Midwest City Friday through Sunday. See page 7A

SPORTS

CA ropes

Bronchos

-Staff photo by Jeff Harrison

Michelle Ashley, a teacher at Schwartz Elementary School, receives a free snow cone from Tasty Snow Monday afternoon as part of the Rewards of Honor program. The initiative provides free perks to Mid-Del School employees from various local businesses.

Community shows the love for Mid-Del Schools

-Staff photo by Jeff Harrison Tanner Toney lays down a bunt Sunday during a game against the OKC Bronchos in the Yukon Tournament. See page 8A

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Local Weather

Partly cloudy. Highs in the low 90s

92/67

85/65

87/67

Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 80s

and lows in the upper 60s.

and lows in the mid 60s.

Fri

Sat

6/27

Sun

Rewards of Honor program offers free perks to all school district employees

By Jeff Harrison

Managing Editor

Working in public education can be a

challenge, especially in Oklahoma.

Funding shortfalls, changing test standards and low teacher salaries are among the obstacles state school districts face. Employees with Mid-Del Schools are finding some relief.

Local businesses are providing relief with free goods and services just for Mid-Del School employees. The perks - which include food, drinks, oil changes and more - can be redeemed by showing a school district ID badge.

The free offers are part of the Rewards of

Honor program, a local initiative that aims to use generosity to improve society. Steve Faulkner, Rewards of Honor founder, believes the program will be a boom for local teachers and businesses. Faulker owns The Transformation Agency, a boutique marketing and advertising firm in Oklahoma City, and has more than 30 years of experience in cause-based marketing.

Angie Wages, a kindergarten teacher at Soldier Creek, said the program has been a blessing for school employees. She said teachers are typically not financially motivated, but they appreciate support from local businesses.

"Teachers tend to be givers and it feels different to be on the receiving end of it," she said. "An oil change, a snow cone or a Jersey Mike's sub might seem like little things, but they say a lot to us. And we appreciate it."

Pam Deering, school superintendent, was See REWARDS, page 6A

Council approves grocery store plat

By Jeff Harrison Managing Editor

A new grocery store and retail development is one step closer to opening.

The Midwest City Council Tuesday night approved a final plat to allow WinCo Foods to construct a new grocery store and retail center near the intersection of Reno Ave. and Midwest Blvd.

The Boise, Idaho - based company plans to build a grocery store at 7601 E. Reno Ave, the site of the former Target store. The company plans to demolish the old Target building and construct a new building. The development could also include three additional buildings for commercial development.

Billy Harless, community development director, said

See WINCO, page 7A



-Provided photo

The Midwest City Council Tuesday evening approved the final plat for WinCo Foods store at the site of the former Target Store at 7601 E. Reno Ave.

Suspect makes getaway through storm drain

6/28 Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 80s and lows in the upper 60s.



By Jeff Harrison Managing Editor

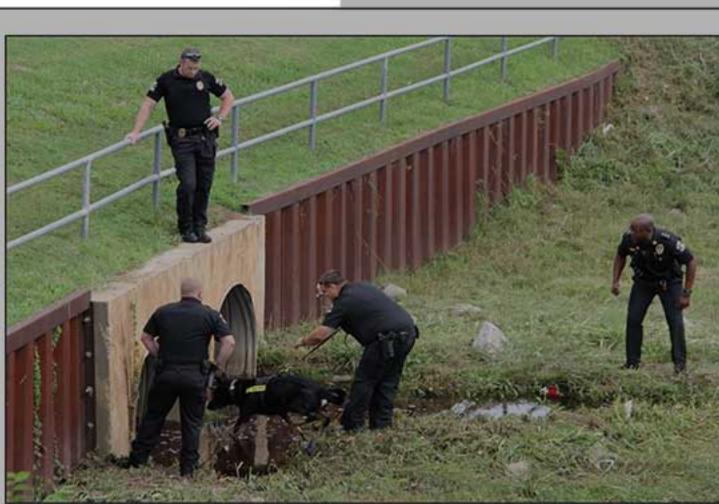
> Authorities are looking for two suspects who fled a traffic stop last week in Del City.

At about 3:50 p.m. on June 18,

Oklahoma County Sheriff's deputy attempted to stop a blue Hyundai for seat belt violation near the intersection of SE 15th St. and Howard Dr. The driver pulled into a gas station and three male suspects ran away in separate directions.

The deputy caught up with one of the suspects and saw another man, later identified as Thomas P. Duffy, 40, run into a drainage ditch. The third suspect was able to get away. Bryce Wiyninger, 22, was detained in the back of the deputy's patrol car.

See CHASE, page 3A



-Staff photo by Jeff Harrison

Oklahoma County Sheriff's deputies use a K-9 officer to help find a suspect inside a storm drain near the Del City Walmart.

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Hudiburg helps employees get Fit

By Jessica Phillips Staff Writer

Hudiburg Auto Group began providing the Fitbit Flex, a wristband capable of tracking physical activity, to employees at the beginning of this year. So far, the company has distributed nearly 300 wristbands.

The trend began when President David Hudiburg received a Fitbit during the holidays. The company began giving them to employees in January.

The Fitbit comes with a default goal to take 10,000 steps each day. Users can also compete in challenges, such as the Work Week Hustle and Weekend Warrior competitions, and challenge their friends.

Mark Brickman, Hudiburg Relations Toyota Customer Manager, said employees are naturally competitive.

"Of course, the Fitbit gives you prizes and awards for so many miles. We like to show that off to each other," he said. "It's gotten pretty contagious."

Using the Fitbit is encouraging employees to take better care of themselves, and to be more mindful



Hudiburg Auto Group provides Fitbit Flex, a wristband capable of tracking physical activity. Nearly 300 employees have taken part in the program, including Mark Brickman, Taylor Allen, Dusty Ponkratz, Mike Boone, Mario Fails and Don Hill.

of their activity and food intake. Hudiburg Toyota alone have lost a and go on diets. Fitbit users at

Some have opted to count calories cumulative 300 pounds. Individuals "Several employees have lost you think about what you're doing," have lost anywhere from 15-60

pounds this year.

weight and inches around their he said.

"It's a fun way of trying to take better care of yourself."

- Mark Brickman, Hudiburg Toyota, Customer Relations Manager

waist," Brickman said.

While the Fitbit is promoting health, it is also inspiring employees to get creative to reach their daily walking goal.

Brickman said one employee put his Fitbit on his young son to gain steps and another put theirs on a dog.

"It's a fun way of trying to take better care of yourself."

Brickman said about 15 people at Hudiburg Toyota are using the Fitbit seriously. He said around seven have goals to take between 18,000 and 22,000 steps every day.

"The Fitbit just kind of makes

Mid-Del Schools enrollment center opens July 6

By Jeff Harrison Managing Editor

Mid-Del Schools Enrollment

Center will be open from July 6 - Aug. 28 from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. The enrollment center will

be open to all new students enrolling in the school district for the first time, as well as all returning students that established residency in the 2014-2015 school year by Resident Affidavit (one family living with a Mid-Del resident family.

The enrollment center will be at the Mid-Del Career Academy (Artz Place), 1730 Center Dr. in Midwest City. The building is east of the Reed Conference Center. Visitors should enter on the north side of the building. The phone number is (405) 582-7095.

Parents are encouraged to register early and avoid long lines in the weeks before school

"The closer we get to school, the busier they get at the enrollment center," said Carrie Newnam, director of student accounting.

Newnam said about 1/3 of the district's 14,500 students will register at the enrollment center. The district has about 1,500 to 2,000 new enrollments each year, and about 2,000 to 2,500 students sign up with resident affidavits.

What to Bring:

-Student must be enrolled by parent or legal guardian (Notarized statements/Power of Attorney will NOT be accepted).

-Immunization Records (All series must be either complete

or up-to-date.) -State Certified Birth

-Parent/Guardian Photo ID -Proof of Residence



-Staff photo by Jeff Harrison

Mid-Del Schools Enrollment Center will be located at the Mid-Del Career Academy, 1730 Center Dr., in Midwest City. It will be open July 6 until Aug. 28 for all new students and those registering by Resident Affidavit.

Proof Accepted Residence

-2 current (within 30 days) utility bills—gas, electric or water bills in the parents'/

guardian's name which reflects of the service address. Cut-off or late notices are NOT accepted.

Note: Home ownership will be confirmed. If rental property, a verifiable lease

agreement/house contract reflecting the property address, all occupants (including school age children), agent's name, address and phone number, will be required to accompany the utility bills.*

-Tinker Housing Office Verification

-Resident Affidavit-one family living with a Mid-Del resident family.

1. Owner of property (hosts) and parent/guardian must be present, each with picture ID (driver's license or state issued ID).

2. Two current utility bills in homeowner's name.

3. Legal mail that comes every 30 days, to parent/guardian at the host address.

4. Parent/guardian may be asked to show proof of leaving previous address.

*Mid-Del Schools cooperates in the compliance of federal housing regulations.

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truly a unique concept, so simple, yet so powerful," she said. "This program provides another way for our teachers to feel valued with goods and services at no cost thanks

program.

community partners." Faulkner said education is the key to prosperity in Oklahoma. He said the state already has the best people and lowest cost of living. If Oklahoma turned its education system into the "envy

to the generosity of our

From Page 4A

would be unstoppable. "You couldn't stop the stampede of people wanting to move here," he said. "You couldn't stop the stampede of

of the nation" the state

Rewards: Program started with Midwest City Auto "Generosity awakens the equally complimentary about the charitable soul. It moves people "Rewards of Honor is like nothing else will."

Steve Faulkner, Rewards of Honor founder



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investment money. You couldn't stop the flow of prosperity into the state. Because people want to be where they're happy."

The first step towards that goal is to love and honor teachers.

"Everyone knows that our educators aren't being paid anything and the job that they're being asked to do is overwhelming so it's just right for the community to say enough," Faulkner said. "And I have some business people putting their money where their mouth is and saying 'we're going to make a difference."

Andrew Giorgi, owner of Midwest City Auto Autospa, was the first one on board. Giorgi, a military veteran, contacted Faulkner after hearing about his work with an Edmond coffee shop. The local business owner wanted to offer free oil changes to Mid-Del employees.

Faulkner and Giorgi presented the plan to the district last fall. And

sloanbrothers@cox.net

it took several more meetings for district leaders to warm up to the idea. Deering agreed to start the program at four schools - Solider Creek, Steed, Carl Albert Middle School, and Carl Albert High School

"What was the catch to getting something free with nothing expected in return?" she said. "With the sponsors who initiated the first rewards, the reality was true, they were offering their services and food for free in recognition of our staff and the work that they do every day for students."

Faulker said the well program was received by school employees. While making a presentation about the program, Faulkner said he saw teachers and principals tear up. "It wrecked me," he

said about the emotional moment. "And at that moment I said I will run through walls for you people." In spring, the district

agreed to expand the oil

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change program to all the schools. Faulkner also recruited several other businesses. The program now includes Jersey Mikes Subs, Flourish Pharmacy and Nutrition, Put a Cork in it Bricktown Winery, Hair Arts Institute, Tasty Snow, Hungry Howie's Pizza, the Museum of Osteology, TG Farms Pumpkin Patch, Casa Juanito, Spencer's Smokehouse and Barbeque and the Underground Coffee Shop.

Faulkner said that generosity has paid off for local businesses. He said Casa Juanito and Hungry Howie's were packed the first week they participated in the program.

"Generosity awakens the soul. It moves people like nothing else will," he said. "When people realize these companies are pouring out what they have to try to change the world for people, who do so much for our kids, they will support them."

Faulkner said he's pleased with the growth of the program, but still has higher aspirations.

"Our goal is to offer \$10,000 per year for every educator," he said. "And when we hit that we'll go for \$20,000."

For more information about Rewards of Honor program, visit www. rewardsofhonor.com.



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