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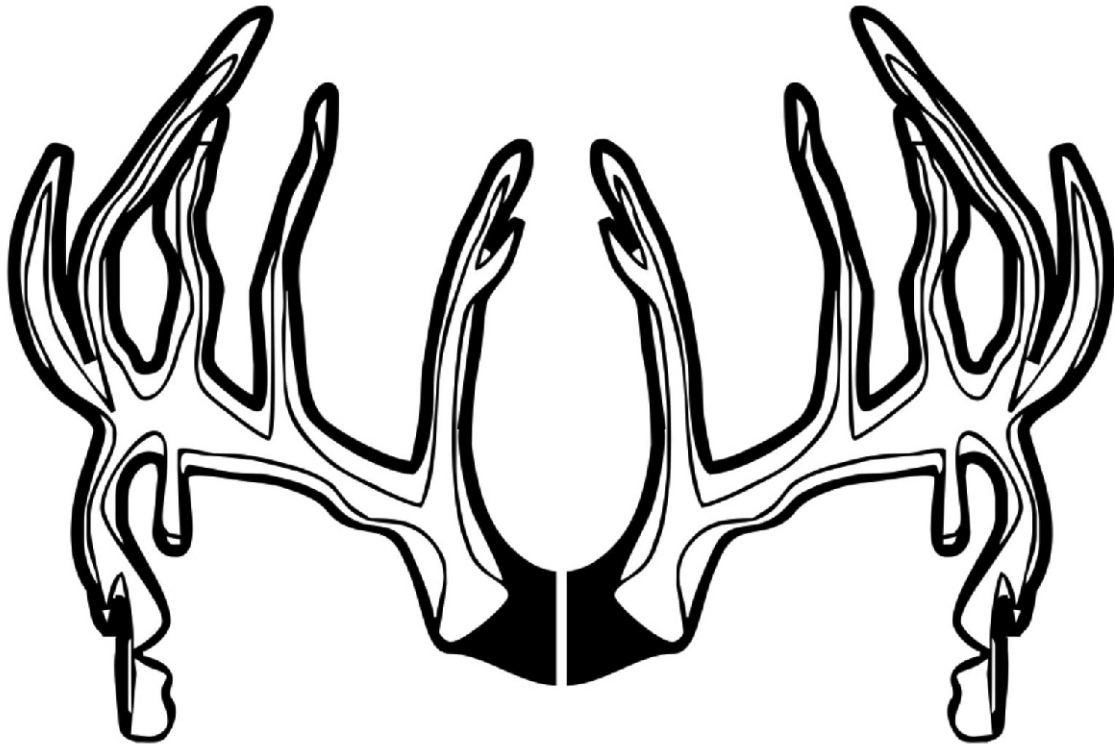
NEWSGRAM

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Bids for Alva and
Waynoka senior
citizen projects
come in over budget

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Aline Cleo November Student of the Month

Elijah Wallace, eighth grader, was selected as the November Student of the Month at Aline-Cleo High School.

His school philosophy is, "Get good grades, get my work done, and help anyone I can."

The uniqueness of his school is that almost all of the students are friends with each other and the staff.

Elijah's inspiration comes from his dad.

His favorite activities include working on cars, construction-type projects and riding his bike.

His favorite quote is, "Actions speak louder than words," by Mark Twain.

He is the son of Tim Wallace of Cleo Springs.



Woods County Clerk Shelley Reed (fourth from left) opens and reads bids on Alva and Waynoka senior citizens projects. From left are Commissioner John Smiley, Commissioner David Hamil, Purchasing Agent Ashley McLelland, Reed, Architect Roy Easley (standing) and Commissioner Randy McMurphy. Photo by Marione Martin

Bids for Alva, Waynoka senior citizen projects are over budget

Architect will look at ways to cut costs

By Marione Martin

After opening bids Monday morning, the Woods County Commissioners are facing a mismatch between what they can spend on senior citizen projects and the lowest bids received. Chairman Randy McMurphy opened the meeting with Commissioners David Hamil and John Smiley present. County Clerk Shelley Reed was also in attendance. It was standing room only in the commissioners' office with numerous representatives of construction firms present.

Reed opened and read off the six sealed bids for the new Alva senior citizens center building. The base bids ranged from a high of \$2,300,000 from Lopp Construction to a low of \$1,476,960 from A.E. Ellis Construction. Each bid included a list of six alternates that deducted parts of the project. With deductions taken, the next lowest bid of Calm Construction for \$1,544,777 might end up as the lowest.

One bid on the Waynoka senior citizen project for remodeling was disqualified due to a lack to two affidavits. That left two bids which Reed opened and read aloud. A.E. Ellis Construction bid \$524,319 for the base bid while Jackson Civil LLC had the other bid at \$627,000. Both bids included two alternates which deduct some parts of the project.

The commissioners delayed a decision until the end of the meeting to give Roy Easley, architect, a chance to review the bids. Because Easley had another meeting scheduled, he had to leave. After completion of the other agenda items, the commissioners recessed until Easley's return around 45 minutes later.

Resuming the meeting, the commissioners talked to Easley about ways to cut down the projects so they won't go over the approximately \$1.3 million in ARPA funds the county planned to spend. The budget will also need to cover Easley's services which come to 7 percent of the projects. The commissioners said they were willing to deduct all the alternates including dirt work, paving, curbs and a north patio with cover. McMurphy wants to keep the alternate that includes a cover over the south drive at the front of the building and a sidewalk. Easley said there were some other items that could lower the cost like less expensive windows and the appearance of the building. The commissioners also asked about cutting the size of the building.

Although commissioners were about to give up on doing anything for the Waynoka remodeling project, Easley talked with Smiley about some changes

See Bids Page 10

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Owen Medeland



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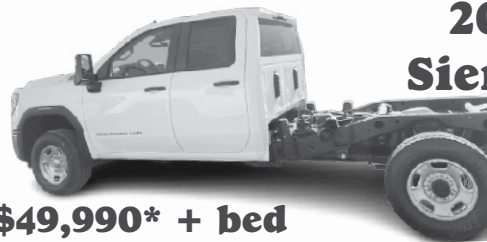
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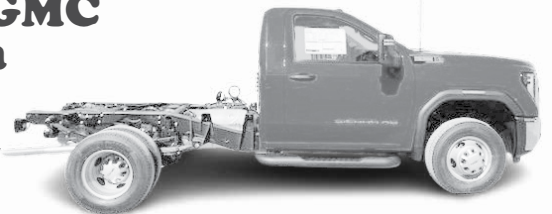
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REMAINING 2024 STOCK IS PRICED TO MOVE!

New AI-powered tutoring program

By Marione Martin



When AI (artificial intelligence) tools like ChatGPT were announced, I was skeptical of their uses. But more and more, people are finding ways to use these new tools. We use Adobe software at the newspaper for photo editing (Photoshop) and designing pages (InDesign). A few months ago, I learned about ways to that Adobe Illustrator, a graphic design program, generates images from a typed description.

Sunday night, I tuned in to 60 Minutes on CBS and learned about Khanmigo, an AI-powered personal tutor and teaching assistant. For years, Khan Academy, an education nonprofit, has provided online help and information for students. Now they are working with AI to develop a tool that provides assistance to students on an individual basis.

The TV program showed how Khanmigo is being tested in some schools. I was impressed at the feedback the program provides to students to help with their work. Both teachers and students who were interviewed had favorable responses to the program. As an experiment, the TV reporter submitted an essay about his mother that he wrote as a sixth grade student. The program not only checked grammar and spelling, but it also made spot-on suggestions about how he could improve the essay.

The program is a boon to teachers because it takes a lot of the drudgery out of grading papers after hours at home. The teacher can go in and check the results to add their own comments and

learn which students need help. I was impressed that it also spotted any copy and paste text that student could have used from an internet search or ChatGPT help.

The program is available to school districts and to individuals.

Here are some answers to frequently asked questions on the Khanmigo website:

What is Khanmigo? How is it different from ChatGPT?

Khanmigo is an AI-powered personal tutor and teaching assistant from trusted education nonprofit Khan Academy.

For learners and families, Khanmigo offers engaging, on-topic, and effective learning for students, and is ethically designed with safety and learning as a top priority. Unlike other AI tools such as ChatGPT, Khanmigo doesn't just give answers. Instead, with limitless patience, it guides learners to find the answer themselves. In addition, Khanmigo is the only AI tool that is incorporated with Khan Academy's world-class content library that covers math, humanities, coding, social studies, and more. When rating AI tools for learning, Common Sense Media gave Khanmigo 4 stars, rising above other AI tools like ChatGPT and Bard.

For teachers, Khanmigo is designed to make your role less about busy work. What normally takes hours can be done quickly with Khanmigo: differentiation, lesson plans, quiz questions, student groupings, hooks, exit tickets, rubrics, and more. There's no learning curve. Start using Khanmigo's teacher tools within minutes. Sign up for free to see why Fast Company says Khanmigo is an AI assistant that teachers will actually use.

How many children can I add to my Khanmigo account?

After you sign up for a monthly or annual Khanmigo subscription on your parent account, you will have the option to enable access for up to 10 of your children who are under 18.

Teachers - you will not be able to grant students access to Khanmigo. At this time, classroom access for Khanmigo is only available through school or district implementations.

Note: if your child is part of an active Khan Academy classroom, you may not be able to activate Khanmigo access on their account. Please reach out to our support team if you have any questions.

Can anyone use Khanmigo?

To access Khanmigo as a parent or learner, you must make a monthly or annual payment, be 18 years or older, live in the United States, and have a billing address in the U.S.

To access Khanmigo for Teachers, you must be an educator who is 18 years or older and lives in one of the listed countries or territories.

If you are under 18 years old, your parent or guardian needs to sign up in order for you to gain access. Please ask your parent or guardian to sign up and add you to their account.

Why is a payment required to access Khanmigo for parents and learners?

Khan Academy is a small nonprofit funded by donations. Your payment helps us support Khan Academy's mission while giving you access to a groundbreaking AI learning experience.

To access Khanmigo for Teachers, you must be an educator who is 18 years or older and lives in one of these countries or territories.

We are working to continue to make this technology more affordable for everyone. The Khan Academy content library and learning platform will always remain 100% free.

What grades and subjects can Khanmigo help with?

Khanmigo can help students who are in elementary school through college. Khanmigo can help with almost any academic subject, including math, science, coding, history, and humanities.

It will be interesting to see where this new development of AI technology leads. It appears to be a very useful tool.

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Dean Goll

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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 69937 Dewy Road, Jet, Okla. SW $\frac{1}{4}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ 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. NW $\frac{1}{4}$ - 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 native grassland, and spring creek. Water 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. NW $\frac{1}{4}$ - 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! S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ - 12-19-23, W.I.M. and N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ - 13-19-23, W.I.M., Ellis County, Okla. Located on a private Farm Road, go 8 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 easy building. Good five-wire fences, a nice set of corrals, and a solar well for water. From Waynoka, OK, go 2 miles north on Highway 14 to Comanche Road, then $\frac{1}{2}$ mile east. E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ 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. SE $\frac{1}{4}$ 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, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from Salt Fork River. It also has a good water well, solar electricity, an older barn, and 5-wire fences. Several big birds have been taken off this property. This tract also has 85 Acres of good cropland. W $\frac{1}{2}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ - 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. SE $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ - 22-27-16, and the W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ - 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. E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ - 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. NW $\frac{1}{4}$ & W $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ - 22-28-13, W.I.M., and E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ - 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 - $\frac{1}{4}$ 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. SE $\frac{1}{4}$ - 24-28-15 & SW $\frac{1}{4}$ & W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ - 19-28-14, W.I.M. Woods County, Okla. **PRICE: \$775,000.00**

NEW - 154 Acres - NW $\frac{1}{4}$ - 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. N $\frac{1}{2}$ - 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. NE $\frac{1}{4}$ - 15-28-11, W.I.M., Alfalfa County, Okla. **PRICE: \$550,000.00**



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The board approved building of this walkway between the buildings at South Barber High School.

South Barber approves walkway between buildings at high school

By Yvonne Miller

South Barber Board of Education President Mark Pollock called the December 9 meeting to order with all members present: Bryan Quick, Jarrod Inman, Brett Mott, Mike Miller, Karen Watts and Emily Lohmann. Superintendent Dr. Mylo Miller and Board Clerk Alyssa Gonzalez also sat at the table.

Dr. Miller told the board that their USD 255 budget looks good and does not need republished. He said the case

with Sandridge (tax protest) in Harper County, Kan., was first expected to be a \$60,000 budget hit for USD 255 but is now only a \$21,000 hit. "But that's not guaranteed. The numbers keep fluctuating," he said.

Close to Christmas break, the superintendent said, "It's been a great year so far."

The subject concerning changing the 2025-2026 school calendar with school starting at 8 a.m. and ending at 3 p.m. (instead of 3:30 as it is now) was again

on the agenda. The issue was tabled, but not before the superintendent and board members discussed pros and cons.

Dr. Miller pointed out the school will travel more (further) in the afternoon with the six-man football schedule next fall.

The time that core classes are taught is important. The superintendent said they want to schedule the core classes earlier in the day. He said the state board will hold the high school more accountable which means more testing.

He promotes students taking AP classes which requires more study, but benefits a high school student with a college course. The superintendent said some students are not college-bound, but in school mostly for the extra-curricular activities.

"We have to improve our math and English scores," the superintendent said.

"There is no more important factor in education than the family," Dr. Miller said.

Regarding music, the board discussed the crazy, demanding schedule of music teacher Stephanie Mae.

She teaches band and vocal for K-12. Dr. Miller said if they change the school hours to stop at 3 p.m., it would benefit

See S. Barber Page 36



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Targa settlement to drop Waynoka school valuation by \$16 million

By Kathleen Lourde

At an efficient early morning meeting of the Waynoka School Board on Monday, Dec. 9, board members paid somber attention to Superintendent Scott Cline’s news about the Targa settlement. Board members attending were Travis George, Caleb Zook, John Hanson and Garret Gum. Also present were Superintendent Scott Cline, J.H. and H.S. Principal Ronnie Nix, Elementary Principal Pat Burrow, Minutes Clerk Lori Adair

Finances Steady Now, but Choppy Waters Coming

First, Cline gave an overview of the current financial situation, which seemed nothing to be alarmed about. In the general fund expenditures are down slightly and revenue is up on the month. In the building fund, expenditures are up for the month but down a little for the year. Child nutrition expenditures are down on the month and slightly up on the year, Cline said. Revenue is basically flat. In the day care, expenditures are flat on the year, and revenue is down.

But the big financial news was the impact of the Targa settlement. Targa had protested their taxes for the past few years, resulting in that protested money being held in escrow until the case settled. Now it has,

“We got the numbers Friday evening,” said Superintendent Cline. “Our valuation will show a drop of \$16 million this year, compared to the previous year.” Cline said the settlement will

“equate to about \$532,000 in our general fund.”

While Cline has not yet received all the numbers, budgets going back all the way to 2020 will now be revised with real, rather than estimated, financial amounts. Once all the past years have been figured out, Cline said he will update the board. See the whole discussion by clicking on the Videos tab at www.AlvaReviewCourier.com.

Student Activities and Achievements

Principals Pat Burrow and Ronnie Nix updated the board on school activities and student achievements.

November Railroaders of the Week were Addi Hommertzhaim, Karter Webb, Mackie Litzenberg, Reese Stales, Whitlee Gaskill, Jay Beck, Evie Gum, Calvin Litzenger, Marlie Pitts, Hayden Kelly and Ethan Strowman.

Seventy-five elementary students earned a spot in the RAIL Club in November.

“The word of the month was Gratitude for November,” said Burrow. “Each week, teachers and students planned challenges and activities that taught us about being grateful and ways to show gratitude.”

On Dec. 5, Mrs. Hill and her band students performed their Christmas program and “made the evening entertaining with their fun pieces,” Burrow said.

The FFA chapter will have three students attending the Lead 360 leadership conference, reported Nix. The confer-

ence is a two-day event designed to help students develop skills such as chapter motivation, team building and leadership.

Mr. Smith and 10 FCA students traveled to Mooreland to listen to a motivational speaker and enjoy a night of fellowship with other high school chapters on Nov. 13.

In sports, both elementary basketball teams played in the Cherokee Tournament, where Waynoka’s fifth- and sixth-grade girls won consolation. The teams have also played Aline-Cleo and Ringwood.

Pre-k, kindergarten and first graders who signed up for the Little Dribblers showcased a basketball routine on Dec. 3 during the high school boys’ basketball game. “Coach McKee and his assistants did amazing work with our littles,” said Burrow. “The next showcase will be Dec. 17 for our older Little Dribblers.”

The junior high Lady Railroaders basketball team finished the Cherokee tournament as consolation champions. Both teams will travel to Ringwood tonight for kickoff at 6:30.

The high school basketball teams kicked off their season last Tuesday night with two wins over Aline-Cleo. They will travel to Taloga tomorrow night and will wrap up the week at the Pond-Creek-Hunter tournament Thursday through Saturday.

Coming Up

The last day of the after-school program will be Thursday, Dec. 12. It will resume Monday, Jan. 6.


The PK-fourth graders’ Christmas program is next Monday, Dec. 16, at 7 p.m.


The second nine-weeks Accelerated Reading incentive party will be Wednesday, Dec. 18. “Students in first through sixth grades who have earned their individualized reading goal will experience a morning of games, then in the afternoon watch a Christmas movie and enjoy hot chocolate and popcorn,” Burrow said. The last day to meet their goal is Dec.13.

Fifth and sixth graders who meet a behavior goal for Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Nix and Mr. Stevens will attend the Nutcracker Suite ballet in Oklahoma City

See Waynoka Page 36

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Carl's Capitol Comments Caucus priorities

By Rep. Carl Newton



The House Republican Caucus met over the weekend to discuss priorities for the coming legislative session that starts Feb. 3.

As the majority caucus, we'll set much of the policy that will be advanced next year. Some early discussions involved ways to best address inflation, whether that be to further reduce taxes or to adopt other reforms; ways to solve the workforce skills gap in our state so we can attract and expand employment opportunities; and investment in public infrastructure, including transportation, deferred maintenance needs on public properties; water, wastewater and broadband connectivity. Education, public safety, health and mental health care, the management of the state's natural resources and energy, as well as the overall state economy were prominent in the discussions as well, as

they are every year.

We also got a first detailed look at the Fiscal Year 2026 budget. Passing a balanced state budget is the main focus of every legislative session as it determines what each area of government will have to spend to meet the needs of the public.

While we got an overview of the budget picture for the next fiscal year, the actual amount of revenue we'll have to appropriate won't be available until the state Board of Equalization certifies the final amount in February. The board meets later this month to give us our first estimate. Right now, the state is in decent fiscal shape. Revenues are coming in above projections even though a bit behind collections from the prior year. That is to be expected with the implementation of a tax cut on groceries that took effect in August. We have healthy cash reserves, and we're well prepared for the future.

In January, we should hear from the six agencies that receive the largest amount of state appropriations. These hearings are open to the public.

House Appropriations and Budget Subcommittees also will be meeting to hear from each agency that receives taxpayer dollars. This gives us an overview of how prior funds were spent and what projects are being proposed for the future.

Our caucus retreat gives us time not only to hear from policy experts within our own ranks but from state and national leaders as well. It also provides time for longer serving members to get to know newly elected members and converse about constituent concerns. Finding out everyone's interests and strengths helps us know where to go when we have questions or to find support for specific pieces of legislation.

I'm pleased with the output of our work from our retreat, and I'm looking forward to a good 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.

From Page 2 Bids

that could cut the cost.

Easley told the commissioners he has experience with both A.E. Ellis Construction of Seiling and Calm Construction of Yukon, the primary bidders of interest.

The commissioners voted to table any decision until next Monday's meeting. Easley will return with proposals that will hopefully cut back each project enough to come within the county's budget.

Time is of the essence. The ARPA funds must be encumbered by Dec. 31, 2024, or they will be forfeited. That means the commissioners must accept bids quickly.

Payroll-Related Actions

The commissioners approved longevity payroll, warrants and claims. The Sheriff's Office received a grant which they planned to spend on one-time longevity pay for their department as well as security camera updates for the courthouse.

The commissioners approved a resolution increasing the base pay of

full time county employees by \$400 per month, retroactive to July 1, 2024. They also approved discontinuing the employee percentage pay raise beginning June 30, 2025, and reviewing it on a yearly basis.

Due to the increase in base pay, the commissioners approved several transfers of appropriations from General Personal Services to Personnel Services in the following departments: sheriff \$33,600, commissioners \$4,400, E-911 \$43,200, treasurer \$9,600, safety \$8,200, county clerk \$17,800, court clerk \$14,400, visual inspection \$4,800. In the same vote, they also approved transferring \$2,700 from county clerk M & O to clerk personal services due to employee vacation and comp payout.

A new account was approved for the Sheriff's Office adding a personnel services account to the Sheriff Revolving Jail Fund. Reed explained the sheriff has named a new jail supervisor whose pay will come out of that account. The commissioners then approved a transfer of appropriations from the Sheriff

Revolving Jail M & O to Personnel Services in the amount of \$28,000 to cover that supervisor's pay.

Other Business

County Purchasing Agent Ashley McLelland brought six month bids to the meeting. As usual the commissioners asked her to open and categorize the bids, bringing them back at a later time. At Reed's suggestion, they gave her until the Dec. 30 meeting to get the list in order.

An invoice from Rose Plumbing was approved in the amount of \$3,382.30 out of the ARPA fund for the replacement of water lines a sewer for Rural Water District 3.

The commissioner approved the Christmas lights being put up on the courthouse.

A gravel temporary easement was approved from Nadine Hayes.

The commissioners voted to remove Brock White and add Laura Radford as receiving officer for the Free Fair accounts.

See Bids Page 14



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- 2005 John Deere 9520 Tractor
- 2012 John Deere 5085M Tractor with H260 Loader
- 1998 Challenger 55 Tractor
- 1990 John Deere 855 Utility Tractor w/3 Point Sprayer
- Toyota Forklift
- Baker Field Cultivator - 32'
- 2012 Great Plains YP1625 Twin Row Planter
- John Deere 1810E Scraper
- 2022 John Deere HX10 Rotary Mower



TRUCKS, PICKUPS, MOTORCYCLE & GATOR

- 1996 Peterbilt 379 EXHD Conventional Sleeper Truck
- 1998 Peterbilt 379 EXHD Flattop Sleeper Truck
- 2013 Kenworth T700 Sleeper Truck
- 2015 Freightliner Cascadia Sleeper Truck
- 2005 Freightliner Cascadia Day Cab Truck
- 1986 Peterbilt 359 Short Hood Sleeper Truck
- 1986 Peterbilt 359 Short Hood Sleeper Truck
- 2005 Sterling 9500 Day Cab Truck
- 1988 Freightliner FLC Silage Truck
- 2006 International 9200i Sleeper Truck
- 2012 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 Crew Cab Pickup
- 2009 Ford F150 Super Cab Pickup
- 2011 Jeep Wrangler Unlimited
- 2009 Chevrolet Silverado Crew Cab Pickup
- 2021 Ford F350 Crew Cab w/ Butler Arm Bed
- 2015 Yamaha Star Raider Motorcycle
- 2017 John Deere 825i Gator

TRAILERS

- 2012 Neville Built Grain Trailer
- 2015 Utility Reefer Trailer
- 1981 Trailmobile B32C-52DT Tank Trailer
- 2015 Timpco Grain Trailer
- 2015 Utility Flat Deck Semi Trailer - 53'
- Fontaine Aluminum Flat Deck Trailer - 50'
- 2010 Delco Stock Trailer - 32'
- 1993 Diamond D Gooseneck Stock Trailer - 24'
- 2007 Towmaster Equipment Trailer

CATTLE EQUIPMENT

- Wilson Portable Corrals
- Arrowquip Healer Portable Corral
- Calf Working Chute / Table
- Arrowquip Major Hydraulic Chute with Vet Cage
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bone in whole or half

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2 lb. bag apples
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STORE SPECIALS

TOTINO'S PARTY PIZZAS
select varieties
9.8-10.9 oz.

3/\$5

RITZ CRACKERS
select varieties
7.5-13.7 oz.

2/\$7

SHASTA SODA
select varieties
12 pk., 12 oz.

3/\$12

SWANSON CHICKEN BROTH
regular or less sodium,
32 oz.

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select varieties
18.5-19 oz.

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Thurs Dec 12 - Sante Fe Soup **Tues Dec 17 - BBQ Meatballs**

Fri Dec 13 - Fish **Wed Dec 18 - Chicken & Noodles**

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From Page 10 Bids

The following monthly reports were approved: Assessor Collections \$351.00; County Clerk Office Collections \$11,711.51; Court Clerk Office Balance \$48,986.66; Court Clerk RM & P Balance \$19,845.50; Health Dept. Collections \$1275.00; Election Board Balance \$6,672.76; Sheriff's Office Collections \$2,532.02; Board of Prisoners Expenses \$6,390.77; and Treasurer's Office Balance \$6,352.38.

The commissioners also approved minutes of the Nov. 25 and Dec. 3 meetings; corrected minutes of the June 24, 2024, meeting to show the Rural Water District 3 parking lot concrete work was paid by ARPA funds; and the blanket purchase orders.

A video of the meeting may be viewed at www.AlvaReviewCourier.com by clicking on Videos.

County fair checks available at Woods County OSU Extension Office

The Woods County Fair Board has county fair premium checks available to be picked up at the Woods County OSU Extension Office from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The OSU Extension office is located on the east side of the bottom level of the Woods County Courthouse across from the sheriff's office.

Any individual or group, including 4-H and FFA, who exhibited at the September Woods County Free Fair and won a ribbon should have a premium check. These checks will be voided if not cashed 90 days from the date written. Exhibitors or their representative must sign for their check.

The fair board would like to express their appreciation to everyone who entered exhibits and attended the 2024 Woods County Free Fair and helped to make it a very successful fair!

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From left: Maggie Johnson, Jennifer Salinas, Kaylee Eckhardt.

Three Cherokee FCCLA members attend conference

Cherokee FCCLA chapter members, Kaylee Eckhardt, Maggie Johnson and Jennifer Salinas, attended the Get SET (Speaking Excellence Training) Conference on Dec. 4 in Oklahoma City. This conference is presented by the Oklahoma Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) Association in conjunction with Your Next Speaker. The Get SET conference is designed for 8-12 grade FCCLA members. The purpose of Speaking Excellence Training is to teach students how to enjoy the process of

preparing to give their best at an FCCLA STAR Event competition or other public speaking opportunity. The training was led by Rhett Laubach and Kelly Barnes.

"I am so glad I was able to attend this conference. I sometimes get nervous before public speaking," said Cherokee FCCLA member Kaylee Eckhardt. "I learned that, when it comes to public speaking, 60% of communication is nonverbal, 30% is tone, and only 10% is our words." Eckhardt encouraged all FCCLA members to attend this conference in the future.

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If you are 18 years old or younger and not living with your parents due to being homeless, runaway, or at risk for one of these conditions please come by or call Northwest Family Services at 580-327-2900. We are located at 620 Flynn Street in Alva. We have information that may be helpful to you. There is no charge for our services.



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Dear Friends,

As we approach the holiday season the staff and Board of Directors of Northwest Family Services, Inc. would like to wish you and your family the very best. Please consider sharing your blessings by making a gift to Northwest Family Services. When you make a donation to our Agency you are aiding our efforts to provide services to youth and their families. Northwest Family Services is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, so all contributions are tax deductible.

Northwest Family Services, Inc. is a community based non-profit youth agency which has been providing services for over 40 years. We provide prevention and intervention services for youth and their families in Woods, Alfalfa, and Major Counties. We have services available to any family from expectant parents to families with children under the age of 18 to adults who are victims of crime. The services we are currently able to provide include: Counseling, Parenting Through Separation and Divorce, Emergency Youth Shelter, Foster Care, First Time Offender Program, TSET Successful Futures Healthy Kids Healthy Communities, Parents As Teachers, and School-based Prevention Programs.

The services we provide are not without oversight from state and federal agencies. This year alone we have had on-site reviews from Oklahoma Association of Youth Services, Office of Juvenile Affairs, Oklahoma Department of Health, Oklahoma Department of Human Services, and a full financial audit. All of these reviews went well with little or no recommendations. As you can see we strive to provide the best, most complete services to our families.

Unfortunately, our state and federal funding will be reduced this upcoming year as we lost our Runaway and Homeless Youth funding and are receiving less funds from state agencies. Therefore, your financial support becomes more important so we can continue to strengthen youth and their families in the communities we serve.

Again, Northwest Family Services wishes you and your family a wonderful holiday season full of blessings and we thank you for the continued support you have provided our Agency.

Sincerely,

Brenda Rose
Executive Director

Rhonda Cook
Board Chairman

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2022 RAM 2500



Tradesman, 4WD, Long Bed, GG, 6.7L
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Bonhams celebrate 60th wedding anniversary

Neil and Aneta Bonham will be celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary on Dec. 19, 2024.

Neil was raised in Sharon, Kansas. While attending college in Hutchinson, Kansas, he met Aneta on a blind date.

In 1966, the two relocated to California for Neil's job.

They have three sons and six grandchildren that still live in California.

In 1993 they decided to move to Kiowa, Kansas, to take care of their parents.

This year they will be celebrating their anniversary in California with their family.

Be sure to wish these two a happy anniversary!

School board races develop in Alfalfa County

By Marione Martin

Cherokee Board of Education filings last week drew two candidates for the full term opening in Office 5. Paul Michael and Amber K. Wilhite filed for that position with the winner to be decided in the April 1 election. The unexpired four year term for Office 4 on the Cherokee board will be filled by Allan Poe, the only candidate filing.

Chisholm School District covers a portion of Alfalfa County. Voters in that area will have a choice of Chris Occhiuzzo and Geri Ayers for the Chisholm School Board.

The position on the Aline-Cleo School Board will be filled by Christyn O'Neil. The only candidate for the Burlington School Board is Callie Pray. Timberlake School Board's Office 5 will be filled by Levi Johnson.

Other portions of Alfalfa County are included in the Medford, Ringwood

and Northwest Technology districts. Medford had one filing: Alyssa Hale-Morgan. Ringwood's board opening will be filled by Jeff Berger. Incumbent Stanley Kline of Alva filed for the Northwest Tech Zone 5 position.

Woods County

Only one candidate filed for each of the school boards in Woods County so no election will be needed. The filing period closed at 5 p.m. on Wednesday.

The Woods County Election Board reported incumbent Paul Barton was the only candidate filing for Office 5 of the Alva Board of Education. At Freedom, Shane Morris, the incumbent, was the only person filing for Office 5. Garrett Gum, the incumbent was the only candidate filing for the Waynoka School Board.

Stanley Kline of Alva will continue to serve on the Northwest Technology Center board representing Zone 5.

Alfalfa County commissioners convene in executive session to discuss maintenance position

By Stacy Sanborn

At Monday morning's meeting, the Alfalfa County commissioners held an executive session to discuss the maintenance position. Upon reconvening, Garret Johnson, Mike Roach and Nate Ross voted unanimously to give that position a dollar-per-hour raise.

After that, the commissioners heard from County Assessor Jennifer Roach as she talked about a potential \$20,000 transfer to reduce the school's portion of visual inspection. She told the three men that she received a bill from an attorney for \$14,898 and that it had to do with

old protest cases that were now winding down. She and the commissioners mulled over what to do and how money could be transferred. After some discussion, Commissioner Roach said he thought they should "maintain the course" and leave things alone right now. Johnson and Ross agreed.

Next, the commissioners signed an ODOT 32a form for Alfalfa County ROW Parcels 1 and 2.1, JP 35426(04), followed by a private property access easement for a two-acre tract in District 3. That easement is located at the SW¼ of 11-26-11 and allows tree limbs to be placed in a farmer's burn pit.

On the last agenda item about designating interest for ARPA funds, County Clerk Laneta Schwerdtfeger told the men that they needed to decide where they wanted the ARPA funds and that there was \$520 to be apportioned somewhere. They decided to put it back into the property insurance account.

Maintenance and operation warrants for payment, blanket purchase orders, minutes from the last meeting, and other reports were signed at the beginning of the meeting.

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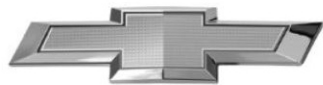
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MILES: 94,704

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RETAIL: \$44,400

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**BEGINS
JAN. 13**

DIY Snowflake Craft ~ In this hands-on session, you will learn how to cut, bend and assemble hangers into intricate snowflake designs in two sizes. This class runs from 6 - 9pm and the cost is \$55.00.

**BEGINS
JAN. 22**

Focus On Reading ~ "Focus on Reading with Reading Plus" is an online program designed to enhance students' reading fluency, comprehension, and vocabulary through personalized, adaptive lessons. The program includes guided reading, vocabulary exercises, and comprehension questions, offering targeted practice to address specific areas for improvement. This class meets on Wednesdays from 4 - 5:30pm and runs through February 19. The cost is \$80.00

**BEGINS
JAN. 27**

Leatherwork-Basic ~ Learn the art of leatherworking in this hands-on class, perfect for beginners! Join us Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:30 - 8:30 PM and runs through February 5. For just \$170, you'll receive a \$100 leather tool kit and gain essential skills to create your own leather projects.

**BEGINS
FEB. 4**

SPARK & WELD: The Basics of Welding ~ This hands-on class, held Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6 - 9 PM and runs through February 20. For \$250, you'll learn foundational welding techniques, safety practices, and gain practical experience using welding equipment.

**BEGINS
FEB. 4**

Hands-On 3D Printing for Beginners ~ Through hands-on practice, you'll design, print, and finish a 3D object, gaining the skills and confidence to start your own 3D printing projects. This class runs through Feb. 6 from 5:30 - 7:30pm. The cost is \$25.00.





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**BEGINS
JAN. 8**

Oklahoma Farm Bureau: In The Woods ~ Join Instructor Sidany Hilburn for this class series designed to strengthen your entrepreneurial skills. Other class dates are: 4/2, 6/25 & 9/17 from 5:30 - 7pm. There is no charge for this class.

**BEGINS
JAN. 24**

Stained Glass ~ Unlock your creativity and explore the timeless art of stained glass. Gain a comprehensive introduction to the tools, techniques and materials that you will need to create a customized stained glass piece. Class is held on Tuesdays, 6 - 9pm through 4/15. The cost is \$125.00

**BEGINS
FEB. 6**

Watercolor Painting ~ Instructor, Holly Hoffman dives into the beautiful world of watercolor painting. This class is designed to teach you the skills that you need to get started. Class runs Thursdays through March 13 from 6 - 8pm. The cost is \$65.00.

FEB. 3

Exploring AI from Your Computer to Your Cell Phone ~ Gain a basic understanding of Artificial Intelligence (AI). The class is designed for beginners who want to gain an understanding of its real world impact and explore the ethics that come with AI development. The cost is \$10.00. The class time is 6 - 9pm.

**BEGINS
JAN. 28**

Show Up & Weld ~ In this hands-on class participants learn MIG, TIG and Stick Welding Techniques. Class runs Tuesday and Thursday (1/28 & 1/30) from 6 - 9pm. The cost is \$80.

**JAN. 13 OR
JAN. 23**

AAA Driver Improvement ~ The course teaches drivers how to build the tools for increased driver safety. The one day class runs from 8am - 4pm. The cost is \$30.00.



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Waynoka FFA members compete in the 2024 AFR Speech Contest. From left: Rhiata Bouziden, Rholtou Bouziden, Shay Wilson, Brack Long.

Waynoka FFA members compete in 79th annual AFR Cooperative Speech Contest

Four members of the Waynoka FFA chapter recently participated in the 79th Annual American Farmers and Ranchers (AFR) Cooperative Speech Contest, held on Nov. 18 at Autry Tech Center in Enid, Oklahoma. The northwest

district contest featured six competitive categories: AFR/OFU, Agriscience, Natural Resources, Agribusiness, Ag Policy and Extemporaneous.

Rhiata Bouziden represented the Waynoka FFA in the Senior Division

Agriscience. Shay Wilson competed in the Senior Division Ag Policy category, earning a strong fifth-place finish. Brack Long and Rholtou Bouziden also represented the chapter in the Senior Division Natural Resources category.

The Waynoka FFA chapter is proud of its members' hard work and dedication and looks forward to their continued success in the upcoming spring speech contests

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GLISTENING FOR CHRISTMAS – Dressed in beautiful, shimmering red complete with a crown, Lydia Sciarra looks like she belongs at the North Pole as a snow princess for Santa. She’s at Kiowa’s Christmas in the Heartland and wearing her sash and crown as “Our Diamond Miss Teen.” She is a state talent winner, performing a lyrical dance. *Photo by Yvonne Miller*



NOW THAT’S GOOD CHILI – Kiowa man Willie Gordon enjoys sampling the various types of chili entered in the cookoff at Kiowa’s Christmas in the Heartland celebration Sunday afternoon. It could have been the chili made by Megan Myers who won first in the contest. *Photo by Yvonne Miller*



AXLE STEALS THE SHOW – Known as Axle the Wonder Dog, he prances through Kiowa’s Lighted Christmas Parade with his owner Fiona Walz and her decorated friends in the Cloverleaf 4-H: (l-r) Hayden Hutson, Breckyn Hiltner, Fiona Walz and Ryker Gosvener.



SANTA AND MRS. CLAUS LOVE THEIR ROLE – Three-month old Everett Salinas doesn’t seem to be scared at all of the jolly old soul with a white beard, like many little ones are when sitting on his lap without mama or daddy. Maybe that’s because his big brother Gage, age 4, is grinning ear-to-ear as he waits to give his Christmas wish list to Santa. The boys are the sons of Kiowa Police Chief Jose Salinas and mom Kori. *Photo by Yvonne Miller*

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I GOT IT! – Three-year-old Anton Nielsen appears so excited that he grabbed a piece of candy all on his own at Kiowa’s Lighted Christmas Parade. He’s the son of Brian and Shelby Nielsen. *Photo by Yvonne Miller*



NOSTALGIA – In Kiowa’s Christmas in the Heartland lighted parade, this red, “Radio Flyer” wagon float brings back fond childhood memories. *Photo by Yvonne Miller*



THE PERFECT VIEW FOR A PARADE – Just turned 2, Landrie Donaldson has the best view of Kiowa’s Lighted Christmas Parade on top of her daddy’s shoulders. She is the daughter of Taylor and Morgan Donaldson of Kiowa. *Photo by Yvonne Miller*



TIS THE SEASON – This pretty whimsical holiday display sits in front of Gorilla Construction on Main Street at Kiowa’s Christmas in the Heartland. *Photo by Yvonne Miller*

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Obituaries

RONNIE WAYNE FOSTER



Ronnie Wayne Foster, born July 24, 1943, passed peacefully on Tuesday, December 3, 2024 in Alva, Oklahoma, after complications from congestive heart

failure led to a short hospital stay. A memorial service and interment will be held at 2 p.m. on December 27, 2024 at Duncan Memorial Cemetery.

Wayne, as he was known, was born in Lamesa, Texas, the second son of Virgil and Estelle Foster who raised him in the Duncan, Oklahoma, area. He was a graduate of Comanche High School, Class of 1961, and married Mary Louise (Martin) Foster, Class of 1962, his high school sweetheart, on April 20, 1962 in Burkburnett, Texas.

Wayne worked in the Oil & Gas Industry after graduating from high school, serving in roles across Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Wyoming, and Alabama from roustabout to pumper, then Production Superintendent for State of Oklahoma with El Paso Exploration/Meridian Oil & Gas, to VP Operations with Speller Oil at time of retirement. Through many of those years he ran a hay-baling business around Kingfisher County, Oklahoma, before purchasing his own piece of property to raise cattle in Garfield County, Oklahoma.

Wayne loved his daughters and grandsons, taking an active interest in their participation in sports and music. Raising his family in the Word was important to Wayne. Both he and Mary have been faithful members of multiple Baptist churches throughout his life in the areas they've resided and traveled during retirement. An avid golfer, Wayne was a highly sought after team member competing in tournaments hosted by organizations such as the Oilmen's Association from his early 20's through retirement. He enjoyed playing on his home course at Falconhead Resort & Golf Club and participating in the Oil Belt Senior Golf Association, most recently earning the 2023 80+ Champion trophy. Wayne and Mary just completed a move to Alva, to be closer to their youngest daughter's family.

Wayne is survived by his two

daughters, Rhonda Foster Ellington and husband, Paul H. Ellington, of Collin County, Texas and April Daune (Foster) Nighswonger and husband, Howard Gene Nighswonger, of Alva; three grandsons, Lewis Foster Nighswonger and wife, Morgan (Woodruff) Nighswonger, of Alva, Henry Wade Nighswonger of Alva, Ryan Paul Ellington and wife, Elyse Kusakabe Ellington, of Louisburg, North Carolina; and two great grandchildren Hawkins Foster Nighswonger and Ramona Ruth Nighswonger of Alva; brother, Retired Army Lt. Colonel Guy Foster and wife, Susan Juanita (Fox) Foster, of Enid.

Wayne was preceded in death by his parents Virgil (4/12/1998) and Estelle (10/3/2011) Foster, and brother, Virgil Keith (Sonny) Foster (12/27/1960).

In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to Alva First Baptist Church Falls Creek Camp scholarship fund.

Remembrances may be shared with the family at www.marshallfuneralhomes.com.

CHESTER ARTHUR 'CHET' GOODRICH



Funeral services for Chet Goodrich were held at 1 p.m. Saturday, December 7, 2024, at the Presbyterian Church.

Burial followed in the Alva Municipal Cemetery under the direction of

Marshall Funeral Home.

Chester Arthur "Chet" Goodrich of Alva, passed away peacefully on December 2, 2024, at the age of 82, surrounded by love and his favorite music. He was born on January 30, 1942, to Hollis and Callie Elizabeth "Betty" Goodrich. He found his greatest purpose in serving the people of Alva, his greatest passion in fishing, and his greatest joy in his family and friends.

At the age of 13, Chet went to work for the family business and spent his life so proud of the legacy that was Goodrich Heating, Plumbing, and Air Conditioning. The most dedicated and hardworking man, there was not one thing that he could not fix and for over 70 years, he helped to build and strengthen the foundation of the city of Alva. At the end of a long day, he loved a can of Busch with V8 juice and a John Wayne

western on the TV, and every morning he made sure to throw the trash bags in the back of his pickup so his beloved wife, Yvette, wouldn't have to carry them up the stairs.

He loved taking his kids and grandkids out to the farm to fish and always had life advice to share when needed. He was the most amazing husband, father, grandfather, and friend and will be so incredibly missed by everyone that was lucky enough to know him.

Chet was preceded in death by his parents, Hollis and Betty Goodrich; his beloved son, Dustin Goodrich; his brother, Ron Goodrich; and his sister, Barbara Lamkin and her husband, Bill.

Chet is survived by his loving wife of 60 years, Yvette Goodrich of Alva; daughters, Gaynell Goodrich of Wichita, Kansas, and Kimberly Williamson and husband, David, of Oklahoma City; grandchildren, Travis Courtright and his wife, Christina, of Berryville, Arkansas, Derek Courtright and his wife, Kylee, of Wichita, Kansas, Tim Williamson, Callie Burleson and her husband, Carter, Kelsi Williamson, Devin Goodrich, and Drake Goodrich, all of Oklahoma City; seven great grandchildren; and a host of other family and friends.

Memorial contributions may be made through the funeral home to the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation.

Remembrances may be shared with the family at www.marshallfuneralhomes.com.

BETTY LOU HAWLEY

Funeral services for Betty Hawley will be 11 a.m. Saturday, December 14,



2024, at the Carmen Christian Church with Pastor Billy Sacket officiating. Burial will follow in the Carmen City Cemetery under the direction of Wentworth Mortuary,

LLC.

Betty Lou, daughter of the late Roy Lee and Alice Elizabeth (Morning) Walker, was born August 15, 1946, at Anthony, Kansas, and passed away December 8, 2024, at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, at the age of 78 years, 3 months, and 23 days.

Betty was raised in Anthony, Kansas,

See Obits Page 30



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From Page 28 **Obits**

where she attended school and graduated from Anthony High School. On August 2, 1971, she was united in marriage to Danny Hawley at Anthony. Together they had four children, Richard, Ruby, Janet, and Tammy. They lived in Anthony for a few years before making their home in Carmen, Oklahoma, where she has lived for more than 44 years.

It was important to her to be a stay-at-home mom to care for her children. Betty enjoyed crocheting and watching Hallmark movies. She and her daughter also enjoyed watching Wheel of Fortune every evening and playing card and board games with family.

Besides her parents, Roy and Alice, she was preceded in death by her husband, Danny Hawley; her siblings, Leroy Walker, Jack Walker, Jim Walker, Robert Walker, Millie Davison, baby brother, Edward Walker; sisters-in-law, Zella Taxdahl and Charly Alspach; and brother-in-law, Mike Hawley.

Betty is survived by her son, Richard Hawley of Pratt, Kansas; three daughters, Ruby Hawley of Carmen, Janet Adams and husband, John, of Lamar, Colorado, and Tammy Hawley and her significant other, Feeg Parrish, of Fairview; her grandchildren, William, Samuel, and Jason Adams of Lamar, Colorado; her brother, Johnny Walker and wife, Mary Ann, of Colorado; her sister, Rosie Besore and husband, Bob, of Texas; sisters-in-law, Frances Walker of Anthony, Kansas, Pat Walker of Eureka, Kansas, and Sue Rayls of Carmen; other relatives and friends.

Memorial contributions may be made

in her memory to Wentworth Mortuary, LLC.

Remembrances may be shared with the family at www.marshallfuneralhomes.com.

JOHN MARAS

Memorial services for John Maras will be 2 p.m., Thursday, December 19, 2024, at Marshall Funeral Home Chapel. Cremation arrangements are under the direction of Marshall Funeral Home.



John was born March 24, 1955 to Clint and Barbara Maras in Cook, Minnesota, and passed away December 8, 2024, in Alva, Oklahoma, at the age of 69 years, 8 months, and 14 days.

The family moved to Jackson, Minnesota, when John was 5. He attended Jackson schools and from there attended Dakota County Vo-Tech for auto parts. In 1975, he married Sharon Michelson in Jackson. John managed an auto parts store and in 1979, John and Sharon moved to Waynoka, Oklahoma. John went to work for Oklahoma State Parks as a maintenance man. In 1982, John went to work in the oilfield. On September 3, 1990, his daughter, Lisa, was born. In 1993, John retired. He enjoyed fishing, especially with his brothers at George's cabin. He also loved riding his motorcycle, and his bike rides to Colorado with his buddies. John was an excellent pool player, loved Nascar, and was a "Mark Martin" fan. One of his greatest enjoyments was going to watch his brother, Jim, and nephew, Josh, drag race and riding with Jim in his racecar.

John's greatest joy was his two grandchildren, Solomon and Madison. He was so proud of them. On July of this year, John had a stroke and in October was admitted to Share Convalescent Home in Alva.

Besides his parents, and grandparents, he was preceded in death by his brother, Mike Maras; his sister-in-law, Carolyn Maras, and his step-sister, Sue Beckel.

He is survived by his wife Sharon of Waynoka; his daughter, Lisa and Sterlin, of Alva; his grandchildren, Solomon and Madison; siblings, Jeanne and John Cole of Waynoka, Peg Maras, George Maras, Jim and Marlyn Maras, of Minnesota, Sue Maras and Chuck, of Alabama, and

Sheryl and Mike Handzus, Scott and Mary Beckel, Steve Beckel, Scott Keil, Lorna Maras, all of Minnesota; many nieces and nephews and many friends.

Memorial contributions may be made through the funeral home in his memory to Core Bank of Waynoka.

Remembrances may be shared with the family at www.marshallfuneralhomes.com.

PENNY (LUETHY) PRIEST

Penny (Luethy) Priest lost her battle with cancer on December 5, 2024, at her home in Alva, Oklahoma, at the age of 73. Penny is the daughter of Jack and Wanna Luethy and was raised in Laverne, Oklahoma.



She enjoyed working in her yard and raising beautiful roses. Penny worked for Keltner Trailer Park (and dear friends, Dwight and Tanya Keltner) in which she loved meeting people from near and far. Her favorite time was spent with grandsons, Jordon Lohmann and Jackson Gerbine, what wonderful memories she cherished.

Penny was united in marriage to Larry Priest on August 13, 1998. She met Larry at "Teen Town" in 1966 and he was her "Knight in Shining Armour."

She was preceded in death by her parents, Jack and Wanna Luethy and grandson, Robert Hoover Jr.

Penny is survived by her husband, Larry Priest of Alva, brother, Terry Luethy (Debra) of Beaver, Oklahoma, four children, Rob Hoover (Suzie), Ryan Hoover, Jacklyn Matheson (Richard) and Georgie Gerbine, nine grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers please donate to the Toby Keith Foundation or OK Kids Korral, a home for children battling cancer in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

WILLIAM 'BILLY' STANLEY



William "Billy" Stanley, a devoted farmer, passed away peacefully on December 7, 2024, in Jet, Oklahoma, at the age of 89. Born on June 30, 1935, in Cherokee, Oklahoma,

See **Obits Page 32**

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From Page 30 **Obits**

Billy cultivated not only the land but also a legacy of service, leadership, and dedication to rural telecommunications.

Throughout his remarkable life, Billy served with honor in the Oklahoma National Guard, showcasing his commitment to his country. A skilled woodworker in his leisure time, he found joy in creating pieces that reflected his craftsmanship and love for his family.

Billy's professional journey was marked by significant accomplishments that spoke to his leadership abilities and passion for improving rural services. He was one of the founding fathers of the Foundation for Rural Service in 1994, where he served as president and was instrumental in advocating for the importance of rural telecommunications. His ten years as a board member and vice president of the National Telephone Cooperative Association highlighted his dedication to this cause, as he made fifteen consecutive trips to Washington, D.C. to educate Congress on rural telecommunications issues.

He also led the Jet Rural Telephone Company as president for seven years and remained a board member of the KanOkla Telephone Association for over three decades. His contributions were recognized through numerous accolades, including the National Telephone Cooperative Association Lifetime Director Achievement Award, the Oklahoma Telephone Association Bill Barnes Award, and his induction into both the Oklahoma Telephone Association Hall of Fame and the Kansas Telecommunications Hall of Fame.

Billy's community involvement extended beyond telecommunications; he proudly served as president of the Oklahoma Angus Association and the Northwest District Angus Association, as well as being a board member of the local grain cooperative and a 4-H leader for 15 years in Alfalfa County. His commitment to supporting youth and agriculture led to numerous honors, including the State Farmer Award, honorary chapter farmer status, and both the 4-H Silver Clover and National Foundation awards.

He was a valued member and trustee of the Jet United Methodist Church and participated actively in the Jet Lions Club, contributing to the betterment of his community. He also served as president of the Pleasant View Cemetery

Board.

Billy leaves behind a loving family, including his wife, Bonnie Stanley; sons, Gib Stanley and wife Shelly of Nash, Trigg Stanley and wife Kim of Enid; daughter, Shawn Collins and husband Dale of Jet; grandchildren, Lucas Reinhart and wife Bailee, Lacey Johnson and husband Levi, Logan Reinhart and wife Tiffany, Sadie Ivy and husband Blake, T.J. Stanley, Lindy Cronister and husband Justin, Carsan Jones and husband Keaton; and great-grandchildren, Lilly Johnson, Ella Johnson, Callan Johnson, Audrey Reinhart, Kelce Ivy, Halen Stanley, Rhett Jones, Cade Cronister, and Hadlea Cronister and one brother, Jerry Stanley.

He is preceded in death by his parents, William H. and Frances L. Stanley, as well as siblings, John Gilbert, Billie Jean, Albert L., and Lillybelle.

A memorial service to honor Billy's life and legacy will be held on December 11, 2024, at Jet Community Church in Jet, Oklahoma, at 2 p.m. Friends and family are invited to gather to celebrate the life of a man who truly dedicated himself to his family, his community, and the advancement of rural services.

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

BETTY JOE WEBER

Graveside services for Betty Joe



Weber were held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, December 7, 2024, at the Eagle Chief Cemetery, Carmen. Arrangements are under the direction of Wentworth Mortuary,

LLC, Carmen.

Betty Joe, daughter of the late Charles William and Katie Estella (Faulkenburg) Stewart, was born January 26, 1935, on the family farmstead west of Carmen, Oklahoma, and passed away peacefully surrounded by her family December 3, 2024, at Alva, Oklahoma, at the age of 89 years, 11 months, and 8 days.

Betty Joe grew up on the family farmstead with her seven siblings. In 1952, she graduated Carmen High School and then went to Northwestern Oklahoma State College and obtained her Bachelors Degree. She began her

first teaching job in Blackwell before she had her degree because of the teacher shortage. She later received her Masters Degree in Elementary Education and Physical Education.

In 1957, she was united in marriage to Charles Jacob Weber. They had one child together, Jerri Joe. She taught at Allen Elementary in Wichita for 38 years before retiring back to the farm in Carmen. She loved farming and ranching, teaching her grandkids to read and write, any kind of sports, and playing pitch with her family. Betty Joe also loved playing bridge, but her daughter, Jerri Joe, could never learn the game.

Besides her parents, Charles and Katie, she was preceded in death by four brothers, Russell Stewart, Edward "Tuffy" Stewart, Bill Stewart, and Jerry Stewart; two sisters, Virginia Roy and Mary Ellen Karns; and one grandson-in-law, Kevin Irwin.

Betty Joe is survived by her daughter, Jerri Joe Smith and husband, Paul, of Carmen; her sister, Barbara Moore of Oakley, Kansas; three grandchildren, Charles Woods and wife, Erica, of Carmen, John Russell Fuqua and wife, Nicole, of Waynoka, and Katie Joe Irwin of Carmen; nine great grandchildren, Auburn and Merritt Woods, Colten, Jace, and Jorden Fuqua, Kassie and Jake Irwin, Josh Irwin, and Paige Dillard and husband, Tony; other relatives and friends.

Memorial contributions may be made through the mortuary to the After 55 Club or the Carmen Fire and Rescue.

Remembrances may be shared with the family at www.marshallfuneralhomes.com.

BRANDY MARIE ZAHNTER



Our gracious and merciful God granted this cruel world with the blessing of a beautiful, loving, and kind soul on September 25, 1987 at 8:13 p.m. in Wichita, Kansas. The name her wonderful parents, Chad Anton Zahnter and Darla Jean Ramsey-Zahnter gave her was Brandy Marie Zahnter. Having been born a premature baby with

See **Obits Page 34**



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From Page 32 **Obits**

a bacterial infection her name suited her well. You see, the name Brandy means “sword” in Italian and Marie means “beloved,” as you who knew her well know, she was most definitely a beloved fighter. From her 18 days in the NICU to her last 30 days fighting an unknown cancer in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, she never gave up her fight, the fight to love those in this world like Christ loved us all or the fight to live. She surrendered to God’s will and Brandy joyfully walked into the arms of the Lord on December 2, 2024, at 9:09 a.m. surrounded by family, at the age of 37 years.

During her time on earth, she spent most of her life in Alfalfa County and it’s where she considered home. She called herself a Cherokee Chief as she went to school there from third grade to Junior year. She then graduated from Carver Adult Education Center on May 15, 2007. She remained in her heart as a member of the Cherokee Chiefs Class of 2007. As a member of Ed Jones’ youth group, she accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior. We are grateful for that blessing and the hope we have to see her again.

Brandy loved her family and friends but most especially her nieces and nephews. They nicknamed her Mimi and she was like an extra momma to each one in their own way and own time. She connected with each of them on a personal level, engaging in the things they loved and making them feel truly understood. Her wonderful nephew, Talon James, had a special place in her

life though. That bond is one we all loved watching grow between the two of them.

She loved with everything she had and it spilled over to animals, flowers, and all living things really. In her final months she refused to kill a spider because her big sister, Latisha, would be sad and all he was doing was “eating the flies not hurting anyone.” Brandy never wanted to be the cause of anyone’s sadness and did her absolute best to love everyone in their love languages. Her spirit was as vibrant as the blossoms she adored, and her heart as warm as the sun she cherished. She had a love that was unwavering and constant, even with her pets over the years. Her sweet little dogs, Missy P and JackJack, made her light up.

Brandy had a unique and creative spirit, enjoying hobbies like crocheting, coloring, and embracing her artistic side. She found joy in creating beautiful things, just as she did with the people in her life. Her heart was full of love for her family. She taught herself to crochet by watching videos, mastering a variety of stitches and bringing vibrant colors together to create stunning pieces. Though she had only recently discovered her true passion and the beginnings of her business, her talent and determination were already paving the way for a future filled with endless possibilities.

From a young age, music was a constant companion in Bam’s life, transcending genres and connecting her to the world around her. Whether it was the soul-stirring melodies of classical compositions, the raw energy of rock, the rhythmic pulse of jazz, or the infectious beats of pop, Brandy found beauty and meaning in every style. Music wasn’t just something she listened to, it was a language she spoke, a source of comfort, inspiration, and expression. Brandy’s passion for music was boundless, a true reflection of her diverse tastes and deep appreciation for the arts in all its forms.

In more recent years Brandy discovered a community of people and music that really spoke to her heart and soul. Her love for BTS, which brought her so much joy and inspiration, reflected her free-spirited nature. BTS’s fandom, known as ARMY, helped give her a bigger sense of belonging. BTS translates to Bulletproof Boy Scouts,

a Korean band that has a worldwide following of people from many walks of life. The love of and for Adorable Representation M.C. for Youth, or A.R.M.Y, introduced Brandy to the idea of expanding her knowledge to speak Korean. This community and their encouragement helped her to deflect the bullets and yield her sword when life tried to bring her down.

She is preceded in death by her maternal grandparents, Mr. Lawrence E. Ramsey and Mrs. Ramonia Jean Stratton-Ramsey as well as her paternal grandparents, James Alvin Zahnter and Irene Marguerite Hansen-Zahnter; her maternal uncle, David Lawrence Ramsey, and many other aunts, uncles, and loved ones on her father’s side.

She is survived by her parents, Chad of Florence, Mississippi, and Darla of Cherokee, Oklahoma; her best big sister, Latisha Watters and brother from another mother, Billy Watter; her cherished nieces, Jasmine and Georgia Watters; her little sister, Tialissa Zahnter-Dowel; brother-in-law, Daniel Dowell; her darling nieces, Angel Dowell and Riley Dowell; her precious nephews, Seth Zahnter and Connor Dowell, all of Cherokee; her baby sister, Charla Zahnter-Fishgrab; brother-in-law, Jesse Fishgrab, and her beloved nephews, Talon Zahnter-Fishgrab and Benjamin Zahnter-Fishrab, all of Medicine Lodge, Kansas, and many aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends.

“Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things” (Philippians 4:8).

We find comfort knowing that Brandy is now with the Lord, at peace and surrounded by His love, the love she always had in her heart.

Viewing will be Thursday, Dec. 12, from 12 p.m. until 2 p.m. at Lanman Funeral Home, Inc. in Cherokee.

Service will be Friday, Dec. 13, 2024, at 10 a.m. at the First Baptist Church of Cherokee, with burial to follow in Hardtner Cemetery, Hardtner, Kansas.

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

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Pederson appointed to key roles in the Oklahoma Senate

Sen. Roland Pederson, R-Burlington, has been named to key leadership positions for the upcoming legislative session. Pederson will serve as Chair of the Select Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee, Vice Chair of the Agriculture and Wildlife Committee, and as an Assistant Majority Whip.

“It’s an honor to serve in these roles, and I’m grateful for the trust placed in me by Pro Tem Elect Paxton,” Pederson said. “Agriculture is a cornerstone of Oklahoma’s economy, as Vice Chair of the Agriculture and Wildlife Committee, I look forward to continuing to advocate for policies that support our farmers, ranchers, and rural communities.”

As Chair of the Select Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee, Pederson will help oversee funding for critical state agencies, ensuring taxpayer dollars are used efficiently and effectively to meet the needs of all Oklahomans.

In his role as Assistant Majority Whip, Pederson will work with Senate leadership to build consensus and advance legislation that reflects the priorities of Oklahoma citizens.

Pederson will begin serving in these roles once the 2025 legislative session begins on Feb. 3.

From Page 6 S. Barber

scheduling if the school had a separate music teacher at the high school.

With those factors mentioned above, Dr. Miller said, “This is justification for a change.” If changed it will add about 10 days to the school calendar, he said. Days could be added to the fall calendar and spring calendar. That is to be determined,

While discussing afternoon school activities, Dr. Miller said USD 255 received \$83,000 in Title money.

The walk-way between the Agricultural Science Building and Main High School Building was finally approved. The walkway has four security doors. It’s like a hallway between the two buildings with no HVAC unit. It has windows and a metal roof. It looks similar to the ag building.

The board approved the cost of the walkway, \$74,900.

The Recreation Commission has board approval to use the high school and elementary gyms on Jan. 18 and Feb. 1; and the Elementary gym only on Feb 15.

The board approved hiring Gage Cantrell as the Boys Assistant Basketball Coach.

The Elementary School Wellness Policy and 7-12 grades Wellness Policy received board approval.

Monthly expenditures of \$487,000

were approved for payment by the board.

Principals Report

Principal Kaynette Scheck thanked the board for the new HVAC unit at the elementary. She complimented music teacher Stephanie Mae on the “impressive” Christmas program. On behalf of the elementary staff, Scheck thanked the board for the bonus checks. She thanked the Schupbach family for bringing trees to the elementary school yard for children to decorate for Christmas.

Principal Neal said, “The 2024 went well so far with some minor challenges. However, I look forward to 2025 and all the changes that this year will bring. We will have our first “Fastbridge Testing” cycle, a summative assessment designed to evaluate a student’s current understanding and achievement at the end of a course or semester. These assessments can include formal tests, essays, and projects. They help students understand how well they met the course’s learning goals. Ms. Maltby (Math) is excited to administer the assessment and looks forward to the possibility of growth within our student body. Avid has a new Coaching and Certification document and is looking for sites to be the boots-on-the-ground test sites. We will evaluate our information and decide whether to participate

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From Page 8 Waynoka

on Dec. 19.

“For some fun on the last Fridays of the semester, we are having dress-up days,” Burrow said. Friday, Dec. 14, is Ugly Christmas Sweater, and Friday, Dec. 20, is Christmas PJs. Christmas parties will be Dec. 20, as well.

Report cards will be emailed out over Christmas break for the elementary students. Christmas Break is Dec. 21-Jan. 5.

Other Board Business

The board approved the consent

agenda, consisting of discussion and approval of the Nov. 11 meeting minutes, and reports and encumbrances for the general, building, child nutrition and activity funds.

They also approved not changing Student Transfer Policy FE and capacity limits.

Finally, the board approved declaring several items to be surplus: four broken computer lab chairs, an iPad, a Lenova and a Promethean Board. With no new business, the meeting adjourned.



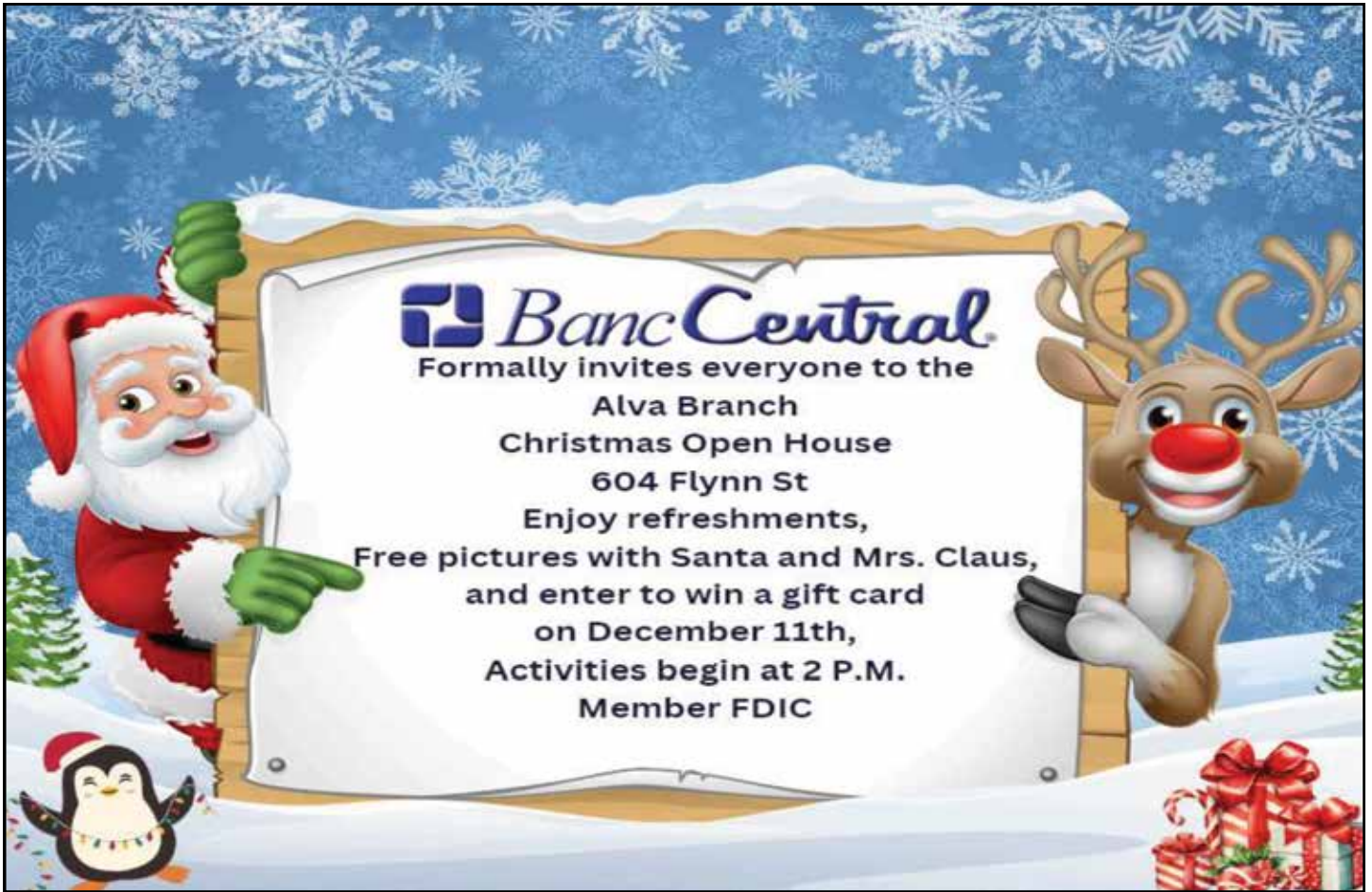
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Michigan Democrats look toward a future that some hope includes Pete Buttigieg

By Joey Cappelletti

MONROE, Mich. (AP) — In a packed union hall outside Detroit, a worker shifts the conversation from policy to the personal, quizzing Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg on his knowledge of Michigan, the state he only recently started calling home.

“Mayor Pete — Secretary Pete, I apologize,” one auto worker yelled from the crowd. “Now that you’re a Michigander, who do the Lions play Sunday?”

Caught off guard, the former mayor of South Bend, Indiana, couldn’t provide an answer. Familiarity with the schedule of Detroit’s long-suffering but recently soaring football team isn’t an official prerequisite for holding statewide office. But the casual exchange illustrates the challenge Buttigieg may face in proving his connection to Michigan voters — a hurdle some Democrats nevertheless hope he’ll take on by entering a crowded governor’s race.

Though Buttigieg has publicly and privately stated that he won’t make any decisions about his future until after the Biden administration ends on Jan. 20, he has already fielded calls from Michigan Democrats urging him to enter the 2026 race to replace Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, who is term limited.

Buttigieg, who moved to Traverse City, Michigan, soon after his unsuccessful presidential campaign in 2020, hasn’t ruled out the possibility, according to a source speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss private conversations.

“I haven’t made any decisions about, big decisions about my future. And I know that we’ve got six more weeks and we’re going to sprint through the tape,” Buttigieg told reporters at an event south of Detroit on Monday.

Bound by the nature of his official trip, Buttigieg avoided political questions during his visit, which included a stop at a union hall in Dearborn before heading south of Detroit to highlight nearly \$200 million in federal funding to replace a bridge. But pressure on him to enter the governor’s race will likely only intensify after Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan, expected by many Democrats to be the leading contender to succeed Whitmer, announced last week plans to run as an

independent.

“People are shocked and stunned and angry. Many view this as a serious situation where Mike Duggan could put the governor’s mansion in the hands of Republicans and roll back years of progress,” said Andrew Feldman, a Democratic strategist who has worked for the state party.

Michigan Democrats, who until recently had been posting big wins in a battleground state and advanced a progressive agenda with remarkable party unity, suddenly find themselves in a new period of turmoil after significant losses in the 2024 election, including a backbreaking defeat in the presidential race.

President-elect Donald Trump won the state by a wider margin than in 2016, and Republicans reclaimed control of the state House, ending Democratic dominance in the Legislature. In their final month holding a slim majority in both chambers, the party has struggled to pass significant legislation, hampered by internal divisions.

While Whitmer — herself the subject of speculation about whether she’ll seek higher office — still has two years remaining in her term, Duggan’s surprise move has kick-started the race to replace her and has left Democrats worried the mayor of Michigan’s largest city could drain support from their candidate and hand the office over to Republicans.

Buttigieg, who vaulted to prominence with his 2020 presidential run and deftly engaged with conservative audiences on behalf of President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, could have the appeal to win that support back.

“I personally want to thank you for going up, facing the Fox News crowd, listening to people’s questions and answering. And I think you’re one of the few politicians that does that,” an attendee told Buttigieg at the union hall on Monday, earning loud applause.

Buttigieg moved to Michigan to be closer to his husband’s family, he said in an interview with The Associated Press on Monday. “I grew up a few miles from the state line, so even growing up I was getting the news from Michigan and from both sides of the state line. And I could point to any number of moments over the years, some wonderful and

some really tough, like when our little guy was in the intensive care in Grand Rapids.”

“But, yeah, bottom line, this is home,” Buttigieg said.

Other potential candidates may not be ready to concede either race just yet. Michigan Democrats still boast one of the deepest political benches in the country, with several other high-profile candidates expected to join the race soon.

Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson confirmed last week that she is “certainly considering” a gubernatorial bid and is actively listening to voters’ concerns as she weighs her decision. She also criticized Duggan for abandoning the party rather than grappling with its challenges.

“For me, it’s important that in moments like this, we don’t flee from the party, but we stay and fix it,” Benson said during a televised interview with reporters.

Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist II is also considering a gubernatorial bid and has assembled a team to explore the possibility, though a final decision won’t be made until 2025, according to a source with direct knowledge. A 42-year-old Detroit native, Gilchrist, who is Black, could provide a strong contrast to the 66-year-old Duggan, who is white. If he runs, Gilchrist plans to engage with voters who feel the Democratic Party has failed to address their frustrations with the status quo, the source said.

There also are a number of dark horse candidates, including Genesee County Sheriff Chris Swanson. The Flint-area sheriff rose to prominence after he marched with a crowd of protesters in the wake of the death of George Floyd in 2020. Swanson, who spoke at the Democratic National Convention in August, recently told the AP that he has a “team doing due diligence” about a possible run.

“When it comes to the Democratic Party in Michigan, it is a prime time for them to restructure,” Swanson said during a recent interview. “To not have a polarizing platform, but a more unifying one.”

“The entire playbook has to be evaluated and restructured to go and listen to the people,” he added.

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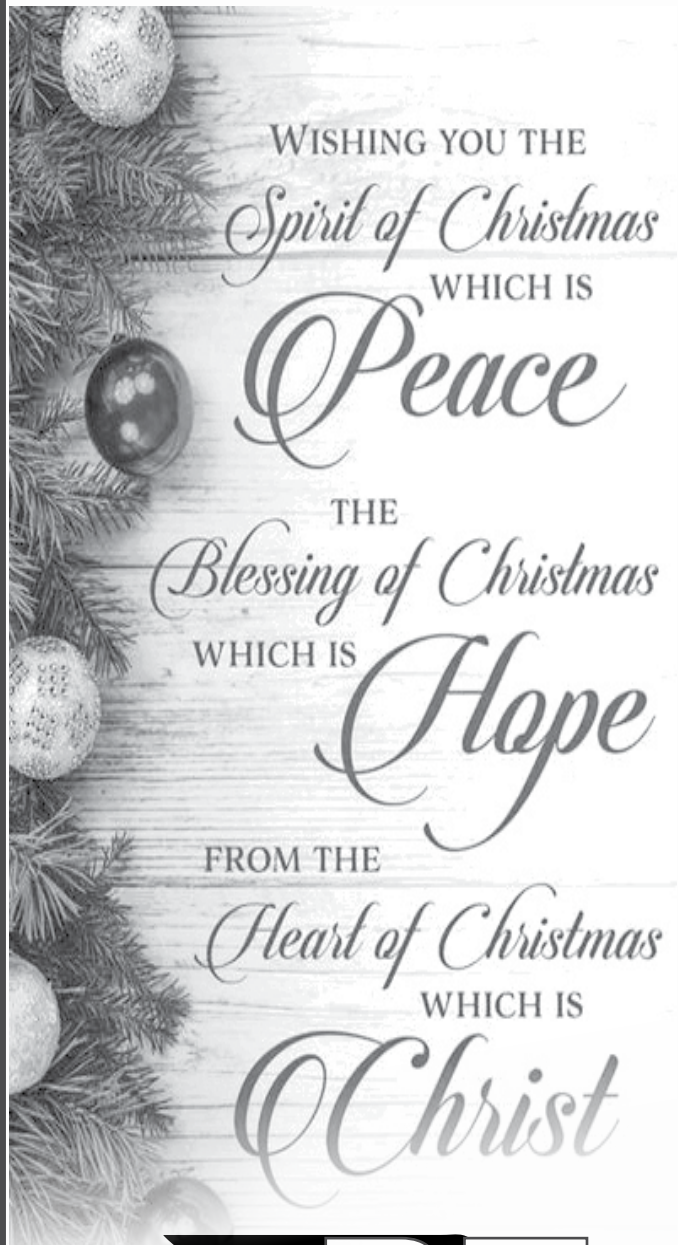
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Homes burn as wind-driven wildfire prompts evacuations in Malibu, California

By Jae Hong, Eric Thayer and Christopher Weber

MALIBU, Calif. (AP) — Thousands of Southern California residents were under evacuation orders and warnings Tuesday as firefighters battled a wind-driven wildfire in Malibu that burned near celebrities' seaside mansions, horse farms and Pepperdine University, where students watched as flames raced down hillsides and the sky turned deep red.

A "minimal number" of homes burned, but the exact amount wasn't immediately known, Los Angeles County Fire Department Chief Anthony C. Marrone said. An Associated Press photographer witnessed at least one house and a car engulfed in flames.

More than 8,100 homes and other structures were under threat, including more than 2,000 where residents were ordered to evacuate. Another 6,000 people were warned to be prepared to flee at a moment's notice as Santa Ana winds with gusts reaching 40 mph (64 kph) made for erratic fire conditions.

Abigail Ballhagen, a junior at Pepperdine, was in the school's library when the power went out late Monday and students began screaming. Later, the school evacuated students to the library from their dorms because of the worsening conditions. Ballhagen and Bethany Kronlund, who are co-resident assistants, said bringing the other

students there amid the fire's smoke and encroaching flames was terrifying.

"Ash was everywhere, embers were everywhere," Kronlund said.

Ballhagen added: "It felt super apocalyptic."

About 3,000 students sheltered-in-place on campus, a few in a library while others, some wearing pajamas, gathered outside on a sports field as fire lit up the night sky. Someone evacuating in an SUV sped past burning palm trees as the tires kicked up embers.

The university later said the worst of the fire had pushed past the school. Michael Friel, a Pepperdine spokesperson, said parts of the campus had been "singd" but there was no major damage.

It was not immediately known how the blaze, named the Franklin Fire, started. County fire officials estimated that more than 4 square miles (10 square kilometers) of trees and dry brush had burned and structures were threatened. There was no containment.

The fire burned amid dangerous fire conditions because of notorious Santa Ana winds expected to last into Wednesday. The withering, dry gusts sweep out of the interior toward the coast, pushing back moist ocean breezes.

Dick Van Dyke, one of many celebrities with homes in Malibu, said he and his wife Arlene Silver had evacuated as the fire swept in. The actor turns 99 on Friday. "Arlene and I have safely evacuated with our animals except for Bobo escaped as we were leaving," said Van Dyke, referring to one of their cats. "We're praying he'll be OK and that our community in Serra Retreat will survive these terrible fires."

Marrone said at least a thousand firefighters would be scrambling to get control of the blaze before the afternoon, when winds were expected to regain strength. "Time is of the essence for us to grab a hold of the fire and start getting some containment," the chief said at a morning news conference.

The fire erupted shortly before 11 p.m. Monday and swiftly moved south, jumping over the famous Pacific Coast Highway and extending all the way to the ocean, where large homes line the beach and rugged inland canyons are notoriously fire prone. At one point, flames threatened the historic Malibu

Pier, but the structure was protected, officials said.

Nick Smyth, 43, lives on a farm in the Serra Retreat community, a short distance inland from the pier. His wife packed getaway bags as a precaution before they went to sleep Monday and a few hours later they heard a neighbor running down the road shouting about a fire. With flames "lapping the tops of the mountains," Smyth bundled their two kids and fled for a friend's house outside of Malibu.

"My son's got a little bit of shellshock, he's definitely feeling a little anxious," Smyth said Tuesday. "They woke up to an inferno outside their bedroom." He believes their house is safe, but he knows others weren't as fortunate. Some of his neighbors stayed behind to fend off flames and care for horses.

Firefighters working in rugged terrain protected canyon homes overnight as some residents evacuated on foot with their horses. As the sun came up Tuesday, heavy smoke billowed over the Pepperdine campus and the adjacent mountains that plunge toward the coast. A shelter-in-place order was lifted but the school canceled classes and finals for Tuesday.

"The university understands the worst of the fire has pushed past Pepperdine. However, there are smaller spot fires on campus that are not threatening life or structures, and fire resources remain on campus to address these spot fires as they occur," Pepperdine said in a statement.

North to northeast winds were forecast to increase to 30 to 40 mph (48 to 64 kph) with gusts up to 65 mph (105 kph) expected later in the day, the National Weather Service's office for Los Angeles posted on X.

Power to about 40,000 customers had been shut off by Monday night, including 11,000 in LA County, as Southern California Edison worked to mitigate the impacts of the Santa Ana winds, whose strong gusts can damage electrical equipment and spark wildfires. Gabriela Ornelas, an Edison spokesperson, said service power was shut off to most customers in Malibu around 6 or 7 p.m. on Monday.

The Woolsey Fire that roared through Malibu in 2018, killing three people and destroying 1,600 homes, was sparked by Edison equipment.





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Oklahoma's only remaining sod house turns 130 years old

The Sod House Quilters are stepping in to celebrate and commemorate the 130th anniversary of the Sod House the "quilted way." Christmas trees throughout the museum will be decorated with quilt blocks such as log cabins, yo-yos, four patches, stars and Christmas tree blocks. The Sod House itself will have seasonal decorations on display.

"A Quilter's Christmas" open house will be on Saturday, December 14, from 1-3 p.m. The Friends of the Sod House Museum will celebrate this milestone with cookies and cider and door prizes. Visitors can buy raffle tickets for a queen-sized quilt with the theme of "Chickadees and Trees," made by the Sod House Quilters. Tickets can be purchased by visiting the museum or calling 580-463-2441.

The Silver Strings and Friends musical group will share their love of music with guests at the Christmas Open House. They will play folk, traditional Christmas music, gospel, country and unusual instrument music throughout the day. As part of the celebration, the audience will be encouraged to join in during the musical presentation.

The museum is located southeast of Aline on State Highway 8. It is open Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.



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Alfalfa County Sheriff's Office Logs

Monday, December 2, 2024

12:01 p.m. – Report of another vandalism incident in Carmen that took place Saturday night.

8:07 a.m. – Caller wanted to report a kidnapping of his 10-year-old son. Advised son had been gone since Monday or Tuesday. Advised his wife was staying in Enid. Advised he has spoken to the son every night. Caller then advised while he was at Walmart Saturday, she came to the house and unplugged all the car mean and took things from the house. Officer was advised.

12:14 p.m. – Report of copper theft on County Road 640 and LeFlore Road.

12:57 p.m. – Helena officer advised of a domestic assault that happened the night before. Advised a 39-year-old female had beat up her mother and the female was planning on coming back to the residence and wanted an officer aware of the situation.

1:13 p.m. – Medic needed in the 300 block of Kansas for a male who was awake on the floor but disorientated. Medic took the patient to Bass Hospital in Enid.

3:08 p.m. – Report of a disturbance in the 300 block of 4th Street between a mother and daughter. Officer advised it was over, and all was okay.

4:06 p.m. – Report of an elderly female who fell in the street in Goltry. Medic needed in the 400 block of Wheat. Medic took the patient to St. Mary's Hospital in Enid.

7:26 p.m. – Caller advised she lives in Colorado and her husband has her things and was going to mail them to her but didn't. She would like speak to an officer. Officer notified.

10:25 p.m. – Report of a suspicious vehicle on OK-58 and Major Road.

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

During this day: five traffic stops.

10:26 a.m. – Report of a fire east of Byron. Cancel response, it was a controlled burn.

11:14 a.m. – Report that someone had broken into a building in Carmen and vandalized property. Deputy advised.

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From Page 43 Sheriff

to the subject stating, "I know you stole my purse and I need it back," and he replied with a chuckle and said "prove it." Dispatch advised they would notify an officer, and he would look into it.

1:46 a.m. – A male called in stating he had a female in his care who is in hysterics from another male who has been threatening her with physical violence. Dispatch reports they could hear the female in the background screaming out that she was sorry. The male stated the subject had has really messed with the female's mind and she needs help. Advised they are driving the country north of Jet. Dispatch directed them to go to the Jiffy Trip in Jet to meet the deputy. The male advised the female had passed out due to hyperventilating and she shortly afterwards started having a seizure. Medic en route to Jet Jiffy Trip. Medic took the patient to St. Mary's Hospital in Enid.

2:33 p.m. – Report of a fire on County Road 740 and Haskel Road.

5:43 p.m. – Welfare check needed. Officer went to residence and was advised the individual wasn't there at the time and is usually in Alva.

7:15 p.m. – Report of a possible drunk driver on US-64 headed east. Deputy followed behind the vehicle for 4-5 miles, and everything appeared to be okay.

7:23 p.m. – Medic needed in the 600 block of 5th Street for a 78-year-old female with chest pain and low oxygen levels. Medic took the patient to Fair-

view Hospital. **Thursday, December 5, 2024**
During this day: nine traffic stops.

9:48 a.m. – Report of a suspicious white male walking on US-64. Advised the subject wasn't wearing a shirt, was bald and wearing glasses. Deputy unable to make contact with subject.

11:04 a.m. – Medic needed at James Crabtree Correctional Center for a 57-year-old male who possibly overdosed. Medic took the patient to Bass Hospital in Enid.

11:17 a.m. – Report of a copper theft on Jefferson Road and County Road 870.

1 p.m. – Medic needed on Caddo Road for a 78-year-old male who just got back from the doctors and isn't acting right. Medic took the patient to Bass Hospital in Enid.

7:19 p.m. – Medic needed on County Road 640 for an 84-year-old female with high blood pressure and rapid pulse. Medic took the patient to St. Mary's Hospital in Enid.

Friday, December 6, 2024
During this day: one traffic stop.

12:06 p.m. – Report of a male with a flat tire and doesn't have a spare. OHP sent a unit to help.

5:31 p.m. – Report of fence charger stolen on County Road 730 and there were tire tracks.

Saturday, December 7, 2024
2:21 a.m. – 911 call came in from an iPhone about a car accident in the 200 block of 6th Street. Dispatch tried to call back but it went to voicemail. Officer located the phone in the



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See Sheriff Page 45

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From Page 44 **Sheriff**

alley on stop of an abandoned vehicle. The phone showed "vehicle crash" alarm had been set off. Officer advised he would keep the phone in case someone reaches out about it.

9:03 a.m. – Medic needed in the 400 block of 5th Street for a female with high blood pressure. Medic took the patient to St. Mary's Hospital in Enid.

2:35 p.m. – Caller advised she beat up another female. Advised they had gotten into a front yard in Carmen. Advised she was at a different address now and she doesn't want to press charges, just wanted to call in case the other female called in. Deputy advised. Caller called back stating the female had left her voice mail and would like talk to a deputy.

2:39 p.m. – Report of a grass fire on County Road 580.

Sunday, December 8, 2024

9:46 a.m. – Caller advised of someone making threats to him on Facebook and would like to talk to a deputy.

9:49 a.m. – Medic needed at James Crabtree Correctional Center for a 39-year-old male who is diabetic and crashing. Medic took the patient to Bass Hospital in Enid.

4:23 p.m. – A juvenile called

in an abandoned house at the end of 12th Street was on fire. They advised they saw smoke and went inside trying to put it out the fire, but it started to spread. Cherokee and Carmen Fire Department and medic en route. Officer out with the five juveniles involved, including the reporting party. Mutual aid from Burlington, Amorita and Byron were requested. Medic was paged to where the officer was, someone was having a medical issue. Mutual aid from Jet, Helena, Nescatunga and Alva were requested. Medic took patient to Share Medical Center.

5:53 p.m. – Medic needed in the 700 block of Oklahoma for a 51-year-old female who fell of a swing and broke her hip. Medic took the patient to Bass Hospital in Enid.

6:03 p.m. – Medic needed in the 700 block of Kansas for a 76-year-old female. Medic took the patient to Share Medical Center.

8:38 p.m. – Medic needed on Aline Blacktop Road for a 75-year-old female who fell and injured her leg. Advised Woods County, as the actual address was in that county.

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 Coun-

See Alfalfa Page 46

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Community Calendar

Wednesday

9 a.m. The 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.

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

Thursday

9 a.m. The 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 45 Alfa

ty 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

Shawn Dale Sauls, Cherokee, 46, has been charged with obstructing an officer (\$517.75).

Civil Filings

Capital One vs. Shallyn Tatman, Aline: indebtedness (\$239.14).

Divorce Filings

Crystal Marie Nickel vs. Barry John Nickel, Cherokee: divorce (\$272.14).

Traffic Citations

Shawn Dale Sauls, Cherokee, has been cited for operating a vehicle without a valid driver's license (\$294).

Shawn Dale Sauls, Cherokee, has been cited for failure to register vehicle in Oklahoma (\$249).

Shawn Dale Sauls, Cherokee, has been cited for failure to carry insurance verification (\$269).

Demarque T. Cherry, Tulsa, has been cited for operating vehicle on which all taxes due to state have not been paid (\$294).

Eric Kahn, Goltry, has been cited for failure to comply with compulsory insurance law (\$269).

Travis P. Howard, Tulsa, has been cited for speeding 16-20 mph over the speed limit (\$279).

Demarque T. Cherry, Tulsa, has been cited for speeding 1-10 mph over the speed limit (\$100).

Eric Kahn, Goltry, has been cited for speeding 15 mph over the speed limit (\$264).

Bond License

Shelby Lynn Whitehurst, McAlister: bond license (\$20).



KIDS AND S'MORES MAKE THE HOLIDAYS YUMMY – Lovin' the s'mores they made at Burlington's Tree Lighting in the park are Hannah Hankey, Megan Ferrell, Ryder Ferrell and Riker Hankey.

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