

**THE ALVA
REVIEW
COURIER**

NEWSGRAM

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Veteran and Burlington alumnus Jared Ackerman said it takes 'courage'

By Yvonne Miller

"If you had told me 30 years ago today I'd be standing up here giving a Veterans Day speech, I would've had a hard time getting you," a Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army, Jared Ackerman told the Burlington Veterans Day Program audience. "I never really had aspirations to join the army. I remember sitting in Mrs. Newlin's science class the day our country was attacked and the Twin Towers fell."

A BHS freshman, Ackerman said, "I was too immature and too ignorant to understand the significance of this tragedy." It wasn't until his senior year at OSU that he started thinking about serving. "I woke up one day and it hit me I didn't want to just grow up, work, retire and regret not serving my county."

He moved to Texas and worked in restaurant management. "It was there I realized I wasn't fulfilled as a man." That's when he went to start the enlistment process while he was still in Texas.

It wasn't until he was working as a restaurant manager in Norman for about a week and his small condo was broken into and most of his belongings taken.

"I decided it was time to start a new chapter in my life," Ackerman said. "About 10 days later I was shipped to Fort Jackson, South Carolina." Then he attended accelerated officers candidate school in Alabama. More trainings happened and in 2011 he served in Afghanistan which he described as "a significant turning point for me as a leader and a man."

"I was put in a position that my decision could determine the success or failure of a mission." Ackerman said he



A lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army, Burlington alumnus Jared Ackerman brings a message about dedication, loyalty and courage at Burlington's Veterans Day program. Photo courtesy of yearbook

lost some friends.

In January 2016 he made the 17 Special Tactics Squadron. Ackerman was one of the two individuals selected for it. "It's a pretty huge thing to be selected. I gave everything I had." His squadron worked with the 75th Ranger Regiment in January 2017. "It's eye-opening, you quickly learn you are not the strongest or the fastest or the best looking," Ackerman said. "Those guys are pure thoroughbreds. I learned a lot from them."

He rode in a C-17 jet to Bagrum Air Base in Afghanistan. There he worked "with strong men and women and a

medal of honor recipient."

After three years of several deployments, he returned to Oklahoma with his wife Rachel and now their two children, Grace and Franklin.

He thanked all the people at Burlington School who prepared him for his future with a solid foundation – gave him the tools. Like the military, it takes dedication and loyalty, he said. "Loyalty isn't just about the words. It's what you do."

"This school is more than an educational institution to me. It's been a launching pad for my journey to pursue my dreams with resilience and confidence." He said the ideology upon what the U.S., was founded is courage. "Veterans show courage when volunteering to serve their country and protecting the American people in places that are dangerous, unfamiliar and far from home."

He mentioned and congratulated Burlington's girls cross country team that qualified for state this year and said those athletes showed "dedication."

Ackerman's service includes being commander of 137th Special Operations Security Forces Squadron; served Oklahoma Army National Guard and was deployed as a fire support officer; detachment commander-17th Special Tactic Squad; Oklahoma Air National Guard; Air Force Achievement Medal; Air Force Accommodation Medal; Joint Service Achievement Medal; Joint Service Accommodation Medal; Meritorious Service Medal; Presidential Unit Citation; Bronze Star Medal twice.

Jared is the son of Brett Ackerman and Debbie Ackerman. His grandmother is Marcelyn Ackerman of Burlington.

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Thankful for plumbers and for Jack

By Marione Martin

I'm looking forward to Thanksgiving and the chance to connect with some of my family for a meal. My daughter suggested a Tex-Mex menu this year. While I enjoy the traditional turkey dinner, you can't go wrong with Tex-Mex in our family.



Does your family have specific dishes that must be served for Thanksgiving? For my late husband, it was pecan pie although he'd settle for chocolate cream. Because it doesn't show up much except for this time of year,

I always wanted cranberry sauce. It could be jellied or made with whole cranberries or even be chopped with oranges and still be acceptable.

This time of year, we're reminded to be thankful. I saw an online posting recently where a little girl was asked to tell what she was thankful for. Her answer was unexpected – poached eggs.

Most recently, I have been reminded to be thankful for plumbers and Jack James. We had a plumbing crisis last week at the newspaper office. Some wet carpet in the break room was our first clue. The moisture was coming from under the sink, but none of us could get the cabinet open. It has sliding wooden doors, and they were swollen with moisture. We even tried a pry bar but couldn't budge the doors.

When Jack arrived for the evening's work of printing the paper, I immediately showed him our problem. He managed to muscle one cabinet door open, but it was on the opposite side from the leak.

Apparently, the under-sink cabinet has been used to stash stuff that we then forgot about. It contained an extra plastic container for the icemaker, a couple of old coffeemakers and several vases. All were brimming with water.

Once the containers were removed and emptied, Jack was able to spot the leak, which was spraying a fine mist of water into his face. It was near a joint that made it more difficult to patch. He gathered tools, a piece of plastic tubing and some clamps. Leaning half his body into the cabinet while being sprayed with water, he attempted the repair, but it was too inaccessible.

Jack tried going in from the other side of the wall from a closet holding HVAC equipment and the water heater. There he made a new discovery. The water heater was also leaking. We didn't notice it sooner because a drain in the floor was siphoning away the liquid. Jack turned off the water going into the water heater and also turned off the gas used to heat it.

Finally, when Chris Voth arrived, Jack drafted him for an extra set of hands. With Chris reaching in from the closet and Jack from under the sink, the water was finally stopped by closing a stubborn valve. Unfortunately, we learned that pipe provided water to the entire building. We had no water for the restrooms and no water for the printing press. With the water off, Jack was able to apply his plastic tubing patch. He turned the valve on, and it didn't leak! We still don't have hot water, but it's no longer a crisis situation.

Plumbers around Alva are generally booked up for at least a few days. Because the patch is holding and we have water, I told our plumber it's not an emergency. With the holiday coming up, he may or may not make it here this week. But since Jack is so talented at repairs, it's no longer an emergency.

That's a specific situation, but in general I'm thankful for family, for friends, for health and for a roof over my head. I'm also thankful for laughter. Lately I've been enjoying a podcast on YouTube by Mike Rowe called Coffee

with Mom. His mother is in her 80s and tells delightful stories of her adventures in aging for herself, her 90-year-old husband and her friends.

Perhaps this brief article I found in a PC Magazine newsletter will tickle your funny bone.

This 'AI Granny' Bores Scammers to Tears

UK-based mobile operator Virgin Media O2 has created an AI-generated "scam-baiter" tool to stall scammers. The AI (artificial intelligence) tool, called Daisy, mimics the voice of an elderly woman and performs one simple task: talk to fraudsters and "waste as much of their time as possible."

Here's how Daisy works: O2 added phone numbers linked to its AI tool to the lists used by scammers to target vulnerable people. When a scammer dials a number linked to Daisy, the AI tool can have random conversations about its made-up family and hobbies or provide fake bank details to beat scammers at their own game.

Daisy has been taking calls from fraudsters for the past several weeks, O2 says. "By tricking the criminals into thinking they were defrauding a real person and playing on scammers' biases about older people, Daisy has prevented them from targeting real victims and, most importantly, has exposed the common tactics used."

The telecom operator came up with the idea for Daisy after a survey revealed that 71% of Brits wanted to get back at scammers without wasting their own time.

Multiple AI models were used to create Daisy, which was trained with the help of YouTuber and scam baiter Jim Browning. The tool now transcribes the caller's voice to text and generates appropriate responses using a large language model. All of this takes place without input from an operator. At times, Daisy keeps fraudsters on the line for up to 40 minutes, O2 says.

Last year, a group of Australian cybersecurity experts developed a chatbot that does the same thing as O2's tool. Apaté, named after the Greek goddess of deceit, essentially takes ChatGPT-style technology and pairs it with voice cloning to create a dummy human designed to hold long and convincing conversations with a scammer.

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PRICE: \$1,035,000.00

NEW - 155 Acres - Excellent stock farm - This tract consists of 142 Acres of cropland (primarily Grant silt loam and Reinach sandy loam soils). Has new 5-wire fences, steel corrals, and bunk line. Borders State Hwy 64 West of Jet, Okla. NW $\frac{1}{4}$ - 10-25-10, W.I.M., Alfalfa County, Okla. **PRICE: \$350,000.00**

NEW - 160 Acres - Excellent Diversified Farm - This tract consists of 160 Acres, of which 105 Acres is good cropland (primarily Yahola fine sandy loam and Grant silt loam soils), and the balance being 55 Acres of good grassland, trees, and spring creek, which also runs through the property. Improvements include a 30'x40' shed with 15' lean-to. New steel corrals and a water well with tank and solar panel. NW $\frac{1}{4}$ - 25-29-14, W.I.M., Woods County, Okla. **PRICE: \$375,000.00**

NEW - 2 - 80 Acre tracts - A HUNTING PARADISE! Tall grass, trees and tree lines, brush, plum thickets - deer everywhere! S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ - 12-19-23, W.I.M. and N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ - 13-19-23, W.I.M., Ellis County, Okla. Location of property: From Arnett, go 8.5 miles east on Hwy 60 to County Road 190, then go 1 mile south to a hunting paradise. **PRICE: \$160,000.00 per 80 Acre tract**

NEW - 80 Acres - Great Home-Site Potential - Potential Hunting! Excellent grassland and scattered trees throughout, which makes for great hunting. Good five-wire fences, a nice set of corrals, and a solar well for water. From Waynoka, OK, go 2 miles north on Highway 14 to Comanche Road, then $\frac{1}{2}$ mile east. E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ 25-25-16, W.I.M., Woods County, Okla. **PRICE: \$208,000.00**

NEW - 160 Acres - Excellent Cropland - This tract consists of 160 Acres of excellent cropland (primarily Pond Creek silt loam, Devol silt loam, and Grant silt loam soils). This tract has a new 5-wire fence and a Ritchie automatic waterer. SE $\frac{1}{4}$ 31-28-12, W.I.M., Alfalfa County, Okla. **PRICE: \$475,000.00**

NEW - 560 Acres - "A Hunting Paradise" Tall grass, brush, trees, plum thickets, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from Salt Fork River. It also has a good water well, solar electricity, an older barn, and 5-wire fences. Several big bucks have been taken off this property. This tract also has 85 Acres of good cropland. W $\frac{1}{2}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ - 32-29-14, W.I.M., Woods County, Okla. **PRICE: \$1,200,000.00**

NEW: 355 Acres - Excellent Hunting & Grazing with Live Water. This tract consists of 355 Acres, which 127 Acres is improved grass and the balance being 228 Acres of good native grassland and cropland. This tract has good 5-wire fences and is watered by a solar well and a live-water creek. This farm has excellent hunting with the live water, trees, and canyons. SE $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ - 22-27-16, and the W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ - 23-27-16, W.I.M., Woods County, Okla.

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

NEW - 80 Acres - Excellent Cropland - This tract consists of 80 Acres of good cropland (all Grant silt loam soils), has rural water, and lays 4 miles west of Alva on Hwy 64. E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ - 25-27-15, W.I.M., Woods County, Okla. **PRICE: \$240,000.00**

NEW - 280 Acres - Excellent Stock Farm This tract consists of 280 Acres, of which 186 Acres is good cropland (primarily Bethany silt loam, Yahola fine sandy loam, and Grant silt loam soils), and the balance being 94 Acres of grass and waterway, with 33 Acres of that being Bermuda grass. This farm would make an excellent stocker or cow-calf operation. NW $\frac{1}{4}$ & W $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ - 22-28-13, W.I.M., and E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ - 21-28-13, W.I.M., Woods County, Okla. **PRICE: \$675,000.00**

NEW - 400 Acres - "A Hunting Paradise" - Tall grass, trees, cropland, good fences - $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from Salt Fork River. This tract consists of 400 Acres of which 151 Acres is good cropland and the balance being 249 Acres of excellent grass. "This is trophy deer country." Don't miss your chance to have a hunting place to call your own. SE $\frac{1}{4}$ - 24-28-15 & SW $\frac{1}{4}$ & W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ - 19-28-14, W.I.M. Woods County, Okla. **PRICE: \$775,000.00**

NEW - 154 Acres - NW $\frac{1}{4}$ - 29-27-13, Woods County, Okla. This tract consists of 154 Acres of good cropland, the balance being 22 Acres of trees, grass, and waterways. There is excellent building potential. Just one mile east of Alva. **PRICE: \$550,000.00**

NEW - 315 Acres of which 208 Acres is excellent cropland, and the balance being 107 Acres of excellent grassland. Improvements include a 1,200 sq. ft. home, a 32' x 60' shop w/ 16' lean-to, steel corrals, N $\frac{1}{2}$ - 29-29-12, W.I.M., Alfalfa County, OKLA. **PRICE: \$1,050,000.00**

NEW - 160 Acres - Blue Ribbon Farm - Excellent cropland (Pond Creek silt loam soils), rural water. NE $\frac{1}{4}$ - 15-28-11, W.I.M., Alfalfa County, Okla. **PRICE: \$550,000.00**



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Burlington School takes a hit with the Targa settlement

Burlington’s girls’ cross-country team makes it to state

By Yvonne Miller

Burlington School Board President April Kisling called the November meeting to order with board members present including Robert Hill, Terry Graham, T.J. Rockenbach and Lindsay Callison. Also present were Superintendent Gerrett Spears, Principal Stan Pedersen and Minutes Clerk Brook Keast.

Guests included Carleigh Hill, Faith King, Chloe Jantz, Leah Rosenberger, Toni Moore, Kasie Young, Jody Tottress and Carrie Dotson.

Spears said Targa settled for 35 percent. This is a huge hit for Burlington School – “Near \$2 million less than they expected,” Spears said. The Burlington School District received a 67 percent reduction. Alfalfa County Assessor Jennifer Roach explained that the Targa settlement includes entities in Alfalfa and Woods counties.

Because the amount is so large, Spears said he brought in County Assessor Jennifer Roach to explain the effect of this amount on patron’s taxes. Roach told the Newsgram this is a tax-roll correction.

The Burlington School District amount is \$2,758,800. This amount is for the school and also County General and EMS appropriations.

Roach said the mill levy for the

Burlington School District went from 78.8 to 93.73. However, she was quick to point out that “the mill levy increase is not from the Targa settlement. It had to do from a previous loss in value from a public service company.”

“Cut, cut, cut spending,” the superintendent said. This money will be sent out shortly after the first of December.

Burlington School Board Action

Spears recommended and the board approved splitting Rachael Spears’ stipend in STEAM and Gifted and Talented – \$2,500 attributed to STEAM and \$2,500 to G/T. STEAM education (science, technology, engineering, arts, mathematics) is an approach to teaching these subjects and incorporating artistic skills like creative thinking and design.

The Lion’s Club was thanked for tables they donated.

Spears updated the board with the number of families who did not fill out the Free and Reduced application for this year.

“Filling out this application can result in increased federal dollars for our child nutrition program. We are almost to the point of qualifying the entire district as free based on the percentage of families who qualify for assistance based on income. Hopefully next year we can have more participation and meet that

qualification.”

The board did not approve the school to participate in the OSDE High Quality Teacher education program. They did approve the consent agenda and the October Activity report.

The resignation from Hannah Arnold as daycare teacher was accepted by the board who thanked her for her service.

Spears said that all the Elks basketball teams are doing well. The junior high boys finished second at the Cherokee tournament.

“It’s still way early but all the teams have some wins. And we are eager to see the rest of the year holds,” he said.

Spears said both high school teams are 1-2 currently. “We’ve had a tough schedule so far. Our teams are looking much better than last year. I’m excited for what they will do.”

The 2024-2025 school calendar received board approval.

Counselor Mrs. Fraire presented ACT scores compared to benchmarks taken in earlier semesters. scores showed an increase in every category from prior benchmark testing.

The following were approved: General Fund encumbrances in the amount of \$7,767.30, change orders totaling (\$9,920.66) and warrants of \$236,542.06; Building Fund encumbrances of \$9,335, change orders of \$117.68 and warrants totaling \$12,452.68; Child Nutrition Fund encumbrances of \$2,500, no change orders, and warrants totaling \$3,716.54.

Regarding school-owned houses, Spears said all the houses are full. Rent is paid. No major issues exist.

Spears also provided an update on the daycare.

The board held a brief executive session with no action taken upon return to open session.

Burlington Students’ Activities and Achievements

The cross-country team and Coach Hamilton worked their tails off this year and qualified for state.

“Every morning this fall we would

The Burlington Superintendent News a Monthly Presentation of

Oklahoma Kansas Cooperatives

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Gerrett Spears
Superintendent



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See Burlington Page 8



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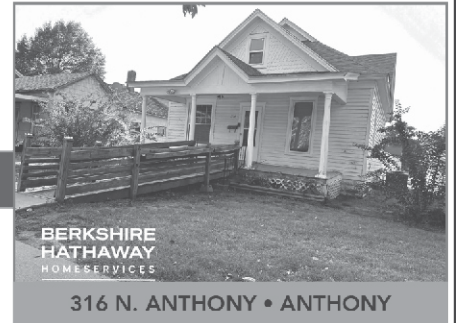
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HOUSE # 1 - LOT 100: 316 N. ANTHONY, ANTHONY, KS

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From Page 6 Burlington

see kids running hills or see the little elk leading the kids around the dirt roads, hearing Coach Hamilton's whistle. To our knowledge, this is the first team from Burlington to make state. Hopefully, with such a young team, we can do it again next year," Spears stated.

Carleigh Hill finished 9th in the 2-mile with a tie of 13:13, resulting in an all-state title. Spears stated, "To make all-state as a freshman is amazing. Hopefully she can do that again next year."

K-second graders attended "The Wizard of Oz" at NWOSU Children's Theater. That same day, the sixth graders participated in Northwest Tech Center's Career Day. Read with Parents was also that same day. Elementary academics' next meet is Dec. 4. English language arts is the next subject up for curriculum alignment, specifically in the primary grades.

Pedersen stated, "We are looking at

different things, like how much Title time is being taught and taking sure we are working with all tiers of skills. Tracy Ellis with OSDE is still coming in to help with the implementation of UFLI, which has been embraced by our teachers."

Spears stated that the high school has been busy. The first high school basketball game was Friday, Nov. 15, followed by two more the following week. Spears stated, "Go look at the schedule online to be sure nothing is missed."

A leadership meal was held with ham and sides served. Pedersen helped out last week by covering Saturday school. Spears will cover this week's Saturday school. Saturday school can help with absences, discipline and grades.

The elementary student spotlight was second grader Toni Moore. Mrs. Graham was quoted as saying, "Toni is quiet and hardworking. She has a radiant smile and is kind to others." Mrs.

Thomason was quoted as stating, "Toni is kind to everyone, will offer help to anyone, always tries her best and always has a positive attitude." Mr. Pedersen stated, "Toni is always in a good mood and always smiling. She is a good role model for other elementary students. She doesn't complain, holds the door for others, and is always wanting to help out. She is a kind soul. She is a good representation for our school. I appreciate having a student like her."

Spears introduced the staff spotlight as Carrie Dotson. Spears stated, "Carrie is always willing to help in any capacity. She does everything needed, from keeping the time clock at the elementary festival to updating the announcements and keeping the activity fund budget. Carrie has been fantastic in the office, assisting with juggling many activities. She is irreplaceable and fantastic for our school. We appreciate Carrie very much."

Alfalfa County E-911 Director to assume more duties with loss of department employee

Alfalfa County Courthouse closed Thursday and Friday for Thanksgiving

By Stacy Sanborn

At this week's Alfalfa County commissioners meeting, Garret Johnson and Nate Ross tabled a couple of agenda items until next week when their fellow commissioner Mike Roach returns.

Those items included a request to change a sheriff's office receiving officer to Melissa Leslie and a 324A claim form and 50 percent invoice from Poe and Associates indicating drive-out complete, waiver valuations, and all offers made for JP No. 35426(04) on unnamed creek project. Commissioners Johnson and Ross were unsure what the paperwork on the latter was about and decided to wait to take any action until next week when Roach was back.

Sheriff Gary Mast and E-911 Director Sarah Wagner attended the meeting to discuss the duties of the

sheriff admin/E-911 supervisor position. Mast explained to Johnson and Ross that instead of replacing outgoing employee Jo Thompson, he decided it would be better to "farm out" those duties to E-911 Director Sarah Wagner and pay her extra. This arrangement will save the county money from having to hire someone new. The commissioners asked Mast to write a formal job description for Wagner's new duties so she would not take on more than what was formally agreed upon. Mast said he would complete that before the matter moved through next week's meeting.

The next item on the agenda concerned a signature on warrants for the chairman effective Nov. 25. County Clerk Laneta Schwerdtfeger said she sent Johnson's signature in, so when a new chairman is voted on, they will either have to remove

that signature altogether the first week or, if they have an idea about who will be chairman, they can send that signature in ahead of time. Schwerdtfeger said, to her understanding, it is just a switch to shut off, so it may need to shut off for the first week in Jan. until they go through it, and then they can turn it right back on, but until they run payroll, she is not sure if it will go on there.

Lastly, the two men signed approval on a request for a new account number for Chart of Account for Sheriff Donations M&O 1235-2-0400-2005. Previous meeting minutes, blanket purchase orders, M&O warrants for payment, and payroll warrants were signed earlier in the meeting. Also signed were a low-carbon transportation materials support letter and the Circuit Engineering District auction policy.

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The Alva High School One Act team was named back-to-back Class 4A State Champions earlier this month and received the Outstanding Tech award for their performance of “Shipwrecked! An Entertainment.” Three members, Kaden Lambert, TJ Killman and Will McClure, were selected for the All-State Cast. Pictured are Aiden Brinkley, Dash Dickey, Russell Smiley, Will McClure, Hadlee Ohm, Garrett Killman, Trystan Vickers, Toby Anton, Kaden Lambert, Kade Parker, Avery Goss, Madeline Ryerson, Isaac Anton, Merritt Mantz, Turner Killman, Alexa Peace, Jansen Shirley, Nicholas Miller, Morgan Vickers, Frankie Allen, Taylor Kline, Taytum Schlarb, Eden Yauk, Jozlin Campbell and Sydney Sanborn. Photo provided by Nick Bradt



Timberlake junior Mavric Judd (12) receives the ball and gains yards for the Tigers during Friday’s game against Paoli. Timberlake won 48-0 and moves on to the next week of playoffs. Photo by Desiree Morehead

See more photos
Page 24

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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	
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	\$975,000	
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	
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242	Comanche Co, KS	Agricultural, Grassland, Hunting	\$363,000	SOLD
1,894	Morton Co, KS	Dryland Farm Ground-CRP-Homestead	\$1,650,000	SOLD
620	Meade Co, KS	Grazing - CRP - Hunting	\$1,260,000	SOLD
780	Texas Co, OK	Grassland, Grazing, Hunting	\$741,000	SOLD
Lots	McCurtain Co, OK	Convenience Store - Recently Built	\$3,675,000	SOLD
880	Kiowa Co, KS	Agricultural, Hunting, Grass Land	\$1,760,000	SOLD
680	Seminole Co, OK	6 Tracts - North Canadian River	AUCTION	SOLD
11,242	McIntosh Co, OK	GILLESPIE RANCH - LAKE EUFAULA	\$23,600,000	SOLD
290	WOODS CO, OK	Little Sahara State Park 14 Tracts	AUCTION	SOLD
780	Alfalfa Co, OK	6 Tracts - CLASS 1 SOILS - Cropland	AUCTION	SOLD
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11,391	McIntosh Co, OK	FISHER RANCH - LAKE EUFAULA	\$19,900,000	SOLD
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Raise approved for Woods County employees

By Marione Martin

When Chairman Randy McMurphy brought up the idea of raising the wages of county employees, the other two Woods County commissioners quickly jumped on board. "I think it's high time we do something," said David Hamil. "I think we're way behind," agreed John Smiley.

The commissioners looked at three proposals and decided on the highest, which would add \$400 annually for each employee. They discussed whether the wage increase would begin January 1, 2025, or earlier. McMurphy suggested they make it retroactive to July 1, 2024, the beginning of the fiscal year. Smiley made a motion, seconded by Hamil, to give each employee the raise beginning with July 1, 2024, and all three commissioners voted in favor.

County Clerk Shelley Reed wasn't sure when employees will see the increase on their paychecks. She said her office will try to implement it for December, but she wasn't sure they could make it happen. If not, the raise will show up on Jan. paychecks. This raise does not apply to county elected officers.

During the discussion, McMurphy raised the question of whether sheriff's

department employees should be included. There is some resentment among other employees because the sheriff's office applied for a grant, not yet received, to be used partially for longevity bonuses for that department. However, this was a one-time grant, and the other commissioners said the raise should be for all employees.

AC/Heating Replacements

Reed said the county received three quotes on replacement of air conditioning and heating units. The lowest price came from Bushman Heat and Air at \$32,833 for five complete units and one partial heating unit. McMurphy said the units being replaced were 2010 and 2011 models. The commissioners approved Bushman's for the work.

Other Business

The commissioners approved an October detention transportation claim of \$223.90.

Two actions were related to work on the Salt Fork Bridge in Hamil's District 1. The commissioners approved Oklahoma Department of Transportation title sheets for the federal aid project. They also approved acquisition of a parcel of land for \$2,500 assigned to Pinnacle Consulting Group for the project.

A transfer of appropriations was

approved to move Highway CIRB funds to Highway personal services in the amount of \$15,701.27 for District 1 and \$15,701.25 for District 2.

A laptop computer for the sheriff was declared surplus and removed from inventory due to the item being returned to the vendor.

Under new business, Smiley said he went to the OEDA meeting in Beaver where they awarded approximately 300 grants. They still have about \$300,000 left. Those who qualified to apply through the counties but didn't make the deadline will be offered another chance. For Woods County that includes the Alva EMS and fire departments from Waynoka, Freedom and Dacoma. He said the filing period will be from Jan. 1 to March 15.

Two years ago, the courthouse was lighted at a cost of about \$2,500, but the commissioners declined to have lights installed in 2023. McMurphy said no one has contacted the county, but he wanted to know the opinion of the other commissioners about doing it this year. If there is interest, the item will be put on a future agenda.


The commissioners approved minutes of the last meeting, payroll, warrants, claims and blanket purchase orders.

From Page 10
Newton

session.

On a separate note, I want to wish everyone in House District 58 a very happy Thanksgiving. I truly hope you enjoy some time with loved ones, eating good food, serving others, watching football, or whatever it is you most enjoy on this special day.

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


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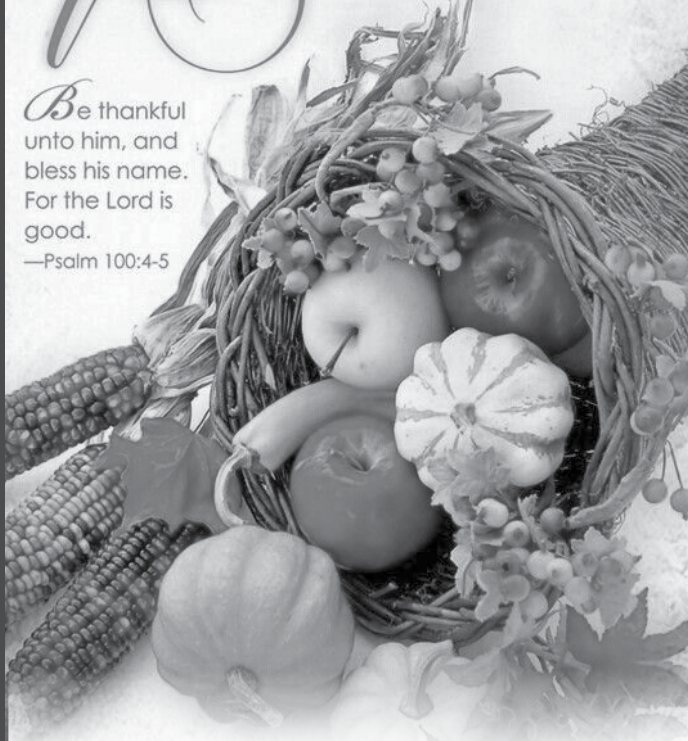
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Field stormings bring fines for Big 12, SEC schools after weekend of upsets arouses fans

By The Associated Press

The Big 12 and the Southeastern Conference have issued fines to schools whose fans stormed the field after important victories on Saturday, some doing so before the game was even over.

Fans of 14th-ranked Arizona State thought their 28-23 win over No. 19 BYU was over and poured onto the field after a fourth-down pass by Sun Devils quarterback Sam Leavitt was thrown high and out of bounds. The play started with 7 seconds on the clock and officials rules there was 1 second remaining.

Clearing the field took 15 minutes before BYU tried a Hail Mary that fell incomplete, preserving the victory in arguably the biggest home game for Arizona State in a decade. The school was fined \$25,000 and reprimanded by the conference.

“The safety of student-athletes and all game participants is our foremost priority,” Big 12 Commissioner Brett Yormark said in a statement. “We will continue to work with our institutions on event management policies at all Big 12 venues.”

Oklahoma and Auburn were fined Sunday by the SEC after their fans ran onto the field, Sooners fans also prematurely when their team beat No. 7 Alabama 24-3. Fans of the Tigers waited much longer — until after Auburn’s 43-41 four-overtime win against No. 20 Texas

See Storming Page 30

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- THE DAISY VILLAGE: 8AM-2PM
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- LADEEDA: 9AM-2PM



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Timberlake senior Caleb Barney (88) takes down the Paoli offense during Friday's game . *Photo by Desiree Morehead*

Timberlake advances to semifinals in football

By Marione Martin

The Timberlake Tigers defeated Paoli last Friday to advance to the Oklahoma football semifinals. The Tigers won 48-0 at home in the quarterfinals. Dec. 6 Timberlake travels to Western Heights to play Ryan with a 7 p.m. kickoff.

The other Class C semifinal is between Tipton and Tyrone. That game will be played at Woodward Dec. 6 at 7 p.m.

The Cherokee Chiefs lost 48-0 to Seiling in Class B-II last week, ending Cherokee's season. Seiling will take on Covington-Douglas Dec. 6 at 7 p.m. in Cashion.

Northwestern Oklahoma State University in Alva will host a semi-final game for Class B-I Dec. 6. Laverne will take on Garber at 7 p.m.



Tiger Bodey Thomas (8) gains yards during Friday's game against Paoli. The Tigers beat the Pugs, 48-0. *Photo by Desiree Morehead*



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Above: Paoli's Jeff Underwood (4) pressures Timberlake's quarterback Payton Pierce (11) to throw the ball. Photo by Desiree Morehead



Timberlake's Alex Brewer (24) reaches above Paoli players to capture the ball. Tigers beat the Pugs, 48-0, advancing to the next round of playoffs. Photo by Desiree Morehead



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WE WILL NEVER FORGET –TAPS played at the end of a Veterans Day program usually brings a tear to many Americans as they remember those who served so we have freedom. Students playing TAPS at South Barber's Veterans Day program are Leo Turner and Danielle Turner. Photo by Yvonne Miller



PROUD OF OUR VETERANS—At South Barber's Veterans Day program 2nd –4th graders sing "roud of Our Veterans." Students shown singing are: James Fox, Eliza Liggerstoffer, Reagan Grieve, Tyler Archuleta, Joshua Mac Kinney, Cody Lacy. Front row: Adrienne Simpson, Keira Clausing, Lindsey McKean Photo by Yvonne Miller



GOD BLESS THE USA – Singing the favorite "od Bless the USA," South Barber's High School choir performs at their Veterans Day program. Stephanie Hawkins is the K-12 vocal and band teacher this year and led the students in moving patriotic pieces. Students performing are: James Fox, Eliza Liggerstoffer, Lindsey McKean, Alyna Wilson and Noah Allen. Photo by Yvonne Miller



WSU HONORS SCHOLARS –South Barber students Danielle MacKinney and Lillian Dunham are two of five SB students who were honored as Wichita State Honors Scholars. This is an elite award presented to qualifying Juniors at a reception and banquet. Selected Juniors must meet one of the following criteria: a 27 or higher on the ACT, 3.5 GPA or higher OR be in the top 10% of their class. Other SBHS students who qualified but were unable to attend the banquet were Tanith Erikson, Lily Schurter, and Fiona Walz.

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 –South Barber's Scholars Bowl team are champions of their invitational meet. South Barber Senior Reagan Grieve took second place for Individual High Scorer with a tally of 305 points. With their coach Kathie Kersten, team members are: James Fox, Eliza Liggenstoffer, Reagan Grieve, Tyler Archuleta, Joshua Mac Kinney, Cody Lacy. Front row: Adrienne Simpson, Keira Clausing, Lindsey McKean



September Students of the Month at South Barber's 7-12 are Lynnnon Humphrey and Lily Dunham are congratulated by Superintendent Dr. Mylo Miller and 7-12 Principal Steve Neal.



Superintendent Dr. Mylo Miller and Elementary Principal Kaynette Scheck welcome September Students of the Month Brianna McQueen and Ellison Liggenstoffer.

SEPTEMBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH –South Barber students of the month for September 2024 are 2nd grade Ellison Liggenstoffer, 4th Grade Brianna McKeane, 8th Grade Lynnnon Humphrey, and 11th Grade Lilian Dunham. “reat group of students!”South Barber teachers selected these students for their positive attitudes and leadership in the school. “wesome job to our students,”Dr. Miller said. He added “A big thank you to the First State Bank of Kiowa, branch of Alva State Bank, for supporting our student of the month program.”Students of the month receive a t-shirt (from Rylie Girty of LJ Designs in Kiowa), a certificate of recognition, and lunch off campus with the Superintendent.



OCTOBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH –Having fun at lunch with South Barber Superintendent Dr. Mylo Miller are the October Students of the Month. They are: 3rd grade Ada McNett, 4th Grade Tacksen Ricke, 8th Grade Melany Duvall, and 9th Grade Chance Howland. “hey are a great group of students!”Miller said. South Barber teachers selected these students for their positive attitudes and leadership in the school. A big thank you to the First State Bank of Kiowa, a branch of Alva State Bank, for supporting our student of the month program. Students of the month receive a t-shirt (from Rylie Girty of LJ Designs in Kiowa), a certificate of recognition, and lunch off campus with the superintendent.

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Oklahoma's throwback offensive approach against Alabama gets LSU's attention

By Cliff Brunt

NORMAN, Okla. (AP)—Oklahoma appears to have borrowed from the past to cure its recent offensive ills.

The Sooners, best known this century for a passing prowess that has produced four Heisman Trophy-winning quarterbacks, took it back to the 20th century against then-No. 7 Alabama. Oklahoma ran 50 times for 257 yards while only throwing 12 times in a 24-3 win over the Crimson Tide that took coach Brent Venables off the hot seat. The Sooners more resembled Barry Switzer's squads that dominated the old Big 8 with the wishbone offense in the 1970s and '80s than the more recent Air Raid teams.

Venables said the change was a matter of necessity for a unit that has been besieged by injuries at receiver and offensive line.

"I think this staff has done a really good job with trying to figure that out, get better every week, put together a great gameplan but also figure out, 'OK, what does this group of guys, what does this team — what do we need to do?'" Venables said.

To make it work, Oklahoma needed to trust that such a change would work in the modern Southeastern Conference. They had to implement it with an interim play-caller in Joe Jon Finley, who stepped in after the Sooners fired Seth Littrell last month.

Oklahoma (6-5, 2-5 SEC) pulled it off, and LSU coach Brian Kelly has taken notice ahead of their game on Saturday.

"This is now much more about controlling the football, running the football, playing with physicality," Kelly said. "They've got perimeter skill, but I think it's centered around much more of a run-centric, quarterback run and take care of the football."

The Sooners started to see success on the ground against Maine. They ran 52 times for 381 yards in a 59-14 win that got the wheels turning. Jovantae Barnes ran for career highs of 203 yards and three touchdowns that day.

Venables said the timing of the opportunity to play that non-conference game against Maine in early November and figure some things out was perfect.

"Everybody has some degree of vulnerability and maybe some self-doubt," he said. "And just developing some confidence and putting something on tape other than practice, like, 'Man, look, see what you're capable of?' And executing against, again, a well-coached team — certainly, we played off of that in all the right ways like you would expect us to. And so there's a real place for that."

After a bye week, the Sooners tried the same approach against Missouri. It wasn't as successful — they ran 36 times for 122 yards — but they hung tough before losing 30-23.

The Sooners went all in against Alabama. Jackson Arnold — the same guy who threw 45 times in the Alamo Bowl last year, ran 25 times for 131 yards and threw just 11 passes.

The Sooners found something in running back Xavier Robinson. With

Barnes out with an injury, Robinson carried 18 times for career highs of 107 yards and two touchdowns.

Suddenly, a team that had been forcing the pass and getting sacked at an alarming rate was moving the line of scrimmage and controlling the tempo. Oklahoma had the ball for more than 34 minutes against the Crimson Tide, lending support to a talented defense that had been spending way too much time on the field.

The new approach could be helpful on Saturday — LSU (7-4, 4-3) ranks 14th out of 16 conference teams against the run.

Venables said the Sooners still need to throw the ball well to win, but he's glad to know his squad can run with force when necessary.

"I think that's the art of having a system that's adjustable, flexible, adaptable, week in and week out, but also has an identity — toughness, physicality," he said. "You've got to be able to run the ball at every level of football, but you do have to throw it. You can't just do one thing. But we need to be efficient."

From Page 22
Storming

A&M.

The SEC fined Auburn \$100,000 for its first offense and Oklahoma \$200,000 — \$100,000 each for its first offense and for the fans getting on the playing surface with 28 seconds remaining.

Fans at Nebraska and California also stormed the field — Cornhuskers fans after a 44-25 victory against Wisconsin made them bowl eligible for the first time since 2016, and Bears fans after a 24-21 victory against Stanford in "The Big Game" also made them bowl eligible.

Thank You We want to thank everyone for the cards, visits, food, flowers and donations. Your support and prayers have been a source of comfort during this difficult time. A special thank you to Humanity Hospice Staff for their wonderful care and to Marshall Funeral Home for the lovely service.

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Obituaries

EDITH MARIE HAIGHT

Memorial services for Edith Marie Haight will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, November 30, 2024, at the First Christian Church in Cherokee, Oklahoma, with Pastor Luke Heim officiating. Cremation arrangements are under the direction of Marshall Funeral Home of Alva.



Edith Marie Evans, daughter of the late Walter Melvin and Wilma Ada (Brace) Evans, was born July 12, 1942, at Alva, Oklahoma, and passed away November 23, 2024, at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, at the age of 82 years, 4 months and 11 days.

Edith was raised on the family farm northwest of Waynoka and graduated high school in Alva with the Class of 1960. After high school she attended a Community College in Wichita.

She married Dean Dowling on October 2, 1960. Together they had a son, Steven Dowling. Edith later was united in marriage to LeRoy Haight and they shared 28 years together until his passing in 2009. Later in life, she enjoyed spending time with her dear friend, the late Don Wessels.

She worked in the office for many years at the John Deere Dealership in Alva and most recently she helped out at her son's store. Edith was an avid gardener, she loved to hunt and fish, and enjoyed spending time at the lake with family. Edith shared her love of the outdoors with her grandsons.

Besides her parents, Melvin and Wilma Evans, she was preceded in death by her husband, Leroy Haight; her brothers, Dan Evans and Dean Evans;

and her stepson, Lennie Haight.

Edith is survived by her son, Steve Dowling and wife, Janet, of Jet; her brother, Lester Evans of Waynoka; her sister, Norma Wilhite of Hardtner, Kansas; her sister-in-law, Ella Evans of Alva; her grandsons, Derek Schuermann and wife Ida, Taylor Dowling and Nikki, and Christopher Dowling; grandsons Jeremy Haight, Jimmy Haight, Jarrod Haight, Matthew Haight and Michael Haight; six great-grandchildren, John, Addyson, Scot, Ali, Arthur, and Caywood; and one stepson, Larry Haight and wife, Rebecca, of Redding, California; many other relatives and friends.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made through the funeral home to Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Youth Camp (ODWC).

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

LYDIA JANE KIRKENDALL

Lydia Jane Kirkendall, 85, of Aline, Oklahoma, passed away peacefully on November 20, 2024.



Lydia was born on December 23, 1938, and raised at Perkins, Oklahoma. After graduating, she entered the nursing field, where she met her husband, David.

Together they had four children. Lydia was a person full of love, always giving whether it be in her nursing career or friends that stopped by. She always met friends with a full meal made with love as the main ingredient.

Lydia spent her last days surrounded by all her family.

Lydia is preceded in death by her

husband, David; her parents, Edwin and Bernice Davis; four brothers; four sisters, and one grandchild, Deshae Pasqualita.

She is survived by her daughter, Belinda Smith and husband Joe of Arnett; son, David Leroy Kirkendall of Aline; son, Warren Lee Kirkendall and wife, Rita of Aline, and daughter, Beth Woodall of Kingfisher; eight grandchildren: Elizabeth and Jason Love and children, Skyler and Adison, Lydia Ann Marie Smith, Brenton and Marie Kirkendall and children, Cameron and Wyatt Kirkendall and Skylar and Christian Cain, Harley Rose and children, Kaedence and Delilah, Kalei and Danny Schmidt and children, Kala, Rhyleigh and Maci, Tyson Levi and Krystin Kirkendall and children, Ella Mae, Andi Jo and Koen, Sadie and Skyler Koehn and children, Zoey Jane and Owen Dean, Dakota Feige; step grandchildren, Matt and Hilary Nicholson and children, Jayden and Sabra Howerton and children, Kinley and Georgia, and Aleigh Nicholson and son, Walker Dodson; many friends; great nieces, and nephews.

She loved each and every one without measure.

Funeral services for Lydia were held Saturday, November 23, 2024, at 10 a.m. at Cleo Christian Church. Burial followed at Aline Star Cemetery with arrangements by Lanman Funeral Home, Inc. of Helena. Online condolences may be made at www.lanmanfuneralhome.com.

In memory of Lydia, in lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Women's Domestic Violence Shelter (YWCA of Enid) through the funeral home.

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Walmart's DEI rollback signals a profound shift in the wake of Trump's election victory

By Alexandra Olson and Cathy Bussewitz

NEW YORK (AP) — Walmart's sweeping rollback of its diversity policies is the strongest indication yet of a profound shift taking hold at U.S. companies that are reevaluating the legal and political risks associated with bold programs to bolster historically underrepresented groups in business.

The changes announced by the world's biggest retailer followed a string of legal victories by conservative groups that have filed an onslaught of lawsuits challenging corporate and federal programs aimed at elevating minority and women-owned businesses and employees.

The risk associated with some of programs crystalized with the election of former President Donald Trump, whose administration is certain to make dismantling diversity, equity and inclusion programs a priority. Trump's incoming deputy chief of policy will be his former adviser Stephen Miller, who leads a group called America First Legal that has aggressively challenged corporate DEI policies.

"There has been a lot of reassessment of risk looking at programs that could be deemed to constitute reverse discrimination," said Allan Schweyer, principal researcher the Human Capital Center at the Conference Board.

"This is another domino to fall and it is a rather large domino," he added.

Among other changes, Walmart said it will no longer give priority treatment to suppliers owned by women or minorities. The company also will not renew a five-year commitment for a racial equity center set up in 2020 after the police killing of George Floyd. And it pulled out of a prominent gay rights index.

Schweyer said the biggest trigger for companies making such changes is simply a reassessment of their legal risk exposure, which began after U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in June 2023 that ended affirmative action in college admissions. Since then, conservative

groups using similar arguments have secured court victories against various diversity programs, especially those that steer contracts to minority or women-owned businesses.

Most recently, the conservative Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty won a victory in a case against the U.S. Department of Transportation over its use of a program that gives priority to minority-owned businesses when it awards contracts.

Companies are seeing a big legal risk in continuing with DEI efforts, said Dan Lennington, a deputy counsel at the institute. His organization says it has identified more than 60 programs in the federal government that it considers discriminatory, he said.

"We have a legal landscape within the entire federal government, all three branches -- the U.S. Supreme Court, the Congress and the President -- are all now firmly pointed in the direction towards equality of individuals and individualized treatment of all Americans, instead of diversity, equity and inclusion treating people as members of racial groups," Lennington said.

The Trump administration is also likely to take direct aim at DEI initiatives through executive orders and other policies that affect private companies, especially federal contractors.

"The impact of the election on DEI policies is huge. It can't be overstated," said Jason Schwartz, co-chair of the Labor & Employment Practice Group at law firm Gibson Dunn.

With Miller returning to the White House, rolling back DEI initiatives is likely to be a priority, Schwartz said.

"Companies are trying to strike the right balance to make clear they've got an inclusive workplace where everyone is welcome, and they want to get the best talent, while at the same time trying not to alienate various parts of their employees and customer base who might feel one way or the other. It's a virtually impossible dilemma," Schwartz said.

A recent survey by Pew Research Center showed that workers are divided

on the merits of DEI policies. While still broadly popular, the share of workers who said focusing on workplace diversity was mostly a good thing fell to 52% in the November survey, compared to 56% in a similar survey in February 2023. Rachel Minkin, a research associated at Pew called it a small but significant shift in short amount of time.

There will be more companies pulling back from their DEI policies, but it likely won't be a retreat across the board, said David Glasgow, executive director of the Meltzer Center for Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging at New York University.

"There are vastly more companies that are sticking with DEI," Glasgow said. "The only reason you don't hear about it is most of them are doing it by stealth. They're putting their heads down and doing DEI work and hoping not to attract attention."

Glasgow advises organizations to stick to their own core values, because attitudes toward the topic can change quickly in the span of four years.

"It's going to leave them looking a little bit weak if there's a kind of flip-flopping, depending on whichever direction the political winds are blowing," he said.

One reason DEI programs exist is because without those programs, companies may be vulnerable to lawsuits for traditional discrimination. "Really think carefully about the risks in all directions on this topic," Glasgow said.

Walmart confirmed will no longer consider race and gender as a litmus test to improve diversity when it offers supplier contracts. Last fiscal year, Walmart said it spent more than \$13 billion on minority, women or veteran-owned good and service suppliers.

It was unclear how its relationships with such business would change going forward. Organizations that that have partnered with Walmart on its diversity initiatives offered a cautious response.

The Women's Business Enterprise National Council, a non-profit that last

See Walmart Page 38

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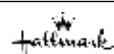
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Biden proposes Medicare and Medicaid cover costly weight-loss drugs for millions of obese Americans

By Amanda Seitz

WASHINGTON (AP) — Millions of Americans with obesity would be eligible to have popular weight-loss drugs like Wegovy or Zepbound covered by Medicare or Medicaid under a new rule the Biden administration proposed Tuesday morning.

The costly proposal from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services immediately sets the stage for a showdown between the powerful pharmaceutical industry and Robert F. Kennedy Jr., an outspoken opponent of the weight-loss drugs who, as President-elect Donald Trump's nominee to lead the agency, could block the measure.

While the rule would give millions of people access to weekly injectables that have helped people shed pounds so quickly that some have labeled them miracle drugs, it would cost taxpayers as much as \$35 billion over the next decade.

"It's a good day for anyone who suffers from obesity," U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra told The Associated Press in an interview. "It's a game changer for Americans who can't afford these drugs otherwise."

The rule would not be finalized until January, days after Trump takes office. A bipartisan coalition of congressional members has lobbied for the drugs to be covered by Medicare, saying it could save the government from spending billions of dollars on treating chronic ailments that stem from obesity. While it's unclear where Trump himself stands on coverage of the weight-loss drugs, his allies and Cabinet picks who have vowed to cut government spending could balk at the upfront price tag.

Under the proposal, only those who are considered obese — someone who has a body mass index of 30 or higher — would qualify for coverage. Some people may already get coverage of the drugs through Medicare or Medicaid, if they have diabetes or are at risk for stroke or heart disease.

Becerra estimated that an additional

3.5 million people on Medicare and 4 million on Medicaid could qualify for coverage of the drugs. But research suggests far more people might qualify, with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services estimating roughly 28 million people on Medicaid are considered obese.

Medicare has been barred from offering the drugs under a decades-old law that prohibits the government-backed insurance program from covering weight-loss products. The rule proposed by the Biden administration, however, would recognize obesity as a disease that can be treated with the help of the drugs.

The anti-obesity drug market has expanded significantly in recent years, with the Food and Drug Administration approving a new class of weekly injectables like Novo Nordisk's Wegovy and Eli Lilly's Zepbound to treat obesity.

People can lose as much as 15% to 25% of their body weight on the drugs, which imitate the hormones that regulate appetites by communicating fullness between the gut and brain when people eat.

The cost of the drugs has largely limited them to the wealthy, including celebrities who boast of their benefits. A monthly supply of Wegovy rings up at \$1,300 and Zepbound will put you out \$1,000. Shortages of the drugs have also limited the supplies.

Kennedy, who as Trump's nominee for HHS secretary is subject to Senate confirmation, has railed against the drugs' popularity. In speeches and on social media, he's said the U.S. should not cover the drugs through Medicaid or Medicare. Instead, he supports a broad expansion of coverage for healthier foods and gym memberships.

"For half the price of Ozempic, we could purchase regeneratively raised, organic food for every American, three meals a day and a gym membership, for every obese American," Kennedy said to a group of federal lawmakers during a roundtable earlier this year. Ozempic is a diabetes drug that can stimulate weight loss.

From Page 36 Walmart

year named Walmart one of America's top corporation for women-owned enterprises, said it was still evaluating the impact of Walmart's announcement.

Pamela Prince-Eason, the president and CEO of the organization, said she hoped Walmart's need to cater to its diverse customer base will continue to drive contracts to women-owned suppliers even if the company no longer has explicit dollar goals.

"I suspect Walmart will continue to have one of the most inclusive supply chains in the World," Prince-Eason wrote. "Any retailer's ability to serve the communities they operate in will continue to value understanding their customers, (many of which are women), in order to better provide products and services desired and no one understands customers better than Walmart."

Walmart's announcement came after the company spoke directly with conservative political commentator and activist Robby Starbuck, who has been going after corporate DEI policies, calling out individual companies on the social media platform X. Several of those companies have subsequently announced that they are pulling back their initiatives, including Ford, Harley-Davidson, Lowe's and Tractor Supply.

Walmart confirmed to The Associated Press that it will better monitor its third-party marketplace items to make sure they don't feature sexual and transgender products aimed at minors. The company also will stop participating in the Human Rights Campaign's annual benchmark index that measures workplace inclusion for LGBTQ+ employees.

A Walmart spokesperson added that some of the changes were already in progress and not as a result of conversations that it had with Starbuck.

RaShawn "Shawnie" Hawkins, senior director of the HRC Foundation's Workplace Equality Program, said companies that "abandon" their commitments workplace inclusion policies "are shirking their responsibility to their employees, consumers, and shareholders." She said the buying power of LGBTQ customers is powerful and noted that the index will have record participation of more than 1,400 companies in 2025.

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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 "Tracker" .22 LR stainless DP185451, Smith & Wesson M&P .22 LR MP071707, Smith & Wesson "Chiefs Special" Mod. CS45 45Auto EKY1779, Ruger "Blackhawk" .30 carbine rev. 51-38484, Dan Wesson .22 LR rev. A029641.

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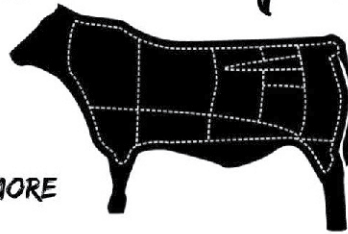
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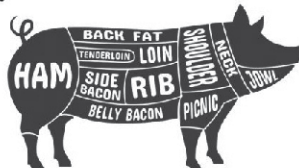


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Trump vows tariffs over immigration. What the numbers say about border crossings, drugs and crime.

By Rebecca Santana

WASHINGTON (AP) — In an evening announcement, President-elect Donald Trump railed against Mexico and Canada, accusing them of allowing thousands of people to enter the U.S.

Hitting a familiar theme from the campaign trail and his first term in office, Trump portrayed the country's borders as insecure and immigrants as contributing to crime and the fentanyl crisis. In an announcement that could have stark repercussions, he threatened to impose 25% tariffs on everything coming into the country from those two countries.

Trump's anti-immigration rhetoric has resonated with voters concerned about immigration and crime. Yet there's more to the story than Trump's short statement suggested.

A look at what the numbers and studies say about border crossings, fentanyl smuggling and whether there's a connection between immigration and crime:

Border crossings

The number of migrants crossing the U.S.-Mexico border is a key metric watched intensely by both Republicans and Democrats.

Customs and Border Protection, an arm of the Department of Homeland Security, releases monthly statistics that track everything from drug seizures to cross-border trade. One of the metrics tracked is the number of Border Patrol arrests or encounters each month with people entering the country between the official border crossings — known as the ports of entry.

The vast majority of those arrests happen at the southern border.

Those numbers have actually been falling this year under the Biden administration. The Border Patrol made 56,530 arrests in October, which is about a four-year low.

It hasn't always been like that. The Biden administration struggled to bring down the growing number of migrants coming to the southern border. A little less than a year ago, in December 2023, the Border Patrol made about a quarter of a million arrests along the southern

border — an all-time high. Cross-border trade was damaged as border agents were reassigned to help process migrants and train traffic was temporarily shut down.

Since then, the numbers of people encountered at the southern border have dropped and stayed down through a combination of stricter enforcement on the Mexican side and asylum restrictions announced earlier this year by the Biden administration.

Republicans put a caveat on those numbers.

They have frequently accused the Biden administration of using an app called CBP One to let hundreds of thousands of people into the country who otherwise wouldn't be allowed in. They've described the program where 1,450 people a day can schedule an appointment to come into the U.S., as essentially a way to keep the border encounter numbers artificially low.

On the northern border, the numbers are much smaller. Border Patrol made 23,721 arrests between October 2023 and September 2024, compared with 10,021 the previous 12 months.

Trump also struggled to get a handle on illegal border crossings. Arrests topped 850,000 in 2019, nearly triple the amount two years earlier, though still far below the tally of more than 2 million for two different years under Biden.

Drug smuggling

Trump and many Republicans have often portrayed the U.S.'s southern border as wide open to drug smuggling. They have also linked immigrants to drug smuggling and accused Mexico of doing little to stop it.

Much of America's fentanyl is smuggled from Mexico.

The fentanyl scourge began well before Biden took office. Border seizures have jumped sharply under Biden, which may partly reflect improved detection. About 27,000 pounds (12,247 kilograms) of fentanyl was seized by U.S. authorities in the 2023 government budget year, compared with 2,545 pounds (1,154 kilograms) in 2019, when Trump was president.

Cooperation between the Mexican

and U.S. governments on fighting drug smuggling undoubtedly suffered under President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, who left office at the end of September.

Before López Obrador took office in December 2018, the U.S. worked closely with Mexico's military to take down drug capos.

But López Obrador, a nationalist and folksy populist, railed against the violence set off by the drug war waged by his predecessors and the Americans. He proposed addressing the root societal causes of violence found in poverty and a lack of opportunity for young people, in what he called "hugs, not bullets."

For years, López Obrador denied that Mexico made fentanyl, despite evidence to the contrary, including statements from his own security officials. He blamed U.S. society, where he said families push children out of home too early, for cultivating addicts.

It's only two months into the term of President Claudia Sheinbaum.

But while most of the fentanyl comes from Mexico, statistics show that it is Americans who are doing the smuggling across the border. According to the U.S. Sentencing Commission, 86.4% of people sentenced for fentanyl trafficking crimes in a 12-month period ending September 2023 were American citizens.

Crime and immigration

Trump also has argued that the influx of immigrants is causing a crime surge in the U.S., although statistics show violent crime is on the way down.

Texas is the only state that tracks crime by immigration status. A study published by the National Academy of Sciences, based on Texas Department of Public Safety data from 2012 to 2016, found people in the U.S. illegally had "substantially lower crime rates than native-born citizens and legal immigrants across a range of felony offenses."

While FBI statistics do not separate out crimes by the immigration status of the assailant, there is no

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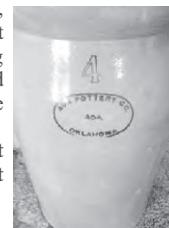
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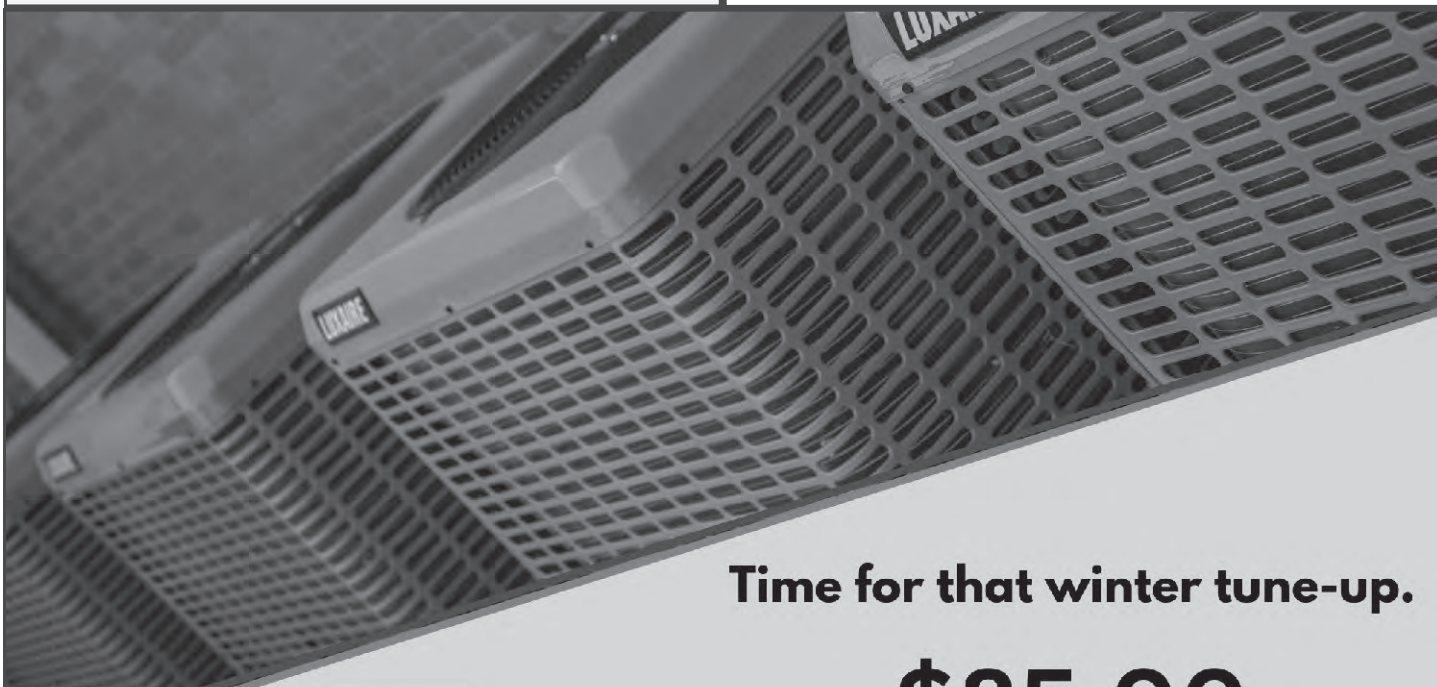
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UN Resolution 1701 is at the heart of the Israel-Hezbollah ceasefire deal. What is it?

By Kareem Chehayeb

BEIRUT (AP) — In 2006, after a bruising monthlong war between Israel and Lebanon's powerful Hezbollah militant group, the United Nations Security Council unanimously voted for a resolution to end the conflict and pave the way for lasting security along the border.

But while there was relative calm for nearly two decades, Resolution 1701's terms were never fully enforced.

Now, figuring out how to finally enforce it is key to a U.S.-brokered ceasefire deal approved by Israel on Tuesday.

In late September, after nearly a year of low-level clashes, the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah spiraled into all-out war and an Israeli ground invasion. As Israeli jets pound deep inside Lebanon and Hezbollah fires rockets deeper into northern Israel, U.N. and diplomatic officials again turned to the 2006 resolution in a bid to end the conflict.

Years of deeply divided politics and regionwide geopolitical hostilities have halted substantial progress on its implementation, yet the international community believes Resolution 1701 is still the brightest prospect for long-term stability between Israel and Lebanon.

Almost two decades after the last war between Israel and Hezbollah, the United States led shuttle diplomacy efforts between Lebanon and Israel to agree on a ceasefire proposal that renewed commitment to the resolution, this time with an implementation plan to try to bring the document back to life.

What is UNSC Resolution 1701?

In 2000, Israel withdrew its forces from most of southern Lebanon along a U.N.-demarcated "Blue Line" that separated the two countries and the Israeli-annexed Golan Heights, which most of the world considers occupied Syrian territory. U.N. peacekeeping forces in Lebanon, known

as UNIFIL, increased their presence along the line of withdrawal.

Resolution 1701 was supposed to complete Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon and ensure Hezbollah would move north of the Litani River, keeping the area exclusively under the Lebanese military and U.N. peacekeepers.

Up to 15,000 U.N. peacekeepers would help to maintain calm, return displaced Lebanese and secure the area alongside the Lebanese military.

The goal was long-term security, with land borders eventually demarcated to resolve territorial disputes.

The resolution also reaffirmed previous ones that call for the disarmament of all armed groups in Lebanon — Hezbollah among them.

"It was made for a certain situation and context," Elias Hanna, a retired Lebanese army general, told The Associated Press. "But as time goes on, the essence of the resolution begins to hollow."

Has Resolution 1701 been implemented?

For years, Lebanon and Israel blamed each other for countless violations along the tense frontier. Israel said Hezbollah's elite Radwan Force and growing arsenal remained, and accused the group of using a local environmental organization to spy on

troops. Lebanon complained about Israeli military jets and naval ships entering Lebanese territory even when there was no active conflict.

"You had a role of the UNIFIL that slowly eroded like any other peacekeeping with time that has no clear mandate," said Joseph Bahout, the director of the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy at the American University of Beirut. "They don't have permission to inspect the area without coordinating with the Lebanese army."

UNIFIL for years has urged Israel to withdraw from some territory north of the frontier, but to no avail. In the ongoing war, the peacekeeping mission has accused Israel, as well as Hezbollah, of obstructing and harming its forces and infrastructure.

Hezbollah's power, meanwhile, has grown, both in its arsenal and as a political influence in the Lebanese state.

The Iran-backed group was essential in keeping Syrian President Bashar Assad in power when armed opposition groups tried to topple him, and it supports Iran-backed groups in Iraq and Yemen. It has an estimated 150,000 rockets and missiles, including precision-guided missiles pointed at Israel, and has introduced drones into its arsenal.

From Page 40 Tariffs

evidence of a spike in crime perpetrated by migrants, either along the U.S.-Mexico border or in cities seeing the greatest influx of migrants, like New York. Studies have found that people living in the U.S. illegally are less likely than native-born Americans to have been arrested for violent, drug and property crimes.

Some crime is inevitable given the large population of immigrants. There were an estimated 11 million people in the country illegally in January 2022, according to the latest estimate by U.S. Homeland Security Department. In 2022, the Census Bureau estimated the

foreign-born population at 46.2 million, or nearly 14% of the total, with most states seeing double-digit percentage increases in the last dozen years.

Republicans have highlighted high-profile crimes by immigrants such as the February killing of 22-year-old Laken Riley in Georgia and argued that any crime committed by someone in the country illegally is a crime that shouldn't have happened.

A Venezuelan man who entered the country illegally was convicted and sentenced to life in prison this month in Riley's killing.

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Alfalfa County Sheriff's Office Logs

Tuesday, November 19, 2024

During this day: three traffic stops and one report of cattle out.

8:24 a.m. – Medic needed at James Crabtree Correctional Center for a 79-year-old male having trouble breathing and stomach pain. Medic took the patient to Bass Hospital in Enid.

5:13 p.m. – Report that a railroad-crossing arm on OK-45 was broken.

6:08 p.m. – Report of a juvenile male harassing his juvenile daughter, at Aline-Cleo High School, and sped away flipping rocks on the caller's vehicle.

7:10 p.m. – Report that a white van headed east on US-64 had no taillights, very dim headlights, and was driving slowly. Deputy unable to find vehicle.

8:33 p.m. – Medic needed on County Road 510 for a female in respiratory distress. Medic took the patient to St. Mary's Hospital in Enid.

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

During this day: four traffic stops.


1:08 p.m. – Reporting party advised she'd worked for someone in Jet for four weeks

See Sheriff Page 44

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From Page 43 Sheriff

and he never paid her. RP also advised that every day she worked for him he sexually harassed her. Deputy took the call.

5:02 p.m. – Reporting party advised of an unwanted solicitation by person in a gray pickup. Officer made contact. The person was under contract for work on Oklahoma Ave. Everything was okay.

9:31 p.m. – Caller requested a deputy to meet him to try and get his phone back from his wife, who hacked into it and invaded his privacy. Deputy notified. The female called in to report he had verbally attacked her for getting into his phone. She advised she was getting pictures of his phone for a Make-a-Wish project, but the owner thought she was spying. Both parties had been separated for the night.

Thursday, November 21, 2024
During this day: four traffic stops.

9:49 a.m. – Caller advised he had called the night before about his wife and stated she is back again and is out of her mind. Advised she had just left the residence, and he would like to speak to a deputy. The deputy advised all was okay.

1:47 p.m. – Alarm company advised of a burglary alarm going off in Carmen. All was okay.

8:26 p.m. – Caller advised she had been scammed out of money about a month ago and now the individual is messing with her again and has started sending death threats. Deputy advised.

9:24 p.m. – Reporting party advised of a noise complaint at Chaparral Apartments. Advised a neighbor keeps slamming

their doors and yelling. Advised it has been going on for a few days now. Advised it was so loud it was rattling the walls and could be heard yelling from outside the apartment. Officer made contact with the individuals and written warranting was given for animal at large.

Friday, November 22, 2024
During this day: four traffic stops.

Saturday, November 23, 2024
During this day: one traffic stop.

9:31 a.m. – Medic needed for a female inmate with chest pains. Medic took the patient to Share Medical Center in Alva.

4:05 p.m. – Caller advised his wife was knocking on the door and he ignored it, as she's not supposed to be there. He wanted to know what he can do. Deputy notified. The male advised this individual is unplugging his security cameras on this porch, and he tried the app and they were all offline. He advised the female advised she is now sitting north of Shore Drive in blue Murano. Deputy made contact with both parties and advised they stay separated.

5:27 p.m. – Report of a suspicious vehicle on County Road 590 and Jackson Road. Deputy made contact. All was okay.

11:12 p.m. – Caller advised of a white truck squealing its tires and speeding off for the Jiffy Trip. Report was taken.

Sunday, November 24, 2024

12:13 a.m. – Welfare check needed on a female in the 400 block of 2nd Street. Advised the door was wide open and all the lights are on but not seeing



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From Page 44 Sheriff

any movement and the female is normally in bed at this time. Officer made contact. Female was fine and didn't even know the front door was open.

5:54 a.m. – Caller advised of the attempted theft of a toolbox at 5th Street and Kansas. Caller advised his dogs woke him up and alerted him to the attempt of the theft. When they made it outside, they heard the vehicle leaving area but didn't see anyone. Report was taken.

9:42 a.m. – Report that a

white semi had been parked at Eagle Chief bridge for two months. Deputy made contact with owner, who advised it was broken down.

2:59 p.m. – Medic needed in the 300 block of Colorado for a 70-year-old male who possibly was having a stroke. Medic took the patient to Share Medical Center in Alva.

8:26 p.m. – Caller advised of people yelling and screaming in the 900 block of Grand. Officer advised the people were yelling at their dog. All was okay.

Alfalfa County real estate transactions

Real Estate Transfers

Book 903, page 434: Dal Houston, a successor trustee of the Herbert C. Schubert Trust No. 1, and Susan Palmer, a successor trustee of the Herbert C. Schubert Trust No. 1, convey unto Ashley Wilson, a/k/a Ashley Renae Cochran. A tract containing 4.3 acres, more or less, located in the southeast quarter of Section 14, Township 28N, Range 12, WIM, Alfalfa County, Oklahoma. Quit claim deed.

Book 903, page 437: Ashley Renae Cochran, s/p/a Ashley Wilson, convey unto Bo Allen Ferrell and Megan S. Ferrell. A tract of land containing 2.45 acres, more or less, located in the southeast quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 14, Township 28N, Range 12, WIM. Warranty deed.

Book 903, page 456: Susan Denise Tyrrell and Robert Tyrrell convey unto James M. Guffy and Carol A. Guffy. South half of the north half of

the east half of the southwest quarter of Section 23, Township 28N, Range 10, WIM. Warranty deed.

Book 903, page 463: Ashley Unger and Abram Unger convey unto Charles Webster and Sharon Webster. A tract of land in the southwest quarter of Section 29, Township 28N, Range 10, WIM, Alfalfa County, Oklahoma. Joint tenancy warranty deed.

Book 903, page 617: Melissa Schwerdtfeger and Amanda (Statser) Roach convey unto Melissa Schwerdtfeger and Greg Schwerdtfeger. Lot 8, Block 3, Duncan Addition, Cherokee, Oklahoma. Quit claim deed.

Book 903, page 651: Brock B. Morgan and Lindsey R. Morgan convey unto Brock Brandon Morgan and Lindsey R. Morgan, co-trustees of the Brock and Linsey Morgan Living Trust. Lots 1-6, Block 39, in

See Alfalfa Page 46

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- Siding
- Metal or Shingle Roofing
- Small Carpentry Repairs
- Small Remodels

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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

Happy Thanksgiving!

11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. Free Thanksgiving Dinner at the First United Methodist Church in Alva.

Friday

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

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From Page 45 Alfalfa

the Town of Burlington, Alfalfa County, Oklahoma. Warranty deed.

Book 903, page 660: Peffly Farms LLC convey unto Marilyn Lucille Peffly, trustee of the Marilyn Lucille Pfeider Revocable Trust. The east half of Section 31, Township 29N, Range 9, WIM, Alfalfa County, Oklahoma, etc. Quit claim deed.

Book 903, page 680: Justin Clark and Caitlin Clark convey unto Abram Unger and Ashley Unger. A tract of land located in the southwest quarter of Section 25, Township 28N, Range 12, WIM, Alfalfa County, Oklahoma. Joint tenancy warranty deed.

Mortgages

Book 903, page 441: Colton Castle and Lindsay Castle to Farm Credit of Western Oklahoma. Township 25 north,

Range 9 WIM, section 2, S/2, NW/4, S/2, SW/4. Note: \$335,000.00.

Book 903, page 628: Ronnie Steadman to Farm Credit of Western Oklahoma. The north 54 acres, more or less, of the southwest quarter of Section 6, Township 26N, Range 10, WIM, Alfalfa County, etc. Note: \$2,236,000.00.

Book 903, page 637: Salt Plains Veterinary Services P.C. to Farm Credit of Western Oklahoma. Northwest quarter of Section 26, Township 27N, Range 11, WIM, Alfalfa County, Oklahoma, etc. Note: \$2,236,000.00.

Book 903, page 685: Abram Unger and Ashley Unger to Members Mortgage Services LLC. A tract of land located in the southwest quarter of Section 25, Township 28N, Range 12, WIM, Alfalfa County, Oklahoma. Note: \$264,219.00.

Alfalfa County court filings

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

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

Civil Filings

US Bank National Association, Owensboro, Kentucky, vs. Claudette A. Parker, Amorita: indebtedness (\$239.14).

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To apply please send a cover letter, detailed résumé and work-related references to Susan Bradford, Mayor, 1759 Cecil Street, Waynoka, Oklahoma 73860, or to her email at sbradford@waynokaok.org. These positions will be open until filled.

**The City of Waynoka, Oklahoma, is an
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**WED., DEC. 4TH
AT 6 PM
ONLINE ONLY**

Huggard Estate Auction
Home * Ford Escape/Dodge Caravan* Guns/Ammo
Tools * Zero Turn Mower *Household Goods
501 E. Walnut, Enid, OK

**SUN., DEC. 8TH
AT 6 PM
ONLINE ONLY**

Firearm Auction
Pistols – Revolvers – Rifles – Shotguns – Ammo
2609 N. Van Buren, Enid, OK

**MON. DEC. 9TH
AT 10 AM
LIVE/ONLINE**

Jerry & Janice Clark Live Auction
7.87± Acres * Country Home * Shop Building
Mature Trees * Animal Pens/Shelter
1706 N. Wheatridge, Enid, OK

**MON., DEC. 9TH
AT 6 PM
LIVE/ONLINE**

Caldwell Livestock Auction
Facility * Livestock Pens 2 Tracts * 8.8± Acres
Caldwell, KS
717 W. 175th St., South Caldwell, KA 67022
KS Broker License #00049950

**WED., DEC. 11TH
AT 6 PM
ONLINE ONLY**

Bixler Development LLC Auction
Bobcat Skid Steer – Dump Truck – Water Truck
Feed Truck – Construction – Soil Mover – Tools
10403 W. Centennial Rd., Carrier, OK

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Happy Thanksgiving

May you enjoy good food, time with family
and safe travels during your holiday break!

Alva Review-Courier/ Newsgram

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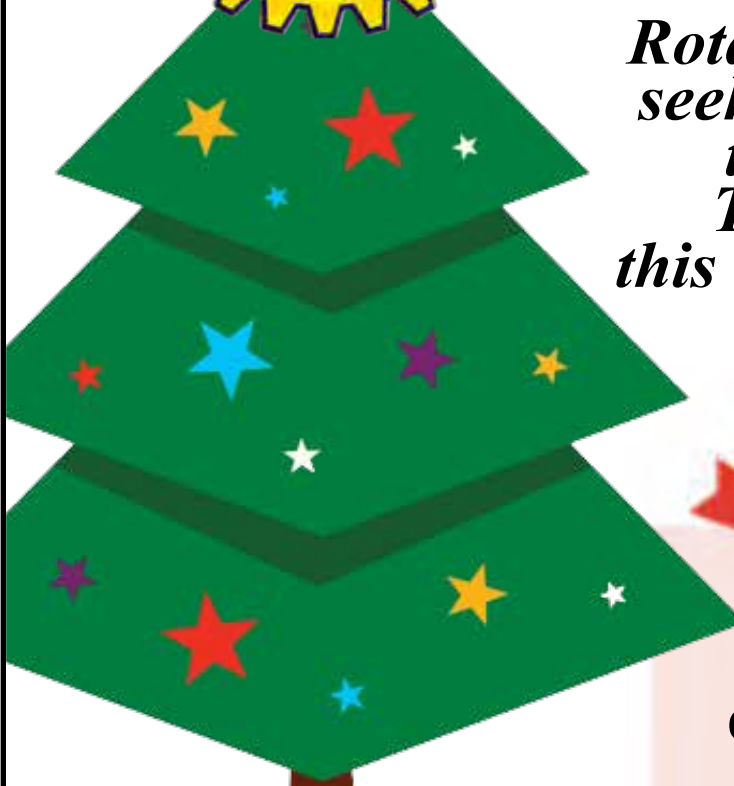
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