

**APRIL
2015**

Vol. 29
No. 4

OIL Newsletter



A monthly publication of THE OKLAHOMANS for INDEPENDENT LIVING

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(918) 426-6263 V/TDD, O.I.L. Web Page URL (www.oilok.org), www.facebook.com)**

If you are trying to go green and would like to help save trees, check out our newsletter at www.oilok.org, call us and we will send it via e-mail.

If you are receiving this newsletter in error or no longer wish to receive it, call and we will remove you from our mailing list.

OIL WELCOMES NEW EMPLOYEE

OIL would like to welcome Angie Norbury to the staff. Angie was born and raised in Talihina and has three children and five grandchildren. She is an avid cheerleader at her grandchildren's ball games and is even an assistant coach for her grandchildren's T-ball team. Angie enjoys gardening, reading, learning new things, dancing, bowling, fishing, swimming, camping, and riding motorcycles. Angie will be working as an ADvantage Case Manager so please feel free to stop by and meet her!

ETIQUETTE CLASS

OIL will be hosting a restaurant etiquette class at our office on April 6th, at 1:30 pm. We will be sharing information on how to let your waiter/waitress know when you are ready to order

making speaking or even having eye contact. Also, how to avoid embarrassing moments, tipping, etc. Call for free local transportation.

KEDDO SENIOR DAY AND WELLNESS FAIR

The event will be held at the Southeast Exposition Center on Friday, April 17th from 9:00 a.m. thru 2:00 p.m. The theme will be "Superheroes".

Some of the events included are; Free Picnic Lunch, Bingo, Coloring Contest, Games, Music, Superhero Costume Contest, and a Health & Wellness Fair. Call 1 800 722-8180 or OIL for free local transportation.



PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AWARENESS DAY AT THE STATE CAPITAL

Join us for the People with Disabilities Awareness Day on Monday, April 20th. The "Disable the Label" event at the state Capitol gives people with disabilities and advocates a chance to talk with decision

makers who can preserve or expand services that can make critical differences in the lives of Oklahomans with disabilities.

If you don't share your story, who will? We have to bring our voices together so they can multiply. We need to see that each seat is filled so that we are not just a crowd but a tide that carries a message through the state Capitol that we need to reject labels and embrace the potential each person has — "Disable the Label".

The event will be from 12:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in Oklahoma City. OIL will be taking the bus so call now to save your spot and we will even register you for the event.

For more information on People with Disabilities Awareness Day go to www.okrehab.org.

On Monday, April 13th at 1:30 there will be a legislative advocacy meeting at OIL. Those who are interested in attending the Capital trip are requested to attend. We will discuss any topics or needs/concerns that you would like to be presented to our area legislators. Call for free local lift-equipped transportation.

DISCOUNTED FRONTIER CITY TICKETS

The discounted amusement park tickets are made available by Frontier City as a major fundraiser for Make Promises Happen camp program. The tickets are discounted from \$34.99 for those over 48" tall and \$26.99 for those under 48" tall to only \$13 per person! (2 yr olds and under are free)

Meal Deal tickets are available for \$11. Outside food cannot be brought into the park, however, there is a picnic area for those who wish to bring their ice chest. Also, there is a McDonald's a few blocks away.

It is a one day only opportunity on Sunday, April 12th. If you are not familiar with Make Promises Happen, they are through the Central Christian Camp that hosts summer camps for adults and children with disabilities. So going on this day not only saves on your pocket but also puts money in theirs so they can continue with the camps.

All mail order ticket requests, must be received by noon, Friday, April 3rd. All Pick-up ticket orders must be picked up no later than 4 p.m. on Friday, April 10th. Contact them at 1 800 299-2811 or order them at CentralChristianCamp.org



SUMMER CAMP FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

Middle School and High School (grades 7-12) camp will be from May 31st thru June 5th.

High School students (grades 9-12) have the opportunity for a second week of camp from June 7th thru June 12th.

Elementary camp (grades 1-6) is June 14th - June 19th.

This year the camp theme is "Kaleidoscope of Opportunities". Various activities could include repelling, riflery, kayaking, archery, adaptive PE, low vision devices, and transition planning.

The camps are held in Muskogee and transportation home on the last day of each camp will be provided to satellite locations around the state.

The application deadlines are **April 18th**. You can get an application at www.osb.k12.ok.us/wp-content/uploads/2015-Summer-Camp-Application-Parent.pdf or call OIL and ask for one to be mailed to you.

SUMMER CAMP FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

The camps are for those 6-17 years of age. High School age campers will be hosted June 14th – 19th and the Elementary age campers will be hosted June 21st - 24th. The cost is FREE and the camp is held in Sulphur, Oklahoma. Busing to and from is available from specific points in the state. The application deadline is **May 1st**. You can get an application at www.osd.k12.ok.us/dhac/application.pdf or call OIL and ask that one be mailed to you.

ACHIEVING A BETTER LIFE ACT

More than a month after enacting a law that would allow people with disabilities a new way to save money, the White

House is celebrating what's being hailed as landmark legislation. Vice-President Joe Biden hosted members of Congress and disability advocates for an event marking the passage of the Achieving a Better Life Experience, or ABLE Act.

The law, signed by President Obama in late December, paves the way for people with disabilities to open special accounts where they can save up to \$100,000 without jeopardizing eligibility for Social Security and other government benefits.

Passage of the ABLE Act altered federal law to allow for the new accounts. However, each state must now put regulations in place in order for financial institutions to make the accounts available.

So far, about 10 states have taken steps to allow for ABLE accounts and advocates recently met with officials at the U.S. Department of the Treasury to discuss federal regulations. It is expected to probably be in 2017 before someone can walk into a financial institution and open an ABLE account.



SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICES STAY OPEN LATER

The Social Security Administration will expand its hours nationwide and offices will be open to the public for an

additional hour on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, effective March 16, 2015. A field office that is usually open until 3:00 p.m. will now remain open until 4:00 p.m. Offices will continue to close to the public at noon every Wednesday so employees have time to complete current work and reduce backlogs.

Most Social Security business does not require a visit to a local field office. Many of these services include applying for retirement, disability and Medicare benefits, creating a My Social Security Account, and replacing a Medicare card.

CURRENCY READER PROGRAM FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

The Department of the Treasury's Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) is taking a number of steps to provide meaningful access to U.S. currency for people who are blind or visually impaired. Changes to U.S. currency are complex and time intensive and notes with new features are not expected to be in circulation before 2020. To offer more immediate remedies, the BEP has turned to a number of technological solutions.

The U.S. Currency Reader Program is providing a free currency reader device to all U.S. citizens or legal residents who are blind or visually impaired. The currency reader is a small, compact, hand-held device – about the size of a credit card and about one-half inch thick. It runs on one AAA battery, which is included. To use the currency reader, one simply inserts a U.S. bill into the

reader and presses a button. The device quickly identifies the note's denomination in one of three ways: a clear natural voice, a pattern of tones or a pattern of vibrations for privacy. The currency reader identifies all U.S. currency in circulation, including \$1, \$2, \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100 denominations.

To request a currency reader, individuals can fill out an application form, which is available to download at www.bep.gov/uscurrencyreaderform.html.

Other technological solutions that allow individuals to determine a note's denomination by using their smart phone or other mobile devices are EyeNote® and the IDEAL® Currency Identifier. They are both mobile device applications available for individuals to download for free. EyeNote® operates on the iOS platform through the Apple App StoreSM. The IDEAL® Currency Identifier is designed for use with Android phones. For more information go to www.bep.gov/uscurrency/meaningfulaccess.html.



SATURDAY TRANSPORTATION

OIL will take individuals anywhere needed in the McAlester area whether it is to visit friends/family or just to see an afternoon movie matinee. The cost is \$2 per stop. The dates are set for the 11th and 25th starting at 8:00 a.m.

OIL STAFF EXTENSION NUMBERS

KC Long - Front Desk – Ext.100
Angie Norbury – Ext. 101
Stephen Strickland – Ext. 105
Bobby Logsdon – Ext. 107
Danielle McDaris – Ext. 108
Terry Yates – Ext. 109
Leanna Amos – Ext. 110
Leah Medina – Ext. 111
Pam Pulchny – Ext. 112

Transportation

O.I.L. provides lift-equipped transportation in McAlester and the surrounding area.

Monday – Thursday, 8:00 – 4:30
Friday 8:00 – 1:00

A twenty-four hour minimum notice is required. The cost is \$2 per pick up in McAlester and \$3 for Krebs and Frink Chambers. Outside this area, fees are based on actual costs of gasoline needed to provide the service.

**Prices are subject to change.*



You can have the freedom that comes with living at home even though you have a long-term illness or disability. The Oklahoma Living Choice Project can help you move out of a nursing home and back into the community.

This project gives Oklahomans like you or your loved one more options to manage health care needs and adds more balance to the state's long-term care system.

If you live in a nursing home and qualify for SoonerCare, then Living Choice may be able to help.

Contact Leah Medina for a referral to the Living Choice Project at (918) 426-6220v/tdd.

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All donations to OIL are tax deductible.

The contents of this newsletter were developed under a grant from the Department of Education. However, these contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the Department of Education and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.

| <i>*Events are held at OIL unless otherwise noted</i> | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|-----------|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| APRIL EVENTS | | | | | | |
| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
| | | | 1 | 2 <u>Shopping</u> 7:00-10:45am | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 <u>Restaurant Etiquette</u> 1:30 pm | 7 <u>Brain Injury Gp.</u> 1 pm <u>Social</u> Boomarang 5:30 pm | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 <u>Saturday Transportation</u> 8 am |
| 12 | 13 <u>Legislative Advocacy Training</u> 1:30 pm | 14 <u>Men's Gp.</u> Rib Crib 5 pm | 15 | 16 <u>Shopping</u> 7:00-10:45am | 17 <u>KEDDO Sr. Day</u> Expo Ctr. 9:00 – 2:00 pm | 18 |
| 19 | 20 <u>People with Disabilities Awareness Day</u> State Capitol 8 am | 21 <u>Women's Gp.</u> Taco Bell & Dollar Tree 11 am | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 <u>Saturday Transportation</u> 8 am |
| 26 | 27 | 28 <u>Brain Injury Gp.</u> 1 pm | 29 | 30 | | |

**Low Impact Exercise Class for Sr.'s* meets Mon., Wed., & Fri., 10:00 a.m., Stipe Center Main & OK Church of Christ
**Alzheimer's Support Group*, 3rd Wed., 12:30 p.m., McAlester Regional Health Center Wellness Conf. Room, call Kathy at 421-6812
**Diabetes Support Group*, 1st Tue., 6:00 p.m., McAlester Regional Health Center Wellness Conf. Room, call Kathy at 421-6812
 *For information on Men's & Women's Grief Support Groups – call Hospice of McAlester at 423-3911 for their groups or for information on a 7 week Dealing with Grief Course call Heartland Hospice at 302-0700,
 *For information on the Stroke Support Group, call the McAlester Regional Hospital at 426-1800,
**Parkinson's Support Group*, 3rd Tues., 6:00 p.m., Pittsburg County Health Department, 423-1267

