OMRF awarded $12.8M grant to study cellular metabolism

The Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation has received a $12.8 million federal grant to continue building its Center for Cellular Metabolism Research in Oklahoma.

Awarded by the National Institutes of Health, the five-year grant is funded through the NIH's Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence program, or COBRE. It is one of three active COBRE grants at OMRF.

COBRE grants aim to expand biomedical research capacity in states like Oklahoma that historically receive lower shares of federal research funding. It does this by supporting the research of early career scientists and by providing shared, cutting-edge equipment that otherwise would be cost prohibitive.

This grant will fund the work of four junior scientists whose research all involves cellular metabolism, a set of life-sustaining chemical reactions inside cells. These processes allow cells to produce energy, repair damage, and stay alive. But they're also involved in the development of many chronic diseases, including heart disease, diseases of aging, and autoimmune illnesses.

Lijun Xia, M.D., Ph.D., who leads this COBRE, knows firsthand how they can help a young scientist.

"I was a junior investigator on one of the first COBRE grants OMRF received back in 2003," said Xia, who holds the Merrick Foundation Chair in Biomedical Research at OMRF. "It launched my career. That's why I'm so passionate about leading this one."

Jon Iker Etchegaray, Ph.D., who joined OMRF in 2024 following a post-doctoral fellowship at Washington University in St. Louis, is one of the four young scientists on the grant. He'll use the funding to study a degenerative eye condition that often comes with aging.

"For me, the value of the COBRE goes way beyond funding my lab," Etchegaray said. "It's also the mentorship program, the professional development and the access to tools my lab could never afford. All of those increase my chances of success."

The grant will also fund the work of these OMRF early career scientists:

• Audrey Cleuren, Ph.D., who studies how cells that line blood vessels can contribute to chronic conditions like neurodegenerative disease and obesity.

• Brian Coon, Ph.D., who is investigating how controlling blood vessel growth could prevent conditions like high cholesterol, strokes, and heart attacks.

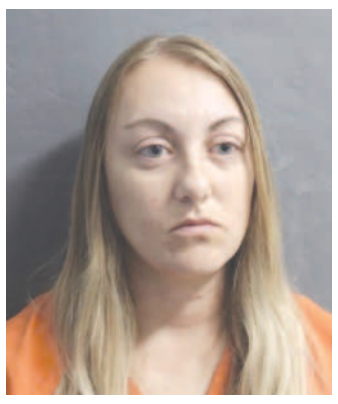
• Rufei Lu, M.D., Ph.D., who uses advanced technologies to study the cause and progression of autoimmune diseases like lupus.

The three scientists established their labs at OMRF following fellowships, respectively, at the University of Michigan, Yale University School of Medicine, and University of California, San Francisco.

"COBRE funding has played a significant role in our ability to recruit top scientific talent from across the country," said OMRF Vice President of Research Courtney Griffin, Ph.D. "This grant will now help us develop our next wave of great scientists."

The grant, No. 2P20GM139763-06, is funded by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, part of the NIH.

FORMER GROVE MIDDLE SCHOOL EMPLOYEE CHARGED WITH SEXUAL BATTERY



Former Grove Middle School employee Heather Garrett is charged in Delaware County District Court with a felony of sexual battery and soliciting sexual conduct. She is free on bond.

A former Grove Middle School paraprofessional is charged in Delaware County District Court with a felony of sexual battery and soliciting sexual conduct.

On May 1, Middle School Principal Mindy Collins reported to Grove Police that Heather Garrett, 34, had confessed to sending a nude picture to a minor in December.

Allegedly, Garrett worked with the minor at a local fast food restaurant. Garrett said she asked him how old he was, and she reported he replied that he was 19 years old.

She said her alleged victim sent a nude photograph back to her.

Garrett is free on a $25,000 bond. The boy is a Grove student.

LEGALS

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

The City of Grove is soliciting bids for janitorial services for city owned properties. The bids shall be a monthly flat rate for certain city owned properties and per clean for the Wolf Creek Expo. All SEALED BIDS shall be marked "Janitorial Services" and must be received in the office of the City Clerk on or before Tuesday, September 29, 2026 by 9:00AM. Mail or hand deliver bids to City of Grove – 1201 NEO Loop – Grove, OK 74344 - Attention City Clerk, Karyn Pesich. No electronic bids will be accepted.

A site visit is required. Contact Steven Blood, Buildings and Grounds Superintendent, 918-314-6562 to obtain Bid Specifications and schedule a site visit of locations to be cleaned. Anticipate approximately 1.5 hours for the site visit. The City of Grove reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Karyn Pesich
City Clerk

(Published in the Grove Sun August 25 and 28, 2026)
LPXLP

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

KENTON COPE and KAREN COPE, Plaintiffs,

vs.

The Successors, Heirs, Executors, Administrators, Trustees, Devisees and Assigns, Immediate and Remote, Whether Known or Unknown, of JOSIAH JONES, Deceased, Full Blood Cherokee Citizen, Roll Number 19350; JIM JONES, Full Blood Cherokee Citizen, Roll Number 19353, if living, and if not living, his known and unknown heirs, successors and assigns; and OO-LOO-CHE JONES, Full Blood Cherokee Citizen, Roll Number 19351, if living, and if not living, her known and unknown heirs, successors and assigns, Defendants.

Case No. CV-2026-123
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA, TO: The Successors, Heirs, Executors, Administrators, Trustees, Devisees and Assigns, Immediate and Remote, Whether Known or Unknown, of Josiah Jones, Deceased, Full Blood Cherokee Citizen, Roll Number 19350; JIM JONES, Full Blood Cherokee Citizen, Roll Number 19353, if living, and if not living, his known and unknown heirs, successors and assigns; and OO-LOO-CHE JONES, Full Blood Cherokee Citizen, Roll Number 19351, if living, and if not living, her known and 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-2026-123, by the above-named Plaintiffs, wherein the Plaintiffs are seeking to judicially determine the Successors, Heirs, Executors, Administrators, Trustees, Devisees and Assigns, Immediate and Remote, Whether Known or Unknown of Josiah Jones, Deceased, Full Blood Cherokee Roll Number 19350, and to quiet title against the Defendants to the following-described real property situated in Delaware County, Oklahoma, to-wit:

The Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter (SW¼ SW¼) and the South Half of the Northwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter (S½ NW¼ SW¼) LESS AND EXCEPT the East 778 feet thereof, in Section Thirteen (13), Township Twenty-three (23) North, Range Twenty-three (23) East of the Indian Meridian, Delaware County, Oklahoma.

You are further notified that unless you answer the Petition of the Plaintiffs on or before the 25th day of September, 2026, the allegations of the Petition will be taken as true and judgment rendered determining the identity of the heirs and all of the persons who are and were entitled to inherit the above-described real property upon the death of Josiah Jones, Deceased, Full Blood Cherokee Citizen, Roll Number 19350, and a further judgment determining that the Successors, Heirs, Executors, Administrators, Trustees, Devisees and Assigns, Immediate and Remote, Whether Known or Unknown of Josiah Jones, Deceased, Full Blood Cherokee Roll Number 19350, and the remaining Defendants have no right, title or interest in and to the above-described property. Judgment will further be rendered quieting title to the real property in Plaintiffs. You are referred to the Petition for further details.

WITNESS my hand this 6th day of August, 2026.

KARMA SAPP, Court Clerk
DELAWARE County, Oklahoma
By: /s/ N Smoke,
Deputy

Tommy R. Dyer Jr.,
O.B.A. #13594
DAVIS & THOMPSON, PLLC
P.O. Box 487
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tommy@davisandthompson.net
Attorney for Plaintiff

(Published in the Grove Sun August 11, 18, and 25, 2026)
LPXLP

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

IN RE: The Application of 1979 Evenrude Outboard Motor To Issue Title

Case No. CV-26-130
APPLICATION
FOR COURT ORDER

COMES NOW the applicant, Billy R. Hignite of Colcord, Oklahoma, and hereby makes Application to the District Court of DELAWARE COUNTY to issue an order directing Service Oklahoma to issue an Oklahoma Title bearing the VIN #J0008312 in the name of Billy R. Hignite for a 1979 Evenrude Model 115999R

In support of this application, the Applicant would state under oath that he is the Owner of said vehicle. That the above described property is not stolen. That he/she claims ownership to the above described property as follows:

Bill of Sale
Bought at estate sale with bill of sale

That ownership of the above described property is not disputed or that an ownership interest may be claimed by _____, whom I will have served with a copy of this application along with summons notifying them of the allegations of this application and date and time of the hearing.

Dated this 19 day of August, 2026.

/s/ Bill R. Hignite
Applicant's signature
14111 St Hwy 116
Colcord Okla 74338

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

In the Matter of
1979 Outboard Motor
J0008312
Property and VIN#

Case No. CV-26-130
ORDER OF SETTING

Now on this 19th day of August, 2026 the Court finds this matter should be set before me the 14th day of September, 2026, at 2:30 p.m.

/s/ Nicholas Lelecas
Judge

(Published in the Grove Sun August 25, 2026)
LPXLP

DISTRICT COURT OF
DELAWARE COUNTY
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

JALEN DRY, Plaintiff,

v.

THE HEIRS, EXECUTORS, ADMINISTRATORS, TRUSTEES, DEVISEES AND ASSIGNS, IMMEDIATE AND REMOTE, WHETHER KNOWN OR UNKNOWN OF TURNER PICKUP, DECEASED, INCLUDING PEARLIE PICKUP, DECEASED, SHAWNDA PICKUP, RODNEY PICKUP, KEVIN PICKUP, AND SHEILA PICKUP,

and

THE HEIRS, EXECUTORS, ADMINISTRATORS, TRUSTEES, DEVISEES AND ASSIGNS, IMMEDIATE AND REMOTE, WHETHER KNOWN OR UNKNOWN OF PEARLIE PICKUP, DECEASED, INCLUDING SHAWNDA PICKUP, RODNEY PICKUP, KEVIN PICKUP, AND SHEILA PICKUP, Defendants.

No. CV-2026-132
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA TO: The Successors, Heirs, Executors, Administrators, Trustees, Devisees and Assigns, Immediate and Remote, Whether Known or Unknown of Tucker Pickup and Pearlie Pickup, deceased

You are hereby notified that you have been sued in the District Court of Delaware County, State of Oklahoma, in Case No. CV-2026-132 by the above-named Plaintiff, wherein the Plaintiff is seeking to quiet title to the interests of Tucker Pickup and Pearlie Pickup, his Successors, Heirs, Executors, Administrators, Trustees, Devisees and Assigns, Immediate and Remote, Whether Known or Unknown in the following-described real property situated in Delaware County, Oklahoma:

A tract of land described as beginning at the NW corner of the NE/4 SW/4 NW/4 of Section 25, Township 23 N, Range 22 E, Indian Base and Meridian., Delaware County, Oklahoma, thence East 210 feet; Thence South 210 feet; Thence West 210 feet; Thence North 210 feet to the point of beginning, containing 1 acre more or less and granting the right of ingress and egress over and across the East 450 feet of the North 30 feet of said NE/4 SW/4 NW/4 of Section 25. (the "Real Property").

You are further notified that unless you answer the Petition of the Plaintiffs on or before October 9, 2026, the allegations of the Petition will be taken as true and judgment rendered determining that Plaintiffs are the only persons who are entitled to the above-described real property upon the death of Tucker Pickup and Pearlie Pickup, and a further judgment determining that the unknown successors, heirs, executors, administrators, trustees, devisees and assigns of Tucker Pickup and Pearlie Pickup, deceased, if any, have no right, title or interest in and to the above-described property. You are referred to the Petition for further details.

WITNESS my hand this 21st day of August, 2026.

KARMA SAPP, Court Clerk
Delaware County, Oklahoma
By: /s/ Nikitia Smoke
Deputy

Presented by
Randall G. Vaughan,
OBA#11554
DAVIS & THOMPSON, PLLC
Mail P.O. Box 487;
Physical 314 S. Fifth St.
Jay, Oklahoma 74346
Phone (918) 801-4454;
Fax (918) 801-4493
rvaughan@davisandthompson.net
Attorneys for Plaintiff

(Published in the Grove Sun August 25, September 1 and 8, 2026)
LPXLP

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

In the Matter of the Estate of Anna Shrum, a/k/a Anna Jane Shrum, Deceased

Case No. PB-2026-8
Judge David Crutchfield
NOTICE OF HEARING
FINAL ACCOUNT AND
REPORT OF PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE,
AND 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 8th day of September, 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, legatees and devisees determined, said estate distributed and the Personal Representative discharged.

/s/ David Crutchfield
JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

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O.B.A. #13594
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Jay, Oklahoma 74346
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Fax: (918) 801-4493
tommy@davisandthompson.net
Attorney for Personal Representative

(Published in the Grove Sun August 18 and 25, 2026)
LPXLP

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

In the Matter of the Estates of DARREN DEAN FERGUSON, Deceased and CAROLYN ROSE FERGUSON, Deceased

Case No. PB-2026-58
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Estate of Carolyn
Rose Ferguson

TO: The Creditors of Carolyn Rose Ferguson, Deceased

All persons having claims against Carolyn Rose Ferguson, Deceased, are required to present the same, with a description of all security interests and other collateral, if any, held by each creditor with respect to such claim to the named Personal Representative at the law office of John W. Thomas, Attorney at Law, 207 East Central, Jay, Oklahoma 74354, on or before the following presentment date: October 13, 2026, or the same will be forever barred.

DATED this 11th day of August, 2026.

/s/ Kim Stambaugh
Kim Stambaugh, Personal Representative

John W. Thomas,
OBA #22445
DAVIS and THOMPSON, PLLC
Attorney for Personal Representative
207 East Central
Miami, Oklahoma 74354
(918) 542-5524

(Published in the Grove Sun August 18 and 25, 2026)
LPXLP

ROCKWOOD STORAGE
2246 STATE HWY 28
EUCHA, OK 74342

Abandoned Property Notification

The following storage units are in default of the Rental Agreement.

#88

The storage unit tenant must make financial restitution to satisfy the lien in order to claim their personal property.

Unclaimed personal property will be deemed abandoned and then sold or disposed of at the discretion of Rockwood Storage as of

August 25, 2026

This is not an auction.

Please contact:
ROCKWOOD STORAGE
(918) 435-4276

(Published in the Grove Sun August 25, 2026)
LPXLP

OKLAHOMA CLASSIFIED AD NETWORK

WANT TO BUY

OLD GUITAR$ WANTED! LARRY BRING$ CA$H for vintage USA guitars, tube amps, banjos, mandolins, etc. Fender, Gibson, Martin, Gretsch, others. Call or text 918-288-2222. www.stringswest.com

ADVERTISE STATEWIDE

Put your message where it matters most – **IN OKLAHOMA NEWSPAPERS.** We can place your ad in 132 newspapers. For more information or to place a statewide ad, **call (405) 499-0022.**

