



Stillwater News Press



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INSIDE TODAY



Looking at the finer points of "gun speak." **A4**

SMILE OF THE DAY



Abel Kuhn is smiling because he had a happy holidays.

Nominate a smile: Send us photos of someone smiling and it could be our Smile of the Day. Send to readers@stwnewspress.com.

WEATHER



Hi: 55 Low: 30
Mostly sunny, breezy and cooler.
— More on **B8**

QUAKE TRACKER

Oklahoma leads the nation for most earthquakes. Here's a look at the latest quakes.

TUESDAY		
Time	Site	Mag.
1:49 p.m.	Mooreland	3.0
MONDAY		
4:21 p.m.	Hennessey	2.5
10:55 a.m.	Medford	2.8
5:08 a.m.	Cushing	2.5
3:05 a.m.	Medford	2.8

MORE ONLINE

HOMEOWNER CHARGED - A homeowner is accused of shooting at a vehicle carrying three teens and killing one of them as they fled the property they were casing for a future burglary, according to a court complaint.

Daily News Press



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Supporting an old friend

Nonprofit group forms to boost Community Center

Michelle Charles
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The Stillwater Community Center has been called "a family room for the community," but this particular family room is showing its age and needs some help to live up to its mission of enhancing the quality of life for residents and providing resources and a home for community and cultural activities.

Now a group of residents has banded together as the Friends of the Stillwater Community Center, Inc., to do just that.

They have organized as a 501(c)3 nonprofit dedicated to advocating for the Community Center and providing an avenue to raise funds for its support to ensure the Community Center remains accessible and affordable for community use. Its membership consists of community members and representatives from groups that use the Community Center.

Organization president Nancy Beckstrom and her sister Ann Houston have a connection to the building because of what it provides for the community and because of its tie to their late father, attorney and downtown Stillwater advocate Winfrey Houston.

The Community Center's theater was named for him in 2001 after one of Houston's clients made a donation in his honor during a period when the City of Stillwater was considering closing the theater.

Thanks to that infusion of money, the Stillwater Community Center and its theater lived on, although it hasn't truly thrived in recent year.

"Right now it's on life support," Beckstrom said. "Only about 40 percent



Ann Houston (left), Nancy Beckstrom (center) and Judy White (right) are members of the recently formed nonprofit Friends of the Stillwater Community Center, Inc.

of the building is being used."

Parts of the building, the former Stillwater Junior High School with portions dating from the early 1900s, have been renovated, but city officials have repeatedly talked about how costly it is maintain.

Beckstrom says that lack of funding has led to even more costly problems.

"(Deferred) maintenance eventually becomes a major project," she said.

When presentations in 2015 from urban planning firm Pegasus called for demolishing newer parts of the Community Center, including the Winfrey Houston theater, it mobilized people who cared about and used the facility like the Stillwater Community Singers, Commu-

nity Band and Stillwater Children's Theater.

The City of Stillwater's latest concept for the vacant, city-owned lot to the east calls for developing with a lighter hand that preserves open green space and leaves the Community Center alone.

Beckstrom, Houston and Friends of the Stillwater Community Center vice-president Judy White, who is also the director of the Stillwater Community Singers, say they are relieved and encouraged by the new direction.

Their eventual goal is to see the remaining 60 percent of the building renovated and usable. For now, it sits in its original state, off-limits to the public and looking like the classroom space it once was.

"We could have lab

in the chemistry room," White said.

The group is looking for more members to round out the research and marketing committee, the events committee and the building committee.

Their goal is to complete two projects and hold one event this year. They're narrowing the possibilities down but still open to suggestions.

"We're seeing what's feasible for us because we're kind of small right now," Beckstrom said.

The group usually meets from noon to 1:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month, although the next meeting will be held Feb. 9.

People interested in joining the effort who have questions can call Beckstrom at 405-762-6622.

Students arrested following threats

By Tim Ahrens
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The Stillwater Police Department announced Tuesday afternoon it made a trio of arrests after a Facebook Live video appeared of three juveniles making threats against school administrators and a school resource officer.

According to the release, two current students and one former student at Stillwater Junior High made the video, and Capt. Kyle Gibbs of SPD reported that one of them appeared to be holding a real handgun. Arrests were made of the three juveniles, and Stillwater Public Schools cooperated fully with SPD and is conducting an internal inquiry.

SPS released a statement regarding the incident, saying it "supports the prosecution of any individual(s) who threatens the lives of administrators and the school resource officers."

The statement from Superintendent Marc Moore said the school could release no further details because it might jeopardize the police investigation.

Staying linked



Questions for



Megan Kacsak

Want to get notice of all things City of Stillwater delivered right to you? The City of Stillwater has a way. Residents can sign up now for "Stillwater eNotification." Megan Kacsak with the City of Stillwater has more.

1 What is the purpose for Stillwater eNotification?

This is a new tool we've introduced to send email updates to residents on different city topics. Users choose to receive a daily or weekly email with links to city topics as they become available online.

2 How did this idea come about?

See **Staying**, Page A2

Teen found with THC edible

SPD issues warning about presence of substances

By Tim Ahrens
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A warning about the presence of edible marijuana candies in Stillwater has renewed purpose after some of the candy was found on a 13-year-old according to the Stillwater Police Department.

SPD released a statement reminding Stillwater parents and the community of the presence of edible marijuana candy, which the department first warned of in July 2016. According to the release, a 13-year-old Stillwater resident was found with items that "had the appearance of a round Sweet Tart type candy and red 'gummie candies.'"

The edibles were seized and sent to the Oklahoma State Bureau

of Investigation for testing, and the substances came back positive for containing tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). "This release is sent as a reminder that these items are in our community and are accessible and attractive to children," it reads.

"We urge parents to go online

and educate themselves about the appearance of marijuana edibles. A simple internet search will produce thousands of images of these products."

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SUBMITTED
The pictures shown are items similar to those found in this case.

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