

OKC WATCH

OKLAHOMA CITY NEWS

County sheriff's office announces holiday sobriety checkpoint

The Oklahoma County Sheriff's Office will conduct a sobriety checkpoint on St. Patrick's Day.

OCSO spokesman Mark Myers said the checkpoint will be in Oklahoma County from 8 p.m.-midnight on Tuesday. This event differs from the OCSO monthly traffic safety checkpoints in that the sobriety checkpoint will primarily focus on people who are under the influence of alcohol and drugs, Myers said.

Deputies will stop vehicles passing through the sobriety checkpoint and ask to see their driver licenses, Myers said. The exact location of the checkpoint is not being released to the public.

Any driver suspected of operating a vehicle while under the influence of drugs or alcohol will be directed to a safe area off the roadway for further observation and possible testing for intoxication.

The OCSO reminds all those who plan on celebrating during the St. Patrick's Day festivities to drink responsibly:

- Plan a safe way home before the festivities begin.
- Before drinking, please designate a sober driver and give that person your keys.
- If you're impaired, use a taxi, or call a sober friend or family member.

The maximum penalty in Oklahoma for the first time conviction for driving under the influence is one year in jail, a \$1,000.00 fine and six months revocation of drivers' license.

WEATHER

7-DAY FORECAST

TODAY
H 52° F | L 34° F
mostly cloudy

SUNDAY
H 65° F | L 38° F
mostly cloudy

MONDAY
H 73° F | L 24° F
mostly sunny

TUESDAY
H 75° F | L 45° F
mostly sunny

WEDNESDAY
H 76° F | L 48° F
partly cloudy

THURSDAY
H 69° F | L 45° F
20% chance rain

FRIDAY
H 65° F | L 42° F
partly cloudy

Weather is provided by Rick Mitchell, Eyewitness News 5.

LUCKY NUMBERS

LOTTERY

POWERBALL (3-11-09)
03-07-13-34-47 PB 30

PICK 3 (3-12-09)
1-3-9

CASH 5 (3-12-09)
06-10-24-26-28

HOT LOTTO (3-11-09)
05-14-18-26-34 HB 14



PHOTO PROVIDED BY SANDRA MENDEZ

Deer Creek Cub Scouts honored

Members of Cub Scout Pack 348 chartered through Deer Creek Prairie Vale Elementary are, from left, Gabriel Buckles, Devan Mendez, Adam Rubin, James Rodesney, Adam Dreyer, Tyler Pumphrey and David Taylor. The pack held its Blue and Gold celebration Feb. 28 at Deer Creek High School's Alumni Hall, honoring the seven boys with the Arrow of Light award. This is the highest honor that a Cub Scout can attain in the Boy Scouts of America organization.

SCORECARD

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Below is a scorecard provided by OKWatchdog.org exclusively for *Edmond Sun* readers. It offers a glance at how local legislators are voting on key issues monitored by the nonprofit consumer advocacy group. It also offers the organization's opinion about the legislation. The following is compiled by OKWatchdog.org Executive Director Jeff Raymond.

HR 1008

Summary: This resolution would object to placing Guantanamo Bay detainees in Oklahoma or transporting them through Oklahoma.

Vote: Passed 81-12.
Rep. Marian Cooksey: Aye
Rep. Ken Miller: Aye
Rep. Lewis Moore: Aye
Rep. Jason Murphey: Aye

Our take: Placing detainees in Oklahoma is a federal issue, and although state legislators may influence the federal government, they ultimately have no authority on where detainees are placed. Supporters said they want to protect innocent Oklahomans, and voting for the bill was a no-brainer; opponents said the state should serve when called upon and stressed possible economic benefits.

There is no next step on this bill as it is filed with the secretary of state and does not require the governor's signature.

HB 1602

Summary: This bill, which doesn't require the governor's signature, would ask voters to approve capping attorney fees on a sliding scale.

Vote: Passed, 54-46
Rep. Marian Cooksey: Aye
Rep. Ken Miller: Aye
Rep. Lewis Moore: Aye
Rep. Jason Murphey: Aye

Next step: Senate consideration.
Our take: This one-sided, anti-consumer bill is obvious political blackmail and won't put a penny in injured Oklahomans' pockets. By telling a group of professionals how much they can charge, it's Big Government and will make the courts off limits to all but the wealthiest Oklahomans. Without

the deterrent of contingency fees, flammable pajamas, dangerous drugs such as Vioxx and exploding trucks would still be on the market. Insurance companies will profit from Oklahomans' injuries, and taxpayers will foot the bill.

HB 2027

Summary: This bill establishes a licensure process for behavioral therapists to work with children with autism. It directs the state to train providers to treat these children.

Vote: Passed 98-0.
Rep. Marian Cooksey: Aye
Rep. Ken Miller: Aye
Rep. Lewis Moore: Aye

Rep. Jason Murphey: Aye
Next step: Senate consideration.

Our take: This bill is a start, but it falls short of what is needed. Oklahoma needs more behavioral therapists, but their cost still will be out of reach of most parents of children with autism. Insurance coverage is the private-sector solution to the skyrocketing number of autism cases.

SB 342

Summary: This bill makes scanning a driver's license for marketing purposes a misdemeanor.

Vote: Passed 45-0.
Sen. Clark Jolley: Aye
Sen. Todd Lamb: Aye

Next step: House consideration.
Our take: On the surface, this bill looks like a good idea, but the devil is in the details. Big tobacco often targets visits to bars and clubs, offering them free cigarettes and knick-knacks in exchange for scanning their drivers' licenses. By making such scanning a misdemeanor unless permission is given, this bill essentially writes the practice into law, because tobacco marketers normally ask for permission. This bill shows the power the tobacco lobby still has in Oklahoma. A bill that would have prohibited the practice altogether failed to receive a second in

committee.

HB 1601

Summary: This bill prohibits attorneys from deducting money from settlements to use for political contributions.

Vote: Passed 62-36.
Rep. Marian Cooksey: Aye
Rep. Ken Miller: Aye
Rep. Lewis Moore: Aye
Rep. Jason Murphey: Aye

Next step: Senate consideration.
Our take: This purely political bill is seen by many as an attempt to silence some legislators' political opponents and limit Oklahomans' ability to participate in the political process.

HB 1360

Summary: This bill makes assaulting EMTs and other emergency medical personnel a felony. This bill was authored by Edmond Rep. Marian Cooksey.

Vote: Passed 97-0.
Rep. Marian Cooksey: Aye
Rep. Ken Miller: Aye
Rep. Lewis Moore: Aye
Rep. Jason Murphey: Aye

Next step: Senate consideration.
Our take: Nearly every EMT who responded to a 1999 study reported having been assaulted at least once. This bill makes assaulting an EMT a serious crime that deserves serious punishment.

HB 1025

Summary: This bill prohibits employers from asking job applicants if they own firearms.

Vote: Passed 84-14
Rep. Marian Cooksey: Aye
Rep. Ken Miller: Aye
Rep. Lewis Moore: Aye
Rep. Jason Murphey: Aye

Next step: Senate consideration.
Our take: Refusing to hire someone because they own a firearm is something most Oklahomans strongly oppose. Those who argued against the bill questioned its effect on struggling small businesses and whether First Amendment rights should be protected similarly.
Next step: Senate consideration.



Lamb



Cooksey



Moore



Jolley



Miller



Murphey

THE COMMUTE

TRAVEL ADVISORIES

The projects below are all weather permitting:

As part of the ongoing Broadway Ext./Memorial Rd. interchange reconstruction project continuing through fall, the following are affected:

- Northbound and southbound Broadway Ext. is narrowed to two lanes in each direction between 122nd St. and Memorial Rd.
- The northbound Broadway Ext. off-ramp to westbound Memorial Rd. is closed.
- The northbound Broadway Ext. on-ramp from Memorial Rd. is closed.
- Kelley Ave. is closed between 33rd St. and Memorial Rd. through spring. Message boards in place.
- Memorial Rd. is narrowed to one lane in each direction at the Broadway Ext. interchange.

Eastbound and westbound Covell Rd. is closed between Broadway Ave. and Thomas Dr., and northbound and southbound Boulevard is closed between Covell Rd. and Coffee Creek Rd. until late 2009 for surface work and railroad overpass construction.

The westbound I-44 ramp (turns south), west of May Ave., will be narrowed to one lane and the eastbound N.W. 39th Expressway (S.H.-66) ramp to westbound I-44 will be closed from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday for surface repairs. Additionally, motorists can expect various lane closures on westbound I-44 (running south) between N.W. 39th Expressway (S.H.-66) and N.W. 23rd St. during this time.

Drivers should expect various lane closures on eastbound I-44 (running north) between N.W. 23rd St. and May Ave. from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday for surface repairs.

Beginning Sunday, March 15, Shartel Ave. will permanently close at the rail tracks between S. 7th St. and S. 9th St. for rail work associated with ongoing I-40 crosstown construction. Drivers may use S. 7th St. or S. 10th St. east to Walker as an alternate route.

Source: ODOT

FUEL WATCH

OKLAHOMA PRICES

YESTERDAY	
Regular	\$1.783
Mid	\$1.844
Premium	\$1.946
Diesel	\$1.868

MONTH AGO	
Regular	\$1.788
Mid	\$1.848
Premium	\$1.951
Diesel	\$2.072

YEAR AGO	
Regular	\$3.136
Mid	\$3.243
Premium	\$3.423
Diesel	\$3.716

SOURCE: OKLAHOMA AAA

MARKET WATCH

STOCK PRICES

Dow	7223.98	+53.92
NASDAQ	1431.50	+5.4
S&P 500	756.55	+5.81
Crude Oil	46.25	-0.78

Figures from previous day's close

Open 7 Days a Week!



URGENT CARE...WHEN AND WHERE YOU NEED US.

8:00 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.
No Appointment Necessary.

Edmond
Covell & Kelly
844-1633

North OKC
13420 N. Penn
478-0633

N.W. OKC
4510 N.W.
39th Expwy
495-5841

South OKC
7378 Walker
636-0767

SUBSCRIBE TO THE SUN!

3 MONTHS only \$27.90

6 MONTHS only \$56.20

12 MONTHS only \$97.40

YES! I want to subscribe to The Edmond Sun
....It's As Easy As 1-2-3!

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____
City _____ Zip _____
E-mail Address _____
Credit Card # _____ Exp. Mo. ____/Yr ____

Cut Out and Return To: Richard Foster c/o *The Edmond Sun*,
P.O. Box 2470
Edmond, OK 73083

OR CALL TODAY! Richard Foster
Circulation & Marketing
405-341-2121 Ext. 161

