The Dog Caller

Volume 25 Issue 3 Spiro High School 600 West Broadway Spiro, Oklahoma 74959 October 30 2026-2027

Red Ribbon Week

By Serenity Duvall

Spiro Public Schools celebrated Red Ribbon week from October 25-30, 2026. Monday was Stars & Stripes: Freedom Starts with me! Students dressed up in red, white & blue outfits. Tuesday was Go West Young Man! Dress up in cowboy hats, bandanas, western attire, etc. Wednesday was All Aboard the Freedom Express! Dress in tourist/Hawaiian shirts, travel gear, etc. Thursday was Liberty in the Air! Dress as presidents, founding fathers, military heroes, etc. Finally, on Friday was Freedom isn't scary-Drugs are! Dress as your Halloween costume. This means that throughout the week, students were nonstop dressing up.



FOUNDING FATHERS–*Above left to right: George Washington, Alexander Hamilton, and Thomas Jefferson. Sophomores Kaeleigh Davis, Katherine Woolley, and Serenity Duvall*

–Photo courtesy of Mrs. Rashel Maynard, Spiro H.S. teacher



"I am not throwing away my shot!"

– Alexander Hamilton (My Shot)

Page layout by Serenity Duvall

What Would Your Dream Home Look Like?

By Serenity Duvall

Many minds start thinking when asked about what their dream home would look like. Would it have a pool? One floor, or more than one? Children think about this throughout their childhood, and they hope to fulfill it when they're adults. Sometimes that dream doesn't get fulfilled, and they stay in the same home their entire life. For others, they start from the ground up and make their dream a reality and build it themselves. When I was younger, I always dreamed of having a big two- or three-story house with a big in-ground pool in my backyard. As I grew older, I realized that sometimes your dreams can be a little blown out of proportion. I was too young to think of the cost and maintenance a house of that size would take. At the time, I definitely wasn't thinking about how many people were going to live in the house, too. If I had many kids living in the house, it would be fine. If it was just myself and my partner, the rest of the house would go to waste since no one was occupying that many rooms at once. Now, as I've grown and matured, I realize that I want a smaller house with three or four bedrooms. While having a big pool would be nice, it's not a necessity, and I could live without it. Throughout my life, I've always lived in the smaller side of houses with only one floor and four bedrooms. It may be small, but it's perfect for my family because we all fit, and that's all that matters. Now that I've said mine, what would your dream house look like?

2026-2027 Dog Caller Newspaper Staff

Editors-in-Chief……...Serenity Duvall
Robyn Gregory
Katherine Woolley

Advertising Manager… Serenity Duvall
Katherine Woolley

Circulation Manager…. Baylee West

Student Senate Representative…Katherine Woolley

Advisor……..Mrs. Kasandra Lovell

Staff Reporters:
Whitney Ambriz
Zayden Carlile
Adrianna Carr
Irma Guerrero Santiago
Ashlynn McGuire
Isabella Perry

The Effect of Social Networks on Youth

By Isabella Perry

Social networks have turned into an essential part of life for young people. Social networks like TikTok, Instagram, and Snapchat allow young people to connect, show their talents, and learn the latest news. Social networks help teenagers to remain in contact with their friends and families even if they are far away. These platforms assist them to learn new hobbies, study various themes, express themselves, and connect with people who share their passions. But there are also some disadvantages of social networks' utilization. Using social networks reduces the time devoted to school studies, other hobbies, family, and friends. Moreover, teenagers start comparing themselves with others and feel dissatisfied with their lives. Another negative impact of social networks is online bullying. Malicious comments can have a profoundly negative impact on a person's self-esteem. Youth should be careful with their comments and treat other users in the way in which they want to be treated. In general, social networks can have a positive influence on youth's lives if used appropriately. Social networks can be dangerous, contrary to their initial purpose.

Telephone (918) 962-2466
spirofamilydental@att.net
www.spirofamilydental.com
Text us at (918) 213-4456

OFFICE HOURS
BY APPOINTMENT
8-4 Mon, Tue, Thur
7-2 Wed

SPIRO FAMILY DENTAL
Keifer L. Fisher, D.D.S



318 West Broadway
Spiro, Okla. 74959

Mode's Tire Service

Jeff Mode
Owner
918.721.0300 Shop
918.413.9178 Cell
21642 McKenzie Road
Poteau, OK 74953



Page layout by Serenity Duvall

Serenity's Slice of Advice

"Take every opportunity possible. You will never know if you get another chance."



–Serenity Duvall

Panther

By Baylee West

The panther is a mysterious and powerful animal that represents strength, independence, and confidence. With its dark fur and bright eyes, it can move silently through the forest without being noticed. The panther is careful and observant, always paying attention to what is happening around it. Instead of rushing into danger, it thinks before it acts. This makes the panther intelligent as well as strong. Although the panther may appear frightening, it is not naturally cruel. It protects its territory and stays away from unnecessary conflict. When danger threatens, however, the panther becomes brave. It uses its speed, strength, and sharp instincts to defend itself. The panther also values freedom and prefers to travel alone rather than depend on others. One of the panther's greatest qualities is its determination. Even when it faces difficult challenges, it does not easily give up. Its ability to remain calm under pressure makes it a powerful survivor. Overall, the panther is a symbol of courage, independence, intelligence, and resilience. Its quiet confidence shows that true strength does not always need to be loud or aggressive. Sometimes, the strongest characters are the ones who observe, remain patient, and act when the right moment comes.

School

By Adrianna Carr

What options do I think school should have for students? I think school should have the option for students to take more than one class of the same subject; for example, if someone had art for 2nd hour, they could choose to have art for a different hour too. I think they should have that option for every class because some students like some classes better than others, and I think they should enjoy their classes no matter what their schedule is. Other options I think students should have are being able to be in at least two classes with friends so they could have someone they know in their class, but they have to be in the same grade.

How Fast Time Passes

By Ashlynn McGuire

One thing that makes me go "hmmm" is how quickly time seems to pass. When I was younger, a day could feel like it lasted forever. Waiting for the weekend seemed like such a long time, and waiting for my birthday felt even longer. Now, it sometimes feels like weeks, months, and even years go by in the blink of an eye. It makes me wonder why time seems to move faster as we get older. I think part of the reason is that when we are young, we experience many things for the first time. Our first day of school, first vacation, first sleepover, and first big accomplishment all create strong memories. Because our brains are constantly experiencing new things, those periods of our lives can feel longer when we look back on them. As we get older, our routines can become more repetitive. We go to work or school, come home, eat dinner, go to sleep, and then do it all again. When days are similar, they can seem to blend. This makes me think that maybe we should try to make more memories instead of simply letting time pass. Trying something new, spending time with people we care about, or going somewhere we have never been could make life feel more meaningful. I cannot slow down time, but I can choose how I spend it. That is what really makes me go "hmmm": time is something everyone has, but none of us knows exactly how much we have left. Maybe the best thing we can do is make the most of the time we are given.

The Career of Robert Downey Jr.

By Zayden Carlile

Robert Downey Jr. was born on April 4, 1965, in Manhattan, New York. His acting career began at the age of five when he appeared in his father's movie "Pound." He then went on to work with the Brat Pack and appeared in movies like "Weird Science" and "Less Than Zero." He later appeared as Charlie Chaplin in the biopic "Chaplin," which earned him a BAFTA for Best Actor and an Academy Award nomination. He then went on to appear in the television series "Ally McBeal" in 2000 earning him a Golden Globe for his role. He then appeared in the Marvel Universe as Iron Man. He continued to play the role of Iron Man/Tony Stark until Tony Stark died in the story. Robert Downey Jr. later came back to the Marvel universe as Doctor Doom and will appear in "Doomsday." Outside of Marvel, he also had a role in "Tropic Thunder," "Oppenheimer," and "Sherlock Holmes," which earned other awards like a second Academy Award nomination or a Golden Globe. He has made several soundtracks like *Too Much Sun*, *Two Girls and a Guy, Friends and Lovers.*



Page layout by Serenity Duvall

Logan J. Hendrickson

Senior Spotlight
By Katherine Woolley

Logan Hendrickson was born on June 2, 2008. Growing up, he wanted to be a police officer, and now he wants to become a mechanic in the Air Force. Before becoming a mechanic, however, he will work in construction for a year. He has been involved in wrestling for 3 years, band for 2 years, and football for 1 year. On top of these, his hobby involves being outside and exploring new places. Logan's favorite memory of high school is making varsity in wrestling! His favorite piece of media is his phone, and on his phone he might watch his favorite movie, "The Hunger Games," or his favorite TV show, "Trailer Park Boys." His favorite song is "Two Dozen Roses," and his favorite musical group is "Ok 60." Logan's favorite color is purple, and his favorite food is chicken alfredo. Of the seven dwarves, Logan would be Happy. His why is: "To have a strong future." A quote he likes is, "Be what you want to see in the world." And finally, his advice for underclassmen is, "Do your work!!"

Rylee Darneal



Senior Spotlight
By Serenity Duvall

Rylee Darneal was born on May 11th, 2009. She is involved in basketball (4 years), FCA (4 years), GT (4 years), NHS (3 years), HOSA (2 years), Biomed (2 years), Media (1 year), and Yearbook (1 year). She loves going to church, being with family and friends, and playing basketball and pickleball. When she was a child, she wanted to be a teacher when she grew up. Her plans after high school are to go to college for physical therapy. Her favorite field trip was when she went to the nature center and went canoeing, and her favorite memory of high school was when they beat Keys in Area to go to State. A quote she likes is "When you don't know what's next, just know that God is already there." Her favorite color is pink, and her favorite food is pizza. Her advice for underclassmen is Philippians 4:13, which says, "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength." No matter what you're going through, always turn to God; He's always there and He will work it all out for your good and His glory!

39%

Of people think their boss might actually be an alien

Why Is School Worth It?

By Robyn Gregory

School is hard. It is. And a lot of people act like it isn't. A lot of people act like they're doing everything perfectly, everything they need to do, whether it's academically or with their extracurriculars. But they aren't. No one is. School is hard, and there's no way that anyone can be completely perfect at it. And it all depends on what you are good at. Whether you're good at math or English, science or history, band or art, you will always have your strengths and weaknesses. You will always need help sometimes, and other times you will do great. So don't be discouraged if you need extra help or if someone is doing better than you. Don't be afraid to ask for help; don't be afraid to ask questions. And don't be afraid to join extracurriculars. You can have so much fun in clubs and organizations. It's worth it in the end. It may seem nerve-racking in the beginning, but after you do it for a while, you realize just how worth it it is.

Kasandra Lovell
PHOTOGRAPHER

Families, Senior Portraits,
Weddings, Proms, Team Sports,
Videography, and More

Phone Number: 918-839-3056
Email Address: kasandralovell@gmail.com



MOORE TROPHIES

AWARDS - SCREEN PRINTING - EMBROIDERY - TROPHIES - PLAQUES - CUSTOM SHIRTS - BANNERS - SIGNS - SUBLIMATION ITEMS

DENA COX
918-649-7507

CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE
@MOORETROPHIES

mooretrophies@sbcglobal.net



Page layout by Serenity Duvall

TCSB...with you every step of the way!



TCSB TEEN CHECKING AGES 13-17

- $25.00 MINIMUM TO OPEN
- DEBIT CARD, MOBILE & ONLINE BANKING
- $3.00/MO. FEE WAIVED WHEN ELECTING E-STATEMENTS

TEEN CHECKING REQUIREMENTS:

- GOVERNMENT ISSUED ID OR DRIVER'S LICENSE
- SOCIAL SECURITY CARD
- SIGNED INDEMNIFICATION AGREEMENT FROM PARENT OR GUARDIAN (BANK PROVIDED)

617 W. BROADWAY · SPIRO, OK 74959
918-962-9911 · 918-647-8101
www.thecommunitysb.com

The COMMUNITY STATE BANK Member FDIC

"We build relationships by adding value to the people we serve."

The Adorable Red Panda

By: Isabella Perry

The red panda is one of the animals in the world. The red panda has reddish-brown fur, tiny paws, and a long striped tail. The red panda looks like a bundle of fur walking through the forest. The red panda lives in the mountain forests of the Himalayas and southwestern China. The red panda spends much of its time in trees, where their sharp claws help it climb and balance. The panda's long tail also helps it stay steady as it moves from branch to branch. Although the red panda looks playful and cuddly, they are actually shy. The red panda usually lives alone, spending many hours resting in trees. The panda's favorite food is bamboo, but they may also eat fruit, insects, and other small foods. One of the charming things about the red panda is the way they move. The red panda can carefully climb down a tree headfirst using its flexible ankles and sharp claws for support. The red panda reminds us that even small animals can be fascinating and special. The pandas' adorable appearance and peaceful nature make the red panda beloved by people around the world. Protecting the pandas' forest homes is important so that the red panda can continue to thrive in the wild.

Tiger Shark

By Adrianna Carr



Tiger Sharks, personally my favorite animal in the whole world, are massive, highly apex predators known for their dark vertical stripes and indiscriminate “garbage can” diet. Adult tiger sharks can reach 10-14 feet in length and weigh 850 to 1,400 pounds, but a female can reach 18-24 feet in length and weigh up to 1,900 pounds. They are known for their dark vertical stripes on their bodies, which fade as they grow into adults; they feature a broad, blunt snout and robust head. Their specialized serrated, saw-like teeth and powerful jaws can easily crack through hard shells of sea turtles and bones. They roam tropical and subtropical waters worldwide, favoring coastal areas, shallow lagoons, and coral reefs. They normally swim in depths ranging from 8-470 feet, though they have been recorded diving deeper than 1,000 feet. They love to travel long distances of over 7,500 km annually, following warm water currents. They rely on acute senses of sight and smell combined with dark camouflage stripes to ambush prey. A fun fact about tiger sharks is that when they hatch, they are already ready to hunt for prey on their own without mom's help.

Page Layout by Serenity Duvall



Friends and Family

By Ashlynn McGuire

Friends are something I think everyone needs a few of. Friends will always be there for you when nobody else is. They will be there when you're at your lowest or need someone to talk to. A friend is someone you can laugh with and share all your secrets with as well. It's someone whom you know you can rely on no matter what the problem is. A friend is someone you can hang out with without even talking to them because all that matters is that you're with them. Family are the people we can always come to for advice. Or just for anything you need. It makes a big difference when you have a family that supports you and what you do. A family will love you and take care of you whenever you need them. And in life, all you need is a loving family, because friends might not always be there. That's why I feel it's important to have a bond with your family. Sometimes it may seem unfair, or like they're being mean to you, but at the end of the day, they want what's best for you

How Music Influences My Life



By Baylee West

Music influences my life because it connects to my emotions, memories, and experiences in ways that ordinary words sometimes cannot. When I am happy, certain songs can make me feel even more excited and energetic. When I am stressed, upset, or having a difficult day, listening to music can help me calm down and take my mind off what is bothering me. Music can also motivate me when I am doing schoolwork, exercising, driving, or getting ready for something important. Sometimes, a song can express exactly how I feel even when I cannot find the right words to explain my emotions. Music also influences my life because it becomes connected to important memories. A song can remind me of a certain person, place, event, or period of my life. Hearing that song again can bring back those memories and the emotions I experienced at the time. Music can also bring people together because friends and family can share songs, artists, and favorite memories. Over time, my taste in music can change as I grow and experience new things, which makes music a reflection of who I am. Overall, music is more than just something I listen to for entertainment; it can influence my emotions, motivate me, preserve memories, and help me understand myself better.

Page layout by Katherine Woolley

Pumpkins at Halloween

By Robyn Gregory

The Celtic festival of Samhain is where the practice of using carved vegetables originated. This festival was celebrated over 2,000 years ago in what is now Ireland, the UK, and northern France. Samhain marked the end of the harvest and the beginning of winter. The Celts believed that during this time, the boundary between the living world and the spirit world became blurred. People would carve out root vegetables, such as turnips, beets, and potatoes, to serve as makeshift lanterns to guide travelers and ward off wandering evil spirits. The name “jack-o-lantern” comes from an 18th-century Irish folktale about a man named Stingy Jack. According to the myth, Jack tricked the Devil on multiple occasions, and when Jack died, God deemed him unsuitable for Heaven, and the Devil- keeping his word never to claim Jack’s soul- denied him entry into Hell. Due to this, Jack was condemned to roam the dark earth for eternity. The devil gave him a single burning coal to light his way, and Jack placed the glowing ember inside a hollowed-out turnip and became known as “Jack of the Lantern,” which was shortened to jack-o'-lantern. To scare him and other spirits away, people in Ireland and Scotland carved frightening faces into their own turnips. When millions of Irish and Scottish immigrants moved to the United States during the 19th century, they brought this tradition with them. Once in America, they discovered pumpkins and switched to them.

The Life Cycle of A Pumpkin

By Baylee West

The life cycle of a seed: from how it begins to how it ends. Pumpkins start as a seed; their seeds are flat, oval-shaped, and usually cream-colored. Inside that seed is a tiny embryo along with stored nutrients that help the plant grow into a bigger one. To plant that seed, you just need water, warm soil, and oxygen. When the conditions are right, the seed absorbs water and begins to swell. The protective seed coat eventually breaks open, and it will begin to grow. Step two, germination, requires warmth and sunlight; the seed sprouts roots and a small shoot. When the seed germinates, it helps it grow, which then leads to a seedling. Seedling is when the plant grows its first leaves and begins using sunlight to make its own food. After seedling is vine growth, where the pumpkin plant develops long vines and many leaves as the process of the pumpkin plant growing. Next up after the vine growth is flowers. The flowers turn yellow. Bees and other pollinators help transfer pollen to a female flower. After successful pollination, a small green pumpkin begins developing behind a female flower, then ripening, which helps the plant grow larger and changes color, usually from green to orange, as it matures. The last thing is seed production, where the inside of the pumpkin contains seeds that can eventually be planted to grow into new pumpkin plants. This is the process of how a seed can mature into a pumpkin and the seed cycle.

Katherine’s Advice for Life

“If you are struggling in a class, turn what you are memorizing into a little melody– songs are always easier to memorize.”



–Katherine Woolley

48%

Percentage of people who include rock and roll among their favorite genres

SPIRO TAG AGENCY

Gina Grant
Licensed Operator

800 WEST BROADWAY
SPIRO, OK 74959



918-962-2293
PHONE & FAX
EMAIL: spirotag@att.net
OPEN THRU LUNCH
9:00-5:00 MON-FRIDAY

- Tag Renewals & Title Transfers
- Drivers Licenses & State Ids
- Notary Public
- Voter Registration

DCS Dylan’s Computer Service
918-721-0305
DylansComputer.com

Page layout by Katherine Woolley

Wars In the 20th Century

By Zayden Carlile

The 20th century began with Japan declaring war on Russia to remove Russian influence in Asia and gain ports in Manchuria. Russia wanted to protect Korea and Russian land, but by the end of the war, Russia had lost, and it lost its land and its influence over small parts of Asia, along with being humiliated by an Asian power. Time progressed, and the next war that had some impact leading up to WW1 was the First Balkan War, where Christian kingdoms with populations in other kingdoms, like Bulgaria, Serbia, Greece, and Albania, rose against the Ottoman Empire, which was slowly losing its grip on itself and the lands that the other Balkan powers wanted. The Ottoman goal was to defend itself from others; Greece, Bulgaria, Serbia, and Montenegro were called the Balkan League. The Balkan League members wanted the lands that had their people in them, which directly conflicted with the Ottoman Empire that had conquered them centuries earlier. After the war, the Ottomans lost land in the Balkans, and many countries gained independence or land, although the Balkan League members didn't totally agree with the land borders, especially Bulgaria. Bulgaria left the Balkan League after the war. Months later, Bulgaria declared war on Serbia and Greece, aiming for Macedonia, but lost due to many other countries in the Balkans backing Serbia and Greece, like Romania and the Ottoman Empire. They quickly overran Bulgaria, forcing Bulgaria to sign a new treaty with all bordering countries, gaining land and money from making Bulgaria pay war reparations. The 20th century began with Japan declaring war on Russia to remove Russian influence in Asia and gain ports in Manchuria. Russia wanted to protect Korea and Russian land, but by the end of the war, Russia had lost, and it lost its land and its influence over small parts of Asia, along with being humiliated by an Asian power. Time progressed, and the next war that had some impact leading up to WW1 was the First Balkan War, where Christian kingdoms with populations in other kingdoms, like Bulgaria, Serbia, Greece, and Albania, rose against the Ottoman Empire, which was slowly losing its grip on itself and the lands that the other Balkan powers wanted. The Ottoman goal was to defend itself from others; Greece, Bulgaria, Serbia, and Montenegro were called the Balkan League. The Balkan League members wanted the lands that had their people in them, which directly conflicted with the Ottoman Empire that had conquered them centuries earlier. After the war, the Ottomans lost land in the Balkans, and many countries gained independence or land, although the Balkan League members didn't totally agree with the land borders, especially Bulgaria. Bulgaria left the Balkan League after the war. Months later, Bulgaria declared war on Serbia and Greece, aiming for Macedonia, but lost due to many other countries in the Balkans backing Serbia and Greece, like Romania and the Ottoman Empire. They quickly overran Bulgaria, forcing Bulgaria to sign a new treaty with all bordering countries, gaining land and money from making Bulgaria pay war reparations.



Page layout by Katherine Woolley



The Plants of Fall

By Zayden Carlile

Many plants grow in the fall, from the largest to the smallest. Usually, the first plants to come to my mind during fall are trees. During fall, trees stop growing and begin to change color because they don't get as many nutrients as they do during summer and spring. Most trees people assume are dead are really just hibernating through the fall and winter until spring. Another interesting plant that grows during fall is pumpkins, which are used in many different ways, but the most common ways are to make pumpkin pie or to carve a jack-o'-lantern. Many other plants grow in the fall, like shrubs and vegetables. Many colorful plants grow during fall, like chrysanthemums, pansies, and asters. Other plants can be harmful to you and others, including plants that cause allergies or are poisonous, making it important to identify and avoid them during the season when many of these plants live. Many plants live during fall, from the giant trees to the smallest of plants, with some being helpful and harmful. Fall has many plants.

The Origin of Carving Pumpkins

By Irma Guerrero

Carving pumpkins is a fun Halloween tradition, but it started a long time ago. It first began in Ireland, where people carved faces into turnips instead of pumpkins. They did this because of a story about a man named Stingy Jack. The story says that Jack tricked the Devil and could not get into Heaven or Hell. He had to walk around in the dark with a burning piece of coal to help him see. People started carving faces into vegetables and putting lights inside them to scare away evil spirits. Basically, they were making creepy little nightlights. When Irish people moved to America, they found out that pumpkins were much easier to carve than turnips. Pumpkins were bigger, softer, and easier to make funny or scary faces on. Also, pumpkins looked better than turnips sitting outside someone's house. Over time, carving pumpkins became a big part of Halloween. Now, people carve all kinds of faces and designs into pumpkins. Some look really cool, while others look like someone got mad and attacked a pumpkin with a knife. Today, carving pumpkins is something families and friends do together. It is a fun way to celebrate Halloween, be creative, and make a pumpkin look either scary, funny, or just plain weird. But pumpkins make Halloween more fun and make it very aesthetic.

The Spiro Graphic

Local News & Sports Weekly

John Clark
Managing Editor/Advertising Sales

212 S. Main
P.O. Box 190
Spiro, OK 74959

Phone: (918) 962-2075
Fax: (918) 962-3531
Email: spironews@yahoo.com

Page layout by Katherine Woolley

"Since 1907"
Mallory-Martin
Funeral Home and Crematory

112 N. Main Street
P.O. Box 530
Spiro, OK 74959

Phone (918) 962-2555
Fax (918) 962-5496
malloryfh@gmail.com

Spiro • Stigler • Sallisaw • Keota • Quinton • Porum
www.mallorymartinfuneralhome.com

The Unexpected Wisdom of a Pumpkin

By Isabella Perry

When Autumn arrives, pumpkins seem to appear everywhere. They sit on front porches, fill grocery-store displays, become pies and soups, and eventually turn into glowing jack-o'-lanterns. Most of us probably do not think much about them beyond Halloween and pumpkin spice. Yet, if we stop and look at the pumpkin for a moment, it can represent something much larger: growth, patience, and the beauty of becoming. A pumpkin does not begin as something impressive. It starts as a tiny seed, hidden beneath the soil. For a while, there is nothing to see. Then, slowly, a vine begins to grow. It spreads across the ground, producing leaves and flowers before eventually forming the pumpkin itself. The process takes time, and most of it happens without anyone noticing. That reminds me of how people grow. We often expect change to be obvious. We want to see immediate results from our hard work. When we are learning something new, pursuing a dream, recovering from disappointment, or simply trying to become a better version of ourselves, we can become frustrated when nothing seems to be happening. But sometimes growth is happening where we cannot see it. Like a pumpkin seed beneath the soil, we may spend long periods of our lives quietly developing. We are learning from mistakes, gaining confidence, discovering what matters to us, and becoming stronger without realizing it. Then, one day, something changes, and we suddenly recognize how far we have come. The pumpkin also reminds us that growth does not have to follow a perfect path. Its vines twist, spread, and wander in different directions. They do not grow in a perfectly straight line, yet they still produce something beautiful. Our lives can be the same way. Changing direction does not always mean we are lost. Taking longer than expected does not mean we have failed. Sometimes the unexpected paths lead us somewhere meaningful. Perhaps that is why the pumpkin belongs so naturally to autumn. It represents a season of change, when nature reminds us that nothing stays the same. Leaves change color, gardens become quiet, and the days grow shorter. Yet even as one season ends, something new emerges. So the next time you see a pumpkin sitting on a porch, perhaps look at it differently. It is more than a symbol of Halloween or fall. It is a reminder that growth takes patience, that progress can be invisible, and that becoming something worthwhile does not always happen quickly. Sometimes, the most important thing we can do is simply keep growing. Even when no one can see it yet.

Lotus Flower

By Adrianna Carr

The Lotus flower is a remarkable aquatic perennial plant. Famous for rising pristine from muddy waters to bloom in vibrant shades of pink, white, yellow, and red. The roots anchor into the pond mud while long stems push leaves and flowers above the water surface. The “Lotus Effect” leaves have a superhydrophobic (water-repelling) coating that causes water droplets to roll off, sweeping away dirt and keeping the plant clean. Lotus seeds can remain dormant and viable for hundreds or even thousands of years. The daily cycle: flowers open in the morning and close or submerge at night, lasting for about 5 days before shedding their petals. It serves as the national flower of both India and Vietnam. The colors actually mean something different: white means purity, grace, and spiritual transcendence; pink is associated with divine figures and delicate feminine energy; and red means passion, inspiration, and heart-centered fire energy. It is a sacred symbol widely revered in Buddhism and Hinduism as a powerful symbol of purity, spiritual enlightenment, and rebirth. Every part of the plant roots (rhizomes), stems, seeds, and leaves is edible and used in various Asian culinary traditions. In my opinion, there are many beautiful flowers, and there's one of my favorite flowers.



How Fast Time Goes By

By Ashlynn McGuire

Time goes by so fast, and sometimes we don’t even realize it until we look back at how much has changed. One day, we are little kids playing with our friends, and the next, we are growing up and facing new responsibilities. The moments that once felt normal slowly turn into memories that we wish we could experience again. It’s crazy how a year can feel so long while we are living it, but when we look back, it feels like it went by in the blink of an eye. As time passes, we learn new things, meet new people, and grow into different versions of ourselves. Sometimes, we get so caught up in worrying about the future that we forget to enjoy the present. We don’t realize how special a moment is until it becomes a memory. That’s why it’s important to appreciate the little things, spend time with the people we love, and make the most of every day. We can’t slow time down or go back to the past, but we can make the time we have meaningful and create memories that will stay with us forever.

Butterflies

By Irma Guerrero

Butterflies are small insects that are known for their colorful wings. They can be found in many different parts of the world. Butterflies usually live in gardens, forests, fields, and other places where flowers grow. They are common during warm weather. A butterfly starts its life as an egg. The egg hatches into a caterpillar. The caterpillar eats plants and grows larger. After some time, it forms a chrysalis. Inside the chrysalis, the caterpillar changes into a butterfly. When the change is complete, the butterfly comes out and spreads its wings. Butterflies eat mostly nectar from flowers. They use their long tongues to drink the nectar. While they visit flowers, they can also help plants by moving pollen from one flower to another. This helps plants make seeds. Butterflies have many different colors and patterns. Some are yellow, orange, blue, or brown. Their wings are covered with tiny scales that create their colors. Butterflies are important parts of nature. They provide food for some animals and help flowers grow. They are also easy to notice because of their bright wings. Butterflies are simple insects, but they have an interesting life cycle.

Spiro Nursing Home

401 S. Main Street
Spiro, OK
74959

Administrator
Garon McClure

“24 Hour Nursing Care”

Office: 918-962-2308 Fax: 918-962-2033

SSB BANK
SPIRO TALIHINA TULSA
Modern banking. A century of trust.
Visit SpiroStateBank.com to learn more. Member FDIC

Page layout by Serenity Duvall and Katherine Woolley

Ethical Dilemmas People Experience

By Katherine Woolley

Throughout school life, and just human life in general, people experience ethical dilemmas. You may not even realize you are experiencing one! These such dilemmas can range from many situations: “My friend asked me to do their work for them so that they can get a good grade. I do not want to help someone cheat, but I want my friend to get a good grade!” or “My mom doesn’t want me sharing food with others, but this person just asked me for a snack! Do I listen to my mom or help a hungry person?” A personal dilemma I have experienced is that, when I was in the 8th grade, one of my best friends asked me for a soda every single day– and I had to decide whether to save my money or to give my monetarily challenged friend money for a drink. Ethical dilemmas and your -unique to each person- response tell who you are as a person, as well as your moral stand point on the world. For me, my answer to my own ethical dilemma was to give my friend money for a drink (two weeks straight, once a day, actually). My answer showed my care for that friend, but also how easily I give in to my friends. Just as economic trade-offs have you losing the opportunity cost, your answer to ethical dilemmas will have you lose an opportunity to have or do something, or will just add a weight to your heart. Dilemmas are tricks of the heart, yet they happen so often. They add uncertainty to aspects of everyday life, and are the greatest judges of character. Whether or not it is big or small, people answer them and people experience them.

Genesis Yasmin Ambriz

Senior Spotlight

By Whitney Ambriz

As the Class of 2027 gets closer to graduation, Genesis Yasmin Ambriz is looking back on the experiences, activities, and memories that have made high school meaningful. Throughout her high school years, Genesis has been involved in band for five years and archery for two years. Both activities have given her opportunities to learn new skills, meet people, and create memories that she will carry with her after graduation. Outside of school activities, Genesis enjoys band, volleyball, and listening to music. Music is an important part of her interests, and one of her favorite songs is “What Once Was” by Hers. Her favorite TV show is Monster High: G3, and her favorite movie is *Monsters vs. Aliens*. She also enjoys Chinese food, and her favorite color is purple. One of Genesis’s favorite memories from high school is the 2024 James Bond marching show. Being involved in a band has been a major part of her high school experience, making the memories she has created through performances and shows especially meaningful experiences with others. When Genesis was younger, she wanted to become a writer or author when she grew up. She describes herself as awkward and someone who gets nervous at times, but these qualities are simply part of what makes her unique. After high school, Genesis plans to enter the workforce and begin a new chapter of her life. Her advice to underclassmen is, “Just remember not to always go with the flow.” As graduation approaches, Genesis is ready to take the memories and lessons from high school with her as she looks toward the future.



Proud supporter of our Spiro Bulldogs!

Arklahoma Family Insurance Agency, LLC

Come see us for all your insurance needs!

Address
515 W Broadway
Spiro, OK 74959

Phone:
918-962-3700

Email:
afinsurance@hotmail.com

Auto, Home, Life, Motorcycle, Boat, Commercial, etc.

We are an independent agent with many options to choose from.

Page layout by Robyn Gregory

The Amazing and Mysterious Ocean

By Whitney Ambriz

The ocean is one of the most interesting places on Earth. It covers most of our planet, yet there is still so much that humans don't know about it. The ocean is home to thousands of different animals, from the tiniest fish to enormous whales. Some parts of the ocean are so deep to explore that they still remain a huge mystery. One reason the ocean is so fascinating is the animals that live there, like sharks, dolphins, sea turtles, jellyfish, and octopi and millions of others that we know and probably don't know about. Marine biologist Sylvia Earle once said, "With every drop of water you drink, every breath you take, you're connected to the sea." This shows how important the ocean is, even when we're no where near the beach. The ocean also has some of the darkest and deepest places on Earth. Scientists continue to explore these areas and discover new species. Explorer Jacques Cousteau famously described the sea as having "a special magic." It is very easy to understand when you think how much of the ocean remains undiscovered. In the future, we will probably continue exploring the ocean and learning more about it. The ocean may seem like just a huge body of water, but underneath its surface is an entire world undiscovered. But for right now the ocean is probably going to stay mysterious and amazing.



shutterstock.com · 2527553939

The Gathering PLACE
GOOD FOOD • GREAT COMPANY
(918) 649-5066
815 West Broadway St
Spiro, OK 74959

The Ship of Theseus

By Katherine Woolley

Upon being asked something that makes me go "hmm," my first thought was to talk about a paradox. I have quite the love for paradoxes, and I have a rather large sum to choose from. I ultimately decided that *this* is the one to go with. The Ship of Theseus is a thought experiment proposed by ancient philosophers based upon the Greek myth of Theseus. As the story goes, Theseus, the (mythical) king of Athens rescued the children of Athens from the tyrant King Minos, and then he escaped to Delos on ship. Each year to celebrate this, Athenians would take the ship on a pilgrimage to Delos, as well as honoring Apollo along the way. The ancient philosophers asked the question: if no pieces of the original ship remain in the current ship, as they were all steadily replaced over time, is it still the same ship? Another question asked was: if it was no longer the same, when had it ceased existing as the original ship? These questions do not have a 'correct' answer, because the whole point of them is their subjectiveness. There's also the matter of if another ship with the same shape was made using the original pieces of the old ship– is that ship now the old ship or something new? I never really have a set answer on this, and I go back and forth on my response. On the one hand, the parts were all steadily replaced and became part of the old ship, so you would assume that it would be the same, but on the other hand it is ALL new meaning it no longer has that originality. I must ask; What is your answer to this question? Do you have one, or do you go either which way?

Sidewinder™
201 Dewey Ave. Poteau, OK
(918) 647-5306 Text: (918) 839-2727
bspearman@sidewindersigns.com
sidewindersigns.com • facebook.com/sidewindersigns

Tammie Christensen - Agent
900 W. Broadway
Spiro, OK 74959-2458
TRChristensen@ShelterInsurance.com
ShelterInsurance.com/TammieChristensen
P 918-962-2445 (Call or Text)
C 479-650-1400
SHELTER INSURANCE
AUTO • HOME • LIFE



Page layout by Robyn Gregory

Anne Hathaway

By Irma Guerrero

Anne Hathaway is a famous American actress who is known for being in many popular movies. She was born on November 12, 1982, in Brooklyn, New York. She became interested in acting when she was young and started her acting career in television. Her big break came when she played Mia Thermopolis in the movie *The Princess Diaries* in 2001. The movie became very popular and helped make her famous. After *The Princess Diaries*, Anne Hathaway appeared in many other movies. Some of her most well-known movies include *The Devil Wears Prada*, *The Dark Knight Rises*, *Les Misérables*, and *Interstellar*. She has played many different types of characters, which shows that she is a talented actress. In 2013, she won an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress for her role in *Les Misérables*. Anne Hathaway is also known for helping different charities and speaking about important causes. She has supported organizations that help children and families. I think Anne Hathaway is an interesting person because she has worked hard to become a successful actress. She has shown that dedication and practice can help people reach their goals. Her career continues to inspire many young people who want to become actors.

Weasels

By Whitney Ambriz



In the wild, there is a small animal that many people probably don't know that much about, an animal called a weasel. Weasels are small mammals that are part of the same family as ferrets, otters, and badgers. They have long, skinny bodies, short legs, and tiny heads, which makes them look like a furry snake, and makes them look really adorable. Weasels are actually really great hunters. Did you know that there are different types of weasels, and they live in different places? Weasels usually live in forests, fields, grasslands, and sometimes even near farms. They like places where they can hide and find food. Their long bodies help them fit into small holes and spaces. This is useful because they can chase animals that try to hide underground. Weasels are carnivores. They can eat mice, rats, rabbits, birds, frogs, and other small animals. They have pretty sharp teeth and claws that help them catch their food. Even though they are small, they can hunt animals that are bigger than they are, which I think is kind of crazy. One interesting thing about weasels is that some of them change color during the winter. Their fur can turn white, which helps them blend in with their surroundings. In warmer months, their fur can become brown again. This helps them hide from predators and also makes it easier for them to sneak up on prey. Overall, weasels are pretty interesting animals. They might look small and harmless, but they are actually fast, smart, and good hunters. I didn't really know much about weasels before, but they are definitely more interesting than I thought they would be.

Did you know?

- Grizzly bears can run up to 30 miles per hour.
- Ketchup was once sold as medicine.

Neill's Touch of Class
custom floral arrangements and gifts
Designer
Richard Neill
918-612-0007
516 w broadway
Spiro, OK 74959

BRADLEY DEDMON
Pharmacist
SULLINS DRUGS
Specializing in Customer Service, Convenience and Quality Care
213 W Broadway
Spiro, OK 74959
Main: (918) 962-2131
Fax: (918) 962-5750
Hours of Operation
M-F: 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Sat: 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
bwdedmon72@gmail.com

THE PRAIRIE DONUTS & COFFEE
Closed Saturdays & Sundays
Monday-Friday
6:00 am - 1:00 pm
520 W Broadway St
Spiro, OK 74959

Page Layout by Robyn Gregory

Gunner Eaton

Senior Spotlight

By Zayden Carlile

Gunner Eaton was born on 2/13/2009. His hobbies consist of football, powerlifting, and FFA. As a child, Gunner wanted to be a football player. After high school, he plans to pursue welding, wood welding service, or a pipeline helper job. His favorite parts of school were his memories of freshman year, and his favorite media is none because he doesn't get on his phone often. His favorite school trip was to the KTC and OG&E power plant. More of his favorite things include the color blue, chicken and dumplings, the TV show *Tires Sanitarian*, and *American Sniper*. He likes the musical group Metallica. His advice for lowerclassmen is to play any sport or team for at least a year.

Local Opinions

- A.J - “Books are always better than the movies.”
- S.E - “Public speaking isn’t scary.”
- A.R - “Thanksgiving is practically useless.”
- K.S. - “Common sense needs to be a core class in high school.”
- O.A - “Camping is pretending to be homeless for fun”
- R.G - “Silence isn’t awkward, people just make it awkward.”



Gladiatrices

By Robyn Gregory

Did you know that in ancient Rome, there were rare occurrences of female gladiators? These women are referred to in modern times as gladiatrices. They appeared during the late Roman Republic and early Roman Empire. They performed at major games hosted by emperors such as Nero, Titus, and Domitian. In 200 AD, Emperor Septimius Severus officially banned women from fighting in the arena due to growing social controversy. They often fought with the clothing and style of the mythical Greek Amazonian women warriors. They used standard gladiator gear including armor, shields, and swords, and the fought each other or wild animals. The women included lower-class women or slaves, and sometimes high-born Roman women who wanted the thrill or shock value of the arena. I did not know until very recently that women fought in the arena, but now that I do know, I find it very interesting, and am eager to learn more about them.

75,567

Number of Oklahoma millionaire households

Max Carver, D.V.M.

SVC

SPIRO VETERINARY CLINIC

Highway 271 East

Office Phone
918.962.5066
918.962.5067

2001 E. Broadway
Spiro, OK 74959

StateFarm®

413 East Broadway, Spiro, OK

Justin Permenter - Agent

918-962-9445

MYAGENTJUSTIN.NET

GO BULLDOGS !!!!

Southern Style MERCANTILE LLC

Website www.themerc918.com

Email Southernstylemercantile@gmail.com

Location 103 N Broadway, Poteau, OK 74953

Page Layout by Serenity Duvall





Living in a Pumpkin Takeover

By Serenity Duvall

It's finally Fall, and that means pumpkins are popping up everywhere. This ranges from ordering a pumpkin latte at a coffee shop to families carving pumpkins to decorate for Halloween. While I personally don't own pumpkin-themed clothes, I enjoy eating pumpkin-flavored food. My personal favorite is pumpkin pie. Roughly 20-24% of Americans actively dislike it or name it as their least favorite dessert. They often dislike it because of its soft, gelatinous texture and heavy reliance on strong autumn spices. Many people also only eat pumpkin pie on Thanksgiving because of tradition rather than genuine desire. I have a different opinion on pumpkin pie, though. Every fall, I make sure to have pumpkin pie at least once or twice a week because I like it. I always love to add some whipped cream on top to balance the earthy spices. While people are ordering pumpkin lattes and carving pumpkins, I'm allowing my life to have a pumpkin takeover through enjoying pumpkin pie.

Guanajuato
Mexican Restaurant
511 West Broadway
Spiro, OK 74959
918 962 8076