

'People notice':

Chickasha leg lamp spurs economy as Warner Bros. complaint lingers

Stephen A. Martin

NonDoc.com

In downtown Chickasha, a 50-foot leg lamp glows over a city plaza, drawing tourists, sparking small-business sales, and anchoring a new holiday identity fueled by a kind of fragile — or perhaps fra-gee-lay — optimism that whoever owns the rights to *A Christmas Story* will see the tribute as affection rather than infringement.

For now, that optimism is holding. More than a year after Warner Bros. Discovery sent a cease-and-desist letter over the display, no further legal action has followed. City leaders, local businesses, and the Chickasha Community Foundation say they acted in good faith and within the law — and they're betting the corporate rights holder won't pull the plug on an attraction that has helped reshape downtown Chickasha during the holiday season.

The leg lamp stands at the center of a plaza near the city's visitor center, but city officials say it is only one piece of a broader redevelopment strategy built around seasonal tourism. Plans already underway include a proposed park south of the plaza and a pedestrian bridge intended to better connect downtown attractions and improve foot traffic.

"This didn't happen in isolation," said Pat Brooks, a former mayor of Chickasha and longtime civic booster who serves on the board of the Chickasha Community Foundation. "The lamp became a focal point, but the goal has always been to build something bigger around it."

'I see generations come in'

As hoped, Chickasha's broader vision has already begun to take shape. Just blocks away, Ralphie's House, a bed-and-breakfast modeled after the iconic home from *A Christmas Story*, draws visitors year-round. Plans for a movie-themed

restaurant have also been promoted as part of the area's broader tourism footprint.

Local business owners say the effect has been tangible.

Inside the Chickasha Visitors Center, shop owner Pamela Pryther said foot traffic has increased steadily as visitors circulate between the plaza, nearby shops and themed attractions. Pryther operates Crafty Queen & Co., which sells a mix of handmade crafts and officially licensed *A Christmas Story* merchandise, including the iconic Red Ryder BB gun, pink bunny souvenirs, and multiple sizes of leg lamps.

"The business has been good. I can't complain," Pryther said.

Pryther said she first began selling leg-lamp-themed items in 2021, when an inflatable version of the lamp was part of downtown festivities. She believes she was the first person in Chickasha to sell leg-lamp crafts locally.

"I see generations come in who don't even know the movie," she said. "Grandparents explaining it to kids. Maybe it's sparked interest in *A Christmas Story* where it might have been lost."

That generational reach, city leaders argue, is part of why Chickasha leaned into the symbolism. The town has long marketed itself as a Christmas destination through its Festival of Light, now in its 33rd year, and officials say the leg lamp simply gave that identity a nationally recognizable image.

Mayor Zachary Grayson said the city viewed the display as an extension of its existing holiday brand, not a departure from it.

"This isn't some rogue stunt," Grayson said. "It fits with what Chickasha has done for decades."

That reputation has extended beyond tourism. Brooks said the owner of the city's Airport Industrial Park cited Chickasha's holiday



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The 50-foot leg lamp rises over Chickasha's downtown plaza near the city's visitor center, anchoring the community's holiday tourism push tied to *A Christmas Story*.

programming — including the Festival of Light — as a factor in deciding to locate operations in the city, seeing it as evidence of civic engagement and quality of life.

"People notice when a town invests in itself," Brooks said.

'A sense of ownership over the idea'

There is also a deeper, more personal connection that helps explain why Chickasha embraced *A Christmas Story* so fully. The connection traces back to former University of Oklahoma professor Noland Eugene James who grew up in Chickasha and later claimed to have developed the leg lamp concept that became the film's iconic prop. The claim is documented in his obituary and has become part of local lore.

"It's one of those stories people here have told for years," Brooks said. "Whether or not Hollywood ever acknowledges it, folks in Chickasha feel a sense of ownership over the idea."

That sense of ownership, however, exists alongside a clear legal reality: Warner Bros. Discovery retains the rights to *A Christmas Story*. The company sent a cease-and-desist letter regarding the Chickasha

display more than a year ago, but has taken no further public action since.

A Warner Bros. Discovery spokesperson told NonDoc that the company "does not have a comment" on the Chickasha leg lamp.

Meanwhile, the company is currently the subject of rival takeover bids by Netflix Inc. and Paramount Global, and media industry analysts note that changes in corporate ownership often bring renewed scrutiny of intellectual property enforcement. This is particularly the case as new management teams reassess legacy assets.

If ownership of the film were to change hands, Chickasha's situation could become riskier without a formal licensing agreement. A more centralized rights holder could take a stricter view of unauthorized uses, even those framed as tribute.

For now, Chickasha is waiting — hoping that silence signals tolerance, and that whoever ultimately controls the film's legacy will see the display not as competition, but as homage.

Whether the lamp continues to glow or someday goes dark remains out of the town's hands. For a community that has built a holiday economy around a movie rooted in childhood hope and seasonal expectation, the uncertainty feels oddly familiar.

LEGALS

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR AN ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE

In accordance with Title 37A, Oklahoma Statutes, Section 2-141, Mocha Madness and Fricksters BBQ Diner 59051 E. 250 Rd, Grove, OK 74344, a licensed liability company, hereby publishes notice of their intention to apply within sixty days from this date to the Oklahoma Alcoholic Beverage Laws Enforcement Commission for a Mixed Beverage/Caterer Combination License under authority of and in compliance with the said Act: That they intend(s), if granted such license to operate as a Mixed Beverage/Caterer Combination establishment with business premises located at 59051 E 250 Rd in Grove, Delaware County, Oklahoma under the business name of Mocha Madness & Fricksters BBQ Diner

Dated this 12th day of December, 2025.

/s/ Doyle Frick

County of Delaware, State of Oklahoma.

Before me, the undersigned notary public, personally appeared: Doyle Frick to me known to be the person described in and who executed the foregoing application and acknowledged that he executed the same as his free act and deed.

/s/ Ray Huffman Notary Public Comm. #18010424

My Commission expires October 16, 2026.

(Published in the Grove Sun December 19 and 26, 2025)

OK 74344Unit #C19

Manner: StorageAuctions.com

(Published in the Grove Sun December 26, 2025)

LPXLP

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF DELAWARE COUNTY STATE OF OKLAHOMA

CHRISTOPHER STANLEY NEEDHAM, PLAINTIFF,

vs.

DALE EPPERSON and RANDY EPPERSON or any Other Person(s) Claiming Interest, DEFENDANT(S).

Case Number: CV-2025-159 AMENDED NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA TO: ANY OTHER PERSON(S) CLAIMING INTEREST

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Christopher Stanley Needham, as Plaintiff in the above-styled and numbered action filed a Petition to Quiet Title in the District Court of Delaware County, State of Oklahoma against the Defendants named above.

That Plaintiff is the owner of the following described real property situated in Delaware County, Oklahoma:

Lot 178, Carriage Hills, Unit 3, situated in Delaware County, Oklahoma, according to the recorded plat thereof, AND

1980 14X 70 Skyline Mobile Home, Serial # 01520236P, Title # A813220C

Address: 24608 S Redbud Circle, Afton, Oklahoma 74331

That he is in actual and peaceable possession of said real property, that the Defendants, and each of them, may claim some right, title or interest in and to said real property adverse to the Plaintiff's interest which constitutes a cloud on the Plaintiff's title. That the Plaintiff requests that he receive judgment against the Defendants, and each of them, judicially determining him to be the sole owner of said real property.

Click Storage Auction Notice

Date & Time: January 13,

2026; 10:00AM

Place: 64181 E 290 Rd Grove,

OK 74344Unit #F12

Manner: StorageAuctions.com

Click Storage Auction Notice

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THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA, TO: Thomas Enix, Paul Enix and Debra Enix, All if Living, or if Any Be Deceased, Their Unknown Heirs, Successors and Assigns

You are hereby notified that you have been sued in the District Court of Delaware County, State of Oklahoma, in Case No. CV-2025-176, by the above-named Plaintiff, wherein the Plaintiff is seeking to quiet title to the following-described real property situated in Delaware County, Oklahoma, to-wit:

All that portion of the N/2 SE/4 SE/4 NW/4 lying South and West of the GRDA taking line in Section 24, Township 24 North, Range 23 East, Delaware County, Oklahoma.

You are further notified that unless you answer the Petition of the Plaintiff on or before the 6th day of February, 2026, the allegations of the Petition will be taken as true and judgment rendered adjudging and decreeing Christopher Stanley Needham to be the sole owner of said real property and entitled to the possession thereof, and that the Defendants, and each of them, have no right, title or interest therein, and quieting the title of the Plaintiff against all adverse claims of said Defendants, and each of them.

Given under my hand and seal this 9th day of December, 2025.

Karma Sapp, Court Clerk

By: /s/ Ashlynn Roberson

Deputy Clerk

(Published in the Grove Sun December 12, 19, and 26, 2025)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT

IN AND FOR

DELAWARE COUNTY

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

WITNESS my hand this 22nd day of December, 2025.

Karma Sapp, Court Clerk

Delaware County, Oklahoma

By: /s/ Ashlynn Roberson

Deputy

Tommy R. Dyer, Jr.,

O.B.A. #13594

DAVIS & THOMPSON, PLLC

P.O. Box 487

Jay, Oklahoma 74346

Telephone: (918) 253-4220

(918) 801-4493

Fax: (918) 801-4493

tommy@davisandthompson.

net

Attorney for Personal

Representative

(Published in the Grove Sun December 26, 2025 and January 2, 2026)

LPXLP

Case No. CV-2025-176

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

LPXLP

IN THE DISTRICT COURT IN AND FOR DELAWARE COUNTY STATE OF OKLAHOMA

In the Matter of the Estate of Garry Neal Riley, Deceased.

Case No. PB-2024-171

Judge David Crutchfield

NOTICE OF HEARING

FINAL ACCOUNT AND

REPORT OF PERSONAL

REPRESENTATIVE, PETITION

FOR DETERMINATION

OF HEIRS, DECREE OF

DISTRIBUTION AND

DISCHARGE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the duly appointed and qualified Personal Representative of the above-captioned estate has filed in this Court a Final Account of the administration of said estate and a Petition for Determination of Heirs, Decree of Distribution of said estate and Discharge; hearing of the same has been fixed by the Judge of the District Court for the 13th day of January, 2026, at the hour of 1:30 p.m. at the Courtroom of said Court, in the County Courthouse at Jay, Delaware County, Oklahoma, and all persons interested in said estate are notified then and there to appear and show cause, if any they have, why said Final Account should not be settled and allowed, heirs determined, said Estate distributed and the Personal Representative discharged.

/s/ David Crutchfield

JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

THE HEIRS, EXECUTORS, ADMINISTRATORS, TRUSTEES, DEVISEES AND ASSIGNS IMMEDIATE AND REMOTE, WHETHER KNOWN OR UNKNOWN OF DAVID H. MCLENNAN, DECEASED, Defendants.

THE HEIRS, EXECUTORS,

ADMINISTRATORS,

TRUSTEES, DEVISEES AND

ASSIGNS IMMEDIATE AND

REMOTE, WHETHER KNOWN

OR UNKNOWN OF DAVID