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Aline-Cleo holds Veteran's Day program

Flag bearers Isaac Ramirez and Chris Chandler presented the flags to honor the Aline-Cleo community veterans on Monday, Nov. 11, at the high school. History teacher Gary Kirtley gave the welcome. Karie Scott, music teacher, orchestrated patriotic songs presented by the elementary students. Sixth graders Aspen Monheiser, Airlea Reed, Isabella Wallace and Jacob Kerr provided information about Veterans Day. Cinnamon White, second grade teacher, provided a tribute to her veteran grandfather and thanked veteran guests for their service.

Jim Vestal, A-C superintendent, and Roscoe Reed, TSA instructor, were both recognized among the honored veteran guests. The Eagle Chief Quilters presented three beautiful, hand-made quilts to community veterans. Refreshments were served at the end of the program.



Pictured are flag bearers Isaac Ramirez and Chris Chandler.

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Happy 90th Birthday
to everyone's favorite art teacher!
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will turn 90 on November 14th.
Please send best wishes her way!



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The number of U.S. veterans is declining, but the population is growing more diverse

By Marione Martin



Monday, Nov. 11, was Veterans Day. The day serves as a reminder of those still living who served in the nation's military. I posted the accompanying photo on Facebook a few years ago. It shows my older brother,

Gene Derrickson, who enlisted in the army right out of high school. His time in the army fell between wars, and his overseas duty was in South Korea including several trips to the DMZ (demilitarized zone) between North and South Korea. Because he enlisted, Gene was allowed to choose from several training paths, and he chose photography. He already had experience behind the camera working at our parents' weekly newspaper in Missouri. He and his wife Glenna are now retired from a newspaper and cable television career and they still live in Missouri.

My younger brother, Tom, died several years ago, but he was also a veteran. His time in the army came during the Vietnam War. Since he qualified for training in computers, he worked behind the lines in Vietnam. He returned to work in newspapers and job printing, which he had been doing before his military service.

Someday I plan to start scanning the collection of family pictures I have stored in various places around my home. One of those photos shows my two maternal uncles in uniform, one in the army and one in the navy. My grandson Luther is currently serving in the Navy, as did my Uncle Arley.

Recently, I interviewed Alva resident Richard Knoll who has written a book, "Beetle," about his experiences in the Vietnam War. He was inspired to write it five years ago when his daughter started asking questions about his military service. A video of the interview may be seen at www.AlvaReviewCourier.com by clicking on Videos. You may have to



Gene Derrickson

search past the six most recent to find it. His book is available at Graceful Arts Gallery in Alva. I'm a little slow getting the interview in written form but plan to publish it in this Friday's Alva Review-Courier.

Although Veterans Day occurred Monday, it's not too late to take a moment to remember the services of our veterans. This week's newsletter from USAFacts included links to interesting information about veterans:

As of 2022, 16.2 million Americans identified as veterans. The number of living veterans in the United States is declining – but the veteran population is growing more diverse.

Nov. 11, 2024, marks the 106th anniversary of Armistice Day, commemorating the end of the First World War. This day marks the service of thousands of veterans – a group that is declining in numbers but growing more diverse.

Title 38 of the United States Code defines a veteran as "a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service, and who was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable."

The code also outlines who qualifies for veteran status beyond active duty to include service members such as

reservists, members of the National Guard, cadets and midshipmen at military academies, commissioned officers outside the Armed Forces, and those in training for military service. The Department of Veteran Affairs is responsible for determining veteran status and maintaining veteran benefit eligibility.

Some veterans are protected under the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974, which prohibits discrimination against certain veterans. Protected veterans meet the Title 38 qualifications but are afforded additional consideration due to disability, recent discharge, participation in wartime, or service recognition.

According to the Census Bureau, 6.2% of the adult American population, or 16.2 million people, identified as veterans in 2022. This number has been steadily declining for decades. Between 2010 and 2022, the total number of veterans fell by more than 5.5 million, or more than 25%.

In 2022, over half of living American veterans, over 8.2 million, served during two Gulf Wars – first between August 1990 and August 2001 (4.26 million), then between September 2001 and today (3.96 million). Over one-third of living veterans, more than 5.4 million, served in Vietnam. The census also reports 795,600 living veterans who served in the Korean War or World War II.

Gulf War veterans make up the largest share of the veteran population.

In 2022, 74.2% of living veterans identified as white, the lowest percentage ever recorded by the Census Bureau. Black Americans were the second largest veteran racial group (12.4%). In 2022, 8.6% of veterans were of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity. Meanwhile, 7.5% of living veterans identified as belonging to two or more races.

The racial and ethnic makeup of the veteran population differs from the country as a whole. Combined, white and Black Americans are 75.2% of the US population but 86.6% of the

See Marione Page 16



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Targa protest settlement will cut more than expected from Waynoka schools' budget

By Kathleen Lourde

The Waynoka School Board heard some worrying news at its regular monthly meeting Monday. Joining board members Caleb Zook, Travis George, Garret Gum, John Hanson and Clint Olson at the meeting were Superintendent Scott Cline, Principal Ronnie Nix, Elementary Principal Pat Burrow, and minutes clerk Lori Adar.

The Targa protest settlement could significantly impact Waynoka schools, Superintendent Cline told the board.

Late on Friday, Cline received an email informing him that the Woods County assessor and attorneys "have decided to settle our Targa lawsuit," Cline said.

"I haven't had the opportunity to speak with her, but she kind of knows where I stand on this deal. This is bad for us. We're going to be taking a big hit."

Cline said he was working on a financial breakdown of the impact on the district and will get it to the board members soon. However, the settlement reached specifies a 29.9% reduction in Targa's taxes for the year of 2020. For 2021, Targa

gets a 57.9% reduction. The reduction is 53.8% for 2022, 63.3% for 2023, and 59% for 2024.

The school had projected about a 53% reduction for 2024, cutting between \$700,000 and \$750,000 from the school's budget. "So, it's in the ballpark of a 60% cut for Targa, which for us (...) is a big part of our ad valorem," Cline said.

Elementary School Enjoys October Fun

In the elementary school, October was marked by lots of fun, Elementary Principal Patricia Burrow said. Homecoming Dress-Up Days were Oct. 22-25 with "Movie Night" as the theme. Halloween parties and the Spook Parade were Oct. 31.

In October, 61 elementary students earned a spot in the RAIL Club, which requires perfect attendance and no behavior issues during the month.

Students enjoyed an incentive trip to Red Bird Farms in Enid that ended with Braum's ice cream before heading home.

On Oct. 17, Burton Harmon with the Oklahoma Farm Bureau pre-

sented fire prevention education with the assistance of local firefighters Josh Inman and Misty Smiley.

Elementary basketball kicked off the season at the Mooreland Tournament, playing games Oct. 28 and 31 and (for the girls) Nov. 2. Last week, they competed in the Burlington Festival. Yesterday, they traveled to Buffalo, with games starting at 4:30.

The Veterans Day program was held Monday in the multipurpose building.

The sixth grade will visit Northwest Career Tech in Alva for a Career Fair on Friday, Nov. 22.

Elementary Railroaders of the Week for October were Ali Ortega, Baron Smith, Hadly Smith, Jordan Fuqua, Ainsley Kopriva, Boone Inman, Ellisyn Seiger and Booker Ferguson.

The Rookie League Foundation of Oklahoma chose Robin Cline as Female Coach of the Month for September.

Thanksgiving Break will be Nov. 25-29.

Junior High and High School Activities

The Waynoka FCCLA hosted its annual scavenger hunt to gather food for the local food bank, reported Junior High and High School Principal Ronnie Nix. The club collected over 500 food items that will be distributed to 12 families over the holidays.

The student council hosted its annual Veterans Day program Monday morning. They also planned to serve lunch to the veterans and their guests, Nix said.

Mrs. Smith and the academic team travel to Ft. Supply on Nov. 16 to compete in the regional tournament. If they play well, this will give them an opportunity to qualify for the area tournament in January, Nix said.

The robotics team competed in the Robotics BEST competition Nov. 2 at NWOSU but, despite lots of hard work on everyone's part, did not advance to the regional competition.

The junior high basketball season

"This is bad for us. We're going to be taking a big hit." – Superintendent Scott Cline

The Waynoka Superintendent News is a monthly presentation of



Scott Cline
Waynoka Superintendent



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NEW - 224 Acres of excellent grassland, 3 ponds with beautiful home or hunting lodge, large shed, cement bunk lines. House has 5 bedrooms, 4 baths, large living area with fireplace, kitchen, utility and mudroom, 3-car garage, 2,160 sq. ft.; Also has a large 7,000 sq. ft. shed with lean-to. This property lies next to the Great Salt Plains Wildlife Reserve, excellent goose, sandhill crane, and duck hunting. Don't miss your chance to own this beautiful property. The house is move-in ready with most furnishings staying. House location is 6937 Dewy Road, Jet, Okla. SW¼ S½ SE¼, NW¼ 31-26-9, W.I.M., Alfalfa County, Okla.
PRICE: \$1,035,000.00

NEW - 155 Acres - Excellent stock farm - This tract consists of 142 Acres of cropland (primarily Grant silt loam and Reinach sandy loam soils). Has new 5-wire fences, steel corrals, and bunk line. Borders State Hwy 64 West of Jet, Okla. NW¼ - 10-25-10, W.I.M., Alfalfa County, Okla. **PRICE: \$350,000.00**

NEW - 160 Acres - Excellent Diversified Farm - This tract consists of 160 Acres, of which 105 Acres is good cropland (primarily Yahola fine sandy loam and Grant silt loam soils), and the balance being 55 Acres of good grassland, trees, and spring creek, which also runs through the property. Improvements include a 30'x40' shed with 15' lean-to. New steel corrals and a water well with tank and solar panel. NW¼ - 25-29-14, W.I.M., Woods County, Okla. **PRICE: \$375,000.00**

NEW - 2 - 80 Acre tracts - A HUNTING PARADISE! Tall grass, trees and tree lines, brush, plum thickets - deer everywhere! S½ SW¼ - 12-19-23, W.I.M. and N½ NW¼ - 13-19-23, W.I.M., Ellis County, Okla. Location of property: From Arnett, go 8.5 miles east on Hwy 60 to County Road 190, then go 1 mile south to a hunting paradise. **PRICE: \$160,000.00 per 80 Acre tract**

NEW - 80 Acres - Great Home-Site Potential - Potential Hunting!
Excellent grassland and scattered trees throughout, which makes for excellent hunting. Good water, trees, ponds, steel corrals, and a solar well for water. From Wainnoka, OK, go 2 miles north on Highway 14 to Comanche Road, then ½ mile east. E½ NW¼ 25-25-16, W.I.M., Woods County, Okla. **PRICE: \$208,000.00**

NEW - 160 Acres - Excellent Cropland - This tract consists of 160 Acres of excellent cropland (primarily Pond Creek silt loam, Devol silt loam, and Grant silt loam soils). This tract has a new 5-wire fence and a Ritchie automatic waterer. SE¼ 31-28-12, W.I.M., Alfalfa County, Okla. **PRICE: \$475,000.00**

NEW - 560 Acres - "A Hunting Paradise" Tall grass, brush, trees, plum thickets, ½ mile from Salt Fork River. It also has a good water well, corrals, electricity, an older barn, and 5-wire fences. Several big bucks have been taken off this property. This tract also has 85 Acres of good cropland. W½ NE¼, N½ SE¼ - 32-29-14, W.I.M., Woods County, Okla. **PRICE: \$1,200,000.00**

NEW: 355 Acres - Excellent Hunting & Grazing with Live Water. This tract consists of 355 Acres, which 127 Acres is improved grass and the balance being 228 Acres of good native grassland and cropland. This tract has good 5-wire fences and is watered by a solar well and a live-water creek. This farm has excellent hunting with the live water, trees, and canyons. SE¼, S½ NE¼ - 22-27-16, and the W½ SW¼, SW¼ NW¼ - 23-27-16, W.I.M., Woods County, Okla.

NEW: 870 Acres - Excellent Hunting, Grazing, Live Water. This tract consists of 870 Acres, which 204 Acres is improved grass, with the balance being 666 Acres of good native grassland. This tract has new 5-wire fences and is watered by ponds, windmills, and two live-water creeks, one of which is Red Horse Creek. The hunting potential is unbelievable with the beautiful canyons and the live water running down through them. Located in Sections 2, 10 & 11 - 27-17W.I.M. Woods County Okla. **PRICE: \$1,400,000.00**

NEW - 80 Acres - Excellent Cropland - This tract consists of 80 Acres of good cropland (all Grant silt loam soils), has rural water, and lays 4 miles west of Alva on Hwy 64. E½ NE¼ - 25-27-15, W.I.M., Woods County, Okla. **PRICE: \$240,000.00**

NEW - 280 Acres - Excellent Stock Farm This tract consists of 280 Acres, of which 186 Acres is good cropland (primarily Bethany silt loam, Yahola fine sandy loam, and Grant silt loam soils), and the balance being 94 Acres of grass and waterway, with 33 Acres of that being Bermuda grass. This farm would make an excellent stocker or cow-calf operation. NW¼ & W½ W½ NE¼ - 22-28-13, W.I.M., and E½ NE¼ - 21-28-13, W.I.M., Woods County, Okla. **PRICE: \$675,000.00**

NEW - 400 Acres - "A Hunting Paradise" - Tall grass, trees, cropland, good fences - ¼ mile from Salt Fork River. This tract consists of 400 Acres of which 151 Acres is good cropland and the balance being 249 Acres of excellent grass. "This is trophy deer country." Don't miss your chance to have a hunting place to call your own. SE¼ - 24-28-15 & SW¼ & W½ SE¼ - 19-28-14, W.I.M. Woods County, Okla. **PRICE: \$775,000.00**

NEW - 154 Acres - NW¼ - 29-27-13, Woods County, Okla. This tract consists of 154 Acres of good cropland, the balance being 22 Acres of trees, grass, and waterways. There is excellent building potential. Just one mile east of Alva. **PRICE: \$550,000.00**

NEW - 315 Acres of which 208 Acres is excellent cropland, and the balance being 107 Acres of excellent grassland. Improvements include a 1,200 sq. ft. home, 32' x 60' shop w/ 16' lean-to, steel corrals, N½ - 29-29-12, W.I.M., Alfalfa County, OKLA. **PRICE: \$1,050,000.00**

NEW - 160 Acres - Blue Ribbon Farm - Excellent cropland (Pond Creek silt loam soils), rural water. NE¼ - 15-28-11, W.I.M., Alfalfa County, Okla. **PRICE: \$550,000.00**

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Carl's Capitol Comments

Conservative victories abound

By Rep. Carl Newton



In my last column, I encouraged people to turn out to vote, and they did!

According to unofficial results from the state election board, Oklahomans cast 1,564,573 ballots for president this year – nearly 4,000 more than the last presidential election. Of course, Oklahomans overwhelmingly voted to return former President Donald Trump to the White House, and the rest of the nation did as well. Early results show he won not only enough Electoral College votes to secure his spot as the 47th president, but he won the popular vote as well.

I think this will be a boost to our economy. It will help us deal with the crisis of illegal immigrants streaming

through our nation's southern border, and it will truly help Americans start to come out from under the crippling effects of inflation and the threat to many of our conservative values.

Here in the state, we had many conservative victories as well. In the Oklahoma House of Representatives, we will swear in 81 Republicans and 20 Democrats to serve in the 60th state Legislature, which convenes Feb. 3. Seventeen of these members are new to our body, replacing members who were term limited, who chose not to return and in a few cases who lost their bid for reelection.

The state Senate will see 14 new members this year and have a compliment of 39 Republicans and eight Democrats. One seat is empty as former Sen. Roger Thompson resigned earlier this year. A special election has yet to be set.


On the national level, it looks like Republicans have gained control of the

U.S. Senate while U.S. House races are still being tabulated. Oklahoma's congressional delegation of four Republican U.S. House members and two U.S. senators will remain the same.

Another issue that caught the attention of local voters was a question on the statewide ballot on whether to retain three state Supreme Court judges. This issue got very nasty. Voters very narrowly voted to retain two of the judges and to oust a third. I think this issue speaks to our need to continue to examine judicial nomination reform. No doubt this will be a topic of discussion throughout the next legislative session.

Now that the election is over, state Senate members will be sworn into office Nov. 13 and state representatives at 10 a.m. Nov. 20. We'll then have until Dec. 6 to request legislation for the upcoming session and until 4 p.m. Jan. 16 to file our bills and joint resolutions. The House will hold its constitutionally required Organizational Day on Jan. 7. On this day, we will certify election results from the November elections, formally elect the speaker and speaker pro tempore for the House and adopt rules by which we will operate during the legislative session.

As always, if I can help in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me. You may reach me by email at carl.newton@okhouse.gov, or phone me at 405-557-7339. God bless you and the State of Oklahoma.



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Randy McCullough is the new Woods County Sheriff



By Marione Martin

In the Nov. 5 General Election, Randy McCullough won the sheriff's race with 83.18 percent of the vote. The retired Oklahoma Highway Patrol trooper's opponent was Undersheriff Keith Dale. With the election, McCullough was scheduled to take office on Jan. 1, 2025.

On June 30, 2024, then Sheriff Rudy Briggs Jr. retired as sheriff of the county. Since the election was several months away, the Woods County Commissioners appointed Deputy David Cummings to serve as sheriff.

On Tuesday, the Woods County Commissioners held a special 10 a.m. meeting with David Hamil presiding in the absence of Randy McMurry. Commissioner John Smiley was also present. Cummings submitted a letter resigning as sheriff, effective on Tuesday, Nov. 12, saying he would return to serving as a county deputy.

The commissioners acknowledged Cummings resignation with a vote.

The commissioners then voted to appoint McCullough as sheriff. They asked McCullough if he had anything to say. His only comment was, "I signed up for it." McCullough's appointment became official when he was sworn into office at 1:30 Tuesday afternoon.

Concerning the senior citizen projects, Hamil said there wasn't much going on. Advertisements for bids have been published with sealed bids scheduled to be opened on Dec. 9. County Clerk Shelley Reed gave the commissioners an agreement for an environmental survey of the Alva property by Envirotech of Enid at a cost of \$3,800. The architects, Easley Associates, need the survey completed before any construction can begin. Hamil made a motion, seconded by Smiley and approved by vote, to hire Envirotech to do the survey.

The commissioners also approved warrants, claims and blanket purchase orders.

Randy McCullough is the new Woods County sheriff, effective Nov. 12. Woods County Commissioners made the appointment after David Cummings resigned as sheriff.

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1000	Woods Co, OK	Hunting & Grazing	call for price	NEW
146	Alfalfa Co, OK	Hunting, Sandy Creek, Grazing	call for price	NEW
155	Alfalfa Co, OK	Hunting, 1/2mile from OK/KS State Line	call for price	NEW
320	Roger Mills Co, OK	Spring Fed POND, Grazing, Hunting	\$576,000	NEW
318	Roger Mills Co, OK	Grazing, Creek, Corrals, Hunting	\$540,600	NEW
76	McCurtain Co, OK	Glover River in McCurtain County, OK	\$1,500,000	NEW
300	McCurtain Co, OK	Historic Ranch in McCurtain County, OK	\$2,100,000	NEW
525	McCurtain Co, OK	Sportsman's Paradise on Little River	\$1,837,500	NEW
980	Blaine Co, OK	Income Producing Quarry w/Mining Lease	\$2,600,000	new price
525	Wayne Co, MO	135/ac Private Lake - Hardwood Timber	\$2,895,000	new price
412	Barber Co, KS	Hunting, Agricultural, Grazing	\$1,075,000	
138	Kingfisher Co, OK	Cropland, Hunting, Grassland	\$415,000	new price
39	McCurtain Co, OK	Platted Residential Dev near Golf Course	\$975,000	new price
504	McCurtain Co, OK	Land + Home, Timber, Wildlife	\$3,700,000	new price
638	Roger Mills Co, OK	Hunting, Grazing, Spring Fed Pond	\$1,084,600	new price
114	Roger Mills Co, OK	Hunting, Grazing, Grassland	\$245,000	
156	Woods Co, OK	Res/Comm Development near Alva	\$499,000	new price
1.9	Taney Co, MO	D'monaco Luxury Resort	\$36,000,000	
2.5	Taney Co, MO	170 Room Hotel Development Project	\$8,500,000	
242	Comanche Co, KS	Agricultural, Grassland, Hunting	\$363,000	SOLD
1,894	Morton Co, KS	Dryland Farm Ground-CRP-Homestead	\$1,650,000	SOLD
620	Meade Co, KS	Grazing - CRP - Hunting	\$1,260,000	SOLD
780	Texas Co, OK	Grassland, Grazing, Hunting	\$741,000	SOLD
Lots	McCurtain Co, OK	Convenience Store - Recently Built	\$3,675,000	SOLD
880	Kiowa Co, KS	Agricultural, Hunting, Grass Land	\$1,760,000	SOLD
680	Seminole Co, OK	6 Tracts - North Canadian River	AUCTION	SOLD
11,242	McIntosh Co, OK	GILLESPIE RANCH - LAKE EUFAULA	\$23,600,000	SOLD
290	WOODS CO, OK	Little Sahara State Park 14 Tracts	AUCTION	SOLD
780	Alfalfa Co, OK	6 Tracts - CLASS 1 SOILS - Cropland	AUCTION	SOLD
477	Barber Co, KS	Grassland, Hunting, Ponds	\$950,000	SOLD
381	Kay Co, OK	Cropland 3 tracts near Blackwell OK	\$933,450	SOLD
255	Ripley Co, MO	40-acre Private Lake & Improvements	\$1,350,000	SOLD
1545	Roger Mills Co, OK	Hunting Land - Lodge - Springs & Creeks	\$2,999,000	SOLD
640	Woods Co, OK	5 Farm Land Auction	\$1,350,200	SOLD
405	Ottawa Co, OK	High Yield Cropland in Welch, Oklahoma	\$1,700,000	SOLD
150	Sumner Co, KS	Development/Cropland/River Clearwater	\$879,900	SOLD
11,391	McIntosh Co, OK	FISHER RANCH - LAKE EUFAULA	\$19,900,000	SOLD
897	Kingfisher Co, OK	8 Farms LAND AUCTION	\$2,548,772	SOLD
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From Page 4 **Marione**

veteran population. Meanwhile, Asian Americans (6.3% of the US population) are underrepresented among veterans (2.3%).

The veteran population is aging. In 2022, almost half of veterans (49.3%) were 65 or older, while 26.5% were 75 or older; in 2012, 45% were 65 and older. Eight and a half percent of veterans in

2022 were under 35.

More than one in 10 living veterans are female. Female veterans have steadily increased over the past two decades – in 2000, 6% of veterans were female. In 2022, 89.7% of veterans were male. (The Census Bureau does not provide data on the number of transgender or non-

binary veterans.)

Veterans' education levels have also shifted. Almost 70% of veterans in 2022 had at least some college experience or an associate's degree. Meanwhile, the number of veterans who did not graduate high school has more than halved over the past 17 years to 722,567 in 2022.

At age 99, WWII Veteran and purple heart recipient Bob Rice remembers the horror



At age 99 Bob Rice is a proud American veteran who served in WWII and received the Purple Heart.

Photo by Yvonne Miller

By Yvonne Miller

They are known as the "Greatest Generation."

Bob Rice is one of those Americans born between 1901 and 1924, who lived through the Great Depression and World War II.

A troubled teen, he joined the Marines in 1943 and served in Peleliu and Pavuvu, at Dakeshi Ridge and in the Okinawa Landing. Rice said his mother died when he was tiny – he never knew his father – constantly got into trouble and ran away until he was put in a Protectory, a Catholic institution that housed problem children.

He entered wanting to be a rifleman and because he was of such small stature, "I was 17 and looked 14," he was

ordered to be a stretcher bearer to carry the wounded and dead.

Telling a story about heading toward southern Okinawa with A-1-7, Rice said, "We were moving up and I seen all these bodies, the maggots already on them. There were so many dead on the way up, you'd think they would have got them outta our way – because when you see they're dead and you know that's where you're going, you realize you can be killed. On Peleliu I didn't have that kind of fear, but on Okinawa I did."

This is but one of many quotes Rice made in the book *Operation Iceberg* by Gerald Astor. *Operation Iceberg* tells of the invasion and conquest of Okinawa in WWII. Astor uses raw experiences of service members from all branches of the military to tell the brutally honest account of what happened on those islands – the price of victory in the Pacific.

Now 99 years old (born in 1926), Rice resides in Kiowa, Kansas (was in Alva for a while and in Fort Lauderdale, Florida many years, to name a few of the places he lived.) He and his daughter Rena sat down at Kiowa's Coffee House with this Newsgram reporter. "At age 95, my thinking was pretty good. Now it's not sometimes," he said going rapidly from one island to the other where he served . . . stories intermingling sometimes. However, it was clear Rice had every detail correct in his head. "I'll never forget," he said.

One thing was evident talking to Rice as he enjoyed his coffee and donut, he is fiercely proud to be an American. "I'd do anything for the country," he said. Rice told of relying on airborne supply. In the book, one of his quotes was, "They dropped things like cases of donuts, one of which hit a guy and left

him in terrible condition. But we had two donuts apiece. That was the greatest meal I ever had, two donuts and coffee."

Discussing the gruesome battlefields, Rice said, "So many men got shot. I don't know how many bodies I carried."

His group leader in Peleliu was Cat Allen who ordered Rice to be a stretcher bearer. He recalls voicing his anger to Cat because he didn't want to be a stretcher bearer and told his leader, "you'll be the first person I pick up." Sadly, Cat was the first.

"It really hurt me bad." Rice said to the day he dies he'll be sorry for the angry comments he made to Cat and others.

He described Peleliu as "the worst, ugliest place I've ever been. The island was so blown up. They say 1500 men died there. It was an awful place. I had the worst night of my life there."

"We lost half our company there." He remembers "a preacher's son who was shot in the heart. Snipers were all over the place."

Finally earning rifleman status, Rice carried a Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR), which is a big gun.

Rice was wounded when a bullet grazed his neck and there was lots of blood. He had put down his heavy gun on a bench to smoke a cigarette. That's when a soldier wearing a U.S. Marine helmet approached him. "We locked eyes and I realized a Jap was standing right in front of me. I don't know why he didn't shoot me – since I was already bleeding so much or I looked so young? I'll never know."

Rena said, "That Jap actually gave my dad 80 more years of life." Because of his injury, Rice received a military

See Veteran Page 18



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From Page 16 **Veteran**

Purple Medal.

Moving on, Rice said, "The Japanese knew every cuss word you can think of." He told about gasoline being put into their water supply. "We didn't know what was happening exactly, but I couldn't swallow." "The Japs had tunnels all around the island. We didn't know that. We didn't know anything."

"The night I'll always remember is September 16 – the only night I was in a foxhole alone. He knew he couldn't peek out or he'd be seen and killed. All night he heard what he thought were voices of Japanese soldiers all crawling near his foxhole. The light of day revealed the sound was crabs crawling.

"There was a guy named Steenstrip who was my squad leader and he never talked to me or looked at me." Rice said he ran after Steenstrip asking what he was to do and never got an answer.

About that time Rice said Steenstrip was shot. "Whenever a machine gun picks you up, you are dead."

Rice explained the only way to find out where people are is to have the first man go out and get shot. "Everyone knows that," Rice said.

Summarizing his thoughts on Peleiu, he said the temperatures were stifling at times near 110 degrees. talking of all the misery, when all was said and done, Rice said, "They never needed that island."

Rice mentioned a squad leader Robert Wilson who he fondly called "Pop." "I cried when he was killed. He was a religious man, quiet – a great man – my idol and mentor."

Early on in his service, Rice, the scrawny kid, was shipped to Pavuvu as a member of a replacement battalion. He became sick with ptomaine poisoning and malaria with

a temperature soaring to 106 degrees. Throughout his military service, Rice suffered again with malaria and other diseases common in war times in tropical climates.

When going into Okinawa, Rice said, "Everyone was on little boats. Everyone blessed themselves cause they were scared."

"I'm proud of my service," Rice said. "On Veterans Day I always think about all those guys."

Anyone who visits with Rice knows he is a huge fan of President Donald Trump. He attended four Trump rallies when he lived in Nevada. "I know he'll do a good job," Rice said. Because of his own seasoned age, Rice said he voted early in all three elections involving Trump, because, "Just in case, I wanted to make sure my vote counted!"

From Page 6 **Waynoka**

starts today in the Cherokee tournament. They will tip off at 2:30 and 3:30. They will travel tomorrow to Buffalo with the girls' game starting at 6:30.

The Railroader high school football team wrapped the regular season Friday night at home with a win on Senior Night over the Bison. The high school team will travel to Ryan on Friday for the first round of playoffs with kickoff at 7 p.m.

High school/junior high Students of the Week were Adrieanna Delgado, Danyel Cato, Alex Delano and Kade Zook.

School Finances Basically Flat

The superintendent went over fi-

nancial reports with the board. In the general fund, expenditures are down slightly but flat on the year, and revenue for the month was flat but up slightly on the year. Expenditures are also slightly down in the building fund, but that will soon begin to change, Cline said. Building fund revenue is up slightly due to interest rates.

Child Nutrition expenses are up for the month, Cline said, "but that is due to the Keystone bill for September not coming in until late, so we had kind of a double payment." Revenue was flat on the year. Day-care expenditures and revenue are

both down slightly.

Other Board Business

The 2025 meeting schedule was approved. School board meetings will be held Jan. 13, Feb. 10, March 10, April 14, May 12, June 9, June 26, Aug. 11, Sept. 8, Oct. 13, Nov. 10 and Dec. 8.

The board voted to elect all three candidates put forward for the Oklahoma Public School Investment Interlocal Cooperative board of directors: Lance Gibbs (CCOSA, Assistant Superintendent/CFO of Lawton Public Schools), Nancy Rogers (OASBO, Director of Finance of Moore Norman Technology Center), and Don Tice (OSSBA, school board member of Oologah-Talala Public Schools). The terms will run from 2025 to 2028.

The board also passed the consent agenda, consisting of minutes of the Oct. 14 meeting; reports on the general, building and activity funds; encumbrances on the general, building, and Bond #32 funds; and change orders.



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Obituaries

GLENN CONAWAY

Glenn Conaway, 86, of Medicine Lodge, Kansas, went home to be with his Lord and Savior at his residence surrounded by his loving family on Thursday, November 7, 2024.



He was born on July 17, 1938, in Medicine Lodge, Kansas, the son of Walter G. Conaway and Nettie Fay (Lytle) Conaway.

After graduating from Medicine Lodge High School, Glenn married Pearl (Wells) Conaway in Medicine Lodge, Kansas, on August 9, 1957. She survives and continues to reside in Medicine Lodge.

Glenn worked at various trades through the years including Cessna and as a carpenter working with his dad, building many houses in Medicine Lodge. He then obtained his ministerial credential and license with the Assemblies of God and pastored in Elkhart, Kansas, where he retired after serving as pastor for 22 1/2 years.

In his later years he has been a member of the Medicine Lodge, First Assembly of God Church.

Glenn's first and foremost devotion was to his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ and was followed by his unwavering dedication to his wife, Pearl of 67 years and his daughters and many grandchildren. He also just loved meeting new people and never met a stranger, just someone else that he needed to get to know.

He was always ready to help anyone he could, no matter their need, being a blessing to many of those around them. His teasing and humor were infectious and loved to make others laugh.

To Glenn there was never an impossible task, only one he had not figured a way to accomplish yet. The grandkids immensely enjoyed his two special accomplishments of a three-seater bicycle he built and a lawnmower train he built that they rode for hours.

But the most important legacy he left his family was his faith in and commitment to following Jesus. He would read the Bible through a minimum of once a year for many years, as well as keeping a list of his family members to pray for them daily, making sure to not forget even one.

Surviving in addition to his wife, Pearl Conaway of Medicine Lodge, Kansas, are four daughters, Jeanette (Travis) McCauley of Medicine Lodge, Kansas, Patty Barrera of Medicine Lodge, Kansas, Chris (Jeff) Stacey of Mounds, Oklahoma, and Glenda (Gary) Kelton of San Angelo, Texas; 38 grandchildren and 83 great and great-great grandchildren; two sisters, Ada (Gilbert) Colborn of Kiowa, Kansas and Faye Conaway of Mountain Home, Arkansas; numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and in-laws.

Glenn was preceded in death by his parents; one granddaughter, Shala Washington; and two brothers, Robert "Bob" Conaway Sr., and LeRoy Conaway.

Funeral services were held on Tuesday, November 12, 2024, at 10:30 a.m. at the Medicine Lodge First Assembly of God Church with Pastor Rodney Worsham and Pastor Rick Snodgrass officiating. Burial followed in Highland Cemetery, Medicine Lodge, Kansas.

Memorials may be made to the Medicine Lodge First Assembly of God Mission Fund or Interim Hospice in care of Larrison Funeral Home, 120 E. Lincoln, Medicine Lodge, KS 67104.

Condolences may be left at www.larrisonmortuary.com.

JUDY KAY (FENDER) DeVINE



Celebration of Life services were held on Tuesday, October 22, 2024, at 2:30 p.m. at Freedom First Christian Church with Reverend Mark Kinkel officiating. Burial followed in Fairvalley Cemetery under the

direction of Wharton Funeral Chapel. Online condolences may be made at www.whartonfuneralchapel.com.

Judy Kay (Fender) DeVine, daughter of Roy Samuel and Mary Ellen (Purcival) Fender, was born August 20, 1946, and ran into the arms of Jesus on October 18, 2024, in Alva, Oklahoma, at the age of 78.

She attended Alva Public Schools and Northwestern Oklahoma State University for a time before she was united in marriage to Larry Gene DeVine on February 27, 1965, at Alva

First Baptist Church. To their marriage were born two children, Darrel Eugene and Tricia Gayle.

Following their marriage, they spent their life together in Freedom, Oklahoma, farming and ranching along the red bluffs of the Cimarron River where they raised their kids, cattle and blue heeler dogs. They also owned and ran the Freedom Call newspaper for a time.

Judy was a long-time, avid member of the Freedom Christian Church where she served on the board. She loved making meals for various events at the church. She also served on the board for the Freedom Museum and always looked forward to the annual Freedom Museum dinner and bingo nights.

Her most recent joy was putting together a display for the Battle at Turkey Creek. Judy loved gardening and always had an array of beautiful flowers on her porch. She also loved gathering women with a good meal at Christmastime with Dixie Stansberry.

Judy enjoyed spending time with her family, always looking forward to the weekends where they'd all gather for birthday party celebrations or the Christmas holiday. She was always celebrating her children and grandchildren's accomplishments and covering them in prayer.

She loved spending time with her dear friend Joe, taking trips to Sonic for a Diet Coke, and throwing the ball for her chocolate lab, Archie.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Larry; her brothers, Bill and Bob Fender; her sisters, Dorothy Puckett, Imogene Peterson, and Lynda Fender; and a niece, Pam Mach.

Judy is survived by her son, Darrel and his wife Lisa of Freedom; a daughter, Tricia and her husband R.L. Coday of Alva; three granddaughters who lovingly called her 'Mimi,' Erica Anne Coday of Alva, Taylor Nicole Phillips (Clay Phillips) of Alva; and Kalea Jo O'Hair (Robby O'Hair) of Laverne; a loving grandson, B.J. Baker of Freedom, who also called her "Mimi;" her dear friend and companion Joe Jessup of Freedom; nephews Sam (Cheri) Fender of Yukon, Bryan (Tabitha) Nutter of Alva, Marc (Sarah) Nutter (of Dalhart, Texas), David (Mary) Peterson (of Springfield,

See **Obits Page 24**

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8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Sunday, Nov. 17th - 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

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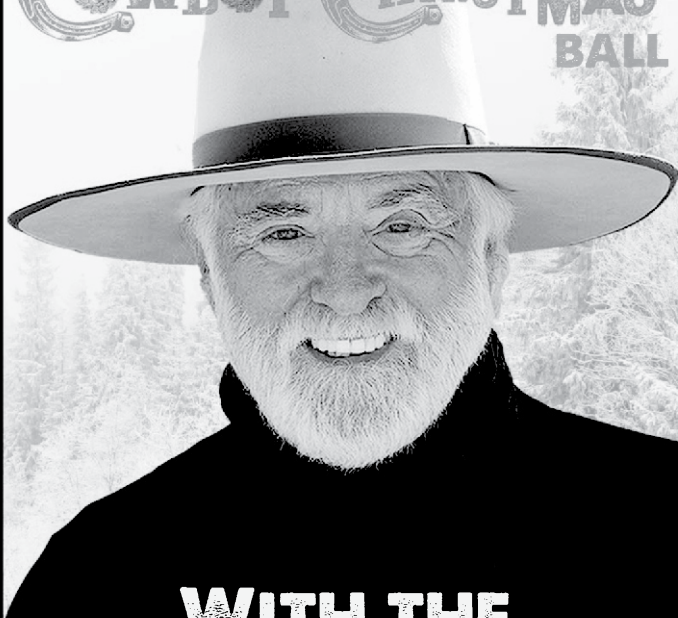
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From Page 22 **Obits**

Oregon), Tom Peterson (of Vancouver, Washington) and nieces Katie (Chris) Strehl of Freedom, Mary (Ed) Ward of Yukon, Vickie Lawson (of Bonifay, Florida), Sandra (Rodney) Rowe of Yukon; and a host of other dear nieces, nephews, other family and friends.

She will be dearly missed, but we rejoice knowing she is in the presence of her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Freedom Museum.

LEE STERNBERGER



Lee Sternberger was born on October 29, 1935, in Alva, Oklahoma, to Olen Sternberger and Martha Crowl Sternberger and passed away October 30, 2024, in Kiowa, Kansas.

Lee spent all his life in the Hardtner, Kansas, area and served as a 4-H leader, secretary on the Barber County Fair Board as well as the Elwood Township Board and Hardtner Supply Board. Once he moved into the Kiowa District Manor he served as president of the Resident Council Board and was the 2024 Grand Marshall of the Fourth of July parade in Hardtner.

Lee is preceded in death by his parents, Olen and Martha Sternberger; wife, Nadine Sternberger; and one brother, Leon Sternberger.

See **Obits** Page 26

NORTHWESTERN SPORTS SLATE

Wednesday, November 13th

5:30 PM

Women's Basketball vs. Bethel

Thursday, November 14th

6:00 PM

(Senior Day)

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Estate of Joe and Wanda Cox

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This is just a partial listing! We are still uncovering more every day!

Cox Bros. And Sis, Sellers

From Page 24 **Obits**

He is survived by four children, Joe Sternberger and wife Deb (of Wichita, Kansas), Jeff Sternberger and wife Colleen (of Garden City, Kansas), Lesa Zenger and husband Greg (of Belleville, Kansas), and Mark Sternberger and wife Ann (of Maiz, Kansas); seven grandchildren, Jena, Eric, Robin, Cody, Brandon, Whitney and Connor, as well as eight great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to the Hardtner Library or Kiowa District Manor through the funeral home.

Arrangements are by Lanman Funeral Home Inc. of Kiowa. Online condolences may be made at www.lanmanfuneralhome.com.



GARY RAY WHITEMAN III

Gary Whiteman's Celebration of Life will be held at 1 p.m. Wednesday, December 4, 2024, at Alva Wesleyan Church, 302 Church St., Alva.

Gary Ray Whiteman III was born December 4, 1995, in Enid, Oklahoma, and passed away peacefully on

November 1, 2024, after an 8-year battle with renal disease. Gary was a walking miracle, an example of a life covered by God's mercy and revived daily through the love of Christ expressed to him from all of the loved ones along his journey. If you ever expressed love to Gary along his way, Thank You.

Gary was a kid at heart but knew no fear when it came to adventure. He loved fishing and hunting. You could always count on him to bring back treasured trinkets and rabbit tails, frequently filling up his mom's bathtub with turtles and fish.

He was a talented football player, beginning his career as undefeated league champions in kindergarten and completed that journey with the silver ball at state finals in 2011.

Gary graduated from Jones High School in 2014. He earned his welding certification from Eastern Oklahoma County Technology Center before entering the workforce as a welder.

Gary is survived by his mom and stepdad, Julie and Joey Melton of Alva; dad and stepmom Gary and Rasheen Whiteman of Jones; sisters Summer Whiteman, April Schultz and

Josie Melton; paternal grandmother Sandra "Inkle" Blair, Aunt Cassie and Uncle Mike Jones, Aunt Carla and Uncle Bill Sanborn; cousins William, Emily, Jacob and Colton Sanborn of Cherokee, Oklahoma; Derek, Logan, Landon, Caleb, Hannah, Emma and Gracie Jones of Tecumseh, Oklahoma; Khristen, Cheyenne and Levi Logan of Kansas City, Kansas; nephews Mykel and Nykoda Conley; bonus siblings Constance and Jacquelyn Melton, Leah, Tony, and Sally Schultz, Kendra and Lana Kennedy; and lifelong friends Twister Smith and Jesse Taylor.

Gary was preceded in death by paternal grandfather Gary Ray Whiteman, maternal grandparents Carolyn and Robert Furrow, aunt Sally Logan and cousin Nickolas Sanborn.



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Membership Dues will be collected for 2025. Dues are \$25 per person, which includes the dinner for the annual meeting. Members may bring a guest to the meeting, and the cost for a guest is \$20 per person. Owners of mineral assets are urged to attend and bring questions to ask of the speaker!

This year, Jared Boehs of Fairview will be the guest speaker.

Jared is the CEO of HyQ Technologies, an Oklahoma-based company, that focuses on recycling of oilfield produced water. Jared is a former Board Member of NARO (National Association of Royalty Owners) and is a Certified Minerals Manager and Professional Landman. He has over 22 years of experience in the oil and gas industry, as well as in production agriculture. Boehs will discuss the issues of Wealth Transfer, Mineral Assets in Estate Planning, current Leasing Rates in Woods and Alfalfa Counties, and the overall health of the oil and gas industry in northwest Oklahoma.

For more information and to reserve your place, please contact Kay Decker at
KLDecker@nwsu.edu or call 580.327.2150. Residents of Alfalfa County are welcome to attend! We hope to see you there!

Patriot's Pen essay winners read at SB Veterans Day Program

By Yvonne Miller

Students and adults alike have questions about this great country we call the United States of America. Each year South Barber 8th graders participate in the nationwide VFW's Patriot's Pen Contest. It starts at the local level, moving on to district, state and nationals.

The theme this year is, "My Voice in America's Democracy?" Winner from the 8th grade class is Breckyn Hiltner, daughter of Tyler and Erin Hiltner. Recognized for second place is Taisen Ricke, son of Tyler and Cassidy Ricke.

The students read their essays at South Barber's Veterans Day Program Monday. Hiltner's essay is printed first in this article.

My Voice In America's Democracy, by Breckyn Hiltner

Dwight D. Eisenhower stated in 1961 "The future of this republic is in the hands of the American voters." This November, U.S. citizens have the opportunity to vote on a leader they want to lead the country. Voting is one way you can use your voice in American democracy. Eisenhower was a native to Kansas. He was nicknamed Ike, was an American military officer and a statesman who served as the 34th president of the United States. During World War II, he was the Supreme Commander of the Allied Express Force in Europe and achieved the five star rank as General of the Army. Eisenhower and other veterans have protected the country and allow me to have a voice in democracy.

Our veterans are crucial. They protect our freedom, provide us with a way to learn about our history and the world around us. They also risk their lives for people they have never met before. As Americans, we wake up every morning with the ability to say what we want, dress how we want, and have relationships with people we choose. For over 200 years, millions of men and women have fought for freedom. If they didn't, we would not have the opportunity to use our voice in democracy.

Veterans are expected to be leaders. They are taught leadership skills everyday in military school. To have a voice in my activities, it requires me



These 8th graders are the winner and runnerup for the VFW Patriot's Pen essay contest. Breckyn Hiltner, first place; Taisen Ricke, second place. Photo by Yvonne Miller

to be a good leader. The main activity I practice my leadership skills is in 4-H. We practice these skills during 4-H meetings, designing and implementing activities for youth, and carrying out community service projects as individuals or with a group. Another part of being a leader is being responsible and knowledgeable. I am using my voice in American democracy to teach kids about agriculture, which is important to our economy and global trade.

Eisenhower grew up in the small town of Abilene, Kansas. He was a defender of democracy, a leader of our country and helped implement significant developments in agriculture. Words cannot express how thankful I am for veterans. Your bravery, sacrifices, and strength do not go unnoticed. We will always be indebted to you and your family for all that you have given to this great country. I would like to say thank

you and express my sincere gratitude to every veteran for your services and sacrifices.

The second place essay was written by Taisen Ricke and follows:

What does democracy mean to you? To me, democracy is getting to voice your opinion on who you think would be the best candidate for government positions. America is unique because it is one of the only countries where people have inalienable rights (nothing can take that away from us). The younger generation of America, who are not legal voters, also have a voice in American democracy.

Thomas Young, who was a major at the age of twelve, helped organize the Boston Tea Party. He was active in the American Revolutionary War. Although Young didn't empty any tea

See Patriot Page 32

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Regional champions SB Chieftains advance to sectionals Friday

By Yvonne Miller

With a record of 9-1 on the season, the South Barber Chieftains are District 3 and regional champions of six man football in Kansas. This advances them to sectionals. Friday, the team travels to Golden Plains High School in Rexford for a game at 6 p.m. Golden Plains is 8-2.

Head Coach Matt Cantrell said the Chieftains beat Northern Valley 69-20 to win regionals on Saturday afternoon. South Barber rolled up a total of 517 yards compared to Northern Valley's 228 total yards.

"It was a total team effort as the game ended early in the fourth quarter due to the 45-point mercy rule," Coach Cantrell said. "I'm proud of the boys and the way they responded to many different things this year. I feel like they have done very well adapting to their first year of six-man football. It will take our best game of the year to come out with a victory on Friday night at Golden Plains." Rexford is 4.5 hours away from Kiowa.

Alva, Timberlake to host football playoff games Friday

Cherokee, Waynoka are on the road for playoffs

By Marione Martin

Four football teams in the Newsgram area will begin state playoffs this week. Two are from Woods County and two from Alfalfa County.

The Alva Goldbugs will host the Beggs Demons on Friday at 7 p.m. at Ranger Field. Alva has a season record of 8-2 and is 6-1 in the district. The Goldbugs are ranked second in Class 2A-II District 1. Beggs comes into the game with a record of 8-2 and 4-2 in district play. The Demons are ranked second in District 2.

In Class B-II, the Cherokee Chiefs will travel to Copan to take on the Hornets at 7 p.m. on Friday. Cherokee is 5-5 overall and 3-2 in district. The Chiefs are ranked third in the district.

See Alva Page 32



Freshman Cody Shklar runs into the end zone for another touchdown. This helps South Barber decisively win the regional six-man football competition 69-20. Photo by Yvonne Miller

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From Page 28 Patriot

chests during the Boston Tea Party, he was inside the Old South Meeting House lecturing a group of visitors about how tea could provide some unsatisfactory health effects (Brown,2019). Calvin Leon Graham, the youngest American World War II veteran, fought at the age of twelve. He forged his mother's signature, stole a notary stamp and told his mother he was going to see some relatives. He lied about his age so he could go fight for his country's freedom (Meza, 2022). At very young ages,

these two are examples of young people having a voice in democracy.

The youth of America would not be able to be as active in democracy without the brave men and women who continue to fight for our freedom. These veterans are the reason that we have a democracy. Their sacrifices are what makes America free and able to practice democracy.

I think that one of the most important parts of having a voice is being a good leader and role model. A lot of the activities I participate in, such as rodeo, reflect upon leadership skills. Another part

of democracy is collaboration. In rodeo I have to communicate with my team roping partners to get a plan so that we can excel. School is a place where parts of democracy are practiced as well, whether it's the class leader, helping your classmates, or working hard at your education.

Beyond voting, young people can be involved like Young and Graham, to help protect democracy. It's important to voice our appreciation for our veterans. As I get older, I will be a responsible citizen by voting and being active in democracy.

From Page 30 Alva

The second-ranked Copan Hornets have an 8-1 season record and are 4-1 in the district.

Two area teams will compete in the Class C 8-man football playoffs. The undefeated Timberlake Tigers will host the Mt. View-Gotebo Tigers on Friday at 7 p.m. Timberlake has a 10-0 record overall and is 7-0 in district games. They are ranked first in District 1. Mt. View-Gotebo has a record of 4-6 with a district record of 3-3. They are ranked fourth in District 2.

The Class C Waynoka Railroaders will travel to Ryan Friday for a 7 p.m. kickoff. Waynoka has a season record of 5-6 and is 5-2 in District 1. The Ryan Cowboys are ranked second in District 2. They have an overall record of 9-1 with a 6-1 in district.



PROUDLY PUSHING PATRIOTIC POPPIES – A familiar face in patriotic colors, Kiowa's Lenora Dodds is known as the "Poppy Lady" by many. Anytime a patriotic holiday grows near, Dodds sits where people congregate to make sure they have a red poppy to wear and support veterans.

Dodds is a longtime President of the VFW Post 5982 Auxiliary in Kiowa. She's been the president/chairman for "20 years or more." For decades she's promoted patriotism in the community in many ways – always selling poppies on Veterans Day and supporting all activities to support veterans. Dodds is known for visiting schools, teaching students all the details of the American flag, including the meaning of the "thirteen folds." She encourages students to enter the Patriot's Pen contest every year. Here she is at Kiowa's Veterans Day program on Monday. *Photo by Yvonne Miller*

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The South Barber Chieftains are shown in Kiowa Saturday when they won the regional championship 69-20. The champion team (manager and ball boys) is shown: (l-r, back row) Assistant Coach Grant Cantrell, Zap Clausing, Wyatt Dotts, Isaac Angle, Oakley Duvall, Keagan McMurray, Cody Shklar, Head Coach Matt Cantrell, Kallen Corr; (front) Ian Mcnett, Garen Cantrell, Brayden Duvall, Steele Smith, Austin Swonger, Devin Olsen, Hayden Hutson. Photo by Yvonne Miller



GUN SALUTE – It’s difficult to not get a tear in your eye when local veterans give the 21 Gun Salute on Veterans Day. This is the scene at South Barber’s Veterans Day Program Monday in Kiowa.. *Photo by Yvonne Miller*

US says it will not limit Israel arms transfers after some improvements in flow of aid to Gaza

By Matthew Lee, Julia Frankel and Samy Magdy

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Biden administration said Tuesday that Israel has made some good but limited progress in increasing the flow of humanitarian aid to Gaza and therefore it will not limit arms transfers to Israel as it had threatened to a month ago if the situation had not improved. Relief groups say conditions are worse than at any point in the 13-month-old war.

State Department spokesman Vedant Patel told reporters the progress to date must be supplemented and sustained but “we at this time have not made an assessment that the Israelis are in violation of U.S. law.” It requires recipients of military assistance to adhere to international humanitarian law and not impede the provision of such aid.

“We are not giving Israel a pass,” Patel said, adding that the steps Israel has taken have not yet made a significant enough difference. “We want to see the totality of the humanitarian situation improve, and we think some of these steps will allow the conditions for that to continue to progress.”

The decision from the U.S. — Israel’s key ally and largest provider of arms — comes despite international aid organizations declaring that Israel has failed to meet U.S. demands to allow greater humanitarian access to the Gaza

Strip. Hunger experts have warned that the north may already be experiencing famine.

The Biden administration last month set a deadline expiring Tuesday for Israel to “surge” more food and other emergency aid into the Palestinian territory or risk the possibility of scaled-back military support as Israel wages offensives against Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon.

The obstacles facing aid distribution were on this display this week. Even after the Israeli military gave permission for a delivery to the northernmost part of Gaza — virtually cut off from food for more than a month by an Israeli siege — the United Nations said it couldn’t deliver most of it because of turmoil and restrictions from Israeli troops on the ground.

In the south, hundreds of truckloads of aid are sitting on the Gaza side of the border because the U.N. says it cannot reach them to distribute the aid — again because of the threat of lawlessness, theft and Israeli military restrictions.

Israel has announced a series of steps — though their effect was unclear. On Tuesday, it opened a new crossing in central Gaza, outside the city of Deir al-Balah, for aid to enter. It also announced a small expansion of its coastal “humanitarian zone,” where hundreds of thousands of Palestinians are sheltering

in tent camps. It connected electricity for a desalination plant in Deir al-Balah.

Israel’s new foreign minister, Gideon Saar, appeared to downplay the deadline, telling reporters Monday he was confident “the issue would be solved.” The Biden administration may have less leverage after Donald Trump won the presidential election — he was a staunch supporter of Israel in his first term.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken met with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s closest aide, Ron Dermer, in Washington on Monday to go over the steps that Israel has taken.

Blinken stressed “the importance of ensuring those changes lead to an actual improvement in the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza,” the State Department said Tuesday.

President Joe Biden met Tuesday at the White House with Israeli President Isaac Herzog, who said a “major objective” for the U.S. should be reining in Iran and its proxies. Herzog also called for the return of the hostages taken from Israel in the Hamas attack that started the war, to which Biden said, “I agree.”

Eight international aid organizations, meanwhile, said in a report Tuesday that “Israel not only failed to meet the U.S. criteria” but also took actions

See US Page 37

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Miscellaneous

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Alfalfa County Sheriff's Office Logs

Tuesday, November 5, 2024
During this day: four traffic stops.
9:40 a.m. – Medic needed for a 76-year-old male with hypoxia. The medic took the patient to Bass Hospital in Enid.
2:14 p.m. – Report of a male who was sitting in a blue Suburban on the back side of the Nature Park. Officer advised all was okay.
2:57 p.m. – Report of a tractor on fire on County Road 530 and Noble.

Wednesday, November 6, 2024
During this day: four traffic stops.
8:47 a.m. – Medic needed in the 300 block of Ohio for a male with low blood sugar who is having seizures. The patient refused transport.

3:50 p.m. – Medic needed in the 100 block of 5th Street for a male who fell off the roof and gashed opened his head. Life flight was requested.

Thursday, November 7, 2024
During this day: three traffic stops.
2:28 a.m. – Caller stated he was walking along the highway from Enid but gave no specific destination. The caller said it was cold and asked for transport to somewhere civilized. Advised he was somewhere between Jet and Nash. Map pinged on US-64 around County Road 750. Deputy made contact with the male and took him to the Woods County line.
10:51 a.m. – Report of a suspicious person west of Burlington. Subject advised they were walking to Kansas.

See Sheriff Page 36

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From Page 35 Sheriff

12 p.m. – Caller advised a male was driving a white pickup with no license and had been drinking. Caller advised he keeps trying to come back to the house and she is trying to move out.

2:54 p.m. – Caller advised a roommate had shoved her and almost pushed her down the stairs. Officer advised all was okay; waiting for a family member to come pick up belongings.

3:36 p.m. – Report of a reckless driver on OK-11.

Friday, November 8, 2024
9:11 p.m. – Report of three shots fired at the northwest corner of 4th Street and Chestnut in Jet. Advised they think they were shooting skunks.

Saturday, November 9, 2024
During this day: eight traffic stops.

9:32 a.m. – Medical alarm was going off. No transport needed.

11:43 a.m. – Caller advised

his dad had cut the tip of his finger at the First Baptist Church. No transport needed.

2:20 p.m. – Garfield County requested a welfare check for a 19-year-old female.

6:03 p.m. – Medic needed in the 200 block of McClure for a 22-year-old male. Medic took the male to St. Mary's Hospital in Enid.

Saturday, November 10, 2024
During this day: six traffic stops.

10:28 a.m. – Caller advised of a silver Impala all over the road on OK-11 and County Road 670. Advised deputy, Grant County and OHP. Caller advised he had hit a guard rail and was in the ditch. Medic took the patient to Share Medical Center in Alva and wrecker was called.

2:44 p.m. – Caller advised her neighbor threatened to beat her up and she would like a deputy.

Alfalfa County court filings

According to the affidavits and petitions on file, the following individuals have been charged. An individual is innocent of any charges listed below until proven guilty in a court of law. All information is a matter of public record and may be obtained by anyone during regular hours at the Alfalfa County Courthouse. The Newsgram will not intentionally alter or

delete any of this information. If it appears in the courthouse public records, it will appear in this newspaper.

Misdemeanor Filings
Joey Lee Smith, Goltry, 38, has been charged with obstructing an officer (\$526.50).

Marriage License Filings
Braden Matthew Nichols and Mariah Dawn Ramirez, both of Goltry: marriage license



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From Page 36 **County**

(\$50).

Divorce Filings

Brandy Taylor Harrison, Cherokee, vs. David Lee Harrison: divorce (\$262.14).

Sadie Cockrum, Cherokee, vs. Stephen Lee Cockrum, Cherokee: divorce (\$262.14).

Traffic Citations

Vinnie L. Graham, Albany, Louisiana, has been cited for speeding 1-10 mph over the speed limit (\$100).

Steavi C. Purcell, Mil-

burn, has been cited for speeding 11-14 mph over the speed limit (\$264).

Tyler Palmer, Beaver, has been cited for speeding 1-10 mph over the speed limit (\$100).

Barrett W. Brown, Bixby, has been cited for speeding 1-10 mph over the speed limit (\$100).

Madrid Torres Santos Vladimir, Fort Smith, Arkansas, has been cited for speeding 15 mph over the speed limit (\$174).

From Page 34 **US**

"that dramatically worsened the situation on the ground, particularly in Northern Gaza. ... That situation is in an even more dire state today than a month ago."

The report listed 19 measures of compliance with the U.S. demands. It said Israel had failed to comply with 15 and only partially complied with four. The report was co-signed by Anera, Care, MedGlobal, Mercy Corps, the Norwegian Refugee Council, Oxfam, Refugees International and Save the Children.

In an Oct. 13 letter, the U.S. gave Israel 30 days, among other things, to allow a minimum of 350 truckloads of goods into Gaza each day; open a fifth crossing; allow people in coastal tent camps to move inland before the winter; and ensure access for aid groups to northern Gaza. It also called on Israel to halt legislation that would hinder operations of the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees, known as UNRWA.

Aid levels remain far below the U.S. benchmarks. Access to northern Gaza remains restricted, and Israel has pressed ahead with its laws against UNRWA.

Israel launched a major offensive last month in the north, where it says Hamas militants had regrouped. The operation has killed hundreds of people and displaced tens of thousands.

Through October and the first days of November, Israel allowed no food to enter the area, where tens of thousands of civilians have stayed despite evacuation orders.

Last week, Israel allowed 11 trucks to go to Beit Hanoun, one of the north's hardest-hit towns. But the World Food Organization said troops at a checkpoint forced its trucks to unload their cargo before reaching shelters in the town.

On Tuesday, COGAT — the Israeli military body in charge of humanitarian aid to Gaza — announced it allowed a

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See US Page 38

Community Calendar

Wednesday

9 a.m. Woods County Senior Citizens Center, 625 Barnes, Alva, has in person dining and delivery for homebound seniors. Please call 327-1822 until noon the day before to order.

11:30 a.m. Alva Arena Groundbreaking will be held at 27251 County Road 460, Alva.

1-5 p.m. The Cherokee Strip Museum in Alva is open every day except Monday.

7 p.m. Alva Moose Lodge men's meeting is held every Wednesday.

Thursday

9 a.m. Woods County Senior Citizens Center, 625 Barnes, Alva, has in person dining and delivery for homebound seniors. Please call 327-1822 until noon the day before to order.

1-5 p.m. The Cherokee Strip Museum in Alva is open every day except Monday.

3-6 p.m. Food distribution is every Thursday, Alva Wesleyan Food Bank, 818 Lane St.

7 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous open meeting is at 623 5th St. (Youth Corr House), Alva on Thursdays.

Friday

1-5 p.m. The Cherokee Strip Museum in Alva is open every day except Monday.

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From Page 37 US

new delivery of food and water to Beit Hanoun a day earlier. Again, the WFP said that while it tried to send 14 trucks, only three made it to the town "due to delays in receiving authorization for movement and crowds along the route." When it tried to deliver the rest Tuesday, Israel denied it permission, it said.

Aid into all of Gaza plummeted in October, when just 34,000 tons of food entered, only a third of the previous month, according to Israeli data.

U.N. agencies say even less actually gets through because of Israeli restrictions, ongoing fighting and lawlessness that makes it difficult to collect and distribute aid on the Gaza side.

In October, 57 trucks a day entered Gaza on average, and 75 a day so far in November, according to Israel's official figures. The U.N. says it only received 39 trucks daily since the beginning of October.

COGAT said 900 truckloads of aid are sitting uncollected on the Gaza side of the Kerem Shalom crossing in the south.

"Before the organizations give out grades, they should focus on distributing the aid that awaits them," COGAT said in response to the aid groups' report.

Louise Wateridge, a spokeswoman for UNRWA, said the military was not coordinating movements for aid trucks to reach the stacked-up cargos. "If we are not provided a safe passage to go and

collect it ... it will not reach the people who need it," she said.

COGAT blamed the drop in October on closures of the crossings for the Jewish high holidays and memorials marking the anniversary of the Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas attack that triggered the war.

The war began when Hamas-led militants stormed into southern Israel, killing around 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting around 250 people. Around 100 hostages are still inside Gaza, a third of whom are believed to be dead.

Israel's bombardment and ground invasion have killed more than 43,000 Palestinians, more than half of them women and children, according to local health authorities, who don't say how many of those killed were militants. Around 90% of the population of 2.3 million has been displaced, and hundreds of thousands are packed into squalid tent camps, with little food, water or hygiene facilities.

The United States has rushed billions of dollars in military aid to Israel during the war, while pressing it to allow more aid into Gaza.

Trump has promised to end the wars in the Middle East without saying how. He was a staunch defender of Israel during his previous term, and Netanyahu says they have spoken three times since Trump won the White House last week.

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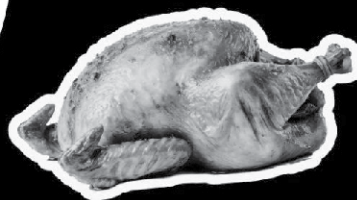
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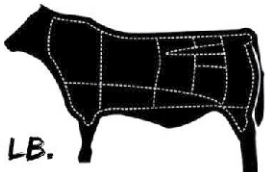
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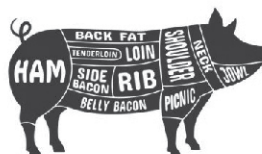
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