

Letters from Dale

Mom would be proud



C. Dale German
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on Mother's Day. She would love this column. It's her to a tee. Here's some more mom.

Sarah Ann German was among the most devout Christian ladies I ever have ever met, and I've pastored plenty good ones. Mom passed on her eternal faith to me, and I entirely embrace

her faith by choice as my own because I experience it too.

Oh Boy! Mom would really love reading this on Mother's Day and say, "Dale, Mother's Day 2006 comes on my birthday, May 8, and you have just given me the best birthday gift I have ever had in 115 years."



Sarah Ann German
Dale's Mother

thought of that. I guess I thought I'd just go up to the church and crawl in the casket." I get my table-clean-up and hare-brained sense of humor from Mom. Can't help it. I don't mean to be disrespectful of my mom

was in the 50's. In 2026 she's got me doing the same thing and I can't help it, only I have a dishwasher to load and turn on before guests leave our table.

I could go on about my mother and probably should, but she'd just shrug her shoulders, turn her hands upside down at her side and smile.

She taught our cat Punch to paw at the piano. Sometimes Punch woke up our German family of five in the middle of the night pawing on the piano downstairs and it was easier to just go back to sleep than go downstairs and chase Punch off the piano bench.

I remember Mom putting her head in the gas oven to see why it

didn't turn on when she lit a match to it. I ran down the street to Mrs. Woodrow's house to get her. She was a registered nurse and ran to treat Mom's blistered face.

The day Dad bought an electric stove, and the gas stove fell off of the takeaway truck onto Urban Avenue, Mom was embarrassed because the neighbors would look out their windows and see her old gas stove.

I went home to be with Mom when she was confined to a sofa downstairs, terminally ill. She and I talked about her death. I told her I was going to Griffith's Funeral Home and make final arrangements for her funeral. She said, "That's really smart. I never

Legals

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LPXLP

Charter school founders bound over for trial

Kevin Eagleson
Nondoc.com

A judge bound Epic Charter Schools co-founder Ben Harris and David Chaney over for trial Thursday, saying prosecutors had established probable cause that the way they steered \$22 million of public funding to their private company constituted embezzlement and racketeering.

Concluding the lengthy preliminary hearing that began in 2024, Oklahoma County Special Judge Jason Glidewell dismissed two of the 15 counts against Chaney and one against Harris. Count 11, embezzlement related to a \$100,000 transfer to Panola Public Schools, was dismissed against both men. Glidewell referenced co-defendant Josh Brock's plea-deal testimony about how the transfer was an error and that efforts were made to rectify the mistake.

Glidewell also ruled that the state did not establish enough probable cause to levy count 12, using a computer to execute a scheme to defraud, against Chaney, as his role in the creation of falsified invoices was not clearly established.

But both men — who co-owned Epic Youth Services and contracted with Epic Charter Schools to administer the controversial "learning fund" — still face more than a dozen counts of fraud, money laundering, embezzlement and racketeering. Glidewell's decision means Harris and Chaney likely face a criminal trial more than four years after they were arrested.

After Thursday's hearing, Chaney's defense attorney, Gary Wood, said his client was encouraged by Glidewell's order to drop two of the charges.

"The state failed with two charges, and they will fail at trial," Wood said.

Attorney General Gentner Drummond, whose office has been prosecuting the case, released a statement calling Glidewell's decision "decisive."

"The defendants should take note: Their attempts to escape accountability have failed," Drummond said. "We will not be deterred. The facts will come out, and justice will be served."

Glidewell also ruled on a lingering question raised by defense attorneys during the preliminary hearings and in their subsequent demurrers: whether the funds allegedly embezzled from Epic Charter Schools to Epic Youth Services were public or private. While defense attorneys argued that the funds could not have been embezzled if their "ownership" had become private, Glidewell said Thursday that "the court does not find that persuasive."

He added that the public school funding, which was appropriated by the Legislature, remained public until it fulfilled its "benevolent purpose."

Glidewell also rejected an argument that Harris' attorney, Joe White, made in a demurrer. Prosecutor Jimmy Harmon made a statement Feb. 25 that the defendants are "not charged with embezzling state funds (...) they are just charged with embezzlement," which White claimed materially changed the charges against his client.

"The state's changed position as to the charges against Mr. Harris as it relates to the seven counts of embezzlement operates as an admission by the state that it had proffered no evidence by which they could find a crime occurred, much less probable cause that Mr. Harris committed the crime," White wrote in a court document.