LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION DEMANDED

Why Not a Musical?

It takes young energetic talent to imagine the issues we have endured in Ottawa County could be told in no better way than as a MUSICAL! The musical they have declared will be the Picher Project!

Young artistic performers from New York City, Lauren Pelaia, Alex Knezevic and Quentin Madia have been researching and writing dialogue and composing songs with our stories, and some of our words are ready to be bolted out in lyrics.

The team is coming to Oklahoma for a week March 19 to 26th and want to meet as many people here as they can. Then they want you all to listen to a reading of their work which will be held Saturday afternoon March 23 at NEO.

These young people are driven to do this and what they have sent as a preview looks and sounds outstanding! Come give them a hand. Let us know if you would like to have time during their week to meet with them, tell your stories and give them the love of our land, our hopes and our woes of what has been lost, but also what has been found with the changes that have occurred.

LEAD Agency Welcomes ~ Kelly Hunter Foster

Waterkeeper Alliance Attorney Kelly Hunter Foster, has begun sharing our office and we could not be more proud to have her! Kelly has a long history in Oklahoma, actually being on the scene at Tar Creek 20 years ago in her position with then Oklahoma Attorney General Drew Edmondson’s office before joining the Waterkeeper Alliance. As one of three attorneys for the Alliance, you can bet she is busy protecting our water.

Tar Creek made it into the news ranking right up there with many of the other mining sites around the country with over 50 million gallons of tainted water discharging every day into the streams and rivers in our country. For forty years Tar Creek has discharged one million gallons a day! The mining industry knows how to make profits and abandon the messes they make consistently EPA to fix. It is their business model.  https://goo.gl/H8DxCx

MEET AND GREET AT TAR CREEK

LEAD is partnering with EPA and the Quapaw Nation to catch the public up on what is happening at this site.

MARCH 11 IN THE BALLROOM IN THE STUDENT UNION AT NEO COLLEGE FROM 4 TO 7 PM.

Come meet the people who are actually working on the site and the activists who will be there to speak out and ask questions with you.

FREE and OPEN to the Public.
TAR CREEK

Got Some Respect $$$

Last June, black water poured down Tar Creek and produced a massive fish kill. The investigation by Oklahoma’s Department of Environmental Quality, Department of Wildlife Conservation and the Department of Agriculture proved that JM Farms was responsible. The discharge into Tar Creek was caused by a broken coupler.

JM Farms violated 2 O.S. W-18.1 (A) by causing pollution to the waters of the State of Oklahoma which are subject to the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry.

JM Farms received a fine of $10,000 and agreed to reimburse ODWC, DEQ and ODAFF additional costs for a total fee of $24,581.

We thank our Tar Creek Watchers for reporting the fish kill and all those who responded with the care and respect this poor neglected creek received. We appreciate the actions JM responded with to provide appropriate measures to mitigate the results of the discharge.


The current administration is implementing its treacherous strategy to eliminate Clean Water Act protections for waters—and communities—across the country through a rulemaking that removes historically protected rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands, and other waters from its “Waters of the United States” definition. This rulemaking by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and Army Corps of Engineers is the most far-reaching attack we have ever seen on the Clean Water Act. By drastically reducing the waters protected by the Clean Water Act, it will cause untold damage to people, wildlife, and the country as a whole.

Please join us in fighting for the heart of the Clean Water Act by filing a comment opposing this rule.

RAISE YOUR VOICES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
EPA Efforts
to Weaken Clean Water Act!
Earl Hatley, Grand Riverkeeper

Under the Clean Water Act (CWA), navigable waters, supposedly, streams, rivers, lakes and coastal waters that boats and ships can navigate year round, are protected by Water Quality Standards (WQS) established by Congress and the EPA and to be upheld by the states. These water bodies covered by the CWA are termed Waters of The United States (WOTUS).

Yes, just like the President (POTUS)! Anyway, in 2015 as I have reported earlier, the EPA tried to clarify just what WOTUS meant, i.e., the definition. It seemed that National Farm Bureau and other farmers and trade groups wanted EPA to ease the rule and setting the definition might be a way to get the rule opened for discussion. It worked!! EPA realized they needed to conduct a rule making in order to clarify the definition of WOTUS. In conducting the process, comments and pressure by Farm Bureau and industry (and Congress) was greater than from the environmental community and citizens because the definition that was passed was weaker than the one proposed. Never-the-less, Farm Bureau and a bunch of states, including Oklahoma, sued EPA over the rule defining WOTUS.

The opposition to the Rule does not want intermittent streams and ditches or wetlands to be included. They do not believe these water bodies have any impact on the perennial water bodies. Science, however, begs to differ! Urban and agricultural run-off, for example, can build up and gush down these intermittent streams during rain storms and flood events. One advantage of an intermittent stream is placing a discharge pipe there. Makes it difficult to monitor the pollutants being discharged, but they WILL make their way to the larger stream or lakes. Polluted periodic wetlands will still pollute navigable waters. Up until now, these water bodies were protected by WOTUS because of their periodic hydrologic connection and therefore, their impact on terrestrial and aquatic ecology of the perennial streams they flowed into. The science is not in dispute, but then in much of LEAD Agency’s work, that doesn’t seem to matter!!!

Last fall, LEAD Agency joined the law suit with the EPA in order to defend the WOTUS rule from the suit filed by the State of Oklahoma and the OK Chamber of Commerce. We are wait for court to proceed. Meanwhile, EPA has proposed to change the WOTUS rule and will hold a public hearing on Feb. 27 & 28 in Kansas City, KS. at the Wyandotte Ballroom, Reardon Convention Center, 520 Minnesota Ave. The Events run 4-8:00 pm Wed. 27th & 9-12:00 noon Thurs. 28th.

Your Tar Creekkeeper, Rebecca Jim and your Grand Riverkeeper, Earl Hatley will both be in Kansas City to speak to EPA on Feb. 27 about the WOTUS rule. We will send in comments once we know what their new rule will look like. And we will continue with our law suit, against Oklahoma to protect WOTUS as it!!! We will keep informed on this, but we also encourage all of you to contact our Congressman and Senators and tell them what you think!
Tour Oklahoma Tour-US  - from Your Tar Creekkeeper

Our new Governor wants to make Oklahoma a Top 10 State and has given his commitment: the people come first and he'll be a good listener, a continuous learner, and a bold leader for the decisions that make a difference for today’s children and the next generation.

Our Lieutenant Governor, Matt Pinnell, as our new Secretary of Tourism and Branding, should help us. If we want to be a tourist destination, we have to want to be here ourselves. If we go away we have to long to come home. Lt. Governor Pinnell needs to understand what is happening right now to our hopes for Tourism. If we make bad decisions today, we will be branded a state to by-pass tomorrow, not just because we have toll roads, but because you won't be able to drive through with the windows down and we won't have a water body that will be safe for swimmers or for fish tournaments.

Don't TRASH Oklahoma to benefit corporations. They might grow, but they will not grow children who will love this state and fight to protect her.

There is so much to see and enjoy throughout the state. Thousands of tourists from around the world follow Route 66 every year. Consider what our tourists see. They enter the state with Quapaw as the first town on their journey but they have also entered one of our nation's largest and oldest Superfund sites, named after our very own Tar Creek, which they will cross before they enter Commerce, Mickey Mantle's hometown, also within the superfund site.

On both sides of highway 66 near the Mantle Statue they can see Dr. Bob Nairn's world class Passive Water Treatment Systems at work, cleaning bad mine water. In downtown Miami our tourists can experience the Coleman Theatre Beautiful, a community treasure built by one of the original mine owners.

Many tourists follow original remaining sections of Route 66. Just south of Miami our tourists will get a whiff of the brand new flocks of chickens living their short lives in three mega barns. Route 66 travelers might not stop to shop at the tack shop. As generations of birds live and die in mega barns, the smells become entrenched, bicyclists and motorcyclists will travel faster, rushing through to escape the odors.

These poultry houses will be growing birds you and I may never consume. Most of these birds will be hauled to Arkansas for slaughter, then shipped abroad to help feed the world. But Oklahoma will keep the waste with runoff flowing into our streams, rivers, our precious Grand Lake and her sister lakes down the Grand River. Each stream, river, and lake will hold trapped runoff water from the fields spread with excess chicken waste.

Our Green Country has lakes and rivers that are GREEN already, and as we feed the algae in the water more nutrients from poultry waste, they will get only greener. A Tourist Bonanza for Oklahoma! Bound to help us get the status as a Top 10 State for Get The Tourists out the fastest! Hundreds of poultry houses are already constructed in Northeast Oklahoma and the new rules will encourage more.

Two state agencies have let us down: Oklahoma Water Resources Board and the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture Food and Forestry. The environment doesn't fare well in a state that doesn't even have a Department of Environment. The environment is not even listed in the issues on our current governor's website. We need to protect our water, soil and air quality. Because our tourists have earned time off and want a "get-a-way." Those people are us, too. We want to stay close to home, fish and swim in clean water and when we get home we want to be able to wash up with clean water and sit in the yard with our children.

We know that smell can drive away customers, can drive away potential, can shut down towns. We ought to be speaking out for the rest of the state. We ought to watch how we grow and what we grow, or we will lose the best thing we have... our future. Wake up Oklahoma, we are going to have to fight right now to protect this state from our own agencies’ bad decisions. We have to convince our leaders to protect Oklahoma’s environment for our future.

Respectfully Submitted ~ Rebecca Jim

SPEAK UP FOR A CLEAN TAR CREEK
Martin Lively Ends Year of Service With a Message

Martin Lively has spent the last year as a VISTA with LEAD Agency. We are grateful for his service, his skills and the growth our organization has gained from all of his efforts. His message is: It’s Time to Get Involved.

Responding to ODAFF’s Poultry Rule IS a Grassroots Effort and YOU Are the Grassroots!

Given what’s happened in the last 60 days, how do we protect our air, water, and soil from contamination by industrial poultry operations? The answer is: with great care and swift action. This is no longer a county issue, no longer a Green Country issue; it’s become a statewide issue that rests in the hands of our new governor, Kevin Stitt. At this point, he will make the final decision whether to implement the revised Permanent Rule that ODAFF has sneaked through.

Governors by nature think in terms of what the state as a whole wants, what is best for the citizens across the state, what is best for businesses across the state. But industrial poultry operations are unlikely to locate equally throughout the state. They’re going to place barns within about 50 miles of their slaughterhouses. Moreover, industrial poultry rarely operates in suburban areas. Thus, the immediate consequences of industrial poultry will be absent from some parts of the state, and residents of those areas are mostly unaware of ODAFF’s rules and their consequences.

So what are we to do? First, talk to the right government officials. The legislature has no official role at this point, so calling your state representative or senator will be of little practical value. ODAFF has already decided they like these rules. Contact Governor Kevin Stitt. Contact Lieutenant Governor Matt Pinnell. Tell them your opinions about these rules and how they could impact you and your community.

Second, talk about how the consequences of industrial poultry will reach all Oklahomans. Industrial poultry will (and is already) intruding along the historic Route 66 corridor. How many tourists will stop and linger in the shadow and stench of 300,000 chickens and their litter? This isn’t hypothetical for the Tack shop north of Afton; it’s the reality. How many people will continue to spend their summers on Grand Lake or Lake Tenkiller (or any of their downstream sister lakes) when algae blooms from nutrient loading are the warm-weather norm?

Northeast Oklahoma isn’t just “baja Missouri,” it’s the gateway for all tourism dollars coming from our sister states north and east. What happens when the first 100 miles or more traveling through Oklahoma is a string of industrial poultry operations? Our loss is a loss for all Oklahomans. This IS a statewide issue!

And, of course, all the waste and ecological damage industrial poultry causes will flow downstream to all the riverside and lakeside communities not yet directly affected by industrial poultry waste. We must wake up our fellow Oklahomans outside Green Country.

Third, activate your friends and family, particularly those living elsewhere in Oklahoma. Governor Stitt is unlikely to be persuaded by 50 or 500 people reaching out from Green Country. We are essential voices, but we are not enough. We need to activate our fellow Oklahomans. You know people in Tulsa, in Ada, in Norman, in Enid, in Lawton, in Hugo. Message them on Facebook, call them up, send them a carrier pigeon – whatever it takes. Educate them about what these rules would do to Oklahoma and Oklahomans. Tell them how to contact the Governor and Lieutenant Governor. Secure a promise to call. Then ask them to extend this chain of engagement to two of their friends or family members.

Fourth, remember time is VERY LIMTED. Start reaching out immediately! Once Governor Stitt makes a decision, our options to protect the environment and human health are much, much more limited. This truly cannot wait. Please begin today. Our governor must hear from citizens across Oklahoma.
Contacts to Use Right Now + phone + write + text + Facebook

**Governor Stitt:** 2300 N. Lincoln Blvd. Oklahoma City, OK 73105
405.521.2342  Facebook: @GovStitt  Twitter: @GovStitt

**Lt. Governor Pinnell / Secretary of Tourism and Branding:**
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd., Room 211 Oklahoma City, OK 73105
405.521.2161  Facebook: @LtGovPinnell and @matt.pinnell.5  Twitter: @LtGovPinnell

**Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food & Forestry**
Blayne Arthur, Secretary of Agriculture: 405.522.5488
Facebook: @OklahomaAg and @Blayne.Arthur Twitter: @OklahomaAg

**Oklahoma Water Resources Board**  Main Office: 405.530.8900
Julie Cunningham, Executive Director
Bob Drake (assigned represent rural residential water interests)
   bob.drake@owrb.ok.gov
Robert L. Melton, Sr. (assigned to represent municipal water use interests) rober-
   t.melton@owrb.ok.gov
Jason Hitch (Chairman & assigned to represent soil conservation interests)
   jason.hitch@owrb.ok.gov
Bill Cauthron (Water Quality Programs Division Chief)

**Address for all Oklahoma Legislators:**
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd. Oklahoma City, OK 73105

**State Representatives**  Ben Loring  405) 557-7399  918) 542-6685
Josh West  405) 557-7415  800-256-0671

**State Senator**  Micheal Bergstrom (405) 521-5561 bergstrom@oksenate.gov
Ex.Ast: Holly Randall
   Sara Hill, Cherokee Nation 918 207 3836

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ottawa County Commissioners</th>
<th>Craig County Commissioners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mike Furnas (District 1)</td>
<td>Lowell Walker (District 1) – 918.256.5487 / 918.244.0314</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chad Masterson (District 2) – 918.678-2238</td>
<td>Mike Fitzpatrick (District 2) – 918.788.3722</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russell Earls (Dist 3) 918.676-3227 / 918.542.0430</td>
<td>Dan Peetom (District 3) – 918.256.6677 / 918.244.8525</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Tips for Talking to Governmental Officials.**

- Be clear about your purpose: providing your opinion on an issue, explaining how a governmental decision would affect you, asking a representative to vote for or against a bill, asking them to investigate an issue or question, etc.
- If you are (or could be) personally affected by a proposed governmental action, be sure to explain how. Government officials know that people with a personal stake in an issue tend to remain involved and informed.
- Know who you’re talking to and what their role or power is. If you’re talking to a chairperson of a committee or board, be aware they likely have significant influence over what actions that committee or board takes (or fails to take).
- Don’t hesitate to talk to staffers or legislative aides working for the person you want to reach. Staffers and legislative aides do a lot of the legwork behind law- and policy-making. They are often more accessible than legislators or executive officials, and their opinion can carry a lot of weight. If the legislator or executive official you ask for isn’t available, ask to speak with their staffer or legislative aid handling the issue you’re calling about.
- Be polite and courteous. Your purpose is to be heard and understood. If you’re met with resistance, don’t become contemptuous. Ask questions. Treat their answers seriously, continue the conversation.
Oklahoma Poultry UPDATE: What Happened to the RULES?

Where does Oklahoma stand with poultry houses? We’ve gone from bad to worse. But there IS still hope, and we can still make a difference. Here’s a quick update on where things stand at the Capitol. **In December** we submitted lengthy comments in response to then Agriculture Secretary Reese’s proposed Emergency Rule regarding poultry setbacks. On **December 11**, the Agriculture Department (ODAFF) held a public meeting at which the Board withdrew the Emergency Rules because of the overwhelming response demanding greater protections. ODAFF also extended the moratorium on new poultry permit applications **until May 31, 2019**, when the legislative session ends.

**On January 14** Governor Stitt took the oath of office, and Blayne Arthur took over as Agriculture Secretary. Secretary Arthur promptly announced she was resubmitting the Emergency Rule as a Permanent Rule. The proposed Permanent Rule was identical to the Emergency Rule. The public was invited to submit **comments on the Permanent Rule from January 2 through February 5**. Again, LEAD Agency submitted lengthy comments with our views, essentially the same as in December.

Sometime **after January 2**, ODAFF quietly posted to their website a REVISED version of the Permanent Rule. [We’re still trying to determine exactly when this got posted.] The revised Permanent Rule significantly weakened the already-mediocre setbacks, allowing 4 times as many birds to be twice as close (or more!) to residences, schools, towns, and streams. **ODAFF did not extend the comment period or issue an invitation for new public comments based on the revisions.**

To our knowledge, no environmental organization, tribe, or member of the public was aware of ODAFF’s middle-of-the-night revisions. According to the Tulsa World, the Farm Bureau submitted comments February 15 (outside of any open comment period!) approving of the revisions. **On February 19, ODAFF met and, without debate or discussion, voted to approve the REVISED Permanent Rule with the emaciated, nearly meaningless setbacks. By March 1, ODAFF must submit the now-adopted Rule to Governor Stitt for his approval or rejection. The governor must act within 45 days of receiving the adopted Rule. We expect Governor Stitt will act well before his 45 days are up; he could decide literally any day!**

This table shows specific differences between the proposed Permanent Rule we got to comment on and the Revised Permanent Rule ODAFF adopted February 19 and is sending to Governor Stitt.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Setbacks from...</th>
<th>Proposal Released for Public Comment</th>
<th>Proposal Adopted by ODAFF without Public Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Occupied residences</td>
<td>&lt;30,000 birds – 1,000 feet</td>
<td>&lt;150,000 birds – 500 feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&gt;30,000 birds – ¼ mile</td>
<td>&gt; 150,000 birds – 1,000 feet</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>may be waived in perpetuity by contract</td>
<td>may be waived in perpetuity by contract</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public schools</td>
<td>½ mile</td>
<td>1,500 feet</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>may be waived in perpetuity by contract</td>
<td>may be waived in perpetuity by contract</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City limit</td>
<td>½ mile</td>
<td>1,500 feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>may be waived in perpetuity by contract</td>
<td>may be waived in perpetuity by contract</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public highways</td>
<td>150 feet</td>
<td>150 feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property lines</td>
<td>150 feet</td>
<td>150 feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Streams</td>
<td>200 feet</td>
<td>200 feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private wells</td>
<td>100 feet</td>
<td>100 feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public wells</td>
<td>500 feet</td>
<td>500 feet</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Must submit a detailed scaled map showing location(s) of the poultry barns, composters and other carcass disposal areas, litter sheds, and other buildings associated with the operation, as well as all locations within 1 sq mile requiring setback.
Volunteers Make The Difference at LEAD Agency

What’s Your Blood Lead Level?
LEAD Agency received a LEAD CARE2 instrument as a gift from Mount Sinai Hospital’s Dr. Robert O. Wright, who was the lead researcher in our MATCH Project, which recruited 704 mother/child pairs to participate in research examining the effects on children exposed to multiple metals.

The Ottawa County Health Department can only test children age 6 and under. This instrument will let us test children over age 6 at public events to fill this critical gap in lead poisoning prevention.

Training was held recently and completed by Jose Gonzalez, Will Glazier and Karen Fields.

A Day of Service
LEAD Agency celebrated the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday with a Day of Service. For the first time NEO College cancelled classes for the day. The NEO College Women’s Basketball Team chose to spend the doing service with LEAD Agency projects. These included creating birdfeeders, sharpening garden tools, packaging flower seeds, making cookies and making banners with MLK Jr. quotes. The students worked along side our LEAD volunteers for hours and found working together our Theme, Ga Do Gi gets things done!

NEO Student Kathryn Lunsford from Leavenworth, Kansas is currently a freshman majoring in Natural Resources and is working on a much needed project this semester with LEAD. We have an old HYDROLAB instrument and she is on task to make it work again. Once and if that happens she will instruct other volunteers how to property use it. In the meantime we are joining efforts to interview many of the former BF Goodrich workers to record their stories. “It’s interesting and important that we know the history of things that went on before I was born,” Kathryn said.

Bethy Mununng and the two students who were trained with the LEAD Care instrument answered a call to service their Psychology Class instructor Dr. Lesli Deichman put out to assist LEAD in our many efforts. Bethy is currently assisting on the BF Goodrich docu-

INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS A THREAT TO JUSTICE EVERYWHERE
From Your Grand Riverkeeper ~ Earl Hatley

I have a master's degree in Political Science, yet these days I have to keep reminding myself that governments are established by the will and consent of the governed. At least democracies are and, certainly, ours was. The Declaration of Independence and our Constitution makes that clear. Our Supreme Court, however, has complicated things by declaring that corporations have the same rights as individuals and that money is speech. Their Citizens United ruling has placed corporations and contributions into our political system in ways that has diminished the power of the individual citizen.

In my career I fought this influence of corporate power in the halls of the state capitol in OKC and in Washington D.C. That influence is prevalent with the agencies I deal with. The term Stakeholder, for example, is not a proper term for citizens or citizen's groups. It is a term for those who seek permits for the services of the agencies. The people convened the government, which created the agencies, which hired the staff (who are paid with the people's taxes). The people and their organizations should always be included, the question is which Stakeholders to include at given meetings and discussions.

I am saying all of this because Oklahoma's environmental agencies seem to be forgetting who they work for. This week, the OK Dept. of Agriculture, Food & Forestry (ODAFF) placed on their agenda for the Feb. 15th Board meeting a revisit of the setback rules for poultry operations. At their previous meeting (for which the public was invited to provide public comment on ODAFF's proposed setbacks) they decided not to vote on setbacks but to wait and see what the legislative session would bring. At the meeting on the 15th, however, even though there is a bill in the legislature, the Board voted on setbacks which were less stringent than the ones the public got to comment on. It was also discovered later that the OK Farm Bureau was allowed to comment on these Feb. 15 rules even though no one else could.

On the same day, the OK Water Resources Board took up a vote on the Variance Rule and passed it. The public commented on this rule at a meeting in January. Again with no action. This proposal would weaken the rule that allows a variance to weaken, temporarily, water quality standards for a water body that is not able to meet one or more of its assessed Beneficial Uses. The fear here is that streams like the Illinois River would have its phosphorus standard lowered through a variance (temporarily) in a deal with Arkansas, that could go on for years. Then there is Tar Creek. Its water quality standards were lowered after the mine drainage surfaced in 1979. Then the state and EPA declared the problem was irreversible. Now, even they admit that is not true. In addition to the variance (which we didn't know was coming up for vote), the 36 chemicals, some of which are suspected carcinogens, that are found in Oklahoma waters but do not have Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL) assessed were not considered for future evaluation.

The new head of the ODAFF has no history with the folks in Delaware, Ottawa, Mayes, Adair and Cherokee Counties as far as what the poultry industry has done to us over the past few years and especially the past two years. She has not talked to the people here. At the meeting she said the setbacks were good for the Oklahoma and for the industry. She said the two no votes were because those two Board members don't support any setbacks. This our government. This is who they support. The legislature and the governor have not shown any better interest in the plight of the residents of Green Country who are represented by those recently shown and quoted in the Tulsa World as telling about the changes in their quality of life.

Is this government of by and for the people?

We must answer that question by making it so!!!
Fundraisers Work! As a non-profit organization, we run on dedicated volunteers and donations large and small from our members and others in the community and the wider world to help keep our doors open and stamps on our newsletters. Recently we mailed out our first fundraiser letter and have been amazed at our response, from it and also a Facebook effort. We are grateful for all who gave and those of you who will in the future.

We also want to thank those who have been bringing their used inkjet cartridges, our first mailing of those earned us $52.
Every dollar helps take the pressure off finding ways to do our work as activists and advocates for our environment easier.

We want to remind you if you use Amazon Smile, to understand what you buy can help us with every purchase. Also if you check our improved website, www.leadagency.org there is a handy BUTTON to donate!

If you use Goodsearch each search can earn LEAD Agency (Local Environmental Action Demanded) one cent! They add up, we can vouch for it working.

Status of the Coal Ash Rule By Earl Hatley, Grand Riverkeeper
Last fall, LEAD Agency, Waterkeeper Alliance, OK Chapter of Sierra Club and Earthjustice filed a law suit against the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for their approval of Oklahoma's Coal Combustion Rule (CCR) which manages the wastes from burning coal at the State's coal-fired power plants. The ash is stored in landfills and liquid wastes are store in pits. Through a suit by Waterkeeper Alliance, EPA was forced to regulate this waste stream for the first time ever, beginning in 2015. In 2016, Congress passed a law allowing states to pass their own CCR laws as long as they were as stringent or more than EPA's rule. Oklahoma was the first state to pass their own CCR rule and gained interim status in 2017 to implement their CCR program. In 2018, EPA approved OK's rule. That is when we decided, after our comments failed to change anything, to sue EPA. Since we filed the State of Oklahoma (on behalf of ODEQ) and several industry groups (Utility Solid Waste Activities Group, OG&E, and Public Service Co. of Oklahoma) moved to intervene in the suit and have been allowed by the judge.

In the back and forth so far, the EPA has tried to extend for more time, especially due to the gov't shutdown. The judge seems to want to move forward and with the schedule as it is now, all of the briefs should be in by end of July and we could have a decision at the end of summer is all things go as on schedule. We keep you advised on the progress.

At issue is the lack of public participation written into the both the EPA and Oklahoma's CCR rules. The Oklahoma rule is weaker than the federal rule in several ways and the states, due in part to 8 years in a row of cut budgets, has proven it lacks the ability to manage their CCR rule. This is evidenced by the fact that all of the CCR waste management units in the state are polluting the groundwater. At the time we filed the suit, most of the companies that manage the CCR units in the state were out of compliance with the states new CCR rule, approved by EPA, provisionally, in 2017.
Children can have their blood lead sampled for free at the Ottawa County Health Department and the Northeast Tribal Health System. As of Oct. 2017. You may already know it is mandatory in Oklahoma to have children tested for lead.

The Tar Creek Superfund Site has been on the NPL since 1983 and been on the EPA’s latest list for accelerated attention for one year.

The Quapaw Tribe has work continuing on large properties in the Tar Creek Superfund site, working around the wet seasons we have been experiencing. Getting work done with assurances from EPA they will be able to continue until it is all done!

Miami’s New Slash Pad will be remediated this spring. Our kids want to play in lead free places! Is your yard lead safe? Your unpaved driveway? Testing is FREE!

If high levels are found DEQ will remove it & replace for FREE

Call DEQ Hotline to sign up 1-800-522-0206

Save the number to REPORT POLLUTERS TOO!

LEAD’s 2018 Scholarship Awardee

Brooklyn Tavis

LEAD Agency announces our $250 Scholarship for 2018 was presented to Quapaw High School graduate Brooklyn Tavis. While in high school she helped organize the school food and clothing pantry with the National Honor Society at Quapaw High School and is active in her church community. She was selected to represent Quapaw High School at Oklahoma’s annual Girls State. Tavis was vice president of her class and active in Student Council. “My long term goal is to be a successful woman, I am going to go to NEO and try my absolute best!” And LEAD Agency’s goal to help her achieve this.

Funding for the annual scholarship is raised from the Silent Auction held during our fall National Tar Creek Conference, We remain grateful for those who give and bid to help fund this cause.

Application for the 2019 Scholarship is located on our website. This year’s graduates of Commerce, Miami, and Quapaw are eligible to apply by August 1.
LEAD Agency, Inc.
223 A. St. S. E.
Miami, OK 74354

918-542-9399
www.leadagency.org

LEAD March Meeting - March 28 at 5:30 Covered dish
LEAD April Meeting - April 25 at 5:30 Covered dish

MEET and GREET at TAR CREEK
March 11 from 4 to 7 pm NEO Ballroom

Public Always Welcome at LEAD Agency Events!

Volunteers needed
Contact LEAD with your availability. We will be glad to hear from you!
Call 918-542-9399 or email leadagency@att.net

Let your kids make a difference, too
Never too early to be a Chicken fighter or an Environmental Justice Advocate

SAVE THE CHICKEN INSERT
IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

WATERKEEPER ALLIANCE MEMBER