# THE ALVA REVIEW COURTER

# NEWSGRAM

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Inmate's wife charged with bringing contraband to JCCC

"More crime is prevented by fear of exposure in the press, than by all the laws man has ever devised" - Joseph Pulitzer





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# Water quality volunteer training set for February in Alva

People interested in water quality will have an opportunity in Alva this February to take Blue Thumb's new volunteer training Feb. 15-16. Blue Thumb volunteers monitor stream water quality across Oklahoma and lead environmental education in their communities.

#### What is Blue Thumb?

Blue Thumb is a water quality education program of the Oklahoma Conservation Commission. Their motto is "Stream protection through education," and they strive for this with two main paths. The first is volunteer stream monitoring. Once volunteers complete training, they are eligible to adopt a stream site in their community to begin monthly chemical monitoring.

In addition to the monthly chemical monitoring, they will also take part in twice-a-year bug collections and a large fish collection and habitat assessment once every four years. Volunteers can monitor independently, with family and/ or friends, or with students.

The other path is environmental education. This is why a Project WET workshop is included with each Blue Thumb training. Project WET is a water education curriculum guide filled with activities Blue Thumb volunteers use to help educate students and the general public about water quality.

# What happens at Blue Thumb Training?

On the first day of training, volunteers will be introduced to basic stream ecology with presentations and hands-on activities. This does include a Project WET workshop covering several activities that are used frequently while working with students and the general

public, as well as a trip to a local stream to learn more about benthic macroinvertebrates (bugs) and fish.

The second day of training covers the basic responsibilities of becoming a Blue Thumb volunteer and chemical monitoring. There will be another visit to a stream to learn how to properly take a water sample before returning to the classroom to complete the handson chemical monitoring instruction. At the conclusion of training, volunteers will receive a certificate for 16 hours' education and a new Blue Thumb uniform (a Blue Thumb t-shirt).

Learn more and register for the training on the website: www. bluethumbok.com. If you have further questions, please contact Hunter Hodson by phone at 405-761-7401 or by email at hunter.hodson@conservation.ok.gov.

# Inmate's wife charged with bringing contraband to JCCC

#### By Marione Martin

An inmate at JCCC (James Crabtree Correctional Center) told law enforcement his wife tried to bring him marijuana to sell because they were having financial difficulties.

Documents filed in the case state that on Jan. 11 during a visitation at JCCC, inmate Derreck Gray and visitor Jamie Gray caught the attention of Unit Manager Solorio who was monitoring. Solorio said Inmate Gray kept watching him to see where he was looking. Jamie

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Gray got up from the table, following Inmate Gray to the front where he stopped to get coffee and she went to the restroom. Inmate Gray approached Solorio and started talking to him. Jamie Gray exited the rest room and went to the table, got money and purchased several items from the vending machine. She then went to the microwave and started moving the items around in her hands.

Inmate Gray left the officer station and started walking back to where Jamie Gray was standing. As he approached, she dropped a white object out of her hand, approximately three inches long and wrapped in plastic. When it hit the ground, she stepped in front of it and looked at Solorio. Solorio called for yard officers and approached the two.

When Solorio approached Inmate Gray stepped in front of him trying to stop him. Solorio asked Mrs. Gray to hand over the item, and Inmate Gray moved closer. Solorio radioed for the shift supervisor to come to the visit room. Mrs. Gray handed him the item,

and Solorio told Inmate Gray to sit at a table up front while directing Mrs. Gray to sit at the table where they had been visiting. When the shift supervisor arrived, Solorio gave him the item received from Mrs. Gray and he placed Inmate Gray in the holding cell.

OIG Agent Jared White was advised of the situation. White requested Helena Police Chief Dykes to transport Mrs. Gray to the Alfalfa County Jail.

Agent White went to JCCC and obtained the package. The suspected marijuana weighed approximately 2.1 oz. Also in the package were rolling papers.

Agent White met with Inmate Gray who was advised of his Miranda Rights and agreed to talk. After some hesitation, Inmate Gray disclosed the marijuana was brought into the facility by his wife for him to sell. He said he and his wife were having financial difficulties.

Agent White learned that Jamie

See Inmate Page 7

# Estate Sale

1723 Meno St. - Alva, OK

Tom & Angela Reid Estate

Friday, Jan. 24th - Saturday, Jan. 25th 9:30 am - 3:30 pm

This is the 1st of two sales
-The second sale will be at a later date

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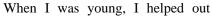
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# Over a third of teens are in the labor force

By Marione Martin





in my parents' newspaper and job printing business occasionally. My help usually consisted of collating printed materials. When I was a little older, I was trusted to enter checks in a bank deposit book, but my dad always insisted

on adding the columns.

After I reached high school age, some of my classmates were finding jobs for the summer. I mentioned this to my parents, and they agreed to pay me for working half days at the newspaper. A part-time employee wanted to take the summer off so I filled in operating the linotype. It produced lines of type on "slugs" formed from hot lead. These made up the body type in stories that were printed in the newspaper.

The next summer, my mother and I alternated working half days. When I worked mornings, I was responsible for cleaning up the lunch dishes and doing some prep toward dinner. If I worked afternoons, I was in charge of cooking lunch. In addition to learning at work, I gained some practice in cooking.

Lynn and I also put our daughter to work at jobs that fit her skill level. He taught her to take pictures and run a video camera. Sometimes she did painting around the business buildings. One summer she put coating on the newspaper building's metal roof. Later she wrote news stories for the paper, and I taught her to use the computer to design pages.

The tradition continued with the grandchildren. Various grandchildren

would spend a week visiting, and Lynn put them to work painting photo props. A couple of them worked on coating the metal roof. If they showed interest, he would buy computer parts and help them assemble a computer. When they were old enough, they found their own jobs in restaurants and fast-food places. The twins, who had strong arms from softball, had steady work as ice cream dippers at Braum's.

Summer and after school jobs teach kids the skills they'll need later in life. It's also an opportunity to teach them to manage their money.

USAFacts.com recently highlighted the contributions of teens to the US work force. Here are some of the facts:

#### How many teens work?

Getting a job used to be a major milestone for American teenagers. These days, fewer teens are joining the workforce: their labor force participation fell from 52% in 2000 to 35% in 2010 and stood at 37% in 2023. The data shows that while teen boys and girls have similar employment rates, they vary by race and ethnicity.

In 2023, about 167 million people were in the nation's labor force, and about 6.36 million were teens. That's 3.81% of the workforce.

#### Change in labor force participation

Teen labor force participation varies more by season than that of other age groups. In summer 2023, around 42% of teens were in the labor force, compared to 35% during the rest of the year.

In 2023, 37.4% of girls and 36.5% of boys were in the labor force. From 1948 to 2002, the participation gap between teen boys and girls narrowed from 21.7 percentage points to zero. Since then, rates have remained relatively equal, with slightly more teen girls than boys holding jobs.

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White teens had the highest annual labor force participation rate in 2023 at nearly 40%. Asian teens had the lowest, at around 23%. The average annual participation rate was 34% for Hispanic or Latino teens and 30% for Black or African American teens.

Hispanic or Latino teens tend to have more year-round employment with less seasonal variation compared to other racial groups. In 2023, their labor force participation rate increased by about 3.5% between the school year and summer, compared to a 6.8% increase for white teens.

# How many teens are in the labor force?

Of the 167 million people in the nation's labor force in 2023, approximately 3.81%, or around 6.36 million, were teens.

At the end of every school year, many teens begin their search for, or start, their summer job. And in 2023, just over one in every three teenagers aged 16 to 19 was in the labor force.

Typically, teen labor force participation has the most seasonal variation than that of other age groups. While this still holds true, there has been less variation in teen rates in recent years.

# How many teens join the labor force in the summer?

In summer 2023, about 42% of teens were in the labor force, compared to 35% during the rest of the year. Teen labor force participation traditionally spikes during the summer months — June, July, and August — when teens are no longer in school for eight hours a day.

There is less seasonal variation in teen labor force participation than previous decades.

Fewer teens are joining the summer labor force compared to previous decades. The gap between average summer and school year teen labor force participation has narrowed from a difference of 18.3% in the late 1960s to 6.5% in 2023, which could mean either more teens are working or looking to work during the school year or fewer are doing so during the summers.





 ${f NEW}-160$  Acres Excellent Cropland - This tract consists of 158 Acres of excellent cropland (primarily Tabler silty clay loam and Grant silt loam soils.) It is watered by a solar pump.

NE1/4-18-28-12, W.I.M., Alfalfa County, Okla.

PRICE: \$450,000.00

NEW - 224 Acres of excellent grassland, 3 ponds with beautiful home or hunting lodge, large shed, cement bunk lines. House has 5 bedrooms, 4 baths, large living area with fireplace, kitchen, utility and mudroom, 3-car garage, 2,160 sq. ft.; Also has a large 7,000 sq. ft. shed with lean-to. This property lies next to the Great Salt PRICE: \$650,000.00 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.

REDUCED PRICE: \$985,000.00

NEW - 155 Acres - Excellent stock farm - This tract consists of 142 Tein ich sandy loam bunk line. Borders State Hwy 64 West of Jet, Okla.  $NW\frac{1}{4}$  - 10-25-10, W.I.M., Alfalfa County, Okla. REDUCED PRICE: \$330,000.00

NEW - 160 Acres - Excellent Diversified Farm - This tract consists of 160 Acres, of which 105 Acres is good cropland (primarily Yahola fine a land by the land 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. NW1/4 - 25-29-14, W.I.M., Woods County, Okla. **PRICE**: \$375,000.00

NEW - 2 - 80 Acre tracts - A HUNTING PARADISE! Tall grass, trees TATOM THAN TARADISE! Tall grass, trees of the Drush, plum thickets - deer everywhere! S½ SW½ - 12-13-23. W. M. and N½ MWN/. and N<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> - 13-19-23, W.I.M., Ellis County, Okla. 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 well for unit from Waynoka, UK, yo 2 miles north on Highway 14 to Comanche Road, then  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile east.  $E^{1/2}$  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 Ex an int cropland (primarily Pond Creek silt loam, Devol sandy loam, and Grant silt loam soils). This tract has a new 5-wire fence and a Ritchie automatic waterer. SE1/4 31-28-12, W.I.M., Alfalfa County, Okla. PRICE: \$475,000.00

NEW - 560 Acres - "A Hunting Paradise" Tall grass, brush, trees, well, corrais, 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.  $W^{1/2}$ ,  $NE^{1/4}$ ,  $N^{1/2}$ ,  $SE^{1/4}$  - 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 cayon. This ract 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.  $SE^{1/4}$ ,  $S^{1/2}$   $NE^{1/4}$  - 22-27-16, and the W<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> - 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 Signer ce 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 Levellont copland (all Grant silt loam soils), has rural water, and water, and west of Alva on Hwy 64. E½ NE¼ - 25-27-15, W.I.M., Woods County, Okla. PRICE: \$240,000.00

NEW - 280 Acres - Excellent Stock Farm This tract consists of 280 of which 186 Acres is good cropland (primarily Bethany silt and I ne 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. NW1/4 & W1/2 W1/2 NE1/4 - 22-28-13, W.I.M., and E½ NE¼ - 21-28-13, W.I.M., Woods County, Okla. **PRICE**: \$675,000.00

Location of property: From Arnett, go 8.5 miles east on Hwy 60 to NEW - 400 Acres - "A Hunting Paradise" - Tall grass, trees, cropland, good fences - 1/4 mile from Salt Fork River. This tract mrss if 100 Acres of which 151 Acres is good cropland and the bullance 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. SE1/4 - 24-28-15 & SW1/4 & W1/2 SE1/4 - 19-28-14, W.I.M. Woods County, Okla. PRICE: \$775,000.00

> NEW—154 Acres -  $NW^{1/4}$  -29-27-13, Woods County, Okla. This tract consists of 124 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 Licane being 107 Acres of excellent grassland. Improvements 120 sq. ft. home, , 32' x 60' shop w/ 16" leam-to, steel corrals, N/2 - 29-29-12, W.I.M., Alfalfa County, OKLA. PRICE: corrals, N<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> \$1.050.000.00

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

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## NEW LISTING:

418 Magnolia Drive, Alva, OK Please call us for an appointment to view!

This beautiful brick home is move-in ready with new floors and paint. 3 BR, 3 Bath, Open LR w/ Fireplace, Kitchen (incl. appl.), Utility Room, 2-car Garage (w/ storm cellar), 25'30'Metal Shop (insulated & wired), Built in 2005; 2,285 sf w/ crawl'space

PRICE: \$349,000



#### **NEW LISTING:** 1320 KAY AVE CHEROKEE, OK

Family Home with Extra Living Space. 3BR, 2 Bath, Kitchen, DR, FR, LR, UR, Patio, 2-Fireplace, Lg. Basement, Lg. Garage, Fenced Yard, Storage shed, Appliances incl. New: Windows (Anderson), Flooring, Sewer, Leaf Filter Gutter Covers. 1,813 sf ground level, 940 sf basement, 480 sf garage. Priced to sell: \$189.000

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Space for multiple home sites, Recreational pand site, abundary Mile and ductive all to by and dream what could be. NE1/4. 22-27N-14W.

PRICE: \$260,000

# Freedom School Board re-hires Burgess, Weber for FY2026

### By Kathleen Lourde

At the regular monthly meeting of the Freedom School Board, Superintendent Frieda Burgess was re-hired as Superintendent/Counselor for the 2026 fiscal year. Principal Bryant Weber was also rehired as District Superintendent/Principal. Many other staff were also re-hired.

Board President Shane Morris called the meeting to order Wednesday evening, Jan. 15. Members present were Kyle Rhodes, Phillip Kirkpatrick and Shane Morris. Superintendent Freida Burgess and Principal/Minutes Clerk Bryant Weber were also present.

#### **Personnel Matters**

The board went into a 40-minute executive session to discuss the many personnel decisions they would be making that night. When they returned to open session, they voted to hire Freida Burgess as Superintendent/Counselor and Bryant Weber as Principal/District Supervisor for FY 2026.

They went on to re-hire current support staff Bryan Davey and Tammy Wilkerson, and certified staff Margaret Woodard-Smith, Gary Curtis, Katrina Strehl, Amanda Barron, Cindy Wilson and Sara Bowman.

The retirement of Shelly Province was accepted.

**New Business** 

The board had a little new business, which doesn't happen every month. Burgess said that she had just received several policies regarding child nutrition and special education, but they had not arrived in time to put on the official agenda – hence, it appeared under new business.

The new policies are needed, Burgess said, because "we are getting audited in both special ed and child nutrition, and we need these policies so we can get those audits completed and back to the state department."

The board approved the entire list of new policies (FOD, DAA-P, DAA-P2, DAA, DAA-E, FL, EHBCAR, DE-FA-R2, FOD-R, FE, EHBCA, EHBC, DOAC, DOCB, DOCA, DO, DEFA, DEFAR1, DO-R).

#### OtherBoard Business

The board approved the school calendar for the 2025-2026 school year, which is "pretty much the same as this year's," said Burgess.

They also approved the consent agenda, consisting of the Dec. 11 meeting minutes; treasurer's report; encumbrances for the general, building and child nutrition funds; activity fund expenditures; and signing warrants for the general, building, and child nutrition funds.

The next meeting will be Feb. 19.



# Short agenda for Alfalfa County officials this week

#### By Stacy Sanborn

Snow, ice and frigid temperatures didn't stop Mike Roach, Nate Ross and Garret Johnson of the Alfalfa County Commissioners from meeting on Tuesday this week after the Monday holiday.

They signed off on last week's meeting minutes, maintenance and operation warrants for payment, and blanket purchase orders and then determined the ACCO SIG/SIG percentages. They decided to leave things the same as last year, which was 60/40.

After that, they appointed Johnson to serve on the NODA Board for 2025.

The final agenda item was a \$15,000 transfer from the Hwy District 3 Retirement account 1102-6-4300-1221 to the Hwy District 3 Work Comp account 1102-6-4300-1234 for the workman's compensation premium, and the commissioners approved it.





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## **Senate Review**

# The year begins with many challenges and responsibilities



#### By Senator **Roland Pederson**

I hope you are excited about what 2025 will bring and are looking forward to a prosperous New Year. Over the last month, we have been preparing for the

new session while wrapping up home responsibilities in the district.

One event I was honored to participate in during the Christmas season included the Journey of Hope event held on Dec. 17 at the Timberlake Public Schools. This event acknowledged the effort to secure funding for the memorial and remembered the tragedy of the 1995 Oklahoma City Bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Building.

On Dec. 18, as a Pro Tempore appointment, I participated in the Impaired Driving Prevention Advisory

Committee meeting. New initiatives were discussed, and more meetings were scheduled throughout the year. Afterwards, I attended the Alva Regional Agricultural Education Teacher's Legislative Dinner.

As part of my new role as vice-chair for Agriculture and Wildlife committee, I attended the State Agriculture and Rural Leaders conference in Des Moines, Iowa, Jan. 2 through Jan. 5. This was a great opportunity to meet and discuss issues of importance to rural communities from other states and Canada.

On Jan. 7, we had our legislative organizational day, which is set aside to adopt Senate rules and officially vote for our President Pro Tempore. Senator Lonnie Paxton from Tuttle was elected as the new President Pro Tempore. As I have previously shared, I am the new chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Select Agencies, vice-chair for Agriculture and Wildlife,

Assistant Majority Whip, and member of the Appropriations, Education, and Veterans and Military Affairs committees. Each of these appointments carries responsibilities that I take personally.

On Jan. 9, I attended the Enid Regional Development Alliance Quarterly luncheon and heard from Curt Roggow on the current and future state of legislation relating to municipalities, and the energy industry and economic development for the State of Oklahoma.

Last week, I was privileged to participate in discussions for several economic opportunities for our District. More to come once details are available.

In closing, as we enter the New Year and the upcoming legislative session, remember that if you need assistance from my office, please don't hesitate to call. You can reach me at 405-521-5630 or Roland.Pederson@ oksenate.gov.

# From Page 2 Inmate

Gray was transported to Woods County Detention Center due to Alfalfa County not having room to hold her. White went to Woods County and met with Mrs. Gray who was advised of her Miranda Rights and said she did not wish to speak with him unless an attorney was present.

Jamie Christina Gray, 38, of Stillwater, has been charged with three felony counts: (1) bringing contraband (drugs) into a penal institution, (2) conspiracy and (3) distribution of controlled dangerous substance - including possession with intent to distribute (marijuana).

Count 1 is punishable

imprisonment for 1-5 years, or a fine of \$100 to \$1,000, or both.

Count 2 is punishable by imprisonment for up to 10 years, or a fine of up to \$5,000, or both.

Count 3 is punishable by imprisonment for up to seven years, or a fine of up to \$100,000, or both.

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Thursday,

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Time

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# Candidate filing begins for municipal offices

Candidates interested in filing for municipal office in seven Alfalfa County municipalities will file Declarations of Candidacy beginning 8 a.m. Monday, Feb. 3.

Those who wish to file for a municipal office must submit a Declaration of Candidacy to the Alfalfa County Election Board Feb. 3, Feb. 4 or Feb. 5, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Candidate filing packets are available on the state election board website at https://oklahoma.gov/elections/candidates/candidate-filing.html and at the county election board.

In addition to the Declaration of Candidacy, candidates must also submit a Voter Registration Verification Form, which can be obtained from the County Election Board or by logging into the OK Voter Portal at https://oklahoma.gov/elections/ovp.html. Information on the Voter Registration Verification Form must match the information provided on

the Declaration of Candidacy.

Stephanie Jantz, secretary of the Alfalfa County Election Board, reminds candidates that Contests of Candidacy must be filed no later than 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 7, and may only be filed by another candidate for that office, unless a candidate files unopposed. Contests against unopposed candidates may be filed by contacting the County Election Board.

# Declarations of Candidacy will be accepted for the following offices:

Town of Burlington — Board of Trustees, 4-year term

Town of Byron — Board of Trustees, 4-year term; Board of Trustees, unexpired term; Treasurer, 4-year term

Town of Carmen — Board of Trustees, 4-year term; Board of Trustees, 4-year term

Town of Goltry — Board of Trustees, 4-year term; Board of

Trustees, 4-year term

Town of Helena — Board of Trustees, 4-year term; Board of Trustees, 4-year term; Town Clerk/ Treasurer, unexpired term

Town of Jet — Board of Trustees, 4-year term; Board of Trustees, 4-year term

City of Cherokee — Commissioner At Large, 4-year term; Commissioner, Ward 1, 4-year term; Commissioner, Ward 3, 4-year term; Treasurer, 4-year term

Declaration of Candidacy forms can be downloaded from the state election board website at oklahoma. gov/elections or by contacting your county election board office at 580-596-2718 or alfalfacounty@elections. ok.gov.

The Alfalfa County Election Board is located at 602 W. 5th St., Ste 3, Cherokee, and is open from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.



A group of 10th grade biology students at Aline-Cleo Public Schools proudly present their food-based project, which diagrams the structure of the human cell. Using various edible ingredients, they creatively represented the cell's components, such as the nucleus, mitochondria and cell membrane. The students demonstrated teamwork and scientific knowledge as they explained their model to the class. This hands-on approach brings biology to life, making complex concepts more accessible and engaging for everyone. Shawna James is the biology instructor at Aline-Cleo High School. From left: (front row) Reighlyn Collins, Payton O'Neil, Amy Wallace, Brendon Hurst; (back row) Tucker Roundtree, Taygan Wyman, Jacoby Gould.

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Acres	County/State	Description	Price	Status
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	Pending
1645	Woods Co, OK	Hunting & Grazing	call for price	Pending
146	Alfalfa Co, OK	Hunting, Sandy Creek, Grazing	call for price	1,000
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	
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	ja
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	
320	Roger Mills Co, OK	Spring Fed POND, Grazing, Hunting	\$567,000	SOLD
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	Ottawa Co, OK		\$1,700,000	SOLD
150	Sumner Co, KS	Development/Cropland/River Clearwater	\$879,900	SOLD
	McIntosh Co, OK	FISHER RANCH - LAKE EUFAULA	\$19,900,000	SOLD
897	Kingfisher Co, OK	8 Farms LAND AUCTION	\$2,548,772	SOLD
360	Lawrence Co, AR	25/ac Private Lake w/house & Hunting	\$1,295,000	SOLD
363	Kingman Co, KS	Lies in Sections 5&8-30S-10W	\$1,200,000	SOLD
1335	Barber Co, KS	Excellent Gyp Hill Hunting Sun City	\$2,100,000	SOLD
6300	Barber Co, KS	Medicine River Hunting Ranch	\$11,000,000	SOLD
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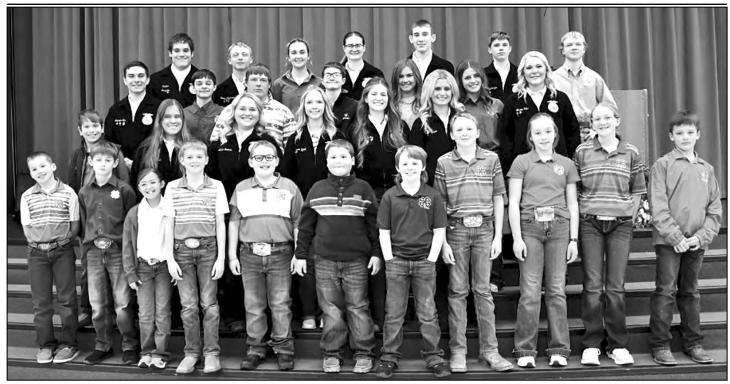
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Waynoka FFA and 4-H Booster Club members attend the Waynoka Trophy Auction — From left: (back row) Rholton Bouziden, Korbin Ferguson, Brylee Beck, Breya Beck, Colton Fuqua, Morris Litzenberger, Remington Seaman; (fourth row) Stetson Nix, Weston Longoria, Brack Long, Briston Beck, Oakley Whitaker, Raegan Wilson, Marlie Pitts; (third row) Jordan Fuqua, Rhiata Bouziden, Alivia Seaman, Chanan Wyatt, Rylan Nix, Shay Wilson; (front row) Charles Hanson, Jay Beck, Makeia Brune, Calvin Litzenberger, Kaiser White, Brooks Westfahl, Waylon Gum, Jackson Litzenberger, Addley Hanson, Paisley Reed, John Nickelson.

# Waynoka FFA and 4-H Booster Club host successful annual trophy auction

On Jan. 13, the Waynoka FFA and 4-H Booster Club held their annual Waynoka Trophy Auction at the Waynoka Public Schools Multi-Purpose Building. The longstanding event featured both a live and silent auction with proceeds supporting local 4-H and

FFA members involved in the Waynoka Local Livestock and Baking Contest.

Funds raised during the evening will go toward purchasing awards for participants helping to recognize their hard work and achievements. The auction is vital to the financial growth of the student's livestock projects providing much-needed resources for the showmen as they continue to develop their livestock projects.

The success of the event would not have been possible without the dedication of many individuals and organizations. Special thanks were extended to the Waynoka FFA and 4-H Booster Club for organizing the fundraiser. The live auction was expertly managed by Ira Smith and Andy Ferguson, while Zook's Country Market provided a delicious meal for attendees. Gratitude was also expressed to the many individuals and businesses that generously donated items for the silent auction.

The support from the community was evident, with a large turnout and generous bidding contributing to the event's success. The Waynoka FFA would like to invite all community members to attend the upcoming Waynoka Livestock and Baking Show, which will be held on Feb. 1 at the Waynoka School Ag Farm.

# NOTICE FOR FAIRBOARD MEMBER FILING PERIOD

Fairboard member filing period will be in the office of the Alfalfa County Clerk between the hours of 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM during the week of January 27th and January 31st.

The Alfalfa County Clerk's office located on the second floor of the Courthouse at 300 South Grand, Suite 5, Cherokee, Oklahoma. If there is an election for the Fairboard members, the election will be on Tuesday, February 4, 2025 from 7:00 AM - 4:30 PM at the District barns. District Barns are located as follows:

**District #1**.....County Barn, 64784 Latimer Road, Byron, OK **District #2**.....County Barn, 400 S Euclid, Cherokee, OK **District #3**.....County Barn, 100 S Kingman, Helena, OK

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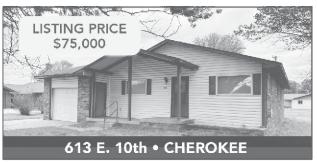
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These second graders are just a few of the South Barber elementary students who had fun with their music teacher Stephanie Mae's hat collection on National Hat Day: (From front center girl and then left around the circle) Faye Kuhr, Jordy Lohmann, Lincoln Howland, Daniel Jackson, Ellison Liggenstoffer, Ezra Reed, Henry Molz, Cooper Brattin, Elena Ricke, Ian Patrick. This is the entire class except River Inman, who was absent.

# A different hat each day is fun for Mrs. Mae



South Barber band and vocal teacher Stephanie Mae wears one of the over 400 hats in her collection.

#### By Yvonne Miller

Did you know there is a National Hat Day?

Stephanie Mae's vocal and band students at South Barber certainly do. She has over 400 hats and brought many of them to the elementary school on "hat day" for the children to have fun with. The hats – whether a stylish head-cover or a floppy straw hat worn fishing – also taught a little history.

Affectionately known as "The Hat Lady," Mae had K-6 students singing hat songs, playing hat-themed games, and listening to her tell why some of the hats are special to her.

The year was 1981. Raised in Sawyer, Kansas, she was a sophomore at Skyline High School at Pratt getting ready for homecoming when she stumbled onto a purple fedora in a men's store that perfectly matched her dress. She wore the hat to homecoming, which started her lifelong love of collecting hats.

Fast forward to the 1990s when Mae was married with children and moved to Medicine Lodge. She always wore a hat. "People teased me if I wasn't wearing a hat. I always wore a hat to church. I picked out a hat first then put an outfit together."

"People cleaning out closets brought me boxes of hats. I stopped counting at 400," Mae said. Her daughter built her a wooden cabinet to store her hat collection.

"Hat Day is my favorite day because I can wear a hat to school." The rest of the year, hats are prohibited. "South Barber Elementary is great. All the other



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## Mae From Page 16

teachers wore hats on 'hat day' and the kids too. They had fun!" she said. "The kids loved learning the Mexican Hat Dance. They thought Elvira was creepy," she said of a few of the songs they sang.

Of all the hats in her possession, Mae said her grandma's wide-brimmed fishing hat is really special. So is her great uncle's straw dress hat. One of her most unique and coveted items is an original jester's hat a friend in Holland gave her. "It's so old I never wear it," she said. "My very favorite hat is from a student, Ryker, in third grade. He gave me a wide-brimmed straw hat for Christmas. He's the son of Leona Kirkwood, that was her maiden name, who I had as a student when I taught school here the first time.'

An accomplished pianist, Mae explained she was first an accompanist for the 2005-2006 school year at South Barber for longtime vocal teacher Cathy Cox, who left to teach at Medicine Lodge the next year. Mae replaced Cox for a year and then moved on in her teaching career that has lasted 15 years to date.

Mae returned to South Barber last fall to teach both vocal and band classes to K-12 students. She laughed as she said, "I wear hats because I pull out my hair since it's so crazy teaching K-12 band and vocal music." She's really not kidding. This is her second year to teach at South Barber.

"Next week is Kansas Day. We're going to dress up and celebrate!" She'll lead her students in songs such as "Home on the Range," "Old Brass Wagon" and "Lucky Locket."

"It's important to introduce kids to this type of music. Kids don't hear folk songs anymore. Those songs are our history," she said. "I love South Barber. It's my favorite school to teach at."

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The daughter of South Barber teacher Stephanie Mae made her this wooden case to display her collection of over 400 hats.



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# Kiowa City Clerk resigns, original museum getting a gift of new windows

By Yvonne Miller

City of Kiowa Mayor Bill Watson opened the January 13 meeting of the city council with the Flag Salute and a prayer. All members were present including: Janet Robison, B.J. Duvall, Brian Hill, Jason Thayer and Tom Wells. City Administrator City Ty Piper, City Attorney Brandon Ritcha and City Clerk Cady Tucker also sat at the council table.

Clerk Tucker submitted her letter of resignation/retirement which the council accepted reluctantly. She thanked council members for the opportunity and said she will stay awhile as the city searches for her replacement. She would retire no later than March 15. She told the Newsgram she looks forward to retirement with her husband Stan. Between the two of them, the couple has 10 grandkids and one great grandchild who they want to spend more time seeing.

Renewal of alcohol and liquor licenses for Corner Stop, Family Dollar/Dollar Tree, Sideline, Plum Thickett, Dovie's and Homer's Liquor Store received council approval.

Resolution 25-001 incorporating what the city did to the workshop was approved by the council.

Designation of the depositories for the city as the Alva State Bank in Kiowa and the People's Bank in Medicine Lodge received council approval as did the Gyp Hills Premier of Medicine Lodge as the official newspaper of the city.

Emilio Perez, part of the city crew, also submitted his letter of resignation December 20 with his final day January 30, which council approved.

#### City of Kiowa Staff Reports

City Superintendent John Duvall said the crew was busy with snow removal. Council complimented him and the crew

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for doing a good job with managing the snow. They've done maintenance on the generator. He updated the status of new transformers coming to the city. The trash truck needs work. Duvall said they might start pricing for a replacement trash truck.

Fire Chief Bill Duvall talked about fire practice and a training at Salina. He requested the city

pay for expenses which they approved. He said they've found another used fire truck in New York they are considering. They want more pics of it. Duvall said if they decide to purchase the firetruck, a few firemen would possibly fly there and drive it home.

Police Chief Jose Salinas gave his report that included many routine acts and others, some of which includes: a vehicle fire, unlock a house and vehicles, citizen's assist, assisted Barber County with a wreck, etc. Salinas said he received his new gun. He presented an update on fines of existing ordinances, Standard Traffic Ordinance 25-002. He mentioned consideration of a diversion program; and how to handle aggressive dogs. City attorney Ritcha will review.

Piper said Conrade Insurance will come to Kiowa January 28 to inspect city properties and present renewal information. The renewal date is in April. In his report, Piper said he purchased a paper shredder.

Robison said she now has a plaque with the history of the Kiowa Community Building. How the building was at the POW Camp on the south end of Alva during WWII. The cost was \$89.16 for which the city will reimburse Robison.

January 29, 11:30pm at annex Barber County Economic Development having annual meeting and invited the city council. Loretta McGuire new person can meet her. Julie Lyons

Kiowa's original museum (the old firehouse along 7th Street) gets new windows at no cost to the city thanks to an anonymous donor, Robison said.

At the end of the meeting, council held an executive session not to exceed 20 minutes to discuss personnel. Upon return to open session, council approved hiring Michael McFarland for the city crew. Crew member Lance Shipley remains absent due to illness.

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# **Obituaries**

#### LEROY CRAIG

Leroy was born on March 26, 1943, and passed away on January 19, 2025. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday, January 23, 2025, at Emmanuel Enid Chapel in Enid, Oklahoma. Burial will follow in Memorial Park Cemetery, Enid, under the direction of Anderson-Burris Funeral Home and Crematory. Visitation with the family will be Wednesday evening from 5 to 6 p.m. at the funeral home.

#### MARY JANE 'JANIE' GOULD

Memorial services for Janie Gould will be 10 a.m.



Saturday, January 25, 2025, at the First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) with Derrick Thomas officiating. Cremation arrangements are under the direction of Marshall Funeral Home of Alva.

Mary Jane (Vangen) Gould, daughter of the late Leroy and Betty (Robinson) Vangen, was born

October 11, 1952, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and passed away January 7, 2025, in Alva, Oklahoma, at the age of 72 years, 2 months and 26 days.

Janie lived all over central Minnesota in her younger years alongside her sisters: Rita, Leita, Sally, Emmy and Marlene. The summer after graduating from Rockford High School in 1970, she met Marvin Lee Gould. The two were united in marriage five months later in Seiling, Oklahoma. The two celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in October of 2021. From this Union they were blessed with one son, Jacob Clark Gould.

Over the years she had many jobs in Alva. These include Ideal Grocery Store in the Meat Market, Brown Shoe Fit and, where she was most known for, Merrifield's Office Supply as the store manager for 30-plus years.

Janie was preceded in death by her parents, Leroy and Betty Vangen; her husband, Marvin Gould; her sisters, Rita Gleason, Leita Yocom, Sally Keaton; and brothers-in-law, Tuny Keaton and Tom Reilly.

She is survived by her son, Jacob Gould and wife, Jordan, of Alva; sisters, Emmy Otten and husband Mike, Marlene Meyer and husband Rany (of Minnesota); her nieces and nephews, Don and Deloris Ness, Dave and Karin Ness, Mike Gleason (all of Minnesota), Jennifer and Micheal Hamen of Fairview, Lisa and Kelly Parker of Alva, Katy and Brandon Olson, and Keith and Alicia Meyer (all of Minnesota); and many other relatives and friends.

Memorial contributions may be made through the funeral home to the NWOSU Foundation for the Rowdy Rangers.

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

#### **ROMA KERR**



Funeral services for Roma Kerr, 90, of rural Longdale, Oklahoma, were held at 10 a.m., Tuesday, January 21, 2025, at the First Baptist Church of Canton with Pastor Jason Vines and Keith Robinett officiating. Interment followed at Memorial Park Cemetery in Enid, Oklahoma, under the direction of Pierce Funeral Home, Canton, Oklahoma.

Roma Jean (Loomis) Kerr was born September 10, 1934, at Woodward, Oklahoma, to parents Lester Weldon (Jack) and Elizabeth (Watson) Loomis. She departed this life on Wednesday, January 15, 2025, at Fairview, Oklahoma.

Roma attended and graduated from Gage High School with the class of 1952. She earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Northwestern Oklahoma State University. Roma married Herb Kerr on April 15, 1956, at Alva, Oklahoma.

Roma was preceded in death by her parents, Lester (Jack) Loomis and Elizabeth (Watson) Loomis; brothers, Darwin Loomis and Wesley Loomis and sister, Ladonna (Loomis) Reed. Survivors include her husband, Herb Kerr of the home;

See Obits Page 22

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# From Page 21 Obits

three sons, Craig and his wife Mercy of Fletcher, Lonnie and his wife Kay of Arcadia, and Clay and his wife Amy of Shawnee, Kansas; sister, Willa Dean Jacoby and her husband Otis of North Littlerock, Arkansas, brother, Troy Loomis and his wife Jeanette of New Braunfels, Texas, brother, Richard and his wife Rosetta of Woodward, and sister, Evelyn Karl and her husband Mike of Throckmorton, Texas; 6 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren; and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

Memorials are suggested to the First Baptist Church of Canton with the funeral home serving as custodian at P.O. Box 36, Canton, OK 73724. Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at www. piercefuneralhomes.com.



# Supreme Court grants a new hearing for the only woman on Oklahoma's death row

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court on Tuesday ordered lower courts to review the case of the only woman on Oklahoma's death row over concerns that prosecutors' discussion of her sexual history rendered her trial unfair in the murder of her estranged husband.

The court, over two dissenting votes, threw out a federal appeals court ruling that upheld the sentence and conviction of Brenda Andrew for her role in the killing of advertising executive Rob Andrew in 2001.

James Pavatt, Andrew's lover, also is on death row after he was convicted of killing Andrew with a shotgun in the family garage in Oklahoma City.





In an unsigned opinion, the justices ordered the Denver-based 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to re-examine Andrew's prosecution to determine if judges "reviewing this record could disagree with Andrew that the trial court's mistaken admission of irrelevant evidence was so 'unduly prejudicial' as to render her trial 'fundamentally unfair."

Justice Clarence Thomas, joined by Justice Neil Gorsuch, wrote that the state produced overwhelming evidence that Andrew participated in her husband's murder and would have left the conviction and death sentencing in place.

Lawyers for Andrew argued that the state had a circumstantial case that it buttressed by presenting evidence about "her sexual history, gender presentation, demeanor, and motherhood."

At trial, the lawyers wrote, "the prosecution relentlessly derided Ms. Andrew, using sexually-charged descriptions to cast her in the role of an unchaste wife," including a prosecutor's reference to her as a "slut puppy" and, during closing arguments, the display of her thong underwear.

A three-judge appellate panel affirmed a state appellate ruling that sustained the conviction and death sentence. A dissenting judge on the 10th Circuit wrote that the evidence rendered the trial unfair.

"The evidence not only lacked relevance but also cast Ms. Andrew as a woman fixated on seducing nearby men," Judge Robert Bacharach wrote.

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MBB vs Southwestern Oklahoma State @ 7:30 PM (Black Out)

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Mon., Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm ONLINE ONLY Clements Real Estate Auction
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The family of Sue (Susie) Sterling would like to say a big thank you to all who remembered our mom, grandmother, and great-grandmother in the way of thoughts, prayers, cards, phone calls, texts, and flowers. Thank you to Beadles for their wonderful care, to Marshall Funeral Home for their kindness, to Pastor Mark Fillmore for the nice service, and to the ladies who brought food for after the service.

Our family truly appreciated the thoughtfulness and kindness from everyone!

Steve and Joni Sterling and family Syd Sterling and family Sam and Shannon Sterling and family



These juniors and seniors at SB are taking a CERT class this semester so they can help EMTs in emergencies. (l-r) Tanith Erikson, Oakley Duvall, Izick Howland, Andrew McCullough, Principal Steven Neal, Mrs Tina, Noah Allen, Rylie Michel, Fiona Walz, and Urija Cruz.

# Students learning emergency response preparedness to help their community

- Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)
- South Barber High School offering one semester CERT course

#### **By Yvonne Miller**

"Barber County is running out of EMT's," Barber County Emergency Director Mike Loreg said. He sees the need for first responder training for young people.

For the first time, South Barber juniors and seniors can learn skills that allow them to help their community in times of disaster or emergency. Grade 7-12 SB Principal Steven Neal is working with Loreg to bring the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program to South Barber High School.

Currently, 10 juniors and seniors are

taking the CERT class. Loreg teaches the class Monday through Friday from 8 to 8:45 a.m.

The CERT program educates volunteers about disaster preparedness for the hazards that may occur where they live. It trains volunteers in basic disaster response skills. CERT offers a consistent, nationwide approach to volunteer training and organization that professional responders can rely on during disaster situations, allowing them to focus on more complex tasks. The program teaches members what to do before, during and after the hazards their communities may face.

Loreg said he is offering the teen version of CERT. He said this training started during the LA earthquake. He said the emergency response of these teens will cut time off of the EMT's response. With these first aid skills and preparedness knowledge, students can help. The students learn to take care of themselves, then their family, then neighbors and beyond.

Barber County is the only one in the state offering CERT for teens, Loreg said.

"We're really pushing because there are many disasters," Loreg said. He said they used this kind of training in the Greensburg tornado. "The idea is to cut time off of the emergency response," he said.

"The hope is that this CERT class will inspire young people to become EMTs." Loreg said.

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# A frigid storm drops rare snow on Houston and New Orleans as Florida readies plows in the Panhandle

By Gerald Herbert and David J. Phillip

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — A rare frigid storm charged through Texas and the northern Gulf Coast on Tuesday, blanketing New Orleans and Houston with snow that closed highways, grounded nearly all flights and canceled school for more than a million students more used to hurricane dismissals than snow days.

The storm prompted the first ever blizzard warnings for several coastal counties near the Texas-Louisiana border, and snow plows were at the ready in the Florida Panhandle. Snow covered the white-sand beaches of normally sunny vacation spots, including Gulf Shores, Alabama and Pensacola, Florida. The heavy snow, sleet and freezing rain hitting parts of the Deep South came as a blast of Arctic air plunged much of the Midwest and the eastern U.S. into a deep freeze.

Nearly 2,000 flights to, from or within the U.S. were canceled Tuesday, with about 10,000 others delayed, according to online tracker FlightAware.com. Both Houston airports suspended flight operations starting Tuesday.

Alvaro Perez was hunkering down at George Bush Intercontinental Airport Tuesday after his flight to El Salvador, to visit his girlfriend for her birthday, was canceled. His new departure is scheduled for Thursday.

"I'll just ride it and stay here," said Perez, of Hockley, Texas, about 35 miles (55 kilometers) away.

Nearly every flight was cancelled at New Orleans Louis Armstrong International Airport, though officials said the airport itself would remain open "as long as the conditions are safe." Most airlines planned to resume operations Wednesday.

It has been more than a decade since snow last fell on New Orleans, where schools are closed through Thursday. Bundled-up onlookers checked out the strange sight of Bourbon Street in the snow, including a snowcapped memorial to those killed in the New Year's Day truck attack.

With more than 5 inches (13 centimeters) of snow already in parts of the city Tuesday, New Orleans has surpassed its record — 2.7 inches (6.8 centimeters) on Dec. 31, 1963 — according to the National Weather Service. There have been unofficial reports of 10 inches (26 centimeters) of snow in New Orleans in 1895, NWS meteorologist Christopher Bannan said.

The East Coast was blanketed in snow

while people from the Northern Plains to the tip of Maine shivered in bitter cold from an arctic air mass that plunged temperatures well below normal.

In New Orleans, 65-year-old Robert Hammock donned a beanie and rallied himself and his border collie Tillie for a snowy morning walk.

"She loves the snow," Hammock said, as Tillie sprawled happily in the slush on the sidewalk. "I'm from south Alabama, so I hate the snow."

Winter storm warnings Tuesday extended from Texas to North Carolina, with heavy snow, sleet and freezing rain expected to move eastward through the region into Wednesday. Meanwhile, a state of emergency was declared Monday night across at least a dozen counties in New York as heavy lake-effect snow was expected around Lake Ontario and Lake Erie through Wednesday — with 1 to 2 feet (30 to 60 centimeters) possible — along with extreme cold temperatures.

Snow on the Gulf Coast

Ahead of the storm, governors in Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and even Florida — the Sunshine State — declared states of emergency and many school systems canceled classes Tuesday. School closures were planned in some coastal communities in North and South Carolina.

The NWS said up to 4 inches (10 centimeters) of snow fell in metro Houston. Texas transportation officials said more than 20 snow plows were in use across nearly 12,000 lane miles in the Houston area, which lacks its own city or county plows.

It's the first time Houston has seen snow since a winter storm knocked out power to millions and killed more than 200 people across Texas in 2021, according to meteorologist Hayley Adams at the NWS in Houston.

Snow is rare in Texas' largest city. In February 1895, a two-day storm dropped a record 20 inches (50 centimeters) on metropolitan Houston.

Officials said one person has died from hypothermia in Georgia. Forecasters say snowfall could stretch from north Georgia, through Atlanta, and into southern portions unaccustomed to such weather.

Parts of the Florida Panhandle were coated white Tuesday. Tallahassee, Florida's capital, last saw snow in 2018 — just 0.1 of an inch (0.25 centimeters), according to the weather service. Tallahassee's highest snowfall on record

was 2.8 inches (7 centimeters) in 1958.

"Believe it or not, in the state of Florida we're mobilizing snowplows," said Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis.

Mobile, Alabama, hit 5.4 inches (13.7 centimeters) and counting Tuesday, topping the city's one-day snowfall record of 5 inches (12.7 centimeters), set on Jan. 24, 1881, and nearing its all-time snowfall record of 6 inches (15.5 centimeters) in 1895, the weather service said.

The blizzard warning in effect until midday Tuesday was the first issued by the office in Lake Charles, Louisiana, according to meteorologist Donald Jones. Strong winds with heavy snow reduced visibility, and areas across the Gulf South that rarely see snow were expecting record-breaking snowfall, Jones said.

Louisiana transportation agency workers worked through the night to prepare bridges and roadways. Nonetheless, Louisiana State Police said they have already responded to more than 50 crashes Tuesday, and pleaded for people to stay home.

In Baton Rouge, where snowfall hit 6 inches (15 centimeters) by midday Tuesday, city officials and state police said the low visibility caused by the snow was making roads hazardous. It was the first snowfall in the capital city since 2018.

Return of the Arctic blast

Frigid cold persisted across the eastern two-thirds of the country with multiple record lows possible through midweek, especially across the Gulf Coast and portions of the Southeast, the weather service said. Normal temperatures were only expected to return slowly by the end of the week.

Wind chills were expected to reach minus 30 to minus 50 degrees (minus 34 C to minus 46 C) at times across the Dakotas and into the Upper Midwest, posing an extreme risk of hypothermia and frostbite. Subzero wind chills were forecast from the Central Plains eastward through Wednesday night.

The NWS issued cold weather advisories across the Great Lakes region.

This latest cold snap comes from a disruption in the polar vortex, the ring of cold air usually trapped at the North Pole.

Santa Ana winds expected to return to Southern California

In Southern California, where blazes have killed at least 27 people and burned thousands of homes, dry conditions and strong Santa Ana winds remained a concern.

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#### **Miscellaneous**

#### Lease for Sale

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#### **Real Estate**

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# Alfalfa County Sheriff's Office Logs

Monday, January 13, 2025

During this day: one controlled burn.

12:02 a.m. – Medic needed in the 100 block of Burns Avenue for a female having trouble breathing. Medic took the patient to St. Mary's Hospital in

Enid.

12:03 p.m. – OnStar advised of a vehicle accident on OK-45 between county roads 590 and 600. Airbags were deployed; there was an unknown number of passengers. The medic took a patient to Bass Hospital in Enid.

See Sheriff Page 28

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## heriff From Page 27

1:07p.m. – Caller requested a lift assist for her 93-year-old their child was being bullied father.

1:46 p.m. – Caller advised he was in the parking lot, waiting on a patient, at the Great Salt Plains Health Center and there was a large man in a redand-black jacket, with a small dog, and caller believes he was casing a vehicle in the parking lot. Advised he headed west on Ohio.

5:20 p.m. – Caller at Jiffy Trip requesting an officer for an elderly male with an altered mental state, coming in and out of the store looking confused and walking around the building. The officer advised the person left with an unknown direction of travel.

6:56 p.m. – Caller advised a tenant's dog bit her and broke her skin. She advised she was at the Jiffy Trip, because she did not want to be around the dog's owner, and she would like to speak to an officer.

7:14 p.m. - Report of a suspicious person on an oilfield site on Jefferson Road and County Road 630.

9:50 p.m. – Caller wanted to speak to an officer about a verbal threat made towards her mestic dispute on Beckham teenage son from another teen male. The mother advised the night before the teen came to the house, banged on the door and fled, but now he is making threats to her son. The officer was advised.

#### Tuesday, January 14, 2025 During this day: two traffic

8:06 a.m. - Caller advised someone stole a ball cap out of his car and he wanted to speak to an officer about what to do.

8:49 a.m. - Caller advised at Burlington School. She said she had called the school and advised that, since they will not do anything, she needed to call law enforcement. Deputy advised.

9:59 a.m. - Caller advised that when he parted his semi last night in Carmen, he had a half-tank of fuel. This morning, he has a quarter-tank, and he wants to speak to a deputy.

11:01 a.m. - Medic needed in the 1000 block of Oklahoma. Medic took a male to Bass Hospital in Enid.

4:20 p.m. - Caller advised she was walking her dog, and a big mastiff-like dog approached them. She advised she was petting the dog and then started to walk on, when it attacked her dog by grabbing its head, and now it will need to go to the vet. She requested to speak to an officer. An officer made contact and took a statement.

#### Wednesday, January 15, 2025

During this day: one traffic stop, and one report of cattle out.

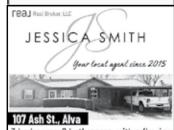
6:35 a.m. - Report of do-Road. Caller advised her sister and her sister's boyfriend were arguing and he has beaten her in the past. Deputy on scene and advised all parties have been separated.

8:23 a.m. – Caller advised her sister's boyfriend was driving around the apartment and she has a protective order against him. Officer notified and staying in the area.

9:28 a.m. - Medic needed at Great Salt Plains Health

See **Sheriff** Page 29





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# From Page 28 Sheriff

Center for a 54-year-old male who possibly is having a heart attack. Medic took the patient to St. Mary's Hospital in Enid.

3:23 p.m. – Burlington fire chief advised of a grass fire on County Road 530 and Jefferson Road.

Thursday, January 16, 2025

During this day: one traffic

7:45 a.m. – Report of a rollover accident on US-64 and County Road 690. Advised a person is out and walking around. Medic en route. No transport needed.

2:54 p.m. – Report that a fire, put out the day before, had flared back up.

3:02 p.m. – Report of a suspicious vehicle near an oilfield site.

6:44 p.m. – Caller advised that a male and female were beating on her door. She wants them to go away and is requesting a deputy. Deputy spoke with the female subject.

## Friday, January 17, 2025

During this day: five traffic stops.

6:30 p.m. – Caller requested an officer to assist with unwanted people at United. Advised there were kids in the back room. The officer advised all was okay and individuals were leaving the premises.

#### Saturday, January 18, 2025

3:33 a.m. – Officer needed for harassment on Grand. Officer advised no offense occurred.

7 a.m. – Helena officer advised he was chasing a vehicle that he believed might be doing a drug drop at the prison. Advised there were at least three people in the vehicle. The of-

ficer finally made contact with the vehicle. Deputies were requested for backup. Advised one subject had warrants but the county will not place a hold. Officer cut all parties loose at the time.

5:17 p.m. – Caller advised a juvenile came onto his porch and started yelling and threatening him. The mother of the juvenile requested the officer to come back to her house, as she has additional information.

10:57 p.m. – Caller advised a broken-down vehicle was near his house and OK-8, between Blake and Bryan roads. Caller advised that he gave the driver a ride to town, but he thinks she's high or drunk or both. The deputy went to the vehicle. Advised it was well off the road and let OHP know.

11:20 p.m. – Welfare check needed for a female who was posting weird messages on Facebook.

#### Sunday, January 19, 2025

12:54 a.m. – Lift assist needed in the 200 block of 9th Street.

6:04 a.m. – Medic needed on OK-38 for an 80-year-old who was dizzy and incoherent. The medic took the patient to Bass Hospital in Enid.

9:59 a.m. – Welfare check needed in the 500 block of Pennsylvania.

10:08 a.m. – Caller advised of a white GMC pickup speeding down Main Street in Aline and would like a deputy. The deputy made contact with the vehicle.

10:39 a.m. – Medic needed in the 700 block of Broadway Street for 59-year-old female with trouble breathing. The

See **Sheriff** Page 30

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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.

6 p.m. Caregiver Support Group meets every fourth Thursday of the month at The Homestead in Alva.

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.



# From Page 29 Sheriff

medic took the patient to Bass Hospital in Enid.

2:30 p.m. – Civil standby needed at the apartment's person coming to get their belongings.

2:33 p.m. – Caller advised kids were playing shooting bow and arrows, and Gus and she didn't say a word. Today when she went out, she found an arrow where her dog lays and it worries the caller. An officer made contact with the juveniles.

5:26 p.m. – Caller advised of a male with a backpack and a suit-

case heading north out of down. The caller is worried because it is cold out.

5:47 p.m. – Helena officer advised he received a call about a male running across the field north of James Crabtree Correctional Center (JCCC). The officer advised he was in pursuit with a black four-door sedan. The officer made contact with the vehicle and advised two occupants weren't cooperating. Officer advised JCCC was unable to make a positive ID.

# 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.

#### **Felony Filings**

Jamie Christina Gray, Stillwater, 38, has been charged with bringing contraband drugs into penal institution; conspiracy and distribution of controlled dangerous-including possible with intent to distribute (\$983.25).

#### **Civil Filings**

Tinker Federal Credit Union, Oklahoma City, vs. Dennis R. McCollum, Helena: indebtedness (\$252.14).

### **Small Claim Filings**

Gretchen Haltom, Helena, vs. Service Oklahoma: lost title (\$58).

#### **Marriage License Filings**

Randy Lee Shoopman Jr., Bristow, vs. Linda Yvonne Steffen: marriage license (\$50).

#### **Traffic Citations**

Felis J. Shale, Dodge City, Kansas, has been cited for speeding 1-10 mph over the speed limit (\$100).

Joshua Dewayne Nichols, Helena, has been cited for speeding 1-10 mph over the speed limit (\$100).

Saul A. Villarreal, Enid, has been cited for speeding 1-10 mph over the speed limit (\$100).

# Alfalfa County real estate transactions

#### **Real Estate Transfers**

Book 904, page 505: Franklin D. Murrow and Cheryl J. Murrow convey unto Franklin D. Murrow and Cheryl J. Murrow. The southwest quarter of Section 32, Township 27N, Range 12, WIM, Alfalfa County, Oklahoma. Joint tenancy quit claim deed.

Book 904, page 547: Janice Haunschild, Successor Trustee of the Revocable Inter Vivos Trust of Geraldine Hays, conveys unto Parker Family, LLC. The west half of the southeast quarter of Section 28, Township 28N, Range 9, WIM, Alfalfa County, Oklahoma. Warranty deed.

# Beneath a veneer of calm, Trump's inauguration holds warning signs for US democracy

By Nicholas Riccardi

All the living former presidents were there and the outgoing president amicably greeted his successor, who gave a speech about the country's bright future and who left to the blare of a brass band.

At first glance, President Donald Trump's second inauguration seemed like a continuation of the country's nearly 250-year-long tradition of peaceful transfers of power, essential to its democracy. And there was much to celebrate: Trump won a free and fair election last fall, and his supporters hope he will be able to fix problems at the border, end the war in Ukraine and get inflation under control.

Still, on Monday, the warning signs were clear.

Due to frigid temperatures, Trump's swearing-in was held in the Capitol Rotunda, where rioters seeking to keep him in power the last time roamed during the Jan. 6, 2021, attack. Trump walked into the space from the hall leading to the building's west front tunnel, where some of the worst hand-to-hand combat between Trump supporters and police occurred that day.

After giving a speech pledging that "never again" would the government "persecute political opponents," Trump then gave a second, impromptu address to a crowd of supporters. The president lamented that his inaugural address had been sanitized, said he would shortly pardon the Jan. 6 rioters and fumed at last-minute preemptive pardons issued by outgoing President Joe Biden to the members of the congressional committee that investigated the attack.

"I did have a couple of things to say that were extremely controversial," Trump told the crowd in the Capitol's Emancipation Hall. It was the same space that had filled with rows of National Guard troops sleeping on the hard floors for weeks in the aftermath of the Jan. 6 attack.

Hours later, Trump followed through on a campaign promise to pardon those involved in the attack — some 1,500 of his supporters, including ones who had assaulted police officers. That came after an extraordinary pardon issued by Biden — announced by the White House as he greeted Trump at the inaugural ceremony — for several members of

Biden's extended family. The 11th hour Biden pardons were a response to Trump's continual threats to carry out a campaign of retribution against his political opponents.

The head-spinning developments of Trump's first day back in power suggested there will be no lack of controversy during his second term.

"The form is normal," Rick Hasen, a University of California, Los Angeles law professor, said of Trump's inaugural. "The substance is not."

Hasen said the pardons of those who tried to violently overturn the results of the 2020 election were particularly worrying.

"It's harder to imagine a greater affront to the rule of law than to give pardons to those who tried to overthrow the government," he said.

Andy Craig, a fellow at the Institute for Humane Studies at George Mason University, was aghast that Trump received the full, respectful pomp and circumstance of a peaceful transition that he tried to deny Biden. "This is a surreal situation in a lot of ways and I get there is no rulebook to follow, but I think people are frustrated, rightly so, with a tone deaf 'everything is normal' approach," Craig said.

Even after regaining the highest office in the land, Trump continued to lie about his 2020 election loss. He didn't mention it in his formal address, but in his impromptu, second speech, Trump falsely contended it was only due to voter fraud and that if votes were counted accurately he would win California, a state he lost by more than 3.2 million votes.

The celebration of the peaceful transfer of power kicked off just before noon Monday with both Trump and Biden present. That was a stark difference from last time, when Trump didn't attend the event to hand over power to Biden.

Democratic Sen. Amy Klobuchar kicked off the speeches because she chairs the joint congressional inaugural committee. She pronounced that the theme was "our enduring democracy." It was a fairly anodyne line and in other circumstances would be a fairly routine speech, but had a stark implication given the setting.

Klobuchar spoke about how "in other

countries" the festivities might be in a presidential palace, but the United States holds them at "the people's house," the Capitol complex. She concluded by recognizing the firefighters battling blazes in Southern California.

"Our democracy's strength and grit must match theirs," Klobuchar said.

The day began with a reminder of the unprecedented dynamic that Trump's return has created. Biden preemptively pardoned Dr. Anthony Fauci, former Gen. Mark Milley — a vocal Trump critic whom the new president has suggested should be executed — and the congressional Jan. 6 committee members, staff and officers who provided them testimony.

Among them was former Rep. Liz Cheney, one of the few Republicans to challenge Trump and who had been targeted for prosecution by her former Republican colleagues in the U.S. House. During his second speech, Trump again dug at Cheney, calling her "a crying lunatic."

"These are exceptional circumstances, and I cannot in good conscience do nothing," Biden said about his blanket pardons. "Even when individuals have done nothing wrong — and in fact have done the right thing — and will ultimately be exonerated, the mere fact of being investigated or prosecuted can irreparably damage reputations and finances."

Former Metropolitan Police Officer Michael Fanone, who lost consciousness and suffered a heart attack after a rioter shocked him with a stun gun, was one of the officers who received a last-minute Biden pardon because he testified before the Jan. 6 committee.

Fanone said he learned about the pardon from a Washington Post reporter who called him Monday morning.

"I haven't digested it," he later told The Associated Press. "I just can't believe that this is my country."

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