

**THE ALVA  
REVIEW  
COURIER**

# NEWSGRAM

VOLUME 45, NO. 2 • WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2025 • 50¢  
620 CHOCTAW, ALVA, OKLAHOMA 73717

New Woods County  
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Shane Vore elected  
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# Hoffmans celebrate 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary

Keith and Rita Hoffman, Freedom, Oklahoma, celebrated their 50-year marriage with family and close friends on November 30, 2024.

Their children, Kenny, Danny and Felecia, along with their grandchildren, Brooke, Addison and Jack Minyard and Bailee and Landry Hoffman hosted a come-n-go reception in their honor.

Keith and Rita Jackson were married on December 28, 1974 in Rita's hometown church in Shidler, Oklahoma. Both attended Northwestern Oklahoma State University and resided in Alva, Driftwood and Kiowa, Kansas, before moving in 2000 to the family ranch in Woods County, Oklahoma.

Keith worked as a certified John Deere mechanic in this area while Rita worked in education and was a children's case manager in mental health at the time of their retirement. Keith became a rancher and cattleman and both follow and enjoy the activities of their grandchildren.

The couple gratefully appreciates family and friends' acknowledgement of this lifetime commitment celebration and want to thank everyone for the love and support through their years together.



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# Facts people sought in 2024

By Marione Martin



As 2024 drew to a close, I noticed a lot of entertainers quoting reports on the most-played songs of 2024. While I enjoy music, as a newspaper editor my focus is on facts. I was intrigued by this report from USAFacts (USAFacts.com) on their most-read articles of 2024. A lot of readers sought information about safety and homelessness. Here's a list of the top ten.

## 10. How many voters have a party affiliation?

This election year, readers wanted to understand political affiliations. As of late September, Wyoming had the highest percentage of registered Republican voters (81%), and Washington, DC, had the highest percentage of registered Democrats (76%). State-wise, Maryland had the highest percentage of registered Democrats (52%).

To see a breakdown of voters in Oklahoma and in Woods County, read my story in this Newsgram from the Woods County Commissioners meeting.

## 9. Which cities have the highest murder rates?

Homicide rates were highest in counties home to large cities, where the average homicide rate is 10.5 per 100,000 people. The national average homicide rate is 7.5 per 100,000.

One way to approximate city homicide numbers is with data from large urban counties. This is inexact, as some counties map to a single city others contain multiple cities or a broader metropolitan area, and some major cities (like St. Louis and Baltimore) are independent and don't belong to any county. But county-level numbers are still instructive.

Cook County, Illinois, home to Chicago and its metropolitan area, had 929 homicides in 2022 – the most in the nation. The second highest was Los Angeles County, California, whose 88 cities, including Los Angeles, had 713 homicides.

Los Angeles and Cook Counties are also the two most populated counties in the country. When adjusted

for population, Cook County's 18.2 homicides per 100,000 people ranked 17th among 60 large-city US counties with reliable data, and Los Angeles County's 7.3 ranked 41st.

The five large cities whose home counties had the highest homicide rates were New Orleans, Louisiana; St. Louis, Missouri; Baltimore, Maryland; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and Memphis, Tennessee.

## 8. How many Americans voted in 2020?

In 2020, the voting rate hit a 30-year high, with over two-thirds of eligible Americans voting in the presidential election. Youth voter turnout rose 10 percentage points compared to the presidential election, the largest gain among any age group.

Youth voter turnout increased the most of any age group, rising by 10 percentage points compared with the previous presidential election. It's the second federal election with an increase in youth voter turnout. In the 2018 midterms, youth voter turnout almost doubled from 2014. Yet young voters still turn out the least of all age groups. Seniors turn out at the highest rate, with about 72% voting in 2020, an increase of four percentage points from 2016.

In Washington, D.C., voter turnout was 84% in 2020. Among states, New Jersey had the highest turnout with 78.3% of eligible voters casting a ballot. It was followed by Minnesota (77.9%), Oregon (74.1%), and New Hampshire (74.0%).

Voters in Arkansas turned out the least, at a rate of 54%. Three other states had turnout rates below 60%: West Virginia (56.1%), Oklahoma (58.3%) and South Dakota (58.5%).

## 7. Which states rely the most on federal aid?

Montana had the highest proportion of federal funding, with 31.8% of its budget coming from federal sources. It was followed by New Mexico (30.7%), Kentucky (30.1%), Louisiana (29.8%), and Alaska (29.0%). Vermont relied the least on federal funding (12.8%).

Federal funding comes through several overlapping programs targeting state and local governments. The proportion of state revenues attributable to federal aid is determined by combining the funding received by both state and

local institutions.

The five states that received the most federal aid were:

- California (\$162.9 billion)
- New York (\$110.2 billion)
- Texas (\$105.8 billion)
- Florida (\$58.8 billion)
- Pennsylvania (\$57.1 billion)

These figures largely correlate with population. To interpret state reliance on the federal government more accurately, we can look at total aid as a percentage of annual state revenues.

In 2021, Montana led the states with the highest proportion of federal funding to the overall budget at 31.8%, followed by New Mexico (30.7%), Kentucky (30.1%), Louisiana (29.8%), and Alaska (29.0%).

Vermont relied on federal grants the least, with just 12.8% of its total budget coming from the federal government – a total reversal from 2020, when it topped the list with 35.7% of revenues coming from the feds thanks to four federal acts passed that year. In 2020 and 2021, Vermont received over \$4.9 billion in federal grants.

Despite receiving the most federal funding dollar-wise, California was the second-least reliant state on a percentage basis, with 14.5% of revenue coming from the federal government, followed by Minnesota (14.6%), South Dakota (15.0%), and Iowa (15.5%).

## 6. How much money has the US given Ukraine since Russia's invasion?

As of March 2024, the United States has sent Ukraine over \$60 billion in funding and equipment through military, economic, and humanitarian aid. Some of these funds will require repayment with interest after the Russia-Ukraine war.

## 5. Which cities have the nation's largest homeless populations?

The Department of Housing and Urban Development estimated that 653,104 Americans were experiencing homelessness in January 2023. The largest homeless populations were in regions containing the nation's two most populated cities: New York (88,025) and Los Angeles (71,320).

## 4. Which states have the highest murder rates?

Between 2020 and 2022, US homicide rates reached their highest

**See Marione Page 18**



# Dean Goll

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**NEW - 224 Acres of excellent grassland, 3 ponds with beautiful home or hunting lodge, large shed, cement bunk lines. House has 5 bedrooms, 4 baths, large living area with fireplace, kitchen, utility and mudroom, 3-car garage, 2,160 sq. ft.; Also has a large 7,000 sq. ft. shed with lean-to. This property lies next to the Great Salt Plains Wildlife Reserve, excellent goose, sandhill crane, and duck hunting. Don't miss your chance to own this beautiful property. The house is move-in ready with most furnishings staying. House location is 69337 Dewy Road, Jet, Okla. SW $\frac{1}{4}$  S $\frac{1}{2}$  SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , NW $\frac{1}{4}$  31-26-9, W.I.M., Alfalfa County, Okla. PRICE: \$1,035,000.00**

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

**NEW - 160 Acres - Excellent Diversified Farm - This tract consists of 160 Acres, of which 105 Acres is good cropland (primarily Yahola fine sand loam and Grant silt loam soils), and the balance being 55 Acres of cropland, trees, and creek. 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. **UNDER CONTRACT** From Alva, Okla. east on Hwy 60 to County Road 190, then go 1 mile south to a hunting paradise. PRICE: \$160,000.00 per 80 Acre tract**

**NEW - 80 Acres - Great Home-Site Potential - Potential Hunting!** Excellent grassland and scattered trees throughout, which makes for excellent hunting. Good 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 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 and Van and Gunt silt loam soil). 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, 1/2 mile from Salt Fork River. It also has a good water well, 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 good water. 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 - 1/4 mile from Salt Fork River. This tract consists of 400 Acres of which 151 Acres is good cropland and the balance being 249 Acres of excellent grass. "This is trophy deer country." Don't miss your chance to have a hunting place to call your own. SE $\frac{1}{4}$  - 24-28-15 & SW $\frac{1}{4}$  & W $\frac{1}{2}$  SE $\frac{1}{4}$  - 19-28-14, W.I.M. Woods County, Okla. PRICE: \$775,000.00**

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

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

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



**208 Duncan Drive - Cherokee, OK**  
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# Cherokee Invitational begins tomorrow

## No school Jan. 10.

**By Kathleen Lourde**

The Cherokee School Board's regular monthly meeting Monday evening opened with Superintendent Bryce Schanbacher recognizing the board for its service.

"January is School Board Appreciation Month, and you each have a certificate of appreciation there in front of you," he said as the meeting got underway. "We do appreciate you and the decisions you make for our students, school and community, and we wanted to take a few moments to express that appreciation. Thank you all very much."

It was good timing, because the last board meeting was convened for training only. The Dec. 17 program taught the board how to evaluate superintendents. Board members said the training was helpful, and they voted to continue with the OSSBA Superintendent Evaluation Program.

### Upcoming Events

Thursday, Jan. 9: The Cherokee Invitational Basketball Tournament, sponsored by Alfalfa Electric Cooperative, begins.

Friday, Jan. 10: No school.

### Finances Looking Steady

The board approved the consent agenda, which consisted of notes from the two December meetings, financial reports (encumbrances, purchase orders and warrants for the General, Building and Child Nutrition funds; activity fund and treasurer's reports) and resignations.

Finances were "pretty routine" in December, Schanbacher said. Outside of payroll, most expenditures were utilities

and regular contracted services. However, \$5,430 was spent from the building fund to purchase a backup motor for the HVAC geothermal system at the elementary school.

"If one of those motors goes out, the whole system goes down," he said, adding that getting a replacement at that point could take quite a while. A couple years ago, the school bought a backup motor for the high school's system, so this latest purchase of a backup motor ensures both buildings are covered.

Other than that, expenses have been "pretty routine," and all fund balances are staying steady, Schanbacher said. "I kind of expect it to hopefully stay that way for the rest of the school year."

### At the Elementary School

Cherokee's students began their second semester yesterday, Jan. 7. They didn't find fifth-grade teacher Kirsten Harrison there, though – she resigned just before Christmas and will not be returning. "We're making plans on how to proceed for the rest of the year," Schanbacher said.

Elementary Principal Keela Patterson thanked the school board for their service and told them about the elementary school's Christmas program Dec. 19. "I wanted to thank Mrs. Ware for another wonderful Christmas program," Patterson said. "It's always a fun night. Thank you also to parents who donated items for the class parties before break."

The elementary school fundraiser raised about \$7,500. Patterson thanked those who donated.

"To kick off the new year, we had another great professional development from the grant that we received from the K20 Center," said Patterson. The center has been helping the teachers smoothly incorporate technology into their classes. "It has been really beneficial for our teachers," Patterson said. "It's not just about the items we receive, it's about how to use the technology in the classroom."

### At the High School

High School Principal Lane Pruett is proud of his students. He made sure to list many of those achievements for the board.

**Agriculture:** Davin Budy was the overall champion of the state wheat show. In the state cattle handling finals, three students – Cade Smith, Joel Parker and Wyatt Parker – were the overall state runner-up team, took first place on the written knowledge test, and second in cattle processing. Ten FFA members attended Lead 360, a leadership conference held in Sparks, OK.

**Sports:** The Chiefs football team received the OSSAA Academic Achievement Award. This award is presented to teams with a team GPA of at least 3.25. In addition, football team awards were received just before the Christmas break:

- 1st Team Offense: Clayton Road (running back), Aberto Alvarez (offensive lineman) and Joel Parker (tight end)
- 1st Team Defense: Tate Allison (linebacker), Hunter Wimpee (defensive back)
- 2nd Team Offense: Dawson Schanbacher (quarterback, Declyn Lucas (offensive lineman), Tony Macias (wide receiver)
- 2nd Team Defense: Antonio Banderas (defensive lineman), Gavin Guffy (defensive back)
- 8-Man All Stars: Alberto Alvarez and Tate Allison
- Class B Division II All Star by Class: Alberto Alvarez

### Capacity Numbers Lowered

The board approved lowering the district student transfer capacity numbers a bit to protect the school from having more students than they can teach. "The principals and myself discussed class sizes," said Schanbacher, "we're already



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

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# 2025 COMMUNITY VISIONS!

## 1st Quarter



### Woods County Sheriff's Department

January 1-March 31, 2025

The Woods County Sheriff's Office is hoping to raise \$11,000 to get an EZ Child ID System with the equipment needed to record vital child information, including fingerprinting. Additionally they are hoping to purchase supplies for DUI awareness training materials.

## 2nd Quarter

### Woods County Senior Citizen's Center

### Woods County Senior Citizen's Center

April 1-June 30, 2025

The Woods County Senior Citizen's Center hopes to raise funds for the upcoming year for utilities to keep the doors open and to be able to continue to provide meals for our seniors. They are also seeking funding to continue to provide transportation to the center for lunch, deliver meals, and various appointments to those who need it. Their fundraising goal is \$10,000.

## 3rd Quarter



### Bridge2Hope

July 1-September 30, 2024

Bridge2Hope is a newly founded organization who's mission is 'Transforming lives with hope, love, support, and a hand up out of poverty.' They work with families to address the needs of those living at or below the poverty level. They are raising funds to provide the curriculum, tools and educational resources needed to help families escape poverty. Their fundraising goal is \$10,000.

## 4th Quarter



### Alva Wesleyan Food Bank

October 1-December 31, 2024

Bank It for the Food Bank' was the original CommUNITY Vision for Bank It and therefore remains the 4th quarter vision each year. They serve over 200 individuals each month and help provide food stability for families struggling to make ends meet. Their fundraising goal is \$10,000.

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# Alfalfa County commissioners select chairman, vice chairman for 2025

By Stacy Sanborn

Upon starting their meeting this week, the Alfalfa County Commissioners – Garret Johnson, Mike Roach and Nate Ross – voted to appoint Roach as chairman and Ross vice chairman for 2025.

Once that was taken care of, the three men signed their usual orders of business, approving the maintenance and operation warrants for payment, blanket purchase orders, monthly officer reports, and court clerk records management and preservation reports.

They reviewed and signed the monthly appropriations and the allocation of taxes from alcoholic beverages and motor vehicles, then confirmed the District 4 requisitioning and receiving officers.

The commissioners approved a couple of funds transfers. One was \$74,000 for salaries from the County General Sales Tax M&O account 1311-1-2000-2005 to the County General Sales Tax Personal Services account 1311-1-2000-1110, and the other was a \$199.25 correction transfer from the County Clerk Preservation account 1209-1-100-2005 to the Court Clerk Preservation account 7210-1-1400-2005

for November fees for the CCPR Court Clerk.

Alfalfa County Emergency Manager Darrin Lancaster addressed the commissioners next about the FY2025 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) program request for reimbursement/payment and time and effort form, as well as the EMPG FY 2024 award acceptance letter. He said the amount had always been \$10,000 but had now increased to \$12,500. The commissioners signed off on those, and with no unforeseen business, the meeting adjourned.

### Motor Vehicle Tax

Aline \$86.73, Amorita \$20.02, Burlington \$64.15, Byron \$18.47, Carmen \$182.19, Cherokee \$742.09, Goltry \$129.32, Helena \$787.26, Jet \$100.07, Lambert \$3.08. Total: \$2,133.38.

### Alcoholic Beverage Tax

Aline \$599.56, Amorita \$135.61,

Burlington \$442.53, Byron \$132.05, Carmen \$1,284.76, Cherokee \$5,267.54, Goltry \$895.76, Helena \$5,485.23, Jet \$703.06, Lambert \$17.84. Total: \$14,963.94.

### Appropriations

911 Phone Fees (1201) \$14,012  
Assessor Revolving Fee (1204) \$.02  
CBRI (1103) \$28,269.03  
County Clerk Lien Fee (1208) \$130.29  
County Clerk RM&P (1209) \$1,709.37  
County General (0001) \$140  
Emergency Medical Service (1304) \$61,356.05  
Enhanced 911-ST (1332) \$8,087.65  
Fair Improvement - ST (1310) \$18,866.21  
General Govt - ST (1311) \$10,368.79  
Highway (1102) \$299,636.41  
Highway ST (1313) \$11,924.10  
Rural Fire (1321) \$11,479.16  
Sheriff - ST (1319) \$5,796.15  
Sheriff Service Fee (1226) \$4,973.11  
Treasurer Mortgage Cert (1230) \$45

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### 2023 CHEVY 3500



**SALE PRICE**  
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LTZ, Leather, HS, Long Box, Z71, 4WD, Diesel, (T59041)

### 2022 CHEVY 1500



**SALE PRICE**  
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LTZ, 4WD, Local 1 owner, Z71, Leather, H&C Seats, PW&PD, Safety Features, 50k Miles, (T59881)

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**SALE PRICE \$64,475**

### 2012 CHEVY 2500



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**SALE PRICE \$15,475**

### 2022 RAM 2500



Tradesman, 4WD, Long Bed, GG, 6.7L 6cyl, 63k Miles, (T58791)

**SALE PRICE \$45,875**

### 2013 CHEVY 3500



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WT, 4WD, Diesel, PW&PD, Arm Bed, Cake Box, (T58523)

### 2018 FORD F-150



**SALE PRICE**  
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4WD, XL, 1 Owner, 48k Miles, Cloth, HS, 5.0L 8cyl, (T59761)

VIEW EVEN MORE SELECTIONS AT **CROFTCHEVROLET.COM**

# State-ranked Schurter invited 'down under' for Coast2Coast International Track and Field Meet

- BINGO Night Fundraiser – Jan. 18, 6-9 p.m. at Kiowa Community Building
- Concession stand and pie auction

By Yvonne Miller

It's no surprise that South Barber junior Lily Schurter is invited to compete in the Coast2Coast International Track and Field Meet in Australia July 5-16. She made it to the Kansas state track meet her freshman and sophomore years. At the state level she's currently ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in discus and 10<sup>th</sup> in shot put. Her best throws are 120'8" for discus and 38'5.5" for shot put.

The daughter of Kiowa couple Zeb and Anna Schurter, Lily gets to experience Australian culture and represent the USA in a track meet. She'll compete against athletes on the five to 15 other teams expected to attend. The letter from Coast2Coast said the athletes are invited because of their impressive marks on their track and field record. The track meet is only part of the trip; the athletes will have time to explore the Gold Coast.

To assist Lily with the travel expenses of the Australian trip, friends and family plan a fundraiser to help her cover costs. The public is invited to a BINGO Night Jan. 18 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Kiowa Community Building. Bingo cards are \$1 each. Remember: the bigger the crowd, the larger the prize money. Grab some friends and come for some fun BINGO games and enjoy the concession stand.

Pie bakers are encouraged to get out their rolling pins and create their favorite flavor to donate a mile-high meringue, a fruit concoction oozing with a sweet syrup in a buttery crust or other that you love to make for the pie auction.

At South Barber High School Lily is a member of the National Honor Society, is a multi-athlete – a cheerleader and out for basketball besides track. She is secretary of the junior class.



South Barber junior Lily Schurter puts her all into throwing the shot put. At the state level in Kansas, she's ranked third in discus and 10th in shot put. Her achievements earned her an invitation to compete in an international track meet in Australia this summer.

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# THE AG PAGE

Katy Hittle Ag/4-H Educator



## EXTENSION

Along Main streets and in the center of communities across the state, Oklahoma State University Extension county offices invite the public to stop by with any question, big or small. But for those seeking Extension information online, asking for help just got easier.

In 2024, OSU Agriculture and the Extension Foundation officially launched an artificial intelligence chatbot to reach new clients and connect with rapidly growing digital audiences. ExtensionBot answers questions based on more than 400,000 Extension publications, articles, fact sheets and program content sourced exclusively from 30 state Extension networks and the United States Department of Agriculture. The AI tool went live in September on the OSU Extension website and six other Extension system sites after operating in beta testing mode since April. Try it out! Visit the OSU Extension homepage and scroll to the lower right corner to ask ExtensionBot a question. "OSU Extension wants to use AI to provide information to people in ways they want to receive it as well as to be efficient and effective in the way we work," said Dr. Damona Doye, associate vice president of the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service. "Having an AI chatbot on our website that generates responses based on Extension and research publications that are unbiased, research-based and peer-reviewed ensures the integrity of the response. Users will be better informed to ask specific questions of local educators and specialists about their unique situations." The chatbot provides Extension educators, volunteers and the public with unlimited access to accurate, practical information in all Extension areas, including agriculture and natural resources, health, nutrition and family resilience. Whether an Extension educator assisting a client or the public seeking information on a subject, users can type a basic question into the chatbot and receive answers from verified sources. Questions such as, "Which tomatoes grow best in Oklahoma soil?" or, "What maintenance checklist should homeowners follow to prepare for winter weather?" are answered with localized content from OSU Extension specialists. Initiated and managed by the Extension Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, the project is funded by the New Technologies in Ag Extension grant through the USDA-National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

David Warren, senior director of integrated digital strategies for OSU Agriculture and AI program leader for the Extension Foundation, partnered with the foundation's IT manager to lead development. The team also worked closely with Extension peers at Oregon State University and the University of Florida. "The chatbot provides information only from trustworthy, research-based sources," Warren said. "Our content is all grounded in facts. We built it in a series of steps to be trustworthy by design and the most accurate AI available." The tool modernizes OSU Extension outreach efforts by offering a more robust list of resources for Oklahomans and users worldwide. Warren said the AI technology meets stakeholders where they live and work — online. "We value our digital customers as much as we value the people willing to walk into a local Extension office," he said. "Our offices are open during business hours Monday through Friday, not at 6 p.m. on a Friday when someone wants to learn how to plant a garden over the weekend. There's a large, underserved group of Extension clients who do not physically walk into our offices." ExtensionBot shares scientific and applied research from Extension specialists to enrich lives, address trends, and recommend methods and strategies that support a vibrant Oklahoma economy. Ultimately, the Extension Foundation hopes to offer chatbot data from all 50 states and 112 Extension systems in the country.

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# Woods County Sheriff's Office receives donation for juvenile fingerprinting equipment

## Vore elected chairman by commissioners

By Marione Martin

Commissioner John Smiley opened the Woods County commissioners' meeting Monday morning. The first order of business was to elect new officers. Smiley immediately nominated Commissioner Shane Vore for that office. Vore then nominated Smiley to serve as vice chairman. Both were elected by unanimous vote. District 1 Foreman Damian Starks filled in for Commissioner David Hamil at the meeting.

Vore took charge of the meeting, and the minutes of the Dec. 30 meeting were approved.

Woods County Sheriff Randy McCullough told the commissioners about a donation from the Bank It program to provide fingerprinting equipment. McCullough said this was not for the jail. Instead, it was for doing digital fingerprinting of children that were then printed on a card and provided to the parents. Previously the Alva Moose Lodge provided equipment for this purpose, but it has become outdated. The sheriff's department will use the equipment for the youngest children in all of the county schools.

Vore asked for more information about the Bank It program. As McCullough explained, it is a program in cooperation with Alva and Hopeton banks to provide donations for various projects. The donations from individuals, businesses or other groups are matched by the banks. The commissioners acknowledged receipt of the funds for the sheriff's office.

County Emergency Management Director Ethan Feidler presented information on the FY2024 Emergency Management Performance Grant received. Woods County received \$22,500 to be applied to the regular programs. The county also received a training grant of \$800.

The following monthly reports were approved: Assessor Collections \$61.00; County Clerk Office Collections \$10,096.00; Court Clerk Office Balance \$48,225.61; Court Clerk RM&P Balance \$20,194.50; Election Board Balance \$7,003.85; Health Dept. Collections \$0.00; Sheriff's Office Collections



**Woods County Sheriff Randy McCullough (right) describes the new juvenile fingerprinting equipment funded by Bank It. At left is new County Commissioner Shane Vore who was elected chairman at Monday's meeting. Photo by Marione Martin**

\$1,533.36; Board of Prisoners Expenses \$5,990.00; Treasurer's Office Balance \$6,352.38.

The commissioners approved the monthly appropriations of about \$21,000 for each district. County Clerk Shelley Reed explained that these amounts will appear in the budgets for each district next month.

Action was approved to remove Randy McMurphy and add Shane Vore to all the District 2 and Fee and General accounts and to remove Troy Ferguson and add Lynn Bolar as receiving for District 2.

A transfer of appropriations was approved to move \$15,937.10 from Highway District 1 CIRB to District 1 personal services and \$15,937.09 from District 2 CIRB (County Improvements for Roads and Bridges) to personal services. Smiley explained that he prefers to stockpile District 3 CIRB and spend it later. CIRB is state funded through the Oklahoma Department of

Transportation.

The commissioners voted to approve the annual report from the election board. As of Dec. 31, 2024, the Woods County Election Board showed 5,164 registered voters. Of that total, 4,732 are listed as active. The county had 20 new registrations. There are 3,628 voters registered as Republican with 3,408 of them active. Democrats total 802 with 711 active. Independents total 579 with 579 active. There are 50 registered as Libertarians with 34 active.

Statewide there are 2,466,348 registered voters with 2,174,922 listed as active. A majority of 1,297,364 are registered Republican while Democrats total 657,833, Independents 487,399 and Libertarians 23,752.

The annual 2525 Fair Board Election resolution was approved. Reed said candidates may pick up applications and file them in the County Clerk's office from Jan. 13 to Jan. 17. The fair board

**See Woods Page 18**



# AUCTION SPRING CONSIGNMENT

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# From Page 16 Woods

elections will be held in each of the three county sheds in Alva, Freedom and Waynoka on Jan. 21.

The commissioners approved a November 2024 Detention Transportation Claim in the amount of \$145.91.

Under new business, Sheriff McCullough said the commissioners were the first to be notified officially of Senate Bill 77 which McCullough asked Sen. Roland Pederson to present. The bill would designate critical emergency routes that the railroads cannot block due to public safety. McCullough said in this bill state and federal highways would automatically be designated. County commissioners will be asked for input on other crossings that offer critical access. Starks said a rural dead-end road in District 1 is the only access to several homes, and McCullough said that should be included. As written, the bill would require a fine of up to \$5,000 from railroads violating the law.

McCullough said the bill would still need approval by the legislature and the governor, but if approved, it would go into effect as early as July.

The commissioners approved blanket purchase orders before adjourning.



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# From Page 4 Marione

levels in the 21st century. In 2022, Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama had the highest homicide rates per 100,000 people. New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Utah had the lowest rates.

### 3. Data on unauthorized U.S. immigration and border crossings

Between October 2019 and June 2024, US Customs and Border Protection reported just under 11 million border encounters – roughly equivalent to North Carolina’s population. There isn’t definitive data on unauthorized immigrant numbers, but border encounters provide an estimate.

### 2. Which countries own the most U.S. debt?

The US owes trillions of dollars in debt to foreign entities. As of April, foreign countries owned approximately \$7.9 trillion, or 22.9%, of total U.S. debt. Japan and China have owned more

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Treasury bonds over the past 20 years than any other foreign nation.

### 1. What are the current swing states, and how have they changed?

Swing states are characterized by having small vote margins and different political parties that win over time. In 2020, seven states were won by a margin of three percentage points or less. Do you know what they were?

The states that voted for current Democratic President Joe Biden in 2020 and former Republican president Donald Trump in 2016 and are often highlighted as swing states. These states include Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

Tight margins in races also indicate that a state could have been won by either party. In 2020, seven states were won by a margin of three percentage points or less. These states included the five above states, in addition to North Carolina and Nevada.

USAFacts will no doubt have updates from the 2024 election.

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## From Page 6 Cherokee

pretty full. At this time, we won't be taking any transfer students."

The sixth, seventh and eighth grades are all unusually large, and with them coming through all in a row, Schanbacher wants to keep a close eye on capacity numbers. He and the board will discuss the matter again at the April meeting. In the meantime, if a new student moves into the district, the school will take them regardless of capacity numbers.

### School Calendar Approved

The board approved the 2025-2026 school year calendar and approved using the 1080 method for the year.

The first day of the 2025-2026 school year will be Aug. 7 and the last day will be May 14. May 15 will be a professional development day, and high school graduation will be held that day as well.

Fall break will last from Wednesday through the following Monday and will take place at the same time as at Northwest Technical Center. Thanksgiving break will be a week long and Christmas break will be the same as it was this year: students get out early on Friday, Dec. 19, and return to school on Tuesday, Jan. 6. Teachers will return Jan. 5 for a professional development day.

During the spring, when activities go into overdrive, students will have Fridays off. "Those four-day weeks (last year) sure helped out with that, and all the testing was accomplished too," said Schanbacher.

In total, 164 instructional days will be provided, with teachers' professional development adding another seven days to their schedule.

### Check the App for Snow Day Decisions

Before closing the meeting, Schanbacher sent a message to parents: with the onset of winter, and possibly more bad weather later this week, be sure to consult the Cherokee app.

Schanbacher said he knows that getting up at 6 a.m. on a snowy morning and having to wait around and wonder if school will be canceled is stressful for parents and students alike. Whenever possible, decisions about snow days will be made as early as possible to give everyone as much notice as possible. That decision will be put on the Cherokee app and texted it to parents and guardians on the list.

With no new business, the meeting adjourned. See the entire video at [www.AlvaReviewCourier.com/Videos](http://www.AlvaReviewCourier.com/Videos).

## Obituaries

### KATHRYN DENISE CHURCHILL

Funeral services for Kathryn Denise Churchill will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday, January 11, 2025, at Hopeton Church in Hopeton, Oklahoma. Burial to follow at Alva Municipal Cemetery in Alva, Oklahoma. Visitation with the family will be from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., Friday, January 10, 2025, at the funeral home. Arrangements are under the direction of Marshall Funeral Home of Alva.



Kathryn Denise Churchill was born to Dale Eugene and Alma "Darlene" (Bowman) Johnston on January 2, 1955, in Woodward, Oklahoma. She grew up, along with her sisters, Yolanda, Becky and Charlotte, in the Woodward area, except for a short time when the family moved to Missouri. Kathy had a fun, but not always easy, childhood. She looked back, even in the trying times, with fond memories. Later in life she knew that it was in those moments that her relationship with the Lord was building.

After graduating from Woodward High School in 1973, Kathy attended Northwestern Oklahoma State

University in Alva, for two years, earning an associate's degree in secretarial accounting. It was during her time at Northwestern that she met and married Terry Ross. The two were blessed with two children, Joni and Jennifer.

Kathy knew God at an early age, looking to her grandparents and parents for that example. The earliest account of her spreading the gospel was on the playground of Horace Mann Elementary school in Woodward, in the early 1960s. She boldly walked up to a little girl named Billie Mancillas and asked, "Do you know who God is?" That was the beginning of a close friendship that sustained throughout the remainder of her life. As a young mother, Kathy began to build a stronger relationship with God. Her health and life circumstances brought many challenges through which she relied heavily on the Lord to overcome. After trying several different churches, she found her home at Hopeton Wesleyan Church in 1986. She spent the remainder of her life in service to God through her church. Kathy had a true servant-heart and she used that gift to serve in any way that she could. For a period of time, she sang on the worship team and served as a church greeter, but she is perhaps best known for her dedication to the church's children's

ministry, where many children came to know her as Miss Kathy. While in that role, she did her part to teach them that "God is So Good!" Kathy received one of her greatest blessings when she married the love of her life, Bradley Dean Churchill, on January 2, 2002. Bradley also considers Kathy to be his greatest gift from God. Together, the couple continued to build a life of service to God, their church, and their family.

Early in her career, Kathy lived in Carmen, Oklahoma. During that time, she ran the Carmen Insurance Agency and worked as a secretary for Magic Circle Energy. In 1985, she began working for Assistant District Attorney, Tom Gruber, as his secretary. After his time in office, she followed him to his private practice and served as the secretary for Gruber and Cunningham Law Office until the early 2000's. For the next twenty-one years, she worked for Central National Bank, later Bank Central NA, until her retirement in 2020. Through the years, Kathy earned the reputation of a trusted and dedicated employee who always brought joy to those she greeted. It was in her retirement that she was able to dedicate herself full-time to her most cherished job—being

See Obits Page 22



## ALVA CAMPUS

# UPCOMING CLASSES!

- ➔ CLASSES STARTING IN JAN./FEB. UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED
- ➔ FULL CLASS SCHEDULE AVAILABLE AT [WWW.NWTECH.EDU](http://WWW.NWTECH.EDU).

**BEGINS  
JAN. 7**

**Emergency Medical Technician** ~ This program meets the NREMT Education standards consisting of 216 classroom and 36 clinical hours. The class runs Tuesdays and Thursdays through May 22. Cost is \$1210.00. Call for additional details.

**BEGINS  
JAN. 13**

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

**BEGINS  
JAN. 22**

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

**BEGINS  
JAN. 27**

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

**BEGINS  
FEB. 4**

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

**BEGINS  
FEB. 4**

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





# FAIRVIEW CAMPUS

# UPCOMING CLASSES!

- ➔ CLASSES STARTING IN JAN./FEB. UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED
- ➔ FULL CLASS SCHEDULE AVAILABLE AT [WWW.NWTECH.EDU](http://WWW.NWTECH.EDU).

**BEGINS  
JAN. 27**

**Forming An LLC, Zoom Option Only!** ~ This course is designed to help blend the limited liability protections of a corporation with the operational flexibility of a partnership. Understanding an LLC can help limit personal liability for business debts and obligations while allowing for a customizable management structure and potential tax benefits. Class is on 1/27 from 5:30 -9:30pm and the cost is \$50.00

**BEGINS  
JAN. 21**

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

**BEGINS  
FEB. 6**

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

**FEB. 3**

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

**BEGINS  
JAN. 28**

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

**JAN. 13 OR  
JAN. 23**

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



# From Page 19 **Obits**

Nana. Even before her retirement, Kathy was a very present Nana. Following her retirement she packed in a lifetime of grandmotherly duties. She attended as many activities as she possibly could, spending many evenings and weekends at rodeo grounds, sports venues, recital halls, concert venues, birthday parties, or just spending quality time with her family in the living room. Whenever she was present, her grandchildren were at her side. She was intentional in making even the most insignificant moments special and meaningful.

Kathy was diagnosed with breast cancer for the first time in September of 1997. She prayed and believed for healing. God was faithful on that call, giving her twenty-seven wonderful years to build a beautiful family, leave a lasting legacy, and spread the gospel of God to everyone she encountered. In life, Kathy relied fully on God to sustain her and was a fervent prayer warrior. Together with her husband, Bradley, she followed the Bible in every step of life's journey. The couple lived out their favorite scripture, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him and He will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6. She received complete healing from her 27-year fight with metastatic breast cancer as she entered into the arms of Jesus, her Lord and Savior, on Monday, January 6, 2025, at the age of 70 years and 4 days.

Kathryn was preceded in death by her parents and sister, Yolanda.

She is survived by her husband, Bradley Dean Churchill, of Alva; two children, Joni (Ross) Erikson and husband, Cody, of Morrison; Jennifer (Ross) Winfrey and husband, Weston, of Pratt, Kansas, two bonus children, Jessica (Churchill) Kriegh and husband, Michael, of Alva; Jacob Churchill, of Troy, Missouri. Kathryn is also survived

by her beloved grandchildren, Jaxon Erikson, Walker, Wren, Wraylee, and Weslyn Winfrey, Benjamin, Georgia and Elliette Kriegh; parents-in-love, Arthur and Karen Churchill of Searcy, Arkansas; two sisters, Rebecca White and husband, Bob, of Woodward, Charlotte Clary and husband, Scott, of Mooreland; a best friend of 64 years, Billie (Mancilles) Coughlin and husband, Pat, of Temple, Texas; and many other relatives and friends.

Contributions may be made through the funeral home to the Hopeton Wesleyan Church Victory Fund to assist in reaching people for Jesus, a central mission for Kathy.

Remembrances may be shared with the family at [www.marshallfuneralhomes.com](http://www.marshallfuneralhomes.com).

## **FORREST EDWARD GOLBEK**



Forrest Edward Golbek was born to Gracie T. (Brewer) and Ed Golbek Jr. on December 11, 1952, in Alva, Oklahoma. He passed away on January 3, 2025, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, at the age of 72 years, 11 months and 24 days.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Gracie, and sister, Debbie; nephew, Joshua; niece, Leslie.

Forrest is survived by his father, Ed Golbek Jr.; children, Sarah and husband Drew Letts, Sherri and husband Tony Jones, Sandy and husband Chris Doherty, Stephany and husband Eric Stratton, and Forrest Jr.; brothers, Steven and David; thirteen grandchildren; one great grandchild; and other family and friends.

## **DENNIS LEON SCHWERTFEGER**

Memorial services for Dennis Schwerdtfeger will be 2 p.m. Saturday, January 18, 2025, at the Alva Friends Church. Cremation arrangements are under the direction of Marshall Funeral Home of Alva. Memorial contributions may be made through the funeral home to the Alva Friends Church or the American Heart Association. Remembrances may be shared with the family at [www.marshallfuneralhomes.com](http://www.marshallfuneralhomes.com).

## **JANICE SUE STERLING**

Funeral services for Janice Sue Sterling will be 2 p.m., Thursday, January 9, 2025, at Hardtner United Methodist Church with Pastor Mark Fillmore, officiating. Burial will follow at Hardtner Cemetery in Hardtner, Kansas. Visitation with the family will be 5-7 p.m., Wednesday, January 8, 2025, at the Funeral Home. Service under the direction of Marshall Funeral Home.



Janice Sue Sterling, daughter of the late Ralph and Bernice (Benson) Wiley, was born November 19, 1930, in El Dorado, Kansas, and passed away, January 3, 2025, in Alva, Oklahoma, at the age of 94 years, 1 month and 15 days.

Sue grew up in El Dorado, Kansas, and graduated from El Dorado High. During her high school years, she enjoyed working in her parents' shoe store. She then obtained her bachelor's degree from Kansas State University where she was a member of Alpha Delta Pi sorority. While there she met Robert E. Sterling, whom she married on April 27, 1952.

Sue and Bob lived in Germany for two years due to his deployment there during the Korean conflict. She enjoyed living there and getting to travel around Europe.

They returned from Germany to the family farm north of Hardtner. There they raised their three children, Steven Edward, Sydney Sue and Samuel Benson. Sue was a hard-working farm wife while the children were small, always preparing three meals a day not only for her own family but also for the farm crew.

She raised chickens, saving her egg money for groceries and special purchases. Sue was a wonderful cook and made the best fried chicken and gravy!

When Bob bought the Kiowa Sale Barn in 1968 Sue managed the office and the Pavilion Inn Café. They eventually built the Ranch House Restaurant and Sterling Western Wear. Sue was an influential mentor sometimes second mom to many of her employees. She was

**See Obits Page 24**

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**NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS**

All personal property (business equipment, farm equipment, improvements on leased land, all trailers) must be assessed between January 1st and March 15th to avoid penalty. We will be at the following locations on the dates listed.

<b>WAYNOKA (County Shed-1045 Grant)</b>	<b>January 14, 2025</b>	<b>9:00-3:00</b>
<b>FREEDOM (County Shed-1103 Dusty Trail)</b>	<b>January 15, 2025</b>	<b>9:00-11:30</b>
<b>CAPRON (Co-op Station)</b>	<b>January 16, 2025</b>	<b>8:30-9:30</b>

If applying for Agriculture exempt card, please bring a copy of your tax form 1040-F. (Now required by Oklahoma Tax Commission.)

This is also the time to apply for Homesteads, Double Homesteads and Freezes.

Please bring proof of income for double homesteads and freeze applications. Feel free to call the office if you have questions 580-327-3118

**Renetta Benson  
Woods County Assessor  
PO Box 431, Alva, OK 73717**

# From Page 22 **Obits**

always willing to listen and to help. Bob and Sue sold their Kiowa businesses and opened Yur Place Café and Sterling's Barn in Hardtner. Their daughter, Syd, took over Yur Place when they retired.

Sue was a 4-H leader, a member of Barber Co. Cowbells, Methodist Women and a board member and advocate for Borderline Theatre. She loved singing, musicals, watching movies, reading, and most importantly, her family.

Sue was preceded in death by her husband of 66 years, Robert E. Sterling; her parents, Ralph and Bernice Wiley; sister, Margaret Stafford; and brother, Mick Wiley.

She is survived by her children, Steve and wife Joni, Sydney, Sam and wife Shannon; eight grandchildren, Darbi Hinde and husband Daniel (of Alva), Justine Converse and husband Chris (of Dallas, Texas), Kena and Konli Sterling (of Pratt, Kansas), Brandt and husband Austin (of Oklahoma City), Austin and wife Sarah (of Golden, Colorado), Jordan (of New York City, New York), Chance and wife Holly (of Denver, Colorado), Cash (of Arlington,

Virginia), and Cayde (of Kansas City, Kansas); two step-grandchildren, Garret Smith and wife Layne (of Great Bend, Kansas), and Adison Welsch (of Pratt, Kansas); 12 great-grandchildren, Sawyer and Lincoln Hinde, Savannah, Sage, and Silvee Sterling, Kate, Jack, Charlie, and Harrison Converse, Saylor, and Kannon Smith, Waylen Morgan; many nieces, nephews and friends.

Memorial contributions may be made through the funeral home to the Kiowa General Store or Beadles Activity Fund.

Remembrances may be shared with the family at [www.marshallfuneralhomes.com](http://www.marshallfuneralhomes.com).

### **ELSIE MARIE TARRANT**



Funeral service for Elsie Marie Tarrant, age 96, of Jet, Oklahoma, will be 2 p.m., Friday, January 10, 2025, at the Ladusau-Evans Funeral Home Chapel with the Pastor Kelly

Cronkhite officiating. Burial will follow in the Pleasant View Cemetery in Jet. Services are under the direction of Ladusau-Evans Funeral Home and Crematory.

Elsie was born August 11, 1928, to Haskell R. Blackledge and Mildred Hockett Blackledge on the family farm near Jet. She passed on January 2, 2025, in Enid, Oklahoma.

She attended Jet schools and Enid Business College, then worked as a secretary in Enid for a while. In September 1949 she married Harold Lee Tarrant, also of Jet. Elsie and Harold lived in Stillwater, Tulsa, Muskogee and

Oklahoma City before returning to Jet to farm Harold's family lands. They raised five children: Doug, Lee, Karen, Sara and Susan. Elsie loved music and poetry; she played piano and sang alto in the church choir. For years Elsie taught an adult Sunday school class at the Jet United Methodist Church. She was active in the Jet Home Demonstration Club and edited one of the club cookbooks. For years Elsie tended flowerbeds of iris, marigolds, zinnias, petunias and roses. She left pans of water for songbirds.

Elsie is survived by her five children and their spouses: Doug Tarrant (of Houston, Texas), Lee and Ellen Tarrant (of Broken Arrow), Karen and Ken Morris (of Stillwater), Sara Chain (of Hunter) and Susan and Bill Burchfiel (of Jet); 16 grandchildren (and spouses): Jennifer Potter (Dan), Greg Tarrant (Paloma), Julie Tarrant (Jonathan), Jeff Tarrant (Samantha), Asa Tarrant (Queen), Rachel Tarrant, Jonathan Morris (Alyssa), Bethany Sheppard (Bart), Amanda Payne (Don), Diana Flores (Rick), Rebecca Greene (Nick), Trisha Chain, Drew Burchfiel (Rebekah), Leah Burchfiel (Zachariah), Dana Burchfiel, April Whitley (Conner); 21 great-grandchildren; siblings Alice Dunsworth of Enid and Paul Blackledge (Verla) of Jet, and many nieces and nephews.

Elsie is predeceased by her husband Harold, her parents, six siblings (Eugene, Bill, Keith, Wayne, Chester, Harold Ray), and two children-in-law (Dale Chain Jr. and Jean Castle Tarrant).

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Lions Club of Jet or Hospice Circle of Love, with Ladusau-Evans serving as custodians of the funds.

Condolences may be made, memories shared, and services viewed online at [www.ladusaeuans.com](http://www.ladusaeuans.com).



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# Wehby Digital – Keeping your memories alive

- Creating legacy videos, videography and full photography service
- Inside Historic Hahn’s Building established 1910 on Main St. in Kiowa

By Yvonne Miller

Walk into Wehby Digital at 536 Main in Kiowa, Kansas, and you step back in time – beautiful dark woodwork closets, wardrobes and shelves that held clothing and more for the Hahn’s store established in 1910 and was in the family for 70 years.

Kevin Cox, owner of Wehby Digital, said, “I’m a history buff. It’s fun and nostalgic. We like the historical vibe.” He and his wife Chelsea Jo (married May 31, 2024) are in this together, working side by side. He said they left the original woodwork, tin ceiling, original carpet that’s retro in a splashy pattern in shades of orange and gold. He’s filling some shelves, that used to display hats and boots, with a vintage camera collection – the oldest is a 1916 Kodak.

As sentimental as the building is, what Kevin is doing is on the cutting edge for the future. He and Chelsea named their digital photography business Wehby because it’s the maiden name of his mother, Cathy Cox, a retired vocal teacher in Kiowa.

“My mom’s maiden name, Wehby, is about to die because there’s no more boys in her family. This is our way of trying to keep it alive,” Kevin said. “Truly the biggest part of what we do is legacy videos. For families to hold on to forever. So the memory never dies.” He interviews family, friends, etc., to get family history. Then he edits the interview, adds music and transforms the story into a documentary. It can live in your computer, on a flash drive so can be watched on your many devices. Kiowa’s Historical Society had him make such a documentary on the history of Kiowa. He does this for families to have fun in some instances and other times during illnesses to make sure and capture cherished memories.

“Home movies and memories,” Kevin said. “I’ll send a customer a digital download back.”

The couple stays busy providing photography services either in their studio or the location you prefer. Kevin grew up the son of Jim and Cathy Cox who were an integral part of the Borderline Theatre.



**Kevin and Chelsea Cox are bringing a historical building in Kiowa to life again with their business Wehby Digital. Photo by Yvonne Miller**

This probably sparked his interest in filmmaking, as he helped in nearly all aspects of Borderline, including directing numerous productions. His photography studio has some of Borderline’s fun props and costumes for customers to use if they want. Their vintage makeup chair belonged to the now retired longtime

Kiowa barber Larry McCarty.

Wehby takes photos of corporate events, engagements, family, weddings, etc. They offer digitizing, which is taking a VHS tape and transferring it on a DVD or flash drive for viewing on multiple

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## From Page 25 **Kiowa**

devices. They upgrade photos and much more. Kevin said he loves the challenge when a customer asks him a question of which he doesn't know the answer. He'll research the "curve ball" until he can solve the issue.

### **Cox Tells of Education in Film and Eye-Openers in Florida**

Because of his interest in filmmaking, Kevin was drawn to Full Sail University in Winter Park, Florida, a suburb of Orlando, where he obtained a film degree. The school is 100 percent based on the arts with music and more. Kevin is a 2004 graduate of South Barber in Kiowa. He graduated from Full Sail in 2018. From Alva, Chelsea finished high school in 2010 and graduated from Autry Technology Center in Enid.

Kevin explained at Full Sail each class lasted one month and you were in class six days per week. "That did a great job of teaching work ethic shows you what the world is like. Those of us that were older did better than the younger guys because we had been out in the work force."

Classes varied from script writing, lighting, audio, camera, music, accounting, etc. When students finished the various subjects they'd start over, learning about the same subjects at a more intense level. "By the end we were in the masters of production program." When doing final projects, Kevin said they had to go to each of the other people in all the different subjects to complete their work.

He said it showed that in the arts all the subjects cross over to make a final production. "It showed us how to build a network," he said. "Twenty of us started together and ended together. But we had lots of people who were in and out." Kevin spent two years in school and then over two years working in his career field in Florida.

"I initially went there because I wanted to make films. But when I started working in the industry and saw how cut-throat it is and you couldn't be a 100% morally honest person and survive – you had to worry about everyone stabbing you in the back to get your job. You learn everyone wants to step over you," Kevin said.

Considering his future at that time, Kevin said, "You don't realize how many videos are made for everything and someone had to make them. There are so many training videos. There's so many outlets with social media growing." He continues to do surgical



**This is an overview of a building in Kiowa that has a "historical vibe" and is ready for a new business, Wehby Digital. Photo by Yvonne Miller**

tech videos for companies that teach doctors how to do a particular surgery – all educational videos. He's worked with the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville Florida. "Their staff there is amazing. Everyone helps you so much," he said.

When asked why he returned to Kiowa, Kevin said, "Honestly, family brought me back. This is really the only place that feels like home. With COVID, my boss in Florida let me come home for six months. We were just editing, so I could do everything from here. My heart was at peace. This is where I need to be. While I was here, I did see a need because so many people called and asked me for help. From there it just became a dream. Why not do something in my hometown?"

### **Some History on the Hahn Building**

When asked about history of the Hahn family business that occupied the building for about 70 years, Kevin referred me to Craig Ragan, who is the grandson of the late Nellie Hahn.

In 1910, D.A. Hahn and C.R. McCallister founded a men's clothing store in Kiowa. In 1916, Hahn purchased the McCallister interest and continued to serve the community as the D.A. Hahn Clothing Company. They carried a full line of men's clothing and ladies' sportswear – all name brands. Their motto was "If you get it at Hahn's, it's good!" This information was taken from a framed newspaper clipping that Kevin still has hanging in the building. It was for 41 years in 1949 of "Growth with Kiowa."

Ragan said D.A. Hahn was from the Ohio area. He doesn't know what brought him to Kiowa.

When McCallister was briefly involved, the store was called Palace Clothing Company, Ragan said.

He added that his mother was Eva Jeffries who had a sister, Helen Wiley. Their mother was Nellie Jeffries who married D.A. Hahn. Ragan was Nellie's grandson. Ragan's dad, Don, and his Uncle Harold Wiley got involved in the store along with Grandma Nellie Hahn. This was in the late '30s or early 1940s, Ragan said.

Their seamstress was Zeta Salmans. None of the pants for sale were hemmed. When a customer decided to buy a pair of pants the seamstress pinned and hemmed them before the customer left the store.

Ragan said after his uncle died, he took over the store with his dad in 1974. The store closed in July of 1980. Ragan recalled he had over 400 pair of Hagar slacks and 600 dress shirts. He also carried jeans, boots and more.

"I just couldn't compete with Wal-Mart," Ragan recalled.

"Hahns flourished in the 1940s, '50s and '60s supporting three families. The store was in the family for 70 years," Ragan said.

After Hahn's closed, Chuck and Jane Helmley sold western wear from there for a year or two. Then Helen Farney filled the store with beautiful antiques for several years. Kevin and Chelsea inherited some of those pieces when they moved in to make the store again vibrant with a thriving business.

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Jan 14th  
- Cherokee FFA Trophy Auction

Jan 18th - OK/KS High School  
Cutting & Reining

Jan 24th-26th - Forever 7 Jr Rodeo



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**Alfalfa County Sheriff's Office Logs**

**Monday, December 30, 2024**

During this day: two traffic stops.

3:50 a.m. – Caller requested a deputy to her residence in the 200 block of 6th Street. She thinks she heard a space heater in house and believes someone might be in her garage, attic or basement. Deputy en route. Deputy advised all was okay.

8:45 a.m. – Medic needed at James Crabtree Correctional Center for a male who pulled staples out of his neck. Medic took the patient to Bass Hospital in Enid.

2:12 p.m. – Report of a copper theft east of County Road 630 and Kiowa.

2:47 p.m. – Medic needed at James Crabtree Correctional Center for a male who had low oxygen. Medic took the patient to Bass Hospital in Enid.

**Tuesday, December 31, 2024**

During this day: five traffic stops.

5:27 p.m. – Caller advised

she was helping provide day care for two juvenile females and the mother was having a domestic issue with the father in front of the girls. Caller requested to talk to a deputy. Deputy advised parental custody issue, not a domestic issue.

6 p.m. – Report of a vehicle accident on OK-11 and County Road 760, unknown injuries. All was okay and no transport was needed.

6:03 p.m. – Report of a juvenile female walking the trail in Jet who was bitten by a dog.

9:34 p.m. – Medic needed for an 8-year-old female in severe pain. Medic took the patient to Bass Hospital in Enid.

10:12 p.m. – Caller advised she and her daughter were home, and they heard someone knocking on the door. They turned off the lights and looked out the window and saw a vehicle was parked in the alley with headlines on. Advised Helena officer. Upon further

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See Sheriff Page 28

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# From Page 27 Sheriff

investigation, dispatch learned it is a neighbor's vehicle. All was okay.

**Wednesday, January 1, 2025**  
During this day: one traffic stop.

5:13 a.m. – Medic needed in the 300 block of 3rd Streee for a 95-year-old male who was not feeling well and was very weak. Medic took the patient to Bass Hospital in Enid.

6:23 a.m. – Medic needed in the 200 block of Texas for a 76-year-old female who had blood in her breathing tube. Medic took the patient to Bass Hospital in Enid.

10:50 a.m. – Report of a theft on County Road 640 and Jefferson Road.

11:31 a.m. – Caller wanted to make a fraud report.

7:16 p.m. – Report of a grass fire on County Road 740 and Logan Road.

**Thursday, January 2, 2025**  
During this day: one report of cattle out.

6:38 a.m. – Alarm company advised of an alarm going off at United. All was okay.

7:07 a.m. – Report of copper theft on County Road 630 and Harper Road.

5:13 p.m. – Report of copper theft at two well sites at Kay Road and OK-8.

6:08 p.m. – Report of a trash barrel on fire on County Road 600.

**Friday, January 3, 2025**  
During this day: two traffic stops.

8:28 a.m. – Woods County advised they had a call for a 47-year-old male who was choking on the Aline Blacktop and wanting to meet Aline First Responders. Medic took patient

to Bass Hospital in Enid.

9:01 a.m. – Report of possible animal cruelty. Report was taken.

2:22 p.m. – Report of a reckless driver in a white truck, with big tires, weaving in and out of traffic and could see the top of a baby seat in the truck. Deputy advised.

5:35 p.m. – Report of a suspicious blue Chevy at County Road 640 and Jefferson.

**Saturday, January 4, 2025**  
During this day: one traffic stop.

11:55 a.m. – Report of an electrical fire in the wall in the 400 block of 3rd Street.

3:04 p.m. – Report of a possible counterfeit bill at Jiffy Trip. Report was taken.

5:50 p.m. – Medic needed at James Crabtree Correctional Center for a 50-year-old male with something stuck in him, possibly an impalement of some sort. Medic took the patient to Bass Hospital in Enid.

6:43 p.m. – Medic needed in the 300 block of 3rd Street for an 80-year-old male and female with severe flu symptom. Medic took the patients to Bass Hospital in Enid.

11:27 p.m. – Caller advised someone had vandalized their vehicle on County Road 710. Advised the back window was broken out and damaged one of the doors. Deputy advised.

**Sunday, January 5, 2025**  
During this day: two reports of cattle out.

8:10 a.m. – Medic needed in the 100 block of Burns for a 60-year-old female in dialysis who was dizzy. Medic took the patient to St. Mary's Hospital in



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Caitlin Hofen & Condry Carnott  
Cathy Mapes & JP King



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See Sheriff Page 29


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## From Page 28 Sheriff

Enid. 6:42 p.m. – Medic needed in the 200 block of 9th Street for a male who was lethargic. Medic took the patient to Bass Hospital in Enid.

2:33 p.m. – Welfare check needed in Nescatunga for the callers' grandchildren.

5:58 p.m. – Report of a crash on OK-58 and Bryan Road. OHP advised. Caller advised a red pickup rolled over in the ditch with debris field. Medic took patient to Bass Hospital in Enid. Wrecker picked up the vehicle.

11:08 p.m. – Medic needed in the 100 block of Burns for a 60-year-old female who had fallen in her bathroom and was unable to get up. Medic took the patient to St. Mary's Hospital in Enid.

## Alfalfa County real estate transactions

**Real Estate Transfers**

Book 904, page 159: Terry M. Hague and Joyce S. Hague convey unto Terry M. Hague and Joyce S. Hague, co-trustees of the Terry and Joyce Hague Living Trust. The southeast quarter of Section 9, Township 26N, Range 11, WIM, Alfalfa County, Oklahoma, etc. Quit claim deed.

Book 904, page 213: Aaron Smith and Kandi Smith convey unto Aaron Christopher Smith and Kandi Marie Smith, as Trustees of the Aaron and Kandi Smith Trust. West half of Section 24, Township 29N, Range 9, WIM. Warranty deed.

Book 904, page 217: Janet Roper, Christie Ballard and Kimberly Miller as co-trustees of the L.E. Castle Trust, Jean C. Tarrant, by and through Stephen D. Tarrant as Personal Representative of the Estate of Jean C. Tarrant, deceased, Stephen D. Tarrant as Trustee of the D. Tarrant Management Trust, Janet lee Castle Ropers, Christie Ballard, Kimberly Miller, convey unto Ken Jordan and Anita Jordan. A tract of land containing .863 acres, more or less, located in the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 12, Township 25N, Range 10, WIM. Joint tenancy quit claim deed.

Book 904, page 232: Alva State Bank & Trust Company, Inc., conveys unto Alice Cleo Independent School District #1-04. Lots 13 through 16 in Block 2, Original Town of Aline, Alfalfa County, Oklahoma. Quit claim deed.

Book 904, page 234: CA Land, LLC, conveys unto K & J Construction, LLC. Lots 1, 2 and the north 15 feet of Lot 3 in Block 71 in Park Addition to the City of Cherokee, Alfalfa County, Oklahoma. Warranty deed.

Book 904, page 245: Margaret Hansen conveys unto Ronald William Hansen. Lot 4, Block 1, Powell and Museller's Addition to the Town, now City of Cherokee. Quit claim deed.

Book 904, page 247: Ronald William Hansen conveys

See Alfalfa 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.

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

## Friday

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

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# From Page 29 Alfalfa

unto Michael Baldwin. Lot 4, Block 1, Powell and Museller's Addition to the Town, now City of Cherokee. Quit claim deed.

Book 904, page 256: Anthony Michael Ramirez conveys unto Stephanie A. Caviar and James E. Graybeal. Lot 6, Block 3 of Duncan Addition to the City of Cherokee, Alfalfa County, Oklahoma. Joint tenancy warranty deed.

Book 904, page 264: Linda J. Kiser conveys unto Allan Wesley Etter. Lots 1, 2 and 3 in Block 38 in the Town of Jet, also known as the town of New Jet, Alfalfa County, Oklahoma. Quit claim deed.

Book 904, page 256: Marvin Lee Woodall conveys unto Brain and Lannetta Schwerdtfeger Living Trust. A certain tract in the northwest quarter of Section 26, Township 24N, Range 11, WIM, Alfalfa County, Oklahoma. Warranty deed.

Book 904, page 276: Kent J. Kisling and Darcy L. Kisling, trustees of the Kent Kisling Trust, convey unto Kent J. Kisling and Darcy L. Kisling. A tract containing 2.475 acres, more or less, located in Lot 1 of Section 6, Township 28N, Range 12, WIM. Quit claim deed.

Book 904, page 280: Kent J. Kisling and Darcy L. Kisling convey unto Kelly D. Stewart and Jennifer L. Stewart. A tract containing 2.475 acres, more or less, located in Lot 1 of Section 6, Township 28N, Range 12, WIM. Quit claim deed.

Book 904, page 284: Chris Bob Porter conveys unto Mary Louise Green. Lots 21 through 24, Block 13, Jet Original, Jet, Oklahoma. Individual quit claim deed.

Book 904, page 286: Peggy Jo Rieger

er and Rodney R. Rieger convey unto Peggy Jo Rieger and Rodney R. Rieger. East half of Section 21, Township 29N, Range 9, WIM, Alfalfa County, Oklahoma, etc. Joint tenancy quit claim deed.

Book 904, page 306: Stephen D. Tarrant, as Trustee of the D. Tarrant Management Trust, conveys unto Betty Lou Tucker, as Trustee of the Tucker Family Revocable Trust. Southeast quarter of Section 13, Township 25N, Range 10, WIM, Alfalfa County, Oklahoma. Warranty deed.

Book 904, page 314: Becky Dawn Bules, formerly known as Becky Dawn Cobb and Justin Cole Coulter, successor trustees of the Coulter Family Trust, convey unto Cole Coulter and Jamie Coulter. A tract of land lying in the southeast quarter of Section 21, Township 24N, Range 10, WIM, Alfalfa County, Oklahoma. Joint tenancy warranty deed.

Book 904, page 319: Chad Roach, convey unto Chad and Jennifer Roach, convey Jason Roach. Lot 3 and the north 5 feet of Lot 4, Block 53, Titus Addition to the City of Cherokee, Alfalfa County, Oklahoma. Quit claim deed.

## Mortgages

Book 904, page 193: Melanie Roxann Stout, Gregory W. Stout and Lisa Stout, to Community Bank. The northwest quarter of Section 10, Township 26N, Range 11, WIM, Alfalfa County, Oklahoma. Note: \$83,033.28.

Book 904, page 203: James Patrick Stacey and Kendra Kaye Stacey, to Farm Credit of Western Oklahoma. Southeast quarter of Section 5, Township 28N, Range 11, WIM, Alfalfa County, Oklahoma. Note: \$150,000.00.

# 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

Gregg E. Glass vs. BCE-Mach, LLC; Tiptop Oil & Gas US, LLC; Amplify Oklahoma Operating, LLC and Ventura Exploration and Production II, LLC: quiet title (\$292.14).

Carrington Mortgage Services LLC vs. Dawson McCoy Springer, Helena; Kacey L. Springer, Carmen; and Enfin Corp.: foreclosure

**See County Page 31**

# From Page 30 **County**

(\$282.14).

### Traffic Citations

Crystal Ordonez, Cherokee, has been cited for child restraint violations (\$281.50).

Gary W. Floyd has been cited for failure to stop at a stop sign (\$249).

George E. McDowell, Oklahoma City, has been cited for operating a vehicle on which all taxes due to state have not been paid (\$294).

Chastyn F. Holdeman, Dimmitt, Texas, has been cited for possible articulable danger by driving inattentively while using cell phone (\$249).

Jorge L. Gomez, Weatherford, has been cited for operating a vehicle without a valid driver's license (\$294).

Haley A. Ragan, Dacoma, has been cited for speeding 1-10 mph over the speed limit (\$100).

Christopher Ray, Belle Plaine, Kansas, has been cited for speeding 21-25 mph over the speed limit (\$319).

Thomas L. Goff, Woodward, has been cited for speeding 1-10 mph over the speed limit (\$100).

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

Christopher C. Battin, Enid, has been cited for speeding 1-10 mph over the speed limit (\$100).

Crystal Ordonez, Cherokee, was cited with not wearing seatbelt (\$20).

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<b>Fri. and Sat., Jan. 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b><u>KNID Farm Show at the Garfield County Expo Building</u></b> Stop by and see us!
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<b>Mon., Jan. 13<sup>th</sup></b> at 6 pm <b>ONLINE ONLY</b>	<b><u>Newton/Couchman/Brown Auction</u></b> Yard Statues – Tonka – Metal Signs Military Uniforms – Suitcases Ertl Banks – Barbies – Trucker Hats 7645 W. Purdue, Enid, OK 73703
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<b>Mon., Jan. 27<sup>th</sup></b> at 6 pm <b>ONLINE ONLY</b>	<b><u>John Decker Estate Auction</u></b> Brick Home * Vacant Lots Multiple Tracts * Douglas, Oklahoma
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