

Eastern Oklahoma County celebrates with a bang

By Ryan Horton
Managing Editor

Fireworks are always a favorite in eastern Oklahoma County with most cities allowing for the purchase, possession and discharging during this annual time of celebration.

Every year many head east out of the Oklahoma City metro area to legally purchase fireworks, and property owners on the east side of Oklahoma County can be heard celebrating their freedoms as Independence Day approaches.

The municipalities of Choctaw, Nicoma Park, Harrah and Jones all allow fireworks within the city limits.

Additionally, unincorporated rural areas of the county help fill the sky in celebration of Independence Day.

Choctaw

Residents of Choctaw are allowed to discharge fireworks on private property and only at certain times.

The city ordinance allows fireworks from July 1-3 and July 5 from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. On July 4, residents can shoot off fireworks from 9 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.

The discharging of fireworks is not allowed in the city's public parks.

A public fireworks display will be hosted in Choctaw Creek Park at dark, July 4.

Nicoma Park

As set forth by the City Council of the City of Nicoma Park, times and dates for discharging fireworks within the city limits is June 15 through July 6.

June 15 through July 3 - 10AM to 10PM

July 4 - 10 a.m. to midnight

July 5 and 6 - 10 a.m. through 10 p.m.

Fireworks may be shot on your property or with the property owners' permission (authorization document must be present).

No fireworks may be shot in the street, or on any city owned property. Citizens are responsible for cleaning up the area after finished.

The fine for illegally shooting fireworks during non-authorized times, or places is \$155 and is covered under Nicoma Park Municipal Ordinance 11-57.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the Liberty Fireworks display was hosted as a "drive-in" style display and concert this year on June 27. The stand, located at 10525 NE 23rd St., is celebrating 30 years of serving the metro area.

Harrah

Discharging fireworks is permitted on private property within the city limits of Harrah on July 3 and 4.

Kickapoo Casino will host their annual Fireworks Show Friday, July 3.

This year we will not have an outdoor family event but the sky will still light up, July 3 at 9:40 p.m.

For those wishing only to view the fireworks, they've designated their North Satellite parking lot and the parking lot at the Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma Health Clinic as "PARK & WATCH" locations. Those wishing to play or eat at the Redfork Restaurant, should park in the main parking lot.

The casino is located at 25230 E Highway 62, Harrah.

Jones

This year the discharging of fireworks on private property will be allowed in the Town of Jones City from June 29 to July 5.

Lawful discharging hours are between 10 a.m. and 10 p.m. each day with exceptions for July 3 and 4 when the deadline to celebrate is pushed back to midnight.

There will be no city fireworks display this year as a result to COVID-19 precautions and guidelines.

American Legion Commander shares encounter with regime



Jim King and his wife Jeannie put cans on the shelf at the food pantry for the First United Methodist Church in Tuttle.

By Jayson Knight
Managing Editor

Tuttle American Legion Commander Jim King was a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army. Upon hearing so much about socialism in the news as of late, King wanted to share this account of his encounter with a socialist regime a few decades ago:

In 1968, when we had all this discussion of socialism when the Czech Republic was having its problems and wanted to be released from the Soviet Union, there was a Russian invasion on Czechoslovakia.

"It happened overnight and being part of the 32nd Army Air Defense Command in Germany, we watched the invasion from our bunker complex in western Germany. We could see the aircraft maneuvering to go into Czechoslovakia because it was a red

color instead of a white color and it was on the other side of the border. It was enemy aircraft.

"The 32nd Army Air Defense Command at that time actually had the responsibility for the nuclear warheads for the missiles and everything in western Germany. So, we sat and watched an invasion and had no idea whether we were going to be put on alert or what. The American Air Force, which was stationed in the same bunker complex I was, they were also put on alert. They had aircraft far enough away from the water where we wouldn't get into any interference or any mishaps.

"That's what socialism does. When the Russians didn't like what you were doing, they just shut you down. It was a very interesting and very scary night. We could have very easily started World War 3 if we had made any mishaps."