THE ALVA REVIEW COURIER

NEWSGRAM

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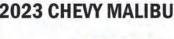
AHS Assistant
Principal named
District Athletic
Director

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Kiowa native Danny Jaso, who survived a head injury, is a beloved part of where he now lives in Lindsborg, Kansas – so much so, they put him on a billboard this year.

Simply a feel-good story to start the holidays

By Yvonne Miller

Danny Jaso grew up in Kiowa, Kansas, working for many businesses



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and farmers as a kid. He graduated with the Class of 1968 and was known for being a friend to all and a friendly pool shark. Those are the memories of his sister Delores Moreno, who still resides in Kiowa.

Moreno recalled the day Danny had a wreck that left him with a head injury: Dec. 24, 2008. He was 58 and going to see his son on Christmas Eve. Despite his diminished mental capacity from his injury, Delores said her brother maintained his deep faith. He often recites favorite prayers and stations of his Catholic faith. Even when Danny's head is down, if a hymn

plays his head is up and he's singing.

He continues to play pool with nurses and anyone else who is around. He resides at Sunflower Terrace senior living in Lindsborg, Kansas. This year the facility featured Danny on their large billboard along the highway. What is he doing? Playing pool with a smile, of course.

"Danny has never had an enemy, is always friendly and visits with everyone. They even had him on a TV commercial. He is just loved. I have people ask me about him often," Moreno said. "My brother is a miracle."

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Banks and credit card companies are just trying to protect us

By Marione Martin

As scammers develop new ways



to steal money and identities, banks and credit card companies are working on newer, more sophisticated software to detect those scams. I really appreciate all the time and money they put into protecting people's assets.

I really do! But sometimes those safeguards can be very frustrating.

For example, what's wrong with someone attempting to make an online payment on a telephone company bill? Sure it was larger than normal, past due by two or three months, and it was 1:30 a.m. Maybe it was the fact that the cardholder/bank account owner was 80 years old.

The situation developed last week on a Tuesday night. We were working our usual late night getting the Newsgram ready for distribution. We happened to be down three people. One staffer let us know a couple of weeks earlier that he'd be gone. Another was recovering from surgery, and the third came down with a respiratory illness. We also had three inserts, one more than usual.

Just before 10 p.m. I checked my phone for missed messages. I found that nearly four hours earlier, my daughter sent me a screenshot of a phone company suspension notice that was emailed to my granddaughter in Tulsa. However, it referred to MY cellphone account. What's really weird is that granddaughter Kait is no longer on that account.

Many years ago since we gifted our first grandchild with a cellphone, with parental permission, we have put our grandchildren on our cellphone account. As they mature and move out into the world, each grandchild has contacted us

to transfer their number to a new account for which they are responsible. Kait was the most recent to move her phone number. The account is now down to me and two granddaughters.

I texted my daughter to assure her I always pay my phone bills when they arrive in the mail. I said I would look into it.

We didn't finish the Newsgram work until close to 1 a.m. That's when I sat down at the computer in my office and logged into my phone account. Sure enough! It showed I owed over \$800! I use the old fashioned method of paying by check. When I looked at my check register for the last couple of months, only one payment was listed each month. But I get two phone bills. One is for my home internet and phone; the other is for cellphones. Apparently, they weren't sending my cellphone bill through the mail. Somehow it was switched to paperless billing and was being emailed to my granddaughter who wasn't even on the account.

My first priority was to pay the bill. I didn't want my phone service cut off, and neither did my granddaughters.

I've never paid that bill online so I went through the steps setting up a credit card and tried to pay the full amount. My card didn't go through. I pay off my credit cards each month so I knew it wasn't a credit limit issue. Maybe I entered a number wrong. So I tried again. Same result.

I pulled out a different credit card, carefully entered the numbers and had the same result. One more try ... and one more rejection!

That left a bank account draft. Again, I put in the routing number, the account number, etc. That, too, was rejected! This was getting serious. Finally I cut the amount to just over \$500, and the bank draft went through.

Then I spent some time poking around in different menus until I could

remove Kait's email from the cellphone account. They already had my email address. But they wanted a backup so I entered my work email address. I discovered they intended to make that my primary email, and they were going to email my bills there.

This required more exploration of menus. Finally, I managed to change back to having my bills arrive in the mail but it wasn't an easy process. I also found a preferences menu that said we agreed to let the company share our information with selected companies and use our information to send promotional information like "You qualify for a phone upgrade." I canceled all the permissions!

How did the paperless billing get set up? Kait said the process of getting her phone number changed to a new account took about four hours of effort. The woman handling the switch had to refresh her screen several times. That erased the information so she had to start over. Kait ended up with three or four partial accounts, each with a different account number. We suspect she set up the paperless billing to Kait's email on my account when she was thought it was Kait's new account.

When Kait kept getting my billing, she was puzzled but ignored it. I never saw the bills. It wasn't until the cutoff notice that she was concerned enough to sound the alarm.

Kait had her own billing problems. She lives in an apartment complex. For a while, her new phone bill was sent to her apartment complex with no apartment number. So she didn't get her bills. She only received mine.

After I logged off the computer that Tuesday night, I checked my cellphone messages. Both credit card companies texted me with similar messages: We declined \$839.70 with card ending in ... at (phone company) bill payment. Was this you? I let both card companies know it was me so they're happy.

Meanwhile, there's still one more bill I have to pay online before, hopefully, they change me back to mailed billing.

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Beeler named Alva School District AD



Washington Principal Madison Williams kneels to start the Sphero Indi robotic car on its path during the Alva Board of Education meeting Monday. Photo by Marione Martin



By Marione Martin

Alva High School Assistant Principal Dalton Beeler is taking on the responsibilities of athletic director (AD) for the district. Superintendent Jeremy Brashears said it was decided to combine the AD positions for middle school and high school. Beeler will have the help of four assistant AD's: Coaches J.B. Kimberlin, Jeremy Jones, Ryne Wilson and Scott Baugh.

Supt. Brashears made the announcement Monday during the Alva Board of Education meeting. Beeler will receive extra duty pay for this new responsibility.

Brashears listed one other personnel change. Laney Anderson has resigned as a paraprofessional at Washington Early Childhood Center, effective Dec. 20. She is moving closer to her hometown.

Financial Reports

Displaying details on a screen, Brashears listed the school district's investment funds handled by the county treasurer. The general fund balance is \$4,396,000 and the building fund is \$2,969,000. He said both those fund balances are less than last year because the treasurer pulled out some money for cash flow.

The child nutrition fund has a balance of \$190,000, the sinking fund is \$11,000 and the gift fund is \$260,000.

As of Nov. 30, the district had collected \$9,031,504 in the general fund for the year. During November, \$742,276 which is \$57,657 more than November 2023 "but looking at the total budget, \$57,000 is not a huge amount compared to the millions of dollars in our budget. A large part of that \$57,000 is \$38,472 that we claimed as part of a federal program grant. Last year, I think that claim hit in October and December," said Brashears. "All that to say our collections are staying pretty close to the same as where they were last year."

The building fund revenue is the same story, he said. "We collected \$3,957,303.00 year to date. For month of

See Alva Page 10



NEW - 224 Acres of excellent grassland, 3 ponds with beautiful home or hunting lodge, large shed, cement bunk lines. House has 5 bedrooms, 4 boths, 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. SW1/4 S1/2 SE1/4, NW1/4 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 loan and Reinach sandy loam soils). Has new 5-wire fences, steel corrals, and bunk line. Borders State Hwy 64 West of Jet, Okla. NW¼ - 10-25-10, W.I.M., Alfalfa County, Okla. PRICE: \$350,000.00

NEW - 160 Acres - Excellent Diversified Farm - This tract consists of 160 Acres, of which 105 Acres is good cropland (primarily Yahola fine analy leaves and Grent sitt John soils), and the balance being 55 Acres Lollary as a Late that the same of the property. Improvements include a 30'x40' shed with 15' learn-to. New steel corrals and a water well with tank and solar panel. $NW^1/_4$ - 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! $S^{1/2}SW^{1/4}$ - 12-19-23, W.I.M. and $N^{1/2}NW^{1/4}$ - 13-19-23, W.I.M., Ellis County, Oklar. In the total parameter P_1 From P_2 and P_3 P_4 P_4 P_5 P_6 P_6

NEW - 80 Acres - Great Home-Site Potential - Potential Hunting!

Excellent grassland and scattered trees throughout, which makes for the land of the land o

NEW - 160 Acres - Excellent Cropland - This tract consists of 160 Acres of excellent cropland (managing Pand Creek, sit loam, Devolund and and San (sit Corn, bit)). Rai Acres a new 5-wire fence and a Ritchie automatic waterer. SE/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 cell or rather electricity, an older barn, and 5-wire fences. Several high blocks have been taken off this property. This tract also has 85 Acres of good cropland. W½, NE½, N½, SE½ - 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 constant of the process of good native grassland and constant of the process of good native grassland and constant of the process of good native grassland and live-water creek. This farm has excellent hunting with the live water, trees, and canyons. SE'4, S'2 NE'4 - 22-27-16, and the W'2 SW'4, SW'4, NW'4 - 23-27-16, W.I.M., Woods County, Okla.

NEW: 870 Acres - Excellent Hunting, Grazing, Live Water. This tract the state of the Acres, which 204 Acres is improved grass, with the beauties of 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 (a) to pland (all Grant silt loam soils), has rural water, and lays 4 miles west of Alva on Hwy 64. E½ NE½ - 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 learn. Yeholog fine sandy loam, and Grant silt loam soils), and the backnet had gold Acres of grass and waterway, with 33 Acres of that being Bermuda grass. This farm would make an excellent stocker or cow-calf operation. NW1/4 & W1/2 W1/2 NE1/4 - 22-28-13, W.I.M., and E1/2 NE1/4 - 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 - ½ mile from Salt Fork River. This tract consists of 400 Acres of which 151 Acres is good cropland and the bodge 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. SE½ - 24-28-15 & SW½ & W½ SE½ - 19-28-14, W.I.M. Woods County, Okla. PRICE: \$775,000.00

NEW—154 Acres - NW1/4 -29-27-13, Woods County, Okla. This tract of 22 Acres of good cropland, the balance being 22 Acres of nees, 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 later being 107 Acres of excellent grassland. Improvements include a 1,200 sq. ft. home, , 32' x 60' shop w/ 16" lean-to, steel corrals, N1/2 - 29-29-12, W.I.M., Alfalfa County, OKLA. PRICE: \$1,050,000.00

160 Agres - Blue Ribbon Farm - Excellent cropland (Pond Soils), rural water. NE½ - 15-28-11, W.I.M., Alfalfa County, Okla. PRICE: \$550,000.00



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REDUCED PRICE: \$335.000.00

Cherokee school activities, possible legislative and funding changes to come

By Kathleen Lourde

Cherokee Board of Education held its regular monthly meeting Monday, Dec. 2, with three members - Curtis Goodwin, Shane Parker and Heather Collins – present and two absent.

Busy Times at Cherokee Schools

November was a busy month, despite Thanksgiving, Junior High and High School Principal Lane Pruett told the board. For the school's Veterans Day assembly, Cherokee hosted Command Sergeant Major John Hernandez, the se-

nior enlisted leader to the two-star adjutant "Right now, I don't want (Tuesday, Dec. 3) general for Oklahoma, and Major Karis- anybody to panic and sa Goeken of the U.S. think things are going Air Force.

"Goeken inspired to happen overnight. I us with her presen-don't think they're gotation on the innovative use of unmanned ing to just completely flights in military sit-pull the rug out from uations," said Pruett. "These events offered underneath all of us our students a mean- without any warning." — Brown Elementary ingful chance to learn about the dedication Bryce Schanbacher and sacrifices of our

veterans and the vital service they provide."

The sixth graders explored various career pathways at the Sixth-Grade Career Fair held at the Alva Northwest Technology Center campus.

On Nov. 13, NWOSU nursing students came to the elementary school to

discuss hygiene and provide health safety tips.

Twenty-eight juniors and seniors are enrolled in concurrent classes at NWO-SU-Alva for the spring semester, with the school "providing them with free tuition and paving the way for a brighter future for those aspiring to attend college," said Pruett. "All of these students must meet the college admission requirements, highlighting the caliber of students attending CPS," he said.

The first high school basketball game

at home. The Junior High Chiefs won the Cherokee Junior High Invitational Tournament. Junior High Lady Chiefs won third. Both Elementary Chiefs and Lady Chiefs won second place in the Rick Tournament.

Coming Up The Annual

Christmas Parade is next Wednesday, Dec. 11, at 7.

Semester tests will be given the afternoon of Dec. 19 and morning of Dec. 20,

Teachers report back Monday, Jan. 6, for in-service. Students report back Tuesday, Jan. 7.

U.S. Dept. of Education and Federal **School Funding**

Schanbacher addressed concerns about what will happen to the U.S. Department of Education in the incoming administration. The department primarily handles the federal funding of schools nationwide. Media reports from sources including the Associated Press have stated that Donald Trump has called for dismantling the department because, he said, it's been infiltrated by "radicals, zealots and Marxists." However, such a move would require action from Congress, according to the Associated Press.

"There's a lot of speculation out there on what's going to happen to the Department of Education," said Schanbacher. "There are rumors that with the new administration coming in they're going to dismantle the Department of Education. Some people think all the federal funding will go away, but it's all speculation right now. There is no plan that has been communicated to any of us," he said.

"I think there will be changes to come. How big those changes are and how quickly they'll happen, there's really no way to know. We'll have to keep up with it and see how it affects us," Schanbacher said.

"As I've said before, federal funding is a big part of our budget and we rely on it quite a bit. That money may not come to us the way it always has; it may go to the states and it may be up to the state department of education to determine how schools get that money. If that's the case, there will have to be processes and procedures and all kinds of things to put in place to make sure that's equitable," said Schanbacher.

"But right now I don't want anybody to panic and think things are going to happen overnight. I don't think they're going to just completely pull the rug out from underneath all of us without any warning. We'll keep an eye on it, and I'll update you along the way when I get information."

Cell Phone Legislation Likely Coming

On Nov. 22, Schanbacher attended a statewide virtual town hall meeting with Gov. Stitt. The state secretary of educa-

yesterday

with early release that day. Christmas break is Dec. 21-Jan 6.



BRYCE SCHANBACHER **Superintendent School Phone** 596-3391

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MSRP: \$103,960---> SALE PRICE: \$98,377

2018 CHEVY 3500



MSRP \$39,475 WT Package, 4WD, Diesel, DRW, Arm Bed, FR, Cloth, (T58522)

From Page 6 Alva

November, we collected \$34,343. That was \$1,686 more than November 2023. Again, for the most part, collections are pretty flat."

Brashears said everybody pays their ad valorem taxes in January, and that's when schools start collecting the big money they need for the next 12 months.

Comparing this year to last year, he said "Right now for November, we've encumbered \$11,496 less in the General Fund that we had at this time last year. We paid \$184,338.00 less than we did at this time last year. That looks really cool for the general fund. The thing to remember is that this time last year we were also paying for an HVAC system in the gym. Sometimes it's apples and oranges a little bit, but we're staying pretty flat. We're staying at about 40-45 percent of expenditures and we're about halfway through the year so that's where it should be," he said.

"The building fund is a different said "We've story," Brashears. encumbered \$294,000 more than this time last year, and we've paid out \$395,000 more in the building fund. This is almost 100 percent due to the purchase of the buses versus leasing them. Remember, that was \$486,000, it was right at a half million dollars. We knew that was coming. We've also moved a few expenses from the general fund to the building fund as far as janitorial supplies and things like that to take some pressure off the general fund."

Supt. Brashears highlighted some general fund purchase orders: \$1,500 was spent for a laser engraver for the high school STEM program. "We used a federal program grant for student services to pay for that," he said. "It's pretty slick. It's a career path." Another \$2,900 was spent for STEM materials out of that grant.

The school has encumbered \$1,380 for drug dogs to come through the schools.

A sandblasting cabinet was purchased for \$1,500 for use in the FFA tractor restoration projects.

The following are paid for through the School Resource Officer grant:

- NexTech Consulting \$36,137 for district intercom Network and Security upgrades. "We have a lot of hardware that's outdated," said Brashears.
- TeleComp Holdings, Inc., \$6,000 for telephones.

- TeleComp Holdings, Inc., \$1,000 for communication software that will put back the PA system and bell system at the high school. Later, the PA upgrade will go district wide.
- Wyatt Technical Services \$48,007.91 for high school network upgrades.
- NexTech Consulting AHS security camera upgrades \$31,078. "Once we get that project done, we'll expand to the other sites as well," said Brashears.

The School Resource Officer grant for \$183,829 was received in July. After these expenditures, the school has about \$60,000 left. They expect to receive another \$92,000 next year.

Child Nutrition

Brashears compiled a list of meals served at the school. Over this school year 33 adults have been served breakfast with nine fewer in November than in October. A total of 17,308 student breakfasts were served for the year with 577 fewer in November than October.

Adults, mostly school staff, were served 561 lunches for the year with six less in November than in October. Student lunches total 48,008 for the year with 2,251 less in November than October.

He said it looked like the meal count dropped, but meals were served 20 days in October and only 16 in November. Comparing averages per day, it is pretty flat. "The same kids are eating," he said.

Year to date, the school has taken in \$190,530.32 in child nutrition. Deducting expenditures, the school has \$236,966 in the positive. That carryover is used to upgrade equipment, repair equipment, etc.

He said the school is working on a plan to collect on past-due meal accounts.

"The RFP (request for proposals) for Keystone for food service is this spring. It's a five-year renewal," said Brashears. "These lunch numbers and prices will be in discussion. Five years versus today the cost of food and the cost of everything ... I feel comfortable in saying that our cost with Keystone will increase."

Principal Reports

The superintendent asked each of the site principals to present a report about their schools.

Washington Principal Madison Williams said they have 232 students enrolled with 60 in pre-K, 86 in

kindergarten and 86 in first grade.

Williams gave a demonstration using some of the items purchased through an OETT technology grant of \$40,000. The grant included training for the year for teachers each month. A teacher from each grade and the librarian formed the learning team to receive training.

"Right now, students are using iPads and something called Osmos, which is like an interactive iPad tool," said Williams. "I'm showing you an early coding robot they have. I think Lincoln also has these. It's called the Sphero Indi, a cute little car."

Williams placed colored squares of paper on the floor. Then she knelt and placed the tiny robotic car on the first one. It followed the color instructions to turn right, turn left and conclude with "celebrate," which was a fast, whirling dance as school board members watched in delight.

Williams listed events for the next three weeks of school. The pre-K will be building gingerbread houses with parents on Friday morning at 9 a.m. The kindergarten will have Polar Express Day coming up and there will be Grinch Day for first grade. Christmas parties are at 1 p.m. on Dec. 19 along with silly sweater day. An awards assembly, recognizing character traits of "thankful" and "helpful" students will be at 8:30 a.m. Dec. 13.

Longfellow Principal Alysson Tucker said her school has 156 students with 90 in second grade and 67 in third.

"In the month of November we do an annual AR election," Tucker said. "Back in 2020 we thought it would be cool to do some kind of election, let our kids learn that process. We don't want to be political, nor do they care. So, we decided we would do it with something they cared about and they would get to pick what they were working for in their AR party. We do one each nine weeks if they have reached their goal."

She described their campaigning and voting. The winner this year was hot chocolate and pajamas. She said the AR party in January will include a hot chocolate bar and the students will wear pajamas.

Second grade had a fall concert Nov. 21. Third grade will perform a Christmas concert Dec. 10 at Alva High School at

See Alva Page 14









FRIDAY | 12/06/2024 | 6 PM-8 PM

CELEBRATE "COMING HOME FOR CHRISTMAS"with the Downtown Merchants and Alva's Arts Venues!

At Graceful Arts Gallery and Studios

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS SHOW AND SALE

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We have so many Oklahoma and Southern Kansas Artists whose works are ready for Christmas Gift Giving! We carry books by Sheldon Russell, Jim Barker, Brand Rackley, Gerry Robinson, and many other local writers. For those on your Christmas list, you will find one of kind pieces of jewelry and artwork sure to surprise family and friends alike! We will be serving hot cider, cookies, and all kinds of goodies at the gallery!

The NWOSU Chorale will be singing Christmas Carols around the square all evening.

At the Runnymede:

Crafts for Sale, Hot Chocolate and Chicken Noodle Soup will be available at the Runnymede.

Old Man's Gallery

will be open late for First Friday and many downtown businesses are staying open for your Christmas Shopping convenience!

CLASSES FOR DECEMBER AT THE GALLERY

Tuesdays After School 3:30 to 5:30 Beginners Class For children ages 5 to 8. Supplies are provided! Wednesdays After School 3:30 to 5:30 Advanced Class

For kids ages 12 to 16 with artistic experience - Some supplies are needed.

Thursdays After School 3:30 to 5:30 Intermediate Class For kids ages 8 to 12. Duck Stamp Prep Class.

Friday After School on December 13

Make & Take with Katie Keller ages 5 to 12! Supplies are provided.

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From Page 10 Alva

1:30 p.m.

Students participated in a fundraiser during AHS Gold Week. Although Longfellow raised \$73.50, it wasn't enough to dunk Tucker. She extended the contest for students to collect dry goods and canned goods for Alva Express. If they reach 100 items, Tucker will be dunked.

Lincoln Principal Jenny Webster reported 154 students enrolled with 80 fourth graders and 74 in fifth grade.

"We had our veterans lunch on Nov. 8. It was a great turnout," said Webster. "Our fourth-grade program was supposed to be one of the days we had lots and lots of rain. We've rescheduled that for Dec. 6.

"With Mrs. Ridgway, we have academic teams practicing now. Our fifth graders are going Dec. 4 to Pleasant Vale in Enid for their competition. Fourth grade will go Jan. 12 to Drummond.

"Tomorrow (Dec. 3) we have Northwest Tech and Northwestern students coming for our second annual career day. Our students get to choose which of the two sessions they want to attend. We have high school and college students coming to tell why they chose that (career), what they are doing."

Literacy night is coming up. "Students make their ornaments and do their fundraiser for Northwest Family Services. They do different art projects. Mrs. Benningfield gets some of her students to do some really fun readings and acting. Our book fair is going on."

Polar Express Day is the third week in December. "We have hot cocoa and a cookie. Each class comes through at different times. We have a little makeshift train in the hallway. The kids sit there and have their hot cocoa and cookies, and she reads a story to them," said Webster.

"Our Lincoln Leaders started their service project today (Dec. 2). For December they always do Toys for Tots collecting new unwrapped toys as well as monetary donations."

Middle School Principal Stephanie Marteney reported an enrollment of 230 including 70 in sixth grade, 77 in seventh and 83 in eighth.

FCCLA took 15 kids to the FCCLA conference in Cherokee. Josie Melton placed third place in children's literature. "We offered a Veterans Day program.

Mrs. Christianson's class every year does the huge boards where each student has to interview a veteran. It's a huge project that they do, and they absolutely love it," said Marteney. "We recognized over 20 veterans and we had more than 50 guests there."

Sixth grade went to the career fair where they tried out more than ten different stations.

AMS had three qualifiers for All State Vocal: Lila Schmidt, Joplin Bradt and Nevaeh Steffen.

Red Carpet Honor Band qualifiers from AMS are Lila Schmidt, percussionist and Trenton Parker for saxophone.

"Mrs. Kirkpatrick's class created ofrendas to honor deceased loved ones which is like a Day of the Dead celebration. It's really moving," said Marteney. "They make a whole box about a family member who has passed, a friend, sometimes its pets. If they want to, they get up and they present about it."

Dec. 4 is Tuba Christmas at Enid, 6:30 p.m. at the high school. A few middle school students are participating in that. Dec. 7 is the AMS vocal concert at 10:20 a.m. at the courthouse. Dec. 14 is the middle school and high school band Christmas concert at the high school auditorium at 7 p.m.

Dec. 16, 3-6 p.m. is literacy night. The seventh grade will have their reading fair where they'll have their big display boards. The sixth grade will also incorporate their food truck complete with foods that correlate to the books that they read.

AMS is holding a holiday door/ hallway decorating contest with a cause. The theme is Christmas Magic meets Community Giving. Decorations will have the theme of helping students with a food drive. "That is in correlation with the Alva Express. If you remember in the past, Alva Express has taken monetary donations and purchased clothing for students. We've kind of changed that this year. We are providing essential food items for the break to help them celebrate the holidays. Last year we had generous donors and we were able to assist over 50 families. We have district staff that's going to make desserts for them," Marteney said.

High School Principal Vicky Nighswonger said there are 279 students currently at the high school but she didn't have a class breakdown.

Pam Gale was selected as Support Staff of the Year. Cara Bradt in the library was recognized in the Oklahoma School Libraries newsletter this month.

Four students – Julie Church, Alizea Antrobus, Itzel Crus and Nelson Zheng – went to FCCLA district star competition. Zheng placed first and will be moving on to the regional star event in January.

Three of the high school choir students also qualified for All State Choir. Toby Anton, Dash Dickey and Avery Goss all qualified for the high school choir. Merritt Mantz was selected for the junior high treble choir.

"We have a choir concert tomorrow night (Dec. 3) that I'm super excited about. They will be performing Benjamin Britton's Ceremony of the Carols (at the Methodist Church)," Marteney said.

Rotary Students of the Month for November were Teagen Cook and Tony Anton

Eleven football players were named to the All District Team. Lantz Mathers, Hagen Wiersig, Hunter Pfleider, Kash Shipley and Chuck Shafer were all named to first team. Cambell Gaisford, Jantz Heaton, Wyatt Tucker were all named to the second team. Lennox Buchanan, Oscar Simental and Will McClure were all honorable mention.

"We start basketball this week with ninth-grade basketball on Thursday. We originally had a game scheduled this Friday. That game has been moved to the 16th. We do face Chisholm here on Tuesday. That will be our home opener for JV and varsity," she said. "Next week is also the Alva NWOSU Shootout. That will be a fun three days."

Supt. Brashears reported the fire alarm panel at Washington has been replaced. Mrs. Williams had been getting a trouble signal every day at 4:45 a.m. All the new buses are here and have been deployed. For the year to date, 182 activity trips have been made with 50 in November. 35 are projected for December.

Other Business

Board members approved a contract with Alva Golf and Country Club for use of the golf course by high school golfers.

Two out-of-state travel requests for

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280	Woods & Alfalfa	3-FARM PACKAGE	call for price	NEW
151	Dewey Co, OK	Canadian River Hunting Ground	call for price	NEW
240	Woods Co, OK	Eagle Chief, Hunting, Grazing & Pond	call for price	Pending
80	Woods Co, OK	Hunting, Grazing & POND	call for price	NEW
324	Barber Co, KS	Medicine River Hunting Ranch	call for price	NEW
1645	Woods Co, OK	Hunting & Grazing	call for price	Pending
146	Alfalfa Co, OK	Hunting, Sandy Creek, Grazing	call for price	
155	Alfalfa Co, OK	Hunting, 1/2mile from OK/KS State Line	call for price	
525	Wayne Co, MO	135/ac Private Lake - Hardwood Timber	\$2,895,000	
320	Roger Mills Co, OK	Spring Fed POND, Grazing, Hunting	\$576,000	Pending
318	Roger Mills Co, OK	Grazing, Creek, Corrals, Hunting	\$540,600	· chang
76	McCurtain Co, OK	Glover River in McCurtain County, OK	\$1,500,000	_
300	McCurtain Co, OK	Historic Ranch in McCurtain County, OK	\$2,100,000	
525	McCurtain Co, OK	Sportsman's Paradise on Little River	\$1,837,500	
138	Kingfisher Co, OK	Cropland, Hunting, Grassland	\$415,000	
39	McCurtain Co, OK	Platted Residential Dev near Golf Course		
504	McCurtain Co, OK	Land + Home, Timber, Wildlife	\$3,700,000	
638	Roger Mills Co, OK	Hunting, Grazing, Spring Fed Pond	\$1,084,600	
114	Roger Mills Co, OK	Hunting, Grazing, Grassland	\$245,000	
2.5	Taney Co, MO	170 Room Hotel Development Project	\$8,500,000	
1.9	Taney Co, MO	D'monaco Luxury Resort	\$36,000,000	SOLD
242	Comanche Co, KS	Agricultural, Grassland, Hunting	\$363,000	SOLD
1,894	Morton Co, KS	Dryland Farm Ground-CRP-Homestead	\$1,650,000	SOLD
620	Meade Co, KS	Grazing - CRP - Hunting	\$1,260,000	SOLD
780	Texas Co, OK	Grassland, Grazing, Hunting	\$741,000	SOLD
Lots	McCurtain Co, OK	Convenience Store - Recently Built	\$3,675,000	SOLD
880	Kiowa Co, KS	Agricultural, Hunting, Grass Land	\$1,760,000	SOLD
680	Seminole Co, OK	6 Tracts - North Canadian River	AUCTION	SOLD
	McIntosh Co, OK	GILLESPIE RANCH - LAKE EUFAULA	\$23,600,000	SOLD
290	WOODS CO, OK	Little Sahara State Park 14 Tracts	AUCTION	SOLD
780	Alfalfa Co, OK	6 Tracts - CLASS 1 SOILS - Cropland	AUCTION	SOLD
477	Barber Co, KS	Grassland, Hunting, Ponds	\$950,000	SOLD
381	Kay Co, OK	Cropland 3 tracts near Blackwell OK	\$933,450	SOLD
255	Ripley Co, MO	40-acre Private Lake & Improvements	\$1,350,000	SOLD
1545	Roger Mills Co, OK	Hunting Land - Lodge - Springs & Creeks		SOLD
640	Woods Co, OK	5 Farm Land Auction	\$1,350,200	SOLD
405		High Yield Cropland in Welch, Oklahoma	\$1,700,000	SOLD
150	Ottawa Co, OK Sumner Co, KS		\$879,900	SOLD
	McIntosh Co, OK	Development/Cropland/River Clearwater FISHER RANCH - LAKE EUFAULA		SOLD
		8 Farms LAND AUCTION	\$19,900,000 \$2,548,772	SOLD
897 360	Kingfisher Co, OK	그 아이들이 그리고 살아보는 아이들이 얼마나 아니는 아이들이 되었다. 그는	\$1,295,000	SOLD
363	Lawrence Co, AR Kingman Co, KS	25/ac Private Lake w/house & Hunting Lies in Sections 5&8-30S-10W		SOLD
			\$1,200,000	
1335 6300	Barber Co, KS Barber Co, KS	Excellent Gyp Hill Hunting Sun City Medicine River Hunting Ranch	\$2,100,000 \$11,000,000	SOLD
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From Page 14 **Alva**

Alva FFA were approved. On Dec. 13 they will attend the Kansas Beef Expo in Lyons, Kansas. On Jan. 17-18, 2025, they will go to the Western Equipment Ag Tech Invitational.

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

Santa stops by Kiowa Sunday for photos with kids, chili, shopping

Lighted Christmas Parade 6p.m.

By Yvonne Miller

Santa Claus is coming to town. As the jolly old soul drops by many small towns, his sleigh will land in Kiowa for pictures and to hear the wish lists of the little girls and boys. You'll find Santa at Kiowa's Community Building from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Kids won't want to miss the cookie decorating.

This Sunday, Dec. 8, the South Barber Area Chamber of Commerce invites you to Christmas in the Heartland from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Stores on Main Street will be open as well as a vendor show at the community building.

People who pride themselves on their chili-making ability should enter the Chili Cookoff. Contact Summer Graves 620-825-6179 or Shelby Nielsen 620-213-1786 for details. Chili should be at the community building by noon. Bowls are available for \$5. Proceeds go towards the purchase of new Christmas lights around town.

The afternoon culminates with a lighted Christmas Parade at 6 p.m.



Alfalfa County commissioners sign safety incentive warrants

By Stacy Sanborn

Mike Roach was back from vacation to join fellow Alfalfa County commissioners Garret Johnson and Nate Ross for their Monday morning meeting. The trio took care of the usual business: previous meeting minutes (Roach abstained), maintenance and operation warrants for payment, and blanket purchase orders.

Being the month's beginning, it was time for monthly paperwork, including officer reports, the Court Clerk Records Management and Preservation report, appropriations and allocation of taxes from motor vehicle and alcoholic beverage sales. All of those items received their required signatures.

Next, Johnson, Roach and Ross signed the 2024 Safety Incentive warrants to pay \$100 to county employees who attended all four quarterly safety meetings. Next, they signed payroll warrants for two employees who had not turned in their timesheets, plus one for correcting a transposed number for an employee who had just left.

Last week, Johnson and Ross talked a little about E-911 Director Sarah Wagner assuming extra duties since a department employee left for employment elsewhere. The two commissioners asked Sheriff Gary Mast to get those duties in writing, and this week, with Roach present, the three men reviewed them and signed off.

After that, they signed a request to change a sheriff's office receiving officer from Jo Thompson to jailer Kristie Newton, followed by signing a 324A claim form and 50 percent invoice from Poe & Associates indicating drive-out complete, waiver valuations, and all offers made for JP No. 35426(04) on an unnamed creek project. Johnson and



Ross weren't sure what that was for at last week's meeting and waited for Roach's return to address the matter. Roach claimed it, stating it was the Stonehocker Bridge, and signed off, along with the title sheet for the job (no. 35426(04)).

Lastly, the commissioners approved a \$20,000 transfer for District 2 from Capital account 1102-6-4200-4110 to the M&O account 1102-6-4200-2005 to put funding back from a previous transfer.

Motor Vehicle Tax

Aline \$113.46; Amorita \$26.19; Burlington \$83.92; Byron \$24.17; Carmen \$238.34; Cherokee \$970.83; Goltry \$169.19; Helena \$1,029.90; Jet \$130.92; Lambert \$4.03. Total: \$2,790.95.

Alcoholic Beverage Tax

Aline \$533.53; Amorita \$120.68; Burlington \$393.79; Byron \$117.51; Carmen \$1,143.28; Cherokee \$4,687.43; Goltry \$797.12; Helena \$4,881.16; Jet \$625.63; Lambert \$15.88. Total: \$13,316.01.

Appropriations

911 Phone Fees (1201) \$13,765.03 America Rescue Plan Act (1566) \$536.64

Assessor Revolving Fee (1204) \$153.02

CBRI (1103) \$29,450.21

County Clerk Lien Fee (1208) \$230.57

County Clerk RM&P (1209) \$1,100.10

County Donations (1235) \$5,383 Court Clerk RM&P (7210) \$119.75 Emergency Medical Service (1304) \$73,886.68

Enhanced 911-ST (1332) \$18,407.24 Fair Improvement - ST (1310) \$281,973.61

General Govt - ST (1311) \$23,599.02 Highway (1102) \$392,389.80 Highway ST (1313) \$27,138.87 Rural Fire (1321) \$25,433.57 Sheriff - ST (1319) \$13,191.85 Sheriff Service Fee (1226) \$2,355.65 Treasurer Mortgage Cert (1230) \$75

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Kiowa City Council holds brief meeting

Kiowa turns 150 in 2025

By Yvonne Miller

Mayor Bill Watson called the November meeting of Kiowa's City Council to order following a prayer and flag salute. All members were present, including President Brian Hill, Janet Robison, B.J. Duvall, Jason Thayer and Tom Wells. City Administrator Ty Piper and City Clerk Cady Tucker also sat at the council table.

Robison announced that the city of Kiowa turns 150 in 2025. She's ordered banners, etc., for this milestone year.

The city has upgraded the city generator to be RICE Compliant. The quote to do so was "up to \$40,000." As the quote went over by \$11.12,

Piper requested the council's approval, which they gave.

Regarding the city's IT status since SPI's closure, Piper said they should be able to turn off the old server and start the new. "We're still covered," Piper said. Additionally, he's spent \$200 with Jayhawk Accounting to get a company called Advantage to come and assess the city's needs prior to making a bid.

City Superintendent John Duvall was approved for 15 transformers, not to exceed \$30,000, for his department. With all hardware included, the cost is \$75,000. A team of six or eight can come in and help

to limit the down time.

Despite the rains, the city had not designated a burn time, when asked.

Piper said a third-party agreement (something in writing) is needed for insurance for the theater.

A request for a yoga class to be held in the community building was submitted. The council agreed that is fine, but that it needs to go through the rec commission.

Randy Robbins got permission to spray city property for stickers.

Piper told the council "We have a verbal agreement with the hospital on the land easement. It should be finalized soon."







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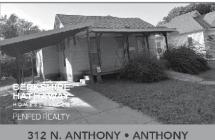
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From Page 8 Cherokee

tion was on the call, along with representatives from OSSBA and COSA, and school administrators from all over the state. The topic was cell phones in classrooms.

Stitt came out with an initiative on this issue, said Schanbacher. "His team has visited several schools, most of them quite a bit bigger than this district, but they did have some smaller schools represented in a panel," he said.

"Our policies right now pretty much align with most of the policies in schools our size, but it was interesting to listen to some of the others. Right now, most schools, like us, say students in the junior high and high school are not allowed to use cell phones in class, but they can use them in between classes and in the cafeteria. Some schools on the panel did not allow cell phone use at all. Phones have to be in students' lockers or in their backpack all day long.

"And some of those schools have some pretty stiff consequences for having (a phone) out. It's not just taking their phone away. It's, first time, three days in-school suspension; second time, you're kicked out of school for a week. Kind of extreme," he said. "Most schools were like us – if you have it out, the phone is taken away and kept in the school office until after school, when they can pick it up."

He liked that some schools had different policies for different age groups, with more freedom being given to older students. What Schanbacher likes that it will help teach students how to be responsible with their cell phone usage when they leave school and enter the workforce.

Students "already have these phones and, as they get older, they're going to have these phones in the workforce. So, if we're not teaching them how to regu-

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late that, it could be seen as a disservice to (the students)," he said.

"I think more information on this topic will be coming out, and I do think we will see some legislation passed requiring schools to have a cell phone policy, which we do have. They don't seem to want a one-size-fits-all policy; in the town hall people were very clear that this should be a local decision with local control."

Schanbacher said he doesn't see many students "just sitting on their phones," and attributes that to staff doing a good job of keeping them engaged in learning and activities.

Revenue Dips, as Expected

The board approved the consent agenda, consisting of minutes from the Nov. 4 and Nov. 7 meetings; encumbrances, POs and warrants for the general, building and child nutrition funds; and the activity fund and treasurer's reports.

Larger, one-time encumbrances from this past month included \$2,638.10 for the school's library software renewal. The software catalogs and keeps track of the books. Similarly, the school's Securely device management system was renewed for three years at an annual cost of \$4,139. This system filters everything that students can access online using one of the Chromebooks.

Encumbrances included several other small expenses that aren't regular monthly expenditures, such as the \$250 classroom allowance provided to teachers. The general fund had no unusual entries. From the building fund came an expenditure of \$4,085 for Metcalf Lawn Services.

"We're having them do some soil samples and look at the softball field, mainly because it's got a lot of dead spots out there, mainly, we think, because of grub worms, but we want to make sure we're not missing something else out there," said Superintendent Bryce Schanbacher. "We invested a lot of money in that grass." Metcalf will also conduct regular spraying and fertilizing.

The activity fund and treasurer's reports – "not really much to report in either of those," said Schanbacher. With basketball starting up, "the activity fund will get a little more active as we get into hosting more ball games," Schan-

bacher said. The general fund, building fund, lunch fund – they all remain pretty steady with what they have been," he said.

"This last month we did see a lot less revenue come in, especially when compared to previous year, especially with gross production," Schanbacher said. "It has leveled off, but it is down a little bit, but we did have less revenue this last month than we did in the same period last year, but we've anticipated some of those changes."

The consent agenda approved.

Other Board Business

After discussion, the board voted to pursue the OSSBA's Superintendent Evaluation Program. Little information was available as to exactly what the program consists of – but the program begins with one-and-a-half hours of training for the board on the program and its tools for making good decisions about superintendent evaluations.

The school will contact OSSBA to set up a date for the free training, which will take place at a special school board meeting.

"Then, if we liked what the program was about and wanted to move forward with it, then we could put it on the next regular board meeting agenda to decide and vote on the program. It's about \$500 total to be a part of that," said Schanbacher.

Board members questioned how much they needed such a tool to determine whether Schanbacher was doing a good job and asked if he'd spoken with other schools to find out how effective it was

"I have spoken with some other superintendents, and some of them, you know, grumble a bit," said Schanbacher, "but I think it's a good tool to get the conversation started. I haven't spoken with anyone who was completely against it or who said it was a big waste of time. I think it's a good tool to use, and keeps some consistency there," he said.

The board voted to pursue the free training and decide after that whether the program would be useful for the school.

The board also approved the surplus of 2005 Geometry, Algebra I and Algebra II textbooks, as new math textbooks were adopted this year.

With no new business, the board adjourned.



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ALVA VISION CLINIC Dr. Scott McEachern



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630 CENTER \$134,500

- 1300 SQ FT
 2 BEDROOM
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This versatile property can be used as a residential home or a commercial space, featuring plumbing for a tub/shower installation and a \$2,000 seller allowance fo bathroom updates. Renovated in 2015 with new flooring, CH&A, handicap access and a spacious kitchen, it also offers a welcoming reception area, three office spaces, and a basement for storage.



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3.5 BATHROOMS

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LISTING AGENTS:

Brenda Hood, Harvey Schuessler, Virgil Wiersig, Traci Lohmann, Mary Tyree, Brandi Miller •MAIL:MBH1929@SBCGLOBAL.N€T



Obituaries

WILFORD LAWRENCE 'WILLIE' ARNDT



Funeral services for Wilford "Willie" Arndt were held at 1 p.m. Tuesday, December 3, 2024, at Marshall Funeral Chapel in Alva with Rev. Mike Bartley

officiating. Burial followed in the Waynoka Municipal Cemetery under the direction of Marshall Funeral Home.

Wilford Lawrence, son of the late Lawrence Perry and Zelma Leatha (Arb) Arndt, was born September 16, 1932, at White Horse, Oklahoma, and passed away peacefully surrounded by family November 26, 2024, at Alva, Oklahoma, at the age of 92 years, 2 months and 10 days.

Willie was raised in the Farry area where he attended school. In 1952, he was united in marriage to Lucy Neuenschwander and together they had nine children. On September 16, 1978, he was united in marriage to Mary Alice Passwaters and he gained two more children. They made their home in Alva before moving to Waynoka, Oklahoma, in 1981.

He was a member of the Church of God in Waynoka for many years. Willie spent his younger years on harvest with his father in the Dakotas. He enjoyed the farm and raising calves and was a master at fixing things and working on motors. If he couldn't find the right tool to fix something, he would make one.

He managed the Dr. Pepper Bottling Company and worked at the Roller Mill before working in the oilfield until his retirement in 1987 as a pumper/driller/tool pusher.

Besides his parents, Lawrence and Zelma, he was preceded in death by four brothers, Darrell Arndt, Neal Arndt, Lowell Arndt, and Lyle Arndt; one sister, Charleen Herren; his son, Joel Bixler; and three grandchildren, Chesney Starks, Elizabeth Utterback and Jason Utterback.

He is survived by his wife of 46 years, Mary Alice, of Waynoka; his children, Zeona McKinley of Alva, Newanta Kilmer and husband George of Alva, Wynona Knopp and husband Richard of Okarche, Lynn Arndt of Alva, Carla Smart of Alva, Darla Harris and husband Mark of Enid, Diana Arndt of Alva, Dana Kirkpatrick of Enid, and Jaunita Dotson of Alva; brothers Larry Arndt and wife Sandie, and Gary Arndt and wife Linda, all of Colorado; sisters Glenda Yarberry of Oklahoma City, Juanita Neuenschwander of Ponca City and Nadine Painton of Fairview. Also surviving are 20 grandchildren, 36 great-grandchildren, and four great-great-grandchildren; many other relatives and friends.

Memorial contributions may be made through the funeral home to Freedom Gates Boys Ranch.

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

WARREN MANSFIELD BURLESON



Warren Mansfield Burleson, 83, of Cherokee, Oklahoma, was born on September 4, 1941, to Clyde and Bertha Burleson in Cherokee, Oklahoma, and passed on October 30, 2024, surrounded

by family in Enid, Oklahoma.

Warren graduated from Byron-Driftwood. After graduation, Warren pursued a career as a truck driver for Sand & Gravel, a family business, as well as other trucking companies. He was also a farmer, rancher and custom harvester. He was a member of the Corinthian Lodge 307 and First Baptist Church, where he served as Sunday school secretary, and helped start the First Baptist Men's Calf Fry Supper. Warren loved spending time with his family and enjoyed hunting, fishing and playing poker with friends. He married Edith Weigand on February 8, 1963, and to this union two children were born: Derrick and Gina. Edith preceded him in death in 2009. He married Meron Highfill June 30, 2011, who brought to the family Diesta and Mollie.

He is survived by his sisters, Francis Kraft and Cordella Zahorsky, and brother, John Burleson; daughters Gina Pekrul and husband Cam, Diesta Harris and husband Jackie, and Mollie Trent and husband Tony; grandchildren Jennifer Pekrul, Jacob Pekrul and wife Haven, Mirabel Burleson, Meagan Francis and husband Joel, Todd Harris and wife Rachel, Stephanie Chase and husband Casey, and Austin Harris; six great-grandchildren, and his beloved dog Daisy.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Clyde and Bertha Burleson; wife, Edith Burleson; son, Derrick Burleson, and wife, Meron Burleson.

A memorial for Warren Mansfield Burleson, 83, of Cherokee, Oklahoma, will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, December 27, 2024, at First Baptist Church. The Rev. Tom Cooksey and Rev. Rob Kirkpatrick will officiate. Arrangements are by Lanman Funeral Home Inc. in Cherokee. Online condolences may be made at www. lanmanfuneralhome.com.











Each Year, the Alva Rotary Club organizes Toys for Tots, which provides Christmas gifts for 200-300 children in our community.

Rotary is currently seeking donations to help with Toys for Tots this holiday season. If you would like to donate, make checks payable to **Rotary**, and send to **PO Box 356 Alva, Ok 73717**.



FRIDAY

4:00-7PM Santa, Mrs. Clause, Grinch, Elsa, Anna, Olaf, Kristoff with cookies, books & elves in the Pocket Park by Merrifield's Office Supply. FREE Hot Cocoa at the Runnymede (402 4th St)

5:00-8:00PM First Friday Art Walk @ Graceful Arts (featuring Carol Miller and BJCC) & Runnymede, some downtown stores open late, FREE Chicken Noodle Soup by the Little Red Hens sponsored by Ministerial Alliance at the Runnymede, Wicked Grind Coffee Truck & Treats in the Courthouse Parking Lot, Better Together Cheese Cakes

7:00PM Tree Lighting & Christmas Carols on the Courthouse Stage

8:00-9:30PM Kids & Cops Family Christmas Movie at the Extreme FREE Rialto Popcorn

SATURDAY

7:00AM Doggie Reindeer Dash 5K & Fun Run begins at the Farmer's Market, downtown Alva

All Day Town-wide Christmas Shopping, Fragrance Farmhouse, Kids & Cops Santa Sleigh Rides, Food Trucks: Wicked Grind, Scotty's Treats, Crazy A's. Other Food Options Kids & Cops Pulled Pork, VAP Pizza by the Slice, Alva Brewing Company, Holders and ANYWHERE else in Alva!

8:00AM-10:00 Breakfast with Santa, Mrs. Claus, Elsa, Anna & OLAF @ City Hall

8:00-9:00 Special Needs only; 9:00-10:00 all other children;

9:00-12:00 Alva Public Library Book Sale at 504 7th St.

9:00-4:00 Holiday Gift Shop & Photos w/ Santa at the Runnymede (402 4th St.)

9-10 Special Needs only; 10AM-3PM all other children; 3PM-4PM adults only.

10:00-12:30PM Live Entertainment on the Courthouse Stage

10:00-2:00 FREE Craft Make & Take at Graceful Arts (523 Barnes) (Parents shop down town)

10:00-4:00 Santa's Bakery at Bridge2Hope (532 Flynn), FREE Carnival Games & Inflatables by Nam & Pops in the Extreme, Pocket Park Pop-Up Shops, FREE Cake Face Painting by Cake Face on the courthouse lawn, Farmer's Market Vendors, Crummy Carolers, Sanctuary Massage-15 minutes/\$15 at 601 4th (proceeds go to Thatcher Strong)

11:00-2:00 FREE Horse & Carriage Rides with Jana Oister

1:00PM-2:00 FREE Matinee at ACT 1 Theatre at 424 Flynn St.: Christmas Shorts & A Christmas Carol Carol

2:00-2:30 Storytime with Mrs. Claus on the Courthouse Stage

2:00-4:00 Gift Wrapping Station, S'mores & Stories in Elsa's Igloo, Anna, Olaf & Kristoff Reindeer Photo Op, and Grinch's Grumpy Corner, all on the Courthouse Lawn, FREE Christmas Cookie Decorating at Senior Citizen's Center (625 Barnes)

4:15 Bed Races in front of Holder Drug

5:00-6:00 Christmas Movie at Rialto Theater

6:00-7:00 GO EAT ANYWHERE IN ALVA

7:30 Christmas Light Parade, Awards, Candy Cane Cash Drawings on the courthouse stage (must be present to win)

9:30 Christmas Light Cruise- follow the map and VOTE for the BEST Christmas Lights in Alva!

SUNDAY DECEMBER 8 1:00-7:30PM

SATURDAY

DECEMBER 7

7AM-9:30PM

SUNDAY

1:00-5PM Tour of the Homes Ticketed Event hosted by the Cherokee Strip Museum 6:30PM Keyboards at Christmas at the Alva Presbyterian Church



Among those attending the bid opening for the new Woods County Senior Citizens building in Alva are, from left, architect Roy Easley and commissioners John Smiley and David Hamil. A bid opening was held later Tuesday afternoon in Waynoka for the remodeling of a building for the senior citizens there. The Woods County Commissioners expect to make a decision on the bids at their meeting Monday, Dec. 9. Photo by Marione Martin

US job openings rose last month, though hiring slowed, in mixed picture for labor market

By Christopher Rugaber
WASHINGTON (AP) — The
number of job postings in the United
States rebounded in October from a 3
1/2 year low in September, a sign that
businesses are still seeking workers

even though hiring has cooled.

Openings rose 5% to 7.7 million from 7.4 million in September, the Labor Department said Tuesday. The increase suggests that job gains could pick up in the coming months. Still, the latest figure is down significantly from 8.7 million job postings a year ago.

Last month, job openings rose sharply in professional and business services, a category that includes engineers, managers, and accountants, as well as in the restaurant and hotel and information technology industries.

The number of people quitting their jobs rose in October, a sign of confidence in the job market. And layoffs tumbled to just 1.6 million — below the lowest figures in the two decades that preceded the 2020 pandemic.

Taken as a whole, Tuesday's figures suggest that the job market might be

stabilizing at a modest level, with hiring moderate but layoffs uncommonly low. The unemployment rate is at a low 4.1%, even though job gains slowed sharply in October, according to the monthly jobs report. The slowdown in job growth last month reflected mainly the impact of hurricanes and a strike at Boeing.

"There's a lot of cause for optimism," said Cory Stahle, an economist at Indeed, the job listings website. "The fact that job openings ticked up is always an encouraging sign."

Tuesday's figures mean there are now 1.1 available jobs for each unemployed worker, a healthy figure. Before the pandemic there were usually more unemployed people than openings.

Still, the latest ratio is down from a peak of roughly two job openings per unemployed person two years ago. Businesses have pulled back from the hiring frenzy that occurred as the economy emerged from the pandemic recession.

Tuesday's report, known as the Job

Openings and Labor Turnover Survey, or JOLTS, showed that overall hiring slowed in October. Total hiring slipped to 5.3 million from 5.6 million, though that decline reflected hurricane-related disruptions.

The JOLTS report is separate from the monthly jobs figures, which will be released Friday. That report is forecast to show a net gain of nearly 210,000 jobs in November, up from an anemic 12,000 in October.

Tuesday's report also showed that the number of Americans who quit their jobs rebounded in October to 3.4 million, after having reached a fouryear low in September. An increase in quitting is a good sign for the economy, because it suggests that people are confident enough to search for new job opportunities.

The Federal Reserve is watching the jobs data closely. Any sign that hiring is sharply weakening could encourage Fed officials to cut their key interest rate more quickly, to try to bolster borrowing and spending and support the economy.



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KDH to raise manor room rates

Giving Tuesday was Match Day – KDH Foundation to receive another \$25,000 from Patterson Family Foundation – involves SCCF South Central Community Foundation

By Yvonne Miller

The Kiowa District Hospital Board of Directors held their Nov. 21 meeting in the Kirkpatrick meeting room. President Pat Myers called the meeting to order at 6 p.m., with members Marcia Cantrell, Kevin Wise and Jim Parker present. Chantae Simpson joined at 7 p.m.

Other hospital personnel attending: CEO/CFO Janell Goodno, COO Philip Anton, HR Director Jana Mott, Business Office Manager Tara Girty, Financial Controller Courtney Larson, Hospital DON Robyn Whitaker, Manor DON Sydney Hamill, Manor ADON Kamri Theis, and Friends of the Hospital and Manor Foundation President Judy Schrock.

Anton explained to the board why he proposes they approve a 10% room rate increase at the manor. Researching area competitors, Anton said they average out at \$280/day. "In contrast to our rates, many others are non-inclusive and/or have different levels of care at different prices. Our rates were increased 5 percent last year. During COVID, we did not raise rates and our rates have fallen behind our competitors'."

The 10% increase would bring daily room costs to \$215 for a small private/shared bath, \$230 for a small private/private bath, \$225 for a large private/shared bath and \$240 for a large private/private bath. Hospital rates will go to \$2,000 for the acute care rate and \$1,800 for the swing bed rate.

The board approved the 10% room rate increase, effective Jan. 1.

Other KDH Business

Schrock told the board, "The Friends of KDH and Manor Foundation is partnering with South Central Community Foundation (SCCF) for Match Day, like they did last year. Match Day is on Giving Tuesday, the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. The Patterson Family Foundation is the organization doing the match. The \$70,000 they are putting up as the match is shared among the 13 organizations that are registered with SCCF. This year we will be submitting \$25,000 of Jeans and Gems money to leverage a match. All donations that are

made this year are returned to us by the end of December."

In other business, Goodno said the addition on the hospital's childcare facility is basically finished. The facility was KDHE-approved and school age children are now in their new part of the building. The next few months the crew at the manor will work on small projects.

Regarding the utility easement and the City of Kiowa ordinance for the childcare area, Goodno said the hospital's attorney, Hannah Brass, conferred with the city's attorney, Brandon Ritcha. She will send the ordinance as soon as it is issued.

Mott told the board it's time to renew employee benefits. She said, "We are pleased to offer employees a flat renewal with BCBS. We will stay with Delta Dental with a very small increase. We tried a new company for vision last year but, due to popular demand, we will go back to VSP at a very minimal increase. Our rates were largely unchanged because our staff is so healthy."

Mott added, "Every year we offer employees the opportunity to suggest handbook changes. We have very minimal changes this year. Most of the suggestions were actually policy changes."

The board approved several monthly reports. Following a roughly one-hour executive session at the end of the meeting, the board approved the Risk Management report for the Manor for October.

Hospital and Manor Administrator Report

Goodno announced that Courtney Larson received the KDH Employee Monthly Spotlight Award. She is the financial controller. "Courtney is extremely deserving of this award. Her dedication and commitment to our healthcare system is vital throughout KDH." Goodno said.

She reminded attendees that Medicare open enrollment ends Dec. 7. She told of participation, such as BCU Prevention Coalition and CEO presentation to Wichita State University students.

The administrator listed current staffing needs: housekeeping staff (hospital), registered nurse (hospital/manor), full-time CNA (hospital), medical laboratory technician (hospital) and radiology tech (hospital).

Reporting on the manor, Anton said they have 23 residents. The manor currently has a 5-star rating. He added a new app for approval of new residents. The Resident Door Decoration Contest begins. He plans to visit the botanical gardens in Wichita to see the lights again this year. He said new regulations from CMS came out that complicates RN coverage requirements as well as regulation of some behavioral medications.

KDH Financial and Statistics for October

Larson presented financial and statistical information for both the hospital and manor for the month of October. There were 15 admissions that totaled 49 days of acute and swingbed care. Of those, 39 days were swingbed with 10 acute. Outpatient visits totaled 795. Clinic visits were 513.

The hospital operating statement showed they were in the black at the end of October by \$15,555. Their total operating revenue was \$601,961 (including 340B discount drug revenue). Total expenses were \$813,857, so net from operations was a loss of \$211,896. Total non-operating revenue with tax revenue and other was \$227,451, which made the \$15,555 gain. Year to date (YTD), the hospital is in the black \$812,380.

At the end of October, the manor was in the red \$22,953 and for YTD \$386,604.

The comparative balance sheets showed total cash in all funds at \$1,555,921.

Girty reported that accounts receivable (AR) were \$1,382,822. The average days in AR were 42. Days of cash on hand were 48. Total payments made were \$451,174.

The board approved all the finance and statistical information.

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South Korea lifts president's martial law decree after lawmakers vote against it

By Kim Tong-Hyung

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol's government early Wednesday lifted the martial law he imposed during a tense night of political drama in which troops surrounded parliament and lawmakers voted to reject military rule.

Yoon said his government withdrew military personnel following a bipartisan parliamentary vote that rejected martial law, and the measure was formally lifted around 4:30 a.m. during a Cabinet meeting.

Yoon declared martial law late Tuesday, vowing to eliminate "antistate" forces as he struggles against an opposition that controls the country's parliament and that he accuses of sympathizing with communist North Korea.

Less than three hours later, parliament voted to lift the declaration, with National Assembly Speaker Woo Won Shik declaring that the martial law was "invalid" and that lawmakers "will protect democracy with the people."

The president's surprising move harkened back to an era of authoritarian leaders that the country has not seen since the 1980s, and it was immediately denounced by the opposition and the leader of Yoon's own party.

Police and military personnel were seen leaving the Assembly's grounds after Woo called for their withdrawal. Lee Jae-myung, leader of the liberal Democratic Party, which holds the majority in the 300-seat parliament, said the party's lawmakers will remain in the Assembly's main hall until Yoon formally lifts his order.

Woo applauded how troops quickly left the Assembly after the vote.

"Even with our unfortunate memories of military coups, our citizens have surely observed the events of today and saw the maturity of our military," Woo said.

While announcing his plan to lift martial law, Yoon continued to criticize parliament's attempts to impeach his key government officials and senior prosecutors and lawmakers' "unscrupulous acts of legislative and budgetary manipulation that are paralyzing the functions of the state."

Jo Seung-lae, a Democratic

lawmaker, claimed that security camera footage following Yoon's declaration showed that troops moved in a way that suggested they were trying to arrest Lee, Woo and even Han Dong-hoon, the leader of Yoon's People Power Party.

Officials from Yoon's office and the Defense Ministry did not respond to requests for comment early Wednesday.

Seemingly hundreds of protesters gathered in front of the Assembly, waving banners and calling for Yoon's impeachment.

Some protesters scuffled with troops ahead of the lawmakers' vote, but there were no immediate reports of injuries or major property damage. At least one window was broken as troops attempted to enter the Assembly building. One woman tried unsuccessfully to pull a rifle away from one of the soldiers, while shouting "Aren't you embarrassed?"

Under South Korea's constitution, the president can declare martial law during "wartime, war-like situations or other comparable national emergency states" that require the use of military force to maintain peace and order. It was questionable whether South Korea is currently in such a state.

When martial law is declared, "special measures" can be employed to restrict the freedom of press, freedom of assembly and other rights, as well as the power of courts.

The constitution also states that the president must oblige when the National Assembly demands the lifting of martial law with a majority vote.

Following Yoon's announcement, South Korea's military proclaimed that parliament and other political gatherings that could cause "social confusion" would be suspended, South Korea's Yonhap news agency said. The military said anyone who violates the decree could be arrested without a warrant.

In Washington, the White House said the U.S. was "seriously concerned" by the events in Seoul. A spokesperson for the National Security Council said President Joe Biden's administration was not notified in advance of the martial law announcement and was in contact with the South Korean government.

Speaking at an event with Japan's ambassador to Washington, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Kurt Campbell, a

longtime Asia diplomat, reiterated that the U.S.-South Korea alliance is "ironclad" and the U.S. would "stand by Korea in their time of uncertainty."

The South Korean military also said that the country's striking doctors should return to work within 48 hours, Yonhap said. Thousands of doctors have been striking for months over government plans to expand the number of students at medical schools.

Soon after the declaration, the parliament speaker called on his YouTube channel for all lawmakers to gather at the National Assembly. He urged military and law enforcement personnel to "remain calm and hold their positions.

All 190 lawmakers who participated in the vote supported the lifting of martial law. Television footage showed soldiers who had been stationed at parliament leaving the site after the vote.

Hours earlier, TV showed police officers blocking the entrance of the National Assembly and helmeted soldiers carrying rifles in front of the building.

An Associated Press photographer saw at least three helicopters, likely from the military, that landed inside the Assembly grounds, while two or three helicopters circled above the site.

The leader of Yoon's conservative People Power Party, Han Dong-hoon, called the decision to impose martial law "wrong" and vowed to "stop it with the people." Lee, who narrowly lost to Yoon in the 2022 presidential election, called Yoon's announcement "illegal and unconstitutional."

Yoon said during a televised speech that martial law would help "rebuild and protect" the country from "falling into the depths of national ruin." He said he would "eradicate pro-North Korean forces and protect the constitutional democratic order."

"I will eliminate anti-state forces as quickly as possible and normalize the country," he said, while asking the people to believe in him and tolerate "some inconveniences."

Yoon — whose approval rating has dipped in recent months — has

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From Page 30 Korea

struggled to push his agenda against an opposition-controlled parliament since taking office in 2022.

Yoon's party has been locked in an impasse with the liberal opposition over next year's budget bill. The opposition has also attempted to pass motions to impeach three top prosecutors, including the chief of the Seoul Central District Prosecutors' Office, in what the conservatives have called a vendetta against their criminal investigations of Lee, who has been seen as the favorite for the next presidential election in 2027 in opinion polls.

During his televised announcement, Yoon also described the opposition as "shameless pro-North Korean anti-state forces who are plundering the freedom and happiness of our citizens," but he did not elaborate.

Yoon has taken a hard line on North Korea over its nuclear ambitions, departing from the policies of his liberal predecessor, Moon Jae-in, who pursued inter-Korean engagement.

Yoon has also dismissed calls for independent investigations into scandals involving his wife and top officials, drawing quick, strong rebukes from his political rivals.

Yoon's move was the first declaration of martial law since the country's democratization in 1987. The country's last previous martial law was in October 1979, following

the assassination of former military dictator Park Chung-hee.

Natalia Slavney, research analyst at the Stimson Center's 38 North website that focuses on Korean affairs, said Yoon's imposition of martial law was "a serious backslide of democracy in South Korea" that followed a "worrying trend of abuse" since he took office in 2022.

South Korea "has a robust history of political pluralism and is no stranger to mass protests and swift impeachments," Slavney said, citing the example of former President Park Geun-hye.

Park, the country's first female president, was ousted from office and imprisoned for bribery and other crimes in 2017.

School board filings end at 5 p.m. today

By Marione Martin

Office 5 at Cherokee.

Today, Dec. 4, is the final filing day for open offices on boards of education in Oklahoma. Filing concludes at 5 p.m. **Alfalfa County**

The Alfalfa County Election Board reports that Allan Poe has filed for the unexpired term of Office 4 on the Cherokee School Board. Paul Michael filed for the full term of five years in

Levi Johnson filed for Timberlake School's Office 5. Cristyn O'Neil filed for Office 5 in the Aline-Cleo School District. As of 2 p.m. Tuesday, no one had filed for Office 5 on the Burlington School Board.

Woods County

Tuesday afternoon, the Woods County Election Board reported three filings. Incumbent Paul Barton filed for Office 5 on the Alva School Board. Garrett Gum, the incumbent, filed for Office 5 at Waynoka.

Stanley Kline filed for the Zone 5 office on the Northwest Technology Center board. He is the incumbent.

No one had filed for Office 5 on the Freedom School Board.

Candidates may file until 5 p.m. today. The Board of Education general election is scheduled for April 1, 2025. Candidates who are unopposed will take office with no election.

Action Ad deadlines:

Noon on Tuesday for Newsgram. Noon on Thursday for Alva Review-Courier.

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They fled war in Sudan. But they haven't been able to flee the hunger

By Sam Mednick

ADRE, Chad (AP) — For months, Aziza Abrahim fled from one village in Sudan to the next as people were slaughtered. Yet the killing of relatives and her husband's disappearance aren't what forced the 23-year-old to leave the country for good. It was hunger, she said.

"We don't have anything to eat because of the war," Abrahim said, cradling her 1-year-old daughter under the sheet where she now shelters, days after crossing into Chad.

The war in Sudan has created vast hunger, including famine. It has pushed people off their farms. Food in the markets is sparse, prices have spiked and aid groups say they're struggling to reach the most vulnerable as warring parties limit access.

Some 24,000 people have been killed and millions displaced during the war that erupted in April 2023, sparked by tensions between the military and a powerful paramilitary group, the Rapid Support Forces. Global experts confirmed famine in the Zamzam displacement camp in July. They warn that some 25 million people — more than half of Sudan's population — are expected to face acute hunger this year.

"People are starving to death at the moment ... It's man-made. It's these men with guns and power who deny women and children food," Jan Egeland, head of the Norwegian Refugee Council, told The Associated Press. Warring parties on both sides are blocking assistance and delaying authorization for aid groups, he said.

Between May and September, there were seven malnutrition-related deaths among children in one hospital at a displacement site in Chad run by Doctors Without Borders, known by its French acronym MSF. Such deaths can be from disease in hunger-weakened bodies.

In September, MSF was forced to stop caring for 5,000 malnourished children in North Darfur for several weeks, citing repeated, deliberate obstructions and blockades. U.S. President Joe Biden has called on both sides to allow unhindered access and stop killing civilians.

But the fighting shows no signs of slowing. More than 2,600 people were killed across the country in October, according to the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project, which called it the bloodiest month of the war.

Violence is intensifying around North Darfur's capital, El Fasher, the only capital in the vast western Darfur region that the RSF doesn't hold. Darfur has experienced some of the war's worst atrocities, and the International Criminal Court prosecutor has said there are grounds to believe both sides may be committing war crimes, crimes against humanity or genocide.

Abrahim escaped her village in West Darfur and sought refuge for more than a year in nearby towns with friends and relatives. Her husband had left home to find work before the war, and she hasn't heard from him since.

She struggled to eat and feed their daughter. Unable to farm, she cut wood and sold it in Chad, traveling eight hours by donkey there and back every few days, earning enough to buy grain. But after a few months the wood ran out, forcing her to leave for good.

Others who have fled to Chad described food prices spiking three-fold and stocks dwindling in the market. There were no vegetables, just grains and nuts.

Awatif Adam came to Chad in October. Her husband wasn't making enough transporting people with his donkey cart, and it was too risky to farm, she said. Her 6-year-old twin girls and 3-year-old son lost weight and were always hungry.

"My children were saying all the time, 'Mom, give us food'," she said. Their cries drove her to leave.

As more people stream into Chad, aid groups worry about supporting them.

Some 700,000 Sudanese have entered since the war began. Many live in squalid refugee camps or shelter at the border in makeshift displacement sites.

And the number of arrivals at the Adre crossing between August and October jumped from 6,100 to 14,800, according to government and U.N. data., though it was not clear whether some people entered multiple times.

Earlier this year, the World Food Program cut rations by roughly half in Chad, citing a lack of funding.

While there's now enough money to return to full rations until the start of next year, more arrivals will strain the system and more hunger will result if funding doesn't keep pace, said Ramazani Karabaye, head of the World Food Program's operations in Adre.

During an AP visit to Adre in October, some people who fled Sudan at the start of the war said they were still struggling.

Khadiga Omer Adam said she doesn't have enough aid or money to eat regularly, which has complicated breastfeeding her already malnourished daughter, Salma Issa. The 35-year-old gave birth during the war's initial days, delivering alone in West Darfur. It was too dangerous for a midwife to reach her.

Adam had clutched the baby as she fled through villages, begging for food. More than a year later, she sat on a hospital bed holding a bag of fluid above her daughter, who was fed through a tube in her nose.

"I have confidence in the doctors ... I believe she'll improve, I don't think she'll die," she said.

The MSF-run clinic in the Aboutengue camp admitted more than 340 cases of severely malnourished children in August and September. Staff fear that number could rise. The arid climate in Chad south of the Sahara Desert means it's hard to farm, and there's little food variety, health workers said.

People are fleeing Sudan into difficult conditions, said Dr. Oula Dramane Ouattara, head of MSF's medical activities in the camp.

"If things go on like this, I'm afraid the situation will get out of control," he said.



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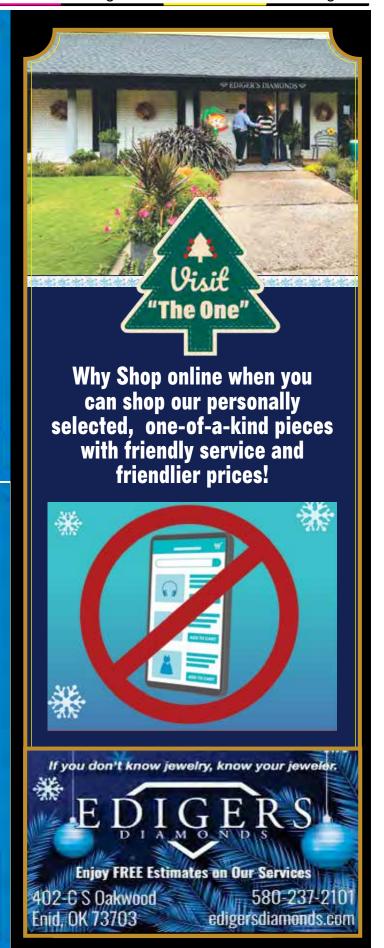
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President-elect Donald Trump's lawyers urge judge to toss his hush money conviction

NEW YORK (AP) — Presidentelect Donald Trump's lawyers formally asked a judge Monday to throw out his hush money criminal conviction, arguing continuing the case would present unconstitutional "disruptions to the institution of the Presidency."

In a filing made public Tuesday, Trump's lawyers told Manhattan Judge Juan M. Merchan that dismissal is warranted because of the extraordinary circumstances of his impending return to the White House.

"Wrongly continuing proceedings in this failed lawfare case disrupts President Trump's transition efforts," the attorneys continued, before citing the "overwhelming national mandate granted to him by the American people on November 5, 2024."

Trump's lawyers also cited President Joe Biden's recent pardon of his son, Hunter Biden, who had been convicted of tax and gun charges.

"President Biden asserted that his son was 'selectively, and unfairly, prosecuted,' and 'treated differently,'" Trump's legal team wrote. The Manhattan district attorney, they claimed, had engaged in the type of political theater "that President Biden condemned"

Prosecutors will have until Dec. 9 to respond. They have said they will

fight any efforts to dismiss the case but have indicated openness to delaying sentencing until after Trump's second term ends in 2029. In their filing Monday, Trump's attorneys dismissed the idea of holding off sentencing until Trump is out of office as a "ridiculous suggestion."

Following Trump's election victory last month, Merchan halted proceedings and indefinitely postponed his sentencing, previously scheduled for late November, to allow the defense and prosecution to weigh in on the future of the case. He also delayed a decision on Trump's prior bid to dismiss the case on immunity grounds.

Trump has been fighting for months to reverse the conviction, which involved efforts to conceal a \$130,000 payment to porn actor Stormy Daniels, whose affair allegations threatened to disrupt his 2016 campaign. He has denied any wrongdoing.

Trump takes office on Jan. 20. Merchan hasn't set a timetable for a decision.

The defense filing was signed by Trump lawyers Todd Blanche and Emil Bove, who represented Trump during the trial and have since been selected by the president-elect to fill senior roles at the Justice Department.

A dismissal would erase Trump's historic conviction, sparing him the

cloud of a criminal record and possible prison sentence. Trump is the first former president to be convicted of a crime and the first convicted criminal to be elected to the office.

Merchan could also decide to uphold the verdict and proceed to sentencing, delay the case until Trump leaves office, wait until a federal appeals court rules on Trump's parallel effort to get the case moved out of state court or choose some other option.

Trump was convicted in May on 34 counts of falsifying business records to conceal a \$130,000 hush money payment to porn actor Stormy Daniels, just before the 2016 presidential election, to suppress her claim that they had sex a decade earlier. He says they did not and denies any wrongdoing.

Prosecutors cast the payout as part of a Trump-driven effort to keep voters from hearing salacious stories about him. Trump's then-lawyer Michael Cohen paid Daniels. Trump later reimbursed him, and Trump's company logged the reimbursements as legal expenses — concealing what they really were, prosecutors alleged.

Trump has pledged to appeal the verdict if the case is not dismissed. He and his lawyers said the payments to Cohen were properly categorized as legal expenses for legal work.

US biathletes fear retaliation for speaking out about sexual harassment, report finds

By Martha Bellisle

U.S. biathletes face "misogynistic" behavior while racing and fear retaliation if they report their concerns, according to an inquiry by an independent contractor hired to assess athlete safety.

The investigation of U.S. Biathlon was ordered following an Associated

Press report that a female team member had been sexually harassed and abused for years while racing on the World Cup circuit.

"It is very uncomfortable as a woman ... to be in that environment," one biathlete said in the report released Monday, which did not identify the athletes to preserve confidentiality.

Many biathletes said they feared if they complained they would be denied training opportunities, financial support and selection for relay teams, according to the assessment by outside auditor

See Report Page 40



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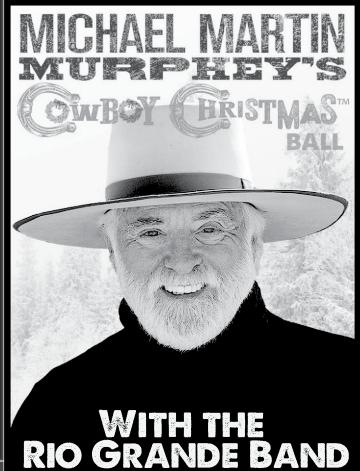
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From Page 38 Report

Vestry Laight.

The AP reported in January that a U.S. Center for SafeSport investigation found that two-time Olympian Joanne Reid had been sexually harassed by a ski-wax technician from 2016 to 2021. Wax technicians play a critical role in biathlon, which combines cross-country skiing with target shooting.

SafeSport suspended the wax tech for six months and put him on probation through December. U.S. Biathlon fired him from the team and ordered the audit.

Investigators interviewed athletes, parents, coaches and staff, and studied U.S. Biathlon policies as part of the review. They also sent a confidential survey to 57 biathletes who have competed since 2020.

The report found the U.S. Biathlon Association code of conduct failed to provide clear examples of prohibited behavior. There was also no way to file complaints online or anonymously, making it less likely people would come forward, it said.

The survey showed that while 92% of male respondents said they felt comfortable raising concerns about athlete safety, only 52% of women did. Women were far more likely to say they

feared negative consequences to their careers for reporting misconduct — 57% compared to 8% of men.

In addition, 43% of women said they had observed conduct in violation of the USBA code in the past year, compared to 25% of men.

Biathlon officials said they were adopting an "action plan" in response to the report, including workshops with staff and athletes to define core values and create a way to measure progress.

"We have full confidence in the USBA leadership to implement the necessary improvements and build a culture that will enable the athletes and our community to thrive," Bob Hall, USBA board chair, told members in an email.

Reid told the AP on Tuesday that she believes U.S. Biathlon's response is inadequate, calling it "mostly a promise to develop metrics and plans, with nothing concrete that they can be held accountable to."

She said it was "really rugged" to see how many women had witnessed abuse but feared reporting it.

Many athletes interviewed said they feared retaliation for reporting abuse after what happened to Reid. Six months after SafeSport's investigation, U.S. Biathlon retroactively changed the criteria for being pre-qualified for the World Cup team — and Reid was bumped off. The change didn't affect the status of anyone else on the team.

U.S. Biathlon CEO Jack Gierhart told the AP in January the World Cup rule change was not retaliation.

SafeSport has launched a new investigation into whether Gierhart and High Performance Director Lowell Bailey retaliated against Reid by changing the qualification criteria. Gierhart said in an interview Tuesday that he could not comment on that inquiry.

Athletes interviewed for the audit said the way U.S. Biathlon officials handled the Reid case made them feel powerless and unsafe.

"It was clearly demonstrated by USBA that if an athlete, especially a female athlete, were to bring up this topic they would risk their spot on the team in the upcoming year," one athlete wrote in the survey.

"Not speaking out is the best bet if you want to keep competing for USBA," another said.

Trump vows to block Japanese steelmaker from buying US Steel, pledges tax incentives and tariffs

By Marc Levy and Josh Boak

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — President-elect Donald Trump is underscoring his intention to block the purchase of U.S. Steel by Japanese steelmaker Nippon Steel Corp., and he's pledging to use tax incentives and tariffs to strengthen the iconic American steelmaker.

Trump had vowed early in the presidential campaign that he would "instantaneously" block the deal, and he reiterated that sentiment in a post on his Truth Social platform on Monday night.

"I am totally against the once great and powerful U.S. Steel being bought by a foreign company" and will use tax incentives and tariffs to make U.S. Steel "Strong and Great Again, and it will happen FAST!" he wrote.

"As President," he continued, "I will block this deal from happening. Buyer Beware!!!"

President Joe Biden, like Trump, also opposes Nippon Steel's purchase of Pittsburgh-based U.S. Steel. Biden's White House in September said that it had yet to see a report from the secretive Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, which was reviewing the transaction for national security concerns. The committee, which is chaired by the treasury secretary and includes other Cabinet members, can recommend that the president block a transaction, and federal law gives the

president that power.

Ahead of the November election, the proposed merger carried political importance in Pennsylvania, a critical swing state that Trump eventually won. Biden publicly sided with the United Steelworkers, the labor union, in seeking to reject the deal.

When he announced his opposition in a March statement, Biden said: "U.S. Steel has been an iconic American steel company for more than a century, and it is vital for it to remain an American steel company that is domestically owned and operated."

Nippon Steel has said it is the only

See Trump Page 42





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Trump From Page 40

company that can make the necessary investment in U.S. Steel's factories and strengthen the American steel industry. Both Nippon Steel and U.S. Steel on Tuesday released statements in support of the acquisition.

"This transaction should approved on its merits. The benefits are overwhelmingly clear. Our communities, customers, investors, and employees strongly support this transaction, and we will continue to advocate for them and adherence to the rule of law," U.S. Steel said.

The deal follows a long stretch of protectionist U.S. tariffs that analysts say has helped reinvigorate domestic steel, including U.S. Steel. U.S. Steel's shareholders have approved the deal, but the United Steelworkers oppose it.

In a statement Tuesday, the union said the deal carries "serious long-term implications for U.S. economic and national security."

"It's clear that President Trump understands the vital role a strong domestic steel industry plays in

our national security, as well as the importance of the jobs and communities the industry supports," the union said.

The deal has drawn bipartisan opposition in the U.S. Senate, including from the incoming vice president, Republican Sen. JD Vance of Ohio, although the federal government's objections to the deal have drawn criticism that the opposition is political.

Some U.S. Steel workers would prefer Nippon Steel acquire the company, given that it appears to have a better financial balance sheet than another potential buyer, Cleveland-Cliffs.

U.S. Steel "provided a very, very good life for our families for a lot of years," said Jack Maskil, a vice president at the Steelworkers local branch in West Mifflin, Pennsylvania. "And we feel that with the Nippon deal that a lot more families for futures to come will be able to share the same.'

West Mifflin Mayor Chris Kelly said he met with Nippon Steel executives and found himself satisfied by their commitments. Located southeast of Pittsburgh, West Mifflin is home to U.S. Steel's Mon Valley Works–Irvin Plant.

"There's no question in my mind that it's the best deal moving forward," Kelly said at a panel hosted on Tuesday by the conservative think tank Hudson Institute, where Maskil was also speaking.

Trump's statement came two weeks after Nippon Steel's vice chairman, Takahiro Mori, visited Pittsburgh and Washington to meet with lawmakers, local officials and workers in an ongoing persuasion campaign.

That campaign has included Nippon Steel's promises to boost its capital commitments beyond the original deal and, more recently, a pledge that it won't import steel slabs that would compete with U.S. Steel's blast furnaces.

As part of its proposed \$14.9 billion purchase of U.S. Steel, Nippon Steel also pledged to invest at least \$1.4 billion in USW-represented facilities, not to conduct layoffs or plant closings during the term of the basic labor agreement, and to protect the best interests of U.S. Steel in trade matters.

Chad Chronister, Donald Trump's pick to run the DEA, withdraws name from consideration

By Michellel L. Price

NEW YORK (AP) Chad Chronister, Donald Trump's pick to run the Drug Enforcement Administration, said Tuesday he was withdrawing his name from consideration, becoming the second person selected by the presidentelect to bow out quickly after being nominated for a position requiring Senate confirmation.

Sheriff Chronister, the top law enforcement officer in Hillsborough County, Florida, said in a post on X that he was backing away from the opportunity, which he called "the honor of a lifetime."

"Over the past several days, as the gravity of this very important responsibility set in, I've concluded that I must respectfully withdraw from consideration," Chronister wrote. He did not elaborate, and Trump's transition team did not immediately respond to a

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message seeking comment.

Chronister follows former Republican congressman Matt Gaetz, Trump's first pick to serve as attorney general, in withdrawing his name for a post in the administration. Gaetz withdrew following scrutiny over a federal sex trafficking investigation that cast doubt on his ability to be confirmed as the nation's chief federal law enforcement officer.

Trump's pick of Chronister for the DEA job drew backlash from conservatives, who raised concerns over his actions during the COVID-19 pandemic and his saying that his office "does not engage in federal immigration enforcement activities."

In March 2020, Chronister arrested the pastor of a megachurch who held services with hundreds of people and violated a safer-at-home order in place aimed at limiting the spread of the Covid

"Shame on this pastor, their legal staff and the leaders of this staff for forcing us to do our job. That's not what

we wanted to do during a declared state of emergency," Chronister said at the time. "We are hopeful that this will be a wakeup call."

U.S. Rep. Thomas Massie, R-Ky, was among those airing public complaints, saying Chronister should be "disqualified" for the arrest.

Others flagged comments Chronister made in a video about Florida's immigration laws that he released in 2023 that circulated again online after Trump named him last weekend.

In the video, Chronister praised the "rich diversity" of his community and called it "a place where people from all walks of life come together."

He said it was important to note his office "does not engage in federal immigration enforcement activities. We do not target individuals based on their immigration status. That's the authority of federal agencies."

Trump has made a sweeping crackdown on immigration a central focus of his campaign and his aims for his coming administration.

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Alfalfa County Sheriff's Office Logs

Tuesday, November 26, 2024

During this day: four traffic stops.

7: 39 a.m. - Medic needed at James Crabtree Correctional Center for a male in respiratory distress. The medic took the patient to Bass Hospital in Enid.

fraud.

5:40 p.m. – Report of seven head of cattle missing from two different fields. and this wasn't the first time it has happened. Caller stated he found fresh four-wheeler tracks. Caller wants to make a report. Deputy was advised.

5:57 p.m. – Medic needed in the 100 block of Murray for a 78-year-old female whose legs were swollen and having trouble walking. Medic took the patient to Bass Hospital in Enid.

Wednesday, November 27, 2024

During this day: two traf-

10:07 a.m. – Medic needed at James Crabtree Correc- having issues. Caller advised

tional Center for a male who lost consciousness. Medic took the patient to Bass Hospital in Enid.

1:12 p.m. - Caller advised domestic issues were going on and they would like a welfare check done. Advised Woods County and deputy.

4:11 p.m. - Medic needed 8:32 a.m. - Report of a at James Crabtree Correctional Center for a male who overdosed. Medic took the patient to Bass Hospital in Enid.

Thursday, November 28, 2024

None

Friday, November 29, 2024

6:21 p.m. - Report of a suspicious vehicle with two juveniles driving around Carmen in a '90s model Nissan pickup. Deputy was unable to locate.

Saturday, November 30, 2024

During this day: three traffic stops.

11:20 a.m. - Caller requested an officer in the 200 block of Ohio for her sister and brother-in-law, who were

See **Sheriff** Page 44

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From Page 43 Sheriff

she is en route to town. Offi- man and his back was hurting. cer en route. Officer advised Advised he didn't want an amthe male subject was not home and the female was packed and just waiting on help from her sister, who was en route. Offisister arrived. All was okay.

93-year-old male possibly having a heart attack. No transport needed.

he was assaulted by another on the phone.

bulance, just a deputy to make a report.

Sunday, December 1, 2024

10:17 a.m. - Medic needed cer stayed with female until her in the 900 block of Massachusetts for an 89-year-old male 1:01 p.m. – Medic needed in who had fallen. Medic took the 600 block of 9th Street for the patient to Bass Hospital in Enid.

6:21 p.m. – Report of a reckless drivers on OK-11. Deputy 9:49 p.m. – Caller advised made contact. The driver was

Barber County real estate transactions

Real Estate Transfers

Patrick Carpenter conveys unto James Patrick Carpenter Trust. Curley. The west 140 feet of the A tract of land in the northeast north half of Lot 6 on the east quarter of Section 12, Township 30 south, Range 12 west of the 6th PM, Barber County, Kansas, etc. Quit claim deed.

Book 150, page 408: Doreen Sue Carroll and Ricky Dean Carroll convey unto RPE LLC. Lots 13, 14 and 15 in Block 20 in the City of Sharon, claim deed.

Investments LLC conveys unto Brandon Lukens. Commencing 645 feet south of the northwest corner of the northeast quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 12, Township 32 south, Range 12 west of the 6th PM, Barber County, Kansas. Warranty deed.

Book 150, page 425: Jen-Book 150, page 406: James nifer R. Burton conveys unto Trenton Smart and Heidi Mcside of Spring Street in Friedley's Revised Addition to the City of Medicine Lodge. Joint tenancy quit claim.

Book 150, page 426: James R. Crombie and Lori Crombie convey unto Ethan D. Harger and Aaliyah J. Hargett. The east 70 feet of the south 21/2 feet of Barber County, Kansas. Quit Lot 21, and all of Lot 22, and all of Lot 23 except the railroad Book 150, page 409: Killeen right of way in Block 6 in Cook, Standiford & Co's Revised addition to the City of Medicine Lodge, Barber County, Kansas. Joint tenancy warranty deed.

Book 150, page 433: Richard L. Swayden and Betty Jo Swayden; Janette K. Freeman and Edward L. Freeman, convey unto Andrew Lamar Burns

See Barber Page 45





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From Page 44

and Tammy Hancock Burns. Note: \$400,000.00. The southwest quarter of Section 36, Township 30 south, Range 12 west of the 6th PM, Barber County, Kansas. Joint tenancy warranty deed.

Book 150, page 435: Park-Kendra England. Lot 10 and the west 30 feet of Lot 11 in Block 137 in the Town Company's Addition to the City of Kiowa. Warranty deed.

Book 150, page 437: Aaron Woodward conveys unto Wildcats Creative Ventures 2 in Deal's Replat of a part of Highland Addition to the City of Medicine Lodge. Warranty

Mortgages

C. Kersten and Katherine A. Kersten to Farm Service Agency. The south half of the southwest quarter of Section 26, and the south half of the south half of Section 27, Township 34 south, Range 12 west of the 6th PM, Barber County, Kansas. Note: \$54,914.00.

Book 255, page 11: Randall C. Kersten and Katherine A. Kersten to Haviland State Bank. All that part of the east half of Section 34, Township 34 south, Range 11 west of the 6th er M. Patterson conveys unto PM, Barber County, Kansas, etc. Note: \$1,125,000.00.

> Book 255, page 19: John T. Hern and Julie A. Hern to Emprise Bank. Lots 1-4 in Block 14 in Henton's Addition to the City of Sharon. Note: \$165,000.00.

Book 255, page 29: Dereck LLC. Lots 25 and 26 in Block Peery and Tawnya D. Peery Family Trust to Farm Credit of Western Oklahoma. The southeast quarter of Section 30, Township 30 south, Range 15 west of the 6th PM, Bar-Book 255, page 5: Randall ber County, Kansas. Note: \$600,000.00.

> Book 225, page 38: Debra Wynn and Matthew Bradley to Rocket Mortgage. Lots 7-10, Block 139 in Town Company's Addition to the City of Kiowa, Barber County, Kansas, etc.

Alfalfa County court filings

and petitions on file, the following individuals have been charged. An individual is innocent of any charges listed below until proven guilty in a court of law. All information is a matter of public record and may be obtained by anyone during regular hours at the Alfalfa County Courthouse. The Newsgram foreclosure (\$272.14).

According to the affidavits will not intentionally alter or delete any of this information. If it appears in the courthouse public records, it will appear in this newspaper.

Civil Filings

Amerihome Mortgage Company LLC vs. Cassandra Roth, Carmen; Jacob Roth, Carmen and Occupants of the premises:

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.

6-8 p.m. First Friday Art Walk will be held in downtown Alva.





From Page 45 Alfalfa

Protective Order Filings

Crystal Marie Nickel vs. Barry John Nickel, Cherokee: protective order (\$173).

Traffic Citations

Morgan E. Shepard, Fairview, has been cited for failure to comply with compulsory insurance law (\$269).

Darrell G. Wright III, Pond Creek, has been cited for left of center approaching crest of grade or curve with view obstructed (\$249).

Carson M. Forbis, Tulsa, has been cited for speeding 16-20 mph over the speed limit (\$279).

Gavin A. Leigh, Ponca City, has been cited for speeding 1-10 mph over the speed limit (\$100).



Morgan E. Shepard, Fairview, has been cited for speeding 1-10 mph over the speed limit (\$100).

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

The following individuals were cited with not wearing a seatbelt (\$20): Carson M. Forbis, Tulsa; Garrett S. Ketterman, Cherokee; Cash T. Cantellay, Burlington.

Wildlife Filings

Matthew D. Rickard, Fort Necessity, Louisiana, has been cited for failure to leave head or wing attached to ducks during transport (\$264).

Ethan Cole Reid, Baskin, Louisiana, has been cited for failure to leave head or wing attached to ducks during transport (\$264).

Garbriel J. Gibson, Baskin, Louisiana, has been cited for failure to leave head or wing attached to ducks during transport (\$264).



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Sale Date: Saturday, December 7th – 10:00 AM
Location: 30 NE 80 Rd Harper, KS (½ mile south of Harper and ½ mile east on 80 Rd)
Seller: Dean & Bonnie Day
Long Guns: Ruger M77, 243 blt, scr. 770-3683, Marlin lever, 22 LR "Golden 39M, 1903
Springfield 30-06 blt, 1393975, Springfield, 410-67VB Series B 18264859, Browning BPR-22, 22
LR Pump, Ruger 10-22, 22LR 255-94885, Left-handed 870 Remington 12G S448591V, Marlin
.35 Rem. Mod. 336RC, Browning Invector Plus 20g pmp 05342MC121, Western Auto
"Revelation" 20g pmp H581889, Model 37 lihica 20g pmp, MAG371885897, Iver Johnson, 22
Carbine 021236, Mod. 11 Savage, 223 blt, F952293, Vintage Falling block, 22, Mod. 93 Savage,
22 WinNhag synth stock 946635, Ruger 10-92, 22LR 1275-88757, Sears Roebuck 2200, 22LR auto
0853771, OF Mossberg & Sons Mod321K 20g 1058041,
Hand Guns: Smith & Wesson 40VE PBC9093, High Standard "Sentinel Deluxe", 22 Rev.
2383933, Colt Diamondback, 22 LR rev., Colt Trooper Mk. III, 357 Mag. Revolver, Taurus
"Trackor", 22 LR stainless DP185451, Smith & Wesson M&P, 22 LR MP071707, Smith &
Wesson "Chiefs Special" Mod. C543 - 45auto EkY1779, Ruger "Blackhawk", 30 carbine rev. 5138484, Dan Wesson, 22 LR rev. A029641.
Lot of fishing poles and tackle, ice fishing auger and ladle, gun safe and gun cabinet.
Shop & Tools: air tanks, bar clamps, lot of hand saws, silage saws, parts cabinets, circular saw
blades, dado blades, lot of antique braces & bits, wood chisels, Knack jobsite box, collection of
antique wood planes, Rigid pipe dies and vices, conduit benders, several laser levels and tripods,
large collection of hammers, air nailers and crown staplers, marking gauges, electric drills,
lineman shovels & spoons, Lot of different DeWalt, Makita, Milwaukee, Black & Decker, and
Rockwell power tools, bottle jacks, floor jacks, car ramps, 2 wheeler, extension cords, grease
guns, air compressors, some lumber and plywood, lineman belts & climbing spikes, scaffolding
planks, step ladders, extension ladders, electrician tool pouches, lineman rimpers, large
collection planks, step ladders, extension ladders, electrician tool pouches, lineman crimpers, large collection of hand-saws, vices, micrometers, lot of Klein electricians tools, knockout punch set, pliers, taps & dies, cold chisels, chalk-lines, rivet guns, squares of all kinds, socket sets, wrench sets, plumb bobs, torque wrenches, Allen wrenches, draw knives, pipe wrenches, vice-grips, files, inside/outside/hermaphrodite calipers, auger bits, all kinds of wire cutters, hand crank drill presses, Yankee drivers, door Jigs, carpenter toolboxes, levels of all sizes, 10" DeWalt radial arm saw, 12 speed Central Machinery drill press (bench top), lot of elec. sanders, jig-saw, 16" Craftsman scroll saw, 16 speed Central Machinery drill press (floor), Belsaw blade sharpeners, Foley saw retoother and sharpening equipment, B&D bench grinder, belt grinder, 8" Clark bench grinder, Delta disc/belt sander, 6" jointer, Waterloo & Craftsman rolling toolboxes, welding table, anvil, welding equipment, acetylene torch kit and eart, power hacksaw, bolt bins, shop cabinets, Makita cutoff saw, Reliant dust collector, shop fans, cherry picker,
Lawn & Garden: TroyBill push mower, Craftsman horizontal bandsaw, pruning poles, limb saws and shears, live traps, axes, shovels, rakes, Icrillizer spreader, lawn sweeper, chainsaw, gas

saws and shears, live traps, axes, shovels, rakes, fertilizer spreader, lawn sweeper, chainsaw, gas cans, rear tine roto-tiller, DR trimmer, grass trimmers,

Jazee Country Clipper ZTR lawnmower joystick control, 42" deck, 19HP Briggs,

EZ-Go electric golf cart,
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