

ASSISTANCE WITH HOME HEATING COSTS AVAILABLE FOR LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLDS

From Okla. Dept. of Human Services

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) Help with home heating costs will be available across the state this winter through the federal Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) administered by the Oklahoma Department of Human Services.

The application period for assistance is Dec. 2 through Dec. 13.

Federal funding for the current LIHEAP program in Oklahoma is \$7.1 million. Last year funding was \$6.4 million, and more than 72,000 households received assistance.

Ron Amos, DHS LIHEAP Coordinator said, "Many households which receive public assistance through DHS will be automatically authorized for the LIHEAP program and will not need to make application."

Amos said DHS would notify these households of their eligibility by mail.

Most other households which receive some type of public assistance — food stamps, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), or state supplemental payments to the aged, blind, or disabled — will be mailed LIHEAP applications.

"Anyone who thinks they may be eligible because of their income may contact the DHS county office in the county in which they live," Amos said. "And they should have available their latest heating bill and verification of income."

All completed applications must be returned by December 13 to the county office in the county where the applicant resides, he said.

OKLAHOMA'S CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM REACHES TO MONTANA FOR ARREST

From Okla. Dept. of Human Services

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) An Oklahoma man named on the state's 10 Most Wanted List of parents owing delinquent child support was arrested in Montana in October and extradited to Oklahoma.

Roger W. Simms, 37, was arrested on a Custer County warrant, returned to Oklahoma and arraigned on a felony charge of failure to provide for a minor child. Simms, formerly of Quinton in Pittsburgh County, owes more than \$24,000 in delinquent court-ordered child support. His name first appeared on Oklahoma's 10 Most Wanted in March.

More than 180 absent parents have been apprehended after being named on the Ten Most Wanted List begun in 1989. The ten parents named on the list for November collectively owe more than \$217,000 in unpaid child support.

10 MOST WANTED — NOVEMBER 1996

Ronnie Blackshere	DOB 12/03/46
Owes: \$17,800	
Charles Erwin	DOB 05/15/42
Owes: \$38,500	
Richard Mark Miller	DOB 03/08/55
Owes: \$12,875	
Charles White	DOB 04/11/55
Owes: \$27,555	
Robert Hogshooter	DOB 02/26/51
Owes: \$13,500	
Jerry O. Smith	DOB 10/24/63
Owes: \$28,617	
Paul Knight	DOB 12/25/58
Owes: \$41,730	
James Sanmann	DOB 04/08/57

Owes: \$18,752

Victor S. Costilla DOB 05/14/58

Owes: \$10,950

Vernon Kuykendall DOB 12/10/54

Owes: \$ 7,062

If you have any information regarding the whereabouts, employment, or assets of any of these individuals, please contact either your local child support office or the Department of Human Services, Child Support Enforcement Division, 1-800-522-2922. You do not have to reveal your name.

INHOFE PLEDGES LEGISLATION TO HELP FARMERS ADDRESS TAX PROBLEMS

From Sen. James Inhofe

■(WASHINGTON) Sen. James Inhofe announced Friday that he will help introduce legislation in January to solve a burdensome tax problem facing many family farmers. The bill will relieve farmers from being whipsawed by the Internal Revenue Service regarding collections of the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT).

"Recent IRS rulings have burdened farmers with unfair and unintended tax liabilities," Inhofe said. "This legislation will clarify the intent of Congress and get the IRS off farmers' backs and out of their pockets on this issue. It will restore common sense and fairness."

Inhofe said the bill will make it clear to the Internal Revenue Service that farmers will not be liable for taxes on commodity sales until full payment for those sales has been received, essentially overturning recent IRS rulings concerning how taxes are collected on deferred payment contracts which farmers routinely use in their businesses.

Under the recent rulings that attempted to interpret provisions of the 1986 tax law, a farmer would be liable for full tax payments in the same year in which the sales contracts were signed rather than in the year payments were received. This means, for example, that a commodity sales contract signed in Dec. 1996, with installment payments due in 1997 would incur full tax liability in the 1996, not the 1997, year. This is a significant change, Inhofe said, from previous practice.

Inhofe and other senators believe this IRS provision is wrong and will result in farmers

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417 children in adoptive homes last year, which was an increase of 49 percent over the 279 placed in fiscal year 1995. With more than 6,000 children in state foster care, there are still 1,000 who are in permanent custody who have a goal of adoption. They will not be returning to their families of birth, and adoption is the ultimate permanent goal for them. Most are special needs children.

These special needs children include sibling groups who would do better if placed together, teen-agers and children with health problems. Some are black, Hispanic, Indian or of mixed heritage.

"These children have all the needs of any child. They want to be loved and they want to share the love that they have with some-

one who cares about them," Morgan said. "All they really need is a chance."

Prospective adoptive parents don't have to own their own homes, be married or wealthy. They do have to be at least age 21, willing to care for the special needs of the child they want to adopt and be able to manage their financial resources well enough to care for themselves and the child they wish to adopt.

Subsidies are available to help an adoptive parent care for some special needs children who qualify for such assistance.

"You must lose a fly to catch a trout."
George Herbert