

A secret at the PDJ - part XIII

Perry, this week we are back with Caroline, and her wild imagination is leading the story again. She meets the Lorings, Ted and Shelia, the people who love and care for many donkeys. And the word “many” is certainly meant. Suffice it to say, this may be the silliest next set of chapters since starting this fictional column, and it is hoped that you like it.

Caroline found herself wanting more from her world. She knew some were too afraid to live and take adventures. Some were pointing their finger and telling Caroline she was painting their senior year in an unflattering light with her high school column, The Road to Dam-ask-us. Caroline knew teenagers were far wiser than some of the older people. She believed once you had lost your imagination and sense of adventure, then all was lost. If you weren’t careful you could remain on the treadmill of life that led to nowhere, but in a state of depression, which then meant you could find yourself in a state of regret.

To Caroline, regret was the worst. It was like concrete around your feet. It kept you from moving forward or living life. If Saul had not received his orders from the Lord to change his mission, where would he have ended up? Living a self-righteous life of criticism is lonely, and those with a lack of imagination tend to be very lonely.

In Caroline’s imaginary world, she felt safe, understood, and loved. Their last name was actually Loring, but Caroline

Smith

Continued from page 1
From the start, Smith said her biggest priority was her staff. She wanted them to feel secure, valued, and confident under new leadership. “I did not want anyone to fear that their job was in jeopardy,” she said. “When a new regime comes in, people hear things from the outside. My main goal was to make sure everyone felt comfortable and confident.” That approach paid off. “What I feared most turned out to be the easiest part,” Smith said. “The support I have had made the learning curve manageable. They had everything prepared. I was not chasing deadlines. They made life easy for me.” While the day to day operations became familiar, Smith says learning the federal side of county government has been one of the more complex parts of the job. “Understanding what is federal, what is state, and how it all ties together has been a challenge,” she said. “There is not always a lot of training in those areas.” Smith credits the Oklahoma State University county train-

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(Published in the Perry Daily Journal January 31, 2026)
IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF NOBLE COUNTY STATE OF OKLAHOMA
In the Matter of the Guardianship of Craig M. Wilson, Sr., an incapacitated person.
Case No. PG-2023-12
NOTICE OF HEARING ON RETURN OF SALE
NOTICE is hereby given that Craig Wilson Jr. and Penny Dunne-Muzi, the duly appointed Guardians of Craig M. Wilson, Sr. (“Ward”), by and through their attorney of record, Dana L. Murphy of Goodwin / Lewis / Cason / Gentry, has filed in this Court a Return of Sale pursuant to an Order of this Court entered on the 25th day of November, 2025, authorizing the Guardians to sell certain real property owned by the Ward.
The Guardians pray that the Court confirms the Return of Sale and authorize the Guardians to close on a contract with David Roberts to sell certain real property owned by the Ward, the legal description of said property being, as follows:
Lots One (1), Two (2), Three (3), Four (4), Five (5), Six (6), Seven (7), and Eight (8), in Block Twenty (20), all in the Townsite of Lucien, Oklahoma. According to the recorded plat thereof. (commonly referred to as 501 SW 4th, Lucien, Oklahoma 73757 and hereinafter referred to as the “Vacant Lot”), for the sum of nine-thousand and 00/100 dollars (\$9,000), subject to confirmation by this Court.
The Return of Sale is set for hearing before the undersigned Judge in the courtroom of Judge Leach of the District Court, at the county courthouse in Nobel County, State of Oklahoma on the 3rd day of March, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., when and where all individuals interested in the In the Matter of the Guardianship of Craig M. Wilson, Sr., may appear and contest the sale.
Individuals interested in the sale of the above-described real property may reference the Return of Sale for further particulars.
SIGNED on the 28 day of January 2026.
JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT
Honorable Nikki Leach
Prepared by:

Dana Murphy, OBA No. 15816
GOODWIN / LEWIS / CASON / GENTRY
420 NW 6th Street,
Second Floor
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73102
Telephone: 405-900-5700
Email: DMurphy@goodwinlewis.com
Counsel for the Guardians

(Published in the Perry Daily Journal January 24, 31, and February 7, 2026)
IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF NOBLE COUNTY STATE OF OKLAHOMA
ONEMAIN FINANCIAL GROUP, LLC
Plaintiff,
vs.
AMANDA RILEE
Defendant
CASE NO. CJ-25-68
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA
TO: AMANDA RILEE
The Sheriff of NOBLE County, Oklahoma, Greetings:
You will take notice that the Plaintiff, ONEMAIN FINANCIAL GROUP, LLC, filed its petition in the District Court of NOBLE County, Oklahoma, against the above-captioned Defendant, AMANDA RILEE, seeking a money judgment against Defendant, AMANDA RILEE in the amount of \$15061.91, and all costs of this action including a reasonable attorney’s fee, and unless Defendant answers said petition on or before the 13th day of April, 2026, said petition will be taken as true and judgment will be rendered for Plaintiff for \$15061.91, and all costs of this action including a reasonable attorney’s fee.
Dated this 15 day of January, 2026.
COURT CLERK
BY:Debbi K. Lloyd
Court Clerk or
Deputy Clerk
Stephen L. Bruce, OBA #1241
Everette C. Altdoerffer,
OBA #30006
Leah K. Clark, OBA #31819
Roger M. Coil, OBA #17002
Katelyn M. Conner,
OBA #36601
Attorneys for Plaintiff
P.O. Box 808
Edmond, Oklahoma
73083-0808
(405)330-4110
brucelaw@sbrucelaw.com

(Published in the Perry Daily Journal January 24 and 31, 2026)
OKLAHOMA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LAWS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION
NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR AN ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE
In accordance with Title 37, Section 522 and Title 37A, Section 2-141 Perfect Food And Gas 1 Inc, 5919 E 108th Street, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74137 a/an corporation hereby publishes notice of their intention to apply within sixty days from this date to the Oklahoma Alcoholic Beverage Laws Enforcement Commission for a Retail Beer & Wine License under authority of and in compliance with the said Act: That they intend(s), if granted such license to operate as a Retail Beer & Wine establishment with business premises located at 712 US 64 in Morrison, Noble, Oklahoma, under the business name of PFG of Morrison.
Dated this 20 day of January, 2026.
Yuba R. Parajuli/officer
County of Tulsa, State of Oklahoma
Before me, the undersigned notary public, personally appeared; Yuba Raj Parajuli to me known to be the person(s) described in and who executed the foregoing application and acknowledge that he executed the same as his free act and deed.
Staci Tune 5-26-2029
Notary Public My commission expires

decided to call them the Lovings. The Lovings were so loving they had to leave North Carolina. Within every direction of 500 miles from their home, everyone was drunk on the Loving’s loving vibration. Ted played the piano and the guitar. They called him The Pied Piper of Charlotte. He rid the state of all of the bad influences, evil spirits, and especially the gossipers. The gossipers were the worst.

Unfortunately, back then, it was illegal to love people and the world that much, so they had to enter the Federal Witness Protection Program, which brought them to Perry, Oklahoma, to be with Shelia’s parents. They brought with them their friend Jane DeLeon. Her name is actually Janet, but because Janet Wilhelm will be such an integral part of this story, we had to change Shelia’s bff’s name to Jane, for there can only be one Janet for the sake of this fictional column.

Shelia and Jane had been friends since college. Back in their college days, they both secretly conspired to make all of the donkeys and German Shepherds in North Carolina loving, secret agents for their mission. Well, donkeys and German Shepherds were Shelia’s idea. Jane, being from France, loved all dogs, cats, and, actually, all animals. She also could build and fix anything under the sun. She really could.

What was their mission, you might ask? It was to be happy. What better way was there to spread this happiness like wildfire than with cute, fluffy donkeys and sweet

ing program for helping fill that gap. Through OSU, county clerks receive structured education, guidance, and support from experienced professionals across the state. “There is a former county clerk who was in Payne County for over 20 years who is heavily involved in that program,” Smith said. “She has been a wonderful asset, as have all my fellow Noble County Officers.” Smith now serves on the OSU training program committee, helping shape future training for new clerks. “As a new clerk, I can say, if I were walking into this role today, here is what I would need,” she said. “I get to help guide what is missing.” For many residents, the title County Clerk does not fully explain what the office does. Smith describes her office as the bridge that allows Noble County to function financially and historically. “Everything touches this office,” she said. “Contracts, purchasing, land records, payroll, and budgets. It all comes through the county clerk office first.” The clerk’s office prepares purchases and bids, ensures county tax dollars are properly encumbered and expended creates the county budget based on valuation, and preserves records that will exist for generations. That includes deeds, mortgages, land filings, and veteran’s records such as DD 214 forms. “If a veteran or their family needs access to paperwork, we help with that,” Smith said. “Preserving those records, so they live forever, is extremely important.” Smith also serves as secretary for multiple county boards, including the Board of County Commissioners, the Excise Board, the Equalization Board, the Corrections Board, and the Public Facilities Authority. Each board plays a role in overseeing county finances, corrections, and fairness in taxation. “It is a lot to keep in your brain,” she said. “But thankfully, not every board meets constantly.” Despite the responsibility, Smith approaches challenges with optimism. “I am a solutions person,” she said. “When someone brings me a problem, I want to find a solution. This office can be a roadblock or it can be an ally, and I never want us to be a roadblock.”

Inside the office, Smith leads a team of six employees who handle recording, purchasing, payroll, and preservation of records. On the recording side are Sheila Zerr, Dana Shannon, Courtney Blocker. On the purchasing side are Ashley Brown, Amy Witter, and Cameron Wiggins. She is grateful for the entire staff for keeping operations running smoothly. When asked how they like to have fun in the office Connie says with a smile, “We celebrate birthdays hardcore. Employee anniversaries too, we do not get a lot of time to celebrate, so when we can, we do.” Professional growth is also a priority. Staff members participate in OSU certification programs, which include multiple levels of training specific to county clerks and deputies. Looking ahead, Smith plans to re-file for another term when the election comes around in 2028. “I hope this is long term,” she said. “I love what I do.” Smith’s leadership style is rooted in teamwork, something she attributes to her life as a sports mom.

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Fri: Chicken fries, potatoes, veg/salad, dessert.



This is Coffee at the Peaceful Valley Donkey Rescue - Perry, and he is available for adoption.

German Shepherds? So, they brought all their dogs and donkeys with them to continue their loving mission. Of course, Ted brought his piano and guitar, too.
To be continued...

“I cannot be successful if they are not successful,” she said. “My job is to equip them with the tools and confidence they need. They are running the plays. I am just helping set them up.” Before taking office, Smith spent 15 years in marketing at Ditch Witch, owned a spray tanning business, and worked locally while figuring out her next chapter. “Thankfully, this is where God led me,” she said. “It turned out to be a good fit.” Outside the office, Smith stays busy cheering on her children. Her son Dylan is a senior at Oklahoma State University and will begin working full time after graduation at First Bank and Her daughter is a sophomore basketball player at Northwestern Oklahoma State in Alva. As for the future, Smith’s goals remain simple and steady. “My goal is for this office to be a place people are comfortable coming to,” she said. “I believe we have changed the perception of what this office is. Now we get to tackle the real work.” And if her philosophy had a slogan, it might be the one she embraced without hesitation. “Bring on the solutions,” Smith said. This reporter felt a very bright and uplifting light in the Noble County Clerk’s office and it was evident in everyone’s eyes and faces that they all truly enjoy working with each other.

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