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(T56431)

SALE PRICE
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The Newsgram is delivered to Alva, Capron, Hardtner, Kiowa, Hazelton, Medicine Lodge, Burlington, Byron, Amorita, Cherokee, Helena, Goltry, Carmen, Aline, Dacoma, Hopeton, Waynoka, Freedom, Jet, Nash, Cleo Springs & Manchester

Alfalfa County commissioners declare several items surplus

By Stacy Sanborn

Alfalfa County commissioners Garret Johnson, Mike Roach and Nate Ross had a short meeting Monday morning.

After taking care of previous meeting minutes, M&O warrants for payment, and blanket purchase orders, they declared several items surplus. Those were a Null Roller Packer Pull (no inventory or Serial number), a 2019 SBD -40' Armorlite Trailer (Inv. no. D1 348-110, Serial no. 56EA53K22KA000257) and a 2020 Mack Truck (Inv. no. D! 302-134, Serial no. 1N1PN4GY0LM005392).

There was also a 2011 Chevy Tahoe from the sheriff (Inv. no. B331.100.14, Serial no. 1GNSK2E03BR287122); a 2013 Chevy Tahoe (Inv. no. B331.100.17, Serial no. 1GNSK2E06DR187051); an in-car video system Inv. no. B239.100.02, Serial no. DUR2-0284474-018141); another in-car video system (Inv. no. B239.100.04, Serial no. DUR2-045311); a Kenwood Radio (Inv. no. B601 100.47, Serial no. 81000567); Kenwood Radio (Inv. no. B601 100.48, Serial no. B2A02006); Kenwood Radio (Inv. no. B601100.49, Serial no. 22933210); Kenwood Radio (Inv. no. B602 100.07, Serial no. 70800618); Radar Progressive Electric (Inv. no. B628 100.08), Serial no. 460); and a Radio Shack scanner (Inv. no. B628 100.1, Serial no. 60011304); a Stalker Radar (Inv. no. B628 100.15, Serial no. DB003896); a WatchGuard dash cam (Inv. no. B613 100.08, Serial no. DVR2-

See Alfalfa Page 12



Waynoka 4-H and FFA — From left: (back row) Isaac Edwards, Jake Inman, Wyatt Milledge, Brea Beck, Brylee Beck, Cooper Truesdale, Korbin Ferguson, Roland George, Malachi Moore, Rholtan Bouziden, Colton Fuqua; (third row) Weston Longoria, Whitney Hanks, Kaila Curtsinger, Chanan Wyatt, Alivia Seaman, MacKinzie Smith, Marlie Pitts, Rylan Nix, Shay Wilson, Temperance Bouziden, Stetson Nix, Remington Seaman; (second row) Brooks Westfahl, Oakley Whitaker, Dace Baird, Addley Hanson, Rhiata Bouziden, Reagan Wilson, Jack Wilson, Jaxon Litzenberger, Briston Beck, Waylon Hanks, Morris Litzenberger; (first row) Markie Litzenberger, Makia Brune, Kaiser White, Macie Curtsinger, Paisley Reed, Sage Baird, Tex Nickelson, Brexton Kramp, Calvin Litzenberger, Waylon Gum, Jay Beck, Charles Hanson, Jace Fuqua, John Nickelson.

Waynoka trophy auction sets a new record

By Alivia Seaman, Waynoka FFA Reporter

On Monday, January 15, the Waynoka 4-H and FFA Booster Club held their annual trophy auction with a great turnout and an amazing amount of support. The auction raised over \$85,000, which stands as a record for years passed.

The money raised through the

live auction pays for the Waynoka Local Stock Show and prizes awarded and walk-in money for each showman who meets criteria. The silent auction money raised will also help pay for judging, horse show and archery entry fees, lodging and meals for contests and livestock judging practices.

This year we added a new competition to our local stock show: a baking contest. Money raised on certain baked goods at the trophy auction will pay for those prizes.

The Waynoka Local Stock Show is coming up on Feb. 3 at 10 a.m.

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SWAP MEET
FEBRUARY 2 & 3, 2024
 Friday 8am-5pm & Saturday 8am-4pm
 Vendors set-up Thursday, Feb 1, 10am-7pm
 Admission \$5 for 2-Day Pass
 Ladies & children under 16 free with paid admission
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Frigid temperatures and freezing pipes

By Marione Martin



An article by Consumer Reports about dealing with frozen pipes would have been more appropriate before our recent bout extremely cold temperatures. But winter is not over so you might find this information to be helpful.

Helpful Phone Apps

Before getting into that topic, I want to let you know about a couple of new phone apps. If you live in or around Alva, you might want to download the free app for the City of Alva. If you've already "liked" the city's Facebook page, you've been seeing notifications about waterline breaks or changes in office hours for holidays. The new app gives you these and more by tapping on the app. No need to search on Facebook. Just go to your app store (iPhone or Android) and search for City of Alva. It's a handy tool to have on your phone.

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation has a new app called Drive Oklahoma. You'll also be able to find it in your app store. It's free and provides all kinds of helpful information about road conditions. During the recent ice storm, I could pull up a map that gave current road conditions all over the state. Little camera icons on different locations provided either pictures of roadways or text updates on conditions.

How to Prevent Your Pipes From Freezing

Here's the promised information from Consumer Reports:

When temperatures plummet, the risk of your pipes freezing and bursting can skyrocket. In fact, burst pipes are one

of the most common causes of property damage during frigid weather and can cause thousands in water damage — easily \$5,000 or more, according to the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety.

The pipes most at risk are those in unheated interior spaces such as basements, attics, and garages. But even pipes running through cabinets or exterior walls can freeze. The good news is there are some simple things you can do to keep your water running and your house dry.

"Pipe insulation can cost as little as 50 cents per linear foot at your local hardware store," says Susan Millerick, IBHS spokeswoman. "So for not much more than the cost of the aspirin you'd need, you can avoid the headaches of cleanup, loss of precious keepsakes, and the cost of your insurance deductible." Use the pipe insulation liberally to protect any vulnerable pipes.

Both the IBHS and the American Red Cross, which is in the business of emergency preparedness, have useful advice on how to prevent your pipes from freezing, as well as how to thaw them if they do.

How to Beat the Freeze

Once the temperature starts dropping outside, you should take measures inside to keep your pipes warm and water running. Research conducted by the Building Research Council at the University of Illinois shows that the "temperature alert threshold" is 20° F, especially if you have uninsulated pipes running through an uninsulated space.

Some of the steps experts recommend may go against your better instincts of conserving water and heat, but the extra expense is nothing compared with a hefty repair bill. Here's what to do:

- Keep garage doors closed, especially if there are water supply lines in the garage.
- Open kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors to allow warmer air to circulate around the plumbing, especially if your sinks are on an exterior wall. (If you

have small children, be sure to remove any harmful cleaners and household chemicals.)

- Let the cold water drip from a faucet served by exposed pipes. Running water through the pipe—even at a trickle — helps prevent pipes from freezing.

- Keep the thermostat set to the same temperature during day and night. Again, during a cold snap is not the time to set back the thermostat at night to save a few bucks on your heating bill.

- If you plan to be away during cold weather, leave the heat on in your home, set to a temperature no lower than 55° F.

- For the long term, add insulation to attics, basements, and crawl spaces. Insulation will maintain higher temperatures in those areas. And to prevent drafts, seal cracks and openings around windows, doors, and at sill plates, where the house rests on its foundation.

How to Thaw Frozen Pipes

If you turn on a faucet and only a trickle comes out, you may well have a frozen pipe. "If you suspect the pipes are frozen, be careful when thawing them out because if the pipe has already burst, the water will come flowing out and flood your home," says John Galeotafiore, who oversees Consumer Reports' testing of home products and power gear.

If a pipe has broken, turn off the water at the main shutoff valve, which is usually at the water meter or where the main line enters the house. If the water is still running and no pipes have burst, you can take the following steps. (Of course, if you suspect a more serious problem, call a plumber.)

- Turn on the faucet. As you heat the frozen pipe and the ice plug begins to melt, you want the water to be able to flow through. Running water through the pipe, as cold as it is, will help melt ice in the pipe.

- Apply heat to the section of pipe using an electric heating pad wrapped around the pipe, an electric hair dryer, or a portable space heater (kept away from

See Marione Page 22

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Burlington School Board offers Spears Superintendent contract for FY 2025

Town Hall Meeting in Auditorium March 5, 6:30 p.m. for Fitness Center updates

By Yvonne Miller

Burlington School's Jr/Sr High Principal Gerrett Spears, who was named assistant superintendent earlier this school year, received the Board of Education's vote as the new superintendent for FY 2025. This was at the board's regular meeting January 17. Superintendent Spears told the Newsgram, "I am humbly excited to be the next Superintendent at Burlington. Over the past three years that my family and I have been here we have grown to love the community, the staff and the students. Burlington is a place of great tradition, a tradition that I am proud to be a small part of and to continue the in the excellence that has been set forth." Spears shared an update on the new gym and community fitness center. He said, a "Currently the community fitness center and gym project looks to be completed mid-March if there are no delays in delivery or unforeseen problems. Basketball goals are being put in and painting is ongoing. Seat back chairs (with cup holders) are set to deliver February 8 with an install immediately (again, if there are no delays). Once everything is completed the construction company, architects, and myself will complete the "punch list" for approval." The school board invites the public for a community town hall meeting to hear updates, discuss the process and policies

and answer any questions for the new fitness center. The meeting will be in the school auditorium at 6:30 p.m. on March 5. Later in the meeting, the board proposed having an executive session to discuss several subjects – one of which was to discuss the Community Fitness Center policies which they later approved with the discussed changes. Those policies for the Elk Community Fitness Center include. 1) Eligibility Requirements 2) Additional Policies 3) Dress Code 4) Membership Request form. Other subjects discussed in that executive session were: 1) The ongoing evaluation of the performance of the superintendent; the Student Handbook as it refers to discipline 3) School personnel and duties. School board members were recognized for their years of service. All attended the meeting: Lindsey Callison – 2; April Kisling – 5; TJ Rockenbach – 9; Terry Graham – 26; Robert Hill – 8. The teachers and students had made handwritten thank you cards, made pictures and provided snacks for the board members for this meeting. Superintendent Spears, Elementary Principal Stan Pedersen, and Minutes Clerk Brook Keast were also present. Guests were: Natalie Hill, Chad Kisling, Drake Kisling, Dax Kisling, Rickie Ofiu, and Savelina Ofiu. Also Athletic Director, Superintendent Spears said the district basketball playoffs will

be February 8-10. These games will be scheduled Friday. The end of basketball season is drawing near. The JH Baseball schedule and JH/HS track schedules were finalized today. The Burlington New Year Invitation was completely filled for next January. JH/HS Principal Gerrett Spears said brackets for the Cherokee Strip basketball tournament will be available later in the week. Basketball at OBA Thursday night for elementary and JH athletes. Thursday the high school will visit Pioneer for the Cherokee Strip Tournament. The JH Cherokee Strip tournament began at Medford this week. as well.

As Daycare Director Spears and Coordinator Stormy Rosenberger completed training for the year. STARS IV requirements are being considered. The heater went out at the daycare building, but AEC was able to correct the issue. A wait list still exists for multiple children. The updated 2024-25 school calendar was approved. The board signed employee contracts. The consent agenda was approved as was the December Activity report.

Student Activities and Achievements

Student spotlight for the elementary was Dax Kisling. Dax is described by his teachers as a rule follower, humorous, honest, kind and wise. He represents Burlington well. He is a great student that can be counted on. Student spotlight for the high school was Savelina Ofiu. She has a 4.0 grade average and represented Burlington last weekend at All State Vocal. Savelina is involved in basketball and robotics. Her STARS reading level is maxed out at 12th grade level. She is described by her teachers as smart, sweet and funny. Staff spotlight was Natalie Hill. Natalie is a full time substitute and updates the website. She is always looking to learn and make our school better. She's a team player in that she is very versatile, as she covers anything from 3 year old program to high school, cafeteria, office and wherever else. She's very pleasant to work with. Elementary Principal Pedersen said the Elementary quiz bowl would be at Seiling on Saturday,

See Burlington Page 22

The Burlington Superintendent News
a Monthly Presentation of
Oklahoma Kansas
Cooperatives
Burlington, Oklahoma
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Brent Rousey
Superintendent

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Senate Review

Special session on tax reform duplicates efforts already underway

By Senator Roland Pederson

Session will begin in two weeks on Feb. 5. Therefore, we were surprised by the governor's last-minute call for a special session to start on Jan. 29, seeking a .25% reduction in the personal income tax. This is unnecessary, as the Senate and House have been working on various tax reform plans to be considered this year. Special session costs taxpayers additional money, but we're constitutionally bound to answer his call to convene in special session.



This week, we wrapped up bill filing, introducing more than 700 Senate measures. I filed six new bills, most of which I discussed last time. Another one would update the Education Open Transfer Act, so that a child under 5 on or before Sept. 1 who resides in a district that doesn't offer an early childhood program, can transfer to one that does if it has the capacity to accept the student.

My other bill would authorize a wrecker operator to remove or withhold

the license plate of a vehicle until payment is made by the insurer accepting liability for the claim or the vehicle owner responsible for payment. The operator would notify Service Oklahoma within three days, and the agency would produce a stop flag designation to enable the wrecker operator to be paid prior to issuance of any license plate to the vehicle owner.

Our Senate appropriations subcommittees have been busy conducting budget hearings with their state agencies. I sit on the Appropriations Subcommittee on Select Agencies, and we'll be meeting with the Council on Judicial Complaints on Tuesday, Jan. 23.

I recently attended the groundbreaking ceremony for Alva's new swimming pool. This is an exciting project for the community that was paid for through private donations and is awaiting approval of a federal grant.

Some other great district news I'd like to share is the approval this past week of a nearly \$80,000 grant to install a standby generator for the Waukomis Public Works Authority's sanitary sewer collection and treatment system. The Oklahoma Water Resources

Board REAP Grant will help the system meet regulations requiring a reliable emergency operation system.

On Wednesday, I'm attending the groundbreaking ceremony of the renewable natural gas project at the Enid Municipal Landfill and then touring Northwestern Oklahoma State University (NWOSU).

In closing, I want to encourage those who can, to consider donating blood. Our Blood Institute (formerly the Oklahoma Blood Institute) is facing an emergency blood shortage and currently only has a couple of days of reserves left. This is extremely dangerous for patients in need. Every two seconds, someone needs blood, and the supply must be constantly renewed. It takes approximately 1,200 donors daily to meet those needs. Appointments are not required but can be made by calling 877-340-8777 or visiting obi.org. Each blood donation only takes about an hour and can save up to three lives. Please consider helping!

Please don't hesitate to reach out with your concerns or questions. You can reach my office at 405-521-5630 or Roland.Pederson@oksenate.gov.

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NEW - 311 Acres - Excellent cropland

This tract consists of 311 Acres of excellent cropland (primarily Grant Silt Loam soil). It has new 6-wire fences, a 20' concrete water tank with a solar pump, and a new set of steel corrals. This farm has everything done. S $\frac{1}{2}$ - 12-35S-13W, Barber County, KS.

PRICE: \$950,000.00

NEW - 2 - 80 Acre tracts - A HUNTING PARADISE!

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

NEW - 160 Acres - SE $\frac{1}{4}$ - 25-27-15, W.I.M. This tract has 157 Acres of good cropland (primarily Grant Silt loam and Vernon fine Sandy loam soils.) Watered by a windmill. **PRICE: \$375,000.00**

NEW - 160 Acres - NW $\frac{1}{4}$ - 5-27-14, W.I.M., Woods County, Okla. This tract has 106 Acres of excellent grassland and 54 Acres of good cropland. Improvements include a 5,200 sq. ft. metal building with concrete floor and internal plumbing, a shipping container, and four other outbuildings. It has a new 5-wire fence and rural water on a paved road. Excellent hunting. **PRICE: \$430,000.00**

NEW - 160 Acres - NE $\frac{1}{4}$ - 6-27-14, W.I.M., Woods County, Okla. This tract has 160 Acres of excellent cropland and 8 Acres of good grassland. Has new 5-wire fences, a small pond, and a windmill. Rural water is available. Excellent hunting on a paved road. **PRICE: \$320,000.00**

NEW - 960 Acres - N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ and the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ - 17-27-15, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ - 8-27-15, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ - 7-27-15, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ - 18-27-15, W.I.M., Grant County, Okla. This tract consists of 960 Acres of excellent cropland, all contiguous, lying 12 miles northwest of Alva, Okla. 34 acres was planted to w.w. spar grass. It has excellent hunting potential and is watered by five ponds. Fences are good, 4 and 5-wire fences with some new over the past years. **NEW PRICE: \$1,350,000.00**

NEW - 160 Acres - SE $\frac{1}{4}$ - 3-24-13, W.I.M. This tract has 123 acres of good cropland (primarily Waynoka Fine Sandy Loam and Milan Loam Soils), and the balance being 37 acres of good grassland. The grass is fenced separate from cropland. Watered by a windmill. **PRICE: \$300,000.00**

NEW - 160 Acres - SW $\frac{1}{4}$ - 20-28-13, W.I.M. This tract has 158 Acres of good cropland (primarily Waynoka fine sandy loam and Grant silt loam soils). It is watered by rural water. **PRICE: \$475,000.00**

NEW - 338 Acres, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ & the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ lying east of the RR right-of-way in Sec 14-28-13, W.I.M. This tract consists of 298 Acres of good cropland and the balance being 40 Acres of good grassland. Borders Hwy 11 at Capron, Okla. **PRICE: \$750,000.00**

NEW - 160 Acres - SW $\frac{1}{4}$ - 17-26-13, W.I.M. This tract has 157 Acres of good cropland (primarily Grant silt loam and Pond Creek & Burford loam soils). Watered by a solar pump. **PRICE: \$390,000.00**

NEW - 160 Acres - "A Hunting Paradise" Excellent grass, heavy tree population, several canyons with large pond. Excellent wildlife habitat.

SOLD Deer and turkey. From Waynoka, Okla., go 7 miles north on Hwy 14 to St. Louis, then go 2 miles west to property. NW $\frac{1}{4}$ - 34-26-16, W.I.M. **PRICE: \$300,000.00**

SOLD **NEW - 222 Acres - 206 Acres of good cropland, the balance being 16 Acres of brushy acres.** Has excellent hunting potential. W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, and the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ less 10 Acre tract in 29-23-10, W.I.M., Major County, Okla. **PRICE: \$440,000.00**

SOLD **NEW - 160 Acres - SE $\frac{1}{4}$ - 33-27-14, W.I.M.** All minerals are intact and in the bottom. **PRICE: \$495,000.00**

SOLD **915 Acres - A Sportsman's dream - Borders Cimarron River in** Sec 10-10-14, Legal E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Lot 2, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ & NE $\frac{1}{4}$ - 28-27-18 NW NW, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW & SW NW - 27-27-18, Woods Co., Okla. **PRICE: \$1,100,000.00**

SOLD **NEW - 154 Acres - NW $\frac{1}{4}$ - 29-27-13, Woods County, Okla.** This tract consists of 121 Acres of good cropland, the balance being 22 Acres of brushy land and waterways. There is excellent building potential. Just one mile east of Alva. **PRICE: \$550,000.00**

SOLD **NEW - 160 Acres Excellent cropland (primarily Pond Creek Silt Loam and Grant Silt Loam Soils) with all minerals intact.** It is watered by a Solar Pond. Located east of Alva, Okla. SE $\frac{1}{4}$ - 27-27-12, W.I.M., Alfalfa County, Okla. **PRICE: \$485,000.00**

SOLD **NEW - 146 Acres - NW $\frac{1}{4}$ - 20-27-13, Woods County, Okla.** This tract has 146 Acres of excellent cropland (primarily Dale Silt Loam and Burford fine Sandy Loam soils). The farm has rural water and lies north of the Alva Industrial Park. **PRICE: \$525,000.00**

SOLD **NEW - 315 Acres of which 208 Acres is excellent cropland, and the balance being 107 Acres of excellent grassland.** Improvements include 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**

SOLD **NEW - 316 Acres - Grant County, Okla. - 15 miles west of Medford, Okla on St. Hwy 11.** 205 Acres is good cropland, and the balance being 111 Acres of grass. NW $\frac{1}{4}$ - 19-27-7, W.I.M. and NE $\frac{1}{4}$ - 24-27-8, W.I.M., Grant County, Okla. **EXCELLENT HUNTING, EXCELLENT STOCK FARM. PRICE: \$575,000.00**

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

SOLD **NEW - 474 Acres E $\frac{1}{2}$ and the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ - 24-27-13, W.I.M., Woods County, Okla.** This tract consists of 443 acres of good cropland. **PRICE: \$1,200,000.00**

SOLD **NEW - 320 Acres - W $\frac{1}{2}$ - 11-25-14, Woods County, Oklahoma.** This tract has an excellent stand of Ozark Bermudagrass. New fences and 200' of good water, bunk lines, corrals, and shade on a paved road. **PRICE: \$750,000.00**

SOLD **NEW - 320 Acres of which 114 Acres is good cropland (primarily Grant Silt Loam & Woodward Complex Soils), and the balance being 206 Acres of good grassland.** E $\frac{1}{2}$ - 10-28-14, Woods County, Okla. **PRICE: \$525,000.00**

SOLD **240 Acres - Excellent Cropland, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ and the N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 24-28-10W, Logan County, Kansas.** **PRICE: \$440,000.00**

RESIDENTIAL



House & Large Shop on 7 Acres (Mol) on paved road. House has 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1800 sq ft, 2 living rooms, laundry, new metal roof & windows. Detached metal garage. Metal shop is 40'x70', concrete floors, two overhead doors. 573 Comanche Ave., Dacula, OK. **\$200,000**



NEW LISTING
820 Brown Street, Alva
3bd/2 bath, 2-car Garage, CH&A, Fireplace, Lg. Fam. Rm., Storage Bldg., New paint (int & ext), New Roof, 1,599 sq.ft.
Move-in Ready—Immaculate!
PRICE: \$198,900



UNDER CONTRACT
3 Bedroom, 2 Bath, 1,803 sq.ft. with basement. Lots of updates - bathrooms, floors, roof, HVAC in last five years. Inground pool refurbished with new motor, pump, plumbing, and sealant/paint. Covered carport with 8' x 13' storage shed. Covered back patio and fenced backyard. 620 Comanche Circle, Alva. **PRICE: \$189,000.00**



SOLD
5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 3,964 sq.ft., oversized 2.5 car attached garage. Newly built 22x28 detached garage. Storm Cellar. Fenced backyard. Covered patio. 2 living areas. Large media room with wet bar. Fireplace. Laundry room. Tall knotty pine cathedral ceilings. Granite countertops. Large center kitchen island. Large master suite with his & hers closets. Beautifully remodeled in 2014. 1833 Cherry St, Alva. **PRICE: \$450,000**

FOR SALE

Commercial Property: Between Shepherds & Days Inn Motel on Hwy 64 East of Alva - 3.15 Acres. **PRICE: \$275,000.00**

Vacant Lot - 902 4th Street, Alva
PRICE: \$25,000



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VAP Leadership Team members are: (l-r) Taelor Valentiner (Office Manager), Tonja Lewis (Operations Consultant), Tim Smart (Maintenance Manager), Alicia Guyle (QA Manager), Steve Sterling (CEO), Rudy Smith-Dunn (Warehouse Manager), Jessica Smith-Dunn (Production Lead), Tyree Headrick (Packaging Coordinator), Tricia Coday (Accounting).

The good news is . . . VAP showed a profit in 2023

- VAP crust pizza topped and sold at Dollar General stores as 'Screamin' Sicilian'
- Propose a \$2 Million – C-PACE LOAN to update antiquated equipment.

By Yvonne Miller

The Value Added Products (VAP) plant in Alva celebrates its 24 Year Anniversary in 2024 with the yeast rising. The annual investor's meeting January 13 had reason for celebration because the cooperative owned by area wheat producers, landowners, and other investors, actually showed a profit – the first time in seven years. VAP's revenue increased by 13.7 percent, according to VAP CEO Steve Sterling of Alva who was a longtime board member before taking the lead two years ago to try and help the financially struggling company.

Incorporated in 1999, VAP produced their first frozen dough products in 2000. A group of movers and shakers businessmen and women, farmers and more dreamed the dream and VAP was born. Various economic development

groups worked together to get it going and capitalized. The idea was to add value to the hard red winter wheat grown by farmers in northwest Oklahoma and south central Kansas. Investors gave a minimum of \$5,000 and some put in more. Tax credits for investors were involved. Paying dividends to investors was also in the plan, but only happened once in 2007 as the dough rose and fell repeatedly through the company's history. The cooperative has provided an average of 40-60 jobs at a time and stimulated the local economy.

The approximately 20 investors who attended the annual meeting got to sample pizza that features VAP's premium crust. VAP sells their crust to the Dollar General store chain who then piles them with favorite toppings like pepperoni and mozzarella cheese.

The pizza with VAP crust is sold under the name "Screamin' Sicilian." People love the deliciousness and convenience of VAP's crust because some varieties are pre-proofed. That means the dough product doesn't have to rise before baking in the oven. The tender on the inside crust yet crunchy on the outside rises while baking in the oven. For businesses selling the pizza the pre-proofed crust means minimized labor costs and wait time for their customers.

Sterling said, "My leadership team all attended the annual meeting. Standing in the back, smiling, and looking nice without their smocks on. It's very rewarding, to have an engaged team. The subliminal message they sent to the board and the investors present meant

See VAP Page 20

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JAN. 29 2024

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1085 Main St.
580-621-4147

KIOWA
546 Main St.
620-825-4147

From Page 2 Alfalfa

064246); an Echo tiller/cultivator (Inv. no. R440-100, Serial no. 506900022404) and a Senco finish nailer (Inv. no. R416-100, Serial no. 14250118).

After declaring surplus on all those items, they approved County Clerk Laneta Schwerdtfeger to go out for surplus bids for a pull-behind smooth roller packer with no inventory and serial numbers for District 1. Johnson asked to table the agenda item to correct serial numbers for the District 1 inventory list until their next meeting. Then, all three commissioners voted to correct serial numbers for the sheriff's inventory list.

Voter registration deadline approaches

Feb. 9 is the last day to apply for voter registration to be eligible to vote in the March 5 Presidential Preferential Primary Election, Alfalfa County Election Board Secretary Stephanie Jantz said today.

Jantz said that people who are United States citizens, residents of Oklahoma, and at least 17 ½ years old are eligible to apply for voter registration. However, you must be at least 18 years old to vote.

Applications must be received by the county election board or postmarked no later than midnight, Feb. 9. Applications postmarked after that time will be accepted but will not be processed until after the March 5 Presidential Preferential Primary Election. Applications may also be submitted to any motor vehicle agency that is also an

See Voter Page 16

Call toll-free 1-800-FED-INFO to find out about government programs, benefits, and services.

Woods County Commissioners approve C-Pace contracts

Accept results of 2024 Fair Board Election

By Marione Martin

The Woods County Commissioners approved fair board election results, C-Pace contracts and a grader purchase along with other business. Chairman Randy McMurphy opened the Monday morning meeting with Commissioners David Hamil and John Smiley present.

Nancy Graham with C-Pace was expected at the meeting with contracts to be approved. By the end of the meeting, she had not arrived. Noting that Graham was from Tulsa, the commissioners assumed she was unable to make the trip due to the icy roadways. McMurphy said the Woods County Industrial Development Authority already approved the contracts for a private long-term loan to VAP. The Woods County Commissioners are simply a pass through for the loan. The 21 year-loan is for \$2 million. The motion to approve the contracts made by Hamil and seconded by McMurphy carried by unanimous vote.

Undersheriff Keith Dale attended the meeting to explain the Small Rural Tribal Grant for the Sheriff's Office. Dale said the grant provides \$2,000 per camera for body-worn cameras or a total of \$16,000. While this doesn't pay the full cost, the grant will help. Dale explained the cameras will integrate with cameras in sheriff's vehicles. The contract for the cameras is for five years for a total cost of \$45,000. The commissioners approved the sheriff's office to apply for the grant.

Jason Bergdall from Yellowhouse presented paperwork for the sale of a

new 672 grader that District 3 is buying from Yellowhouse through Sourcewell. The commissioners approved the purchase. Then the commissioners approved the sale of a John Deere motor grader from District 3 to Yellowhouse for \$140,000. Bergdall brought a check for that amount with him to hand over to County Clerk Shelley Reed.

The commissioners approved a motion to recommend to ODOT the selection of Circuit Engineering District No. 8 as the construction management for District 1 for a project.

A transfer of funds from Sheriff Service Fee to Sheriff Revolving Fund in the amount of \$130 was approved. The money had been deposited in the wrong account.

Another error was corrected with approval of a transfer of appropriations from the FICA/Medicare account to the Treasurer's Statutory Travel in the amount of \$61.20.

Reed announced the 2024 Fair Board Election results. Laura Radford was reelected to District 1 Office 2. Jason Hembree was reelected to District 2 Office 2. Randall Hanks II was elected to District 3 Office 2, replacing Kevin Pingelton. The commissioners approved the election results.

The transfer of CIRB funds to Personal Services of \$13,284.51 for District 1 and \$13,284.50 for District 2 was approved.

An interlocal governmental agreement for improvements to the Waynoka Senior Citizen building between the City of Waynoka and the county was approved. Smiley said they plan to hire an architect to determine what needs to be fixed.

Under new business, Hamil said he talked with Assistant DA Brian Mitchell who is working to get paperwork finalized with the City of Alva on the Woods County Senior Citizen location. McMurphy said it was stated at another meeting he attended that the Alva Arena is hoping for a groundbreaking in March with plans to open in 2025. Smiley said Waynoka had a tough time fighting a fire in ice and snow recently. The fire started west of the county shed.

The commissioners approved blanket purchase orders before adjourning.

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39K Miles (T57261)

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2017 CHEVY 1500

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SALE PRICE \$34,875

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SALE PRICE \$13,995

2019 CHEVY 1500

LT, Trailboss Package, 4WD,
Black Cloth, HS, (T55901)

SALE PRICE \$29,875

2013 CHEVY 3500

LT, 4WD, Diesel, DRW, Butler Arm Bed,
PW&PD, (U655)

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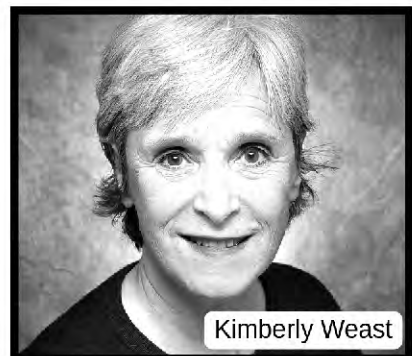
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Lawana Newell



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Acres	County/State	Description	Price	Status
620	Meade Co, KS	Grazing - CRP - Hunting	\$1,260,000	NEW
1,894	Morton Co, KS	Dryland Farm Ground-CRP-Homestead	\$1,800,000	NEW
980	Blaine Co, OK	Income Producing Quarry w/Mining Lease	\$3,430,000	new price
525	Wayne Co, MO	135/ac Private Lake - Hardwood Timber	\$2,895,000	new price
780	Texas Co, OK	Grassland, Grazing, Hunting	\$741,000	new price
242	Comanche Co, KS	Agricultural, Grassland, Hunting	\$387,200	
412	Barber Co, KS	Hunting, Agricultural, Grazing	\$1,075,000	
138	Kingfisher Co, OK	Cropland, Hunting, Grassland	\$415,000	new price
39	McCurain Co, OK	Platted Residential Dev near Golf Course	\$1,250,000	
504	McCurain Co, OK	Land + Home, Timber, Wildlife	\$2,315,600	
Lots	McCurain Co, OK	Convenience Store - Recently Built	\$3,675,000	Pending
880	Kiowa Co, KS	Agricultural, Hunting, Grass Land	\$1,760,000	Pending
304	Woods Co, OK	Hunting, Grazing, Multiple Ponds	\$365,000	new price
638	Roger Mills Co, OK	Hunting, Grazing, Spring Fed Pond	\$1,084,600	new price
114	Roger Mills Co, OK	Hunting, Grazing, Grassland	\$245,000	
24.67	Woods Co, OK	Custom Home, Pond, Grassland, Hunting	\$775,000	
156	Woods Co, OK	Res/Comm Development near Alva	\$499,000	new price
1.9	Taney Co, MO	D'monaco Luxury Resort	\$36,000,000	
2.5	Taney Co, MO	170 Room Hotel Development Project	\$8,500,000	
150	McCurain Co, OK	Grazing, Hunting, Development	\$750,000	SOLD
632	Woods Co, OK	Pond + Hunting Greenleaf Creek	call for price	SOLD
680	Seminole Co, OK	6 Tracts - North Canadian River	AUCTION	SOLD
11,242	McIntosh Co, OK	GILLESPIE RANCH - LAKE EUFAULA	\$23,600,000	SOLD
290	WOODS CO, OK	Little Sahara State Park 14 Tracts	AUCTION	SOLD
780	Alfalfa Co, OK	6 Tracts - CLASS 1 SOILS - Cropland	AUCTION	SOLD
477	Barber Co, KS	Grassland, Hunting, Ponds	\$950,000	SOLD
148	Kay Co, OK	Cultivation, Agricultural, Grassland	\$400,000	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	\$2,999,000	SOLD
640	Woods Co, OK	5 Farm Land Auction	\$1,350,200	SOLD
159	Stafford Co, KS	Cropland w/ Pond, Hunting with House	\$645,000	SOLD
405	Ottawa Co, OK	High Yield Cropland in Welch, Oklahoma	\$1,700,000	SOLD
150	Sumner Co, KS	Development/Cropland/River Clearwater	\$879,900	SOLD
11,391	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
660	Barber Co, KS	Hunting on Little Bear Creek	\$825,000	SOLD
363	Kingman Co, KS	Lies in Sections 5&8-30S-10W	\$1,200,000	SOLD
275	Kingman Co, KS	Turn Key Recreational Property w/Lodge	\$749,999	SOLD
470	Major Co, OK	Hunting on Cimarron River	\$790,000	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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From Page 12 Voter

official voter registration agency by the submission deadline.

Applicants will be notified in writing when their application has been processed. Approved voters will receive a Voter Identification Card in the mail. Some may receive a letter that explains the reason or reasons the application was not approved. Jantz said those who do not receive a response within 30 days of submitting their application should contact the county election board office immediately.

The Alfalfa County Election Board

reminds voters that applications must be approved by the county election board secretary in order to vote.

Registered voters who have moved to Alfalfa County from a different county or state will need to complete a new Voter Registration Application to be eligible for elections in Alfalfa County. If you have moved within the county and need to update your address, you may make changes online using the OK Voter Portal at oklahoma.gov/elections/ovp or complete a Voter Registration Application.

Voter Registration Applications can be downloaded from the State Election Board website at oklahoma.gov/elections. You may also complete a form at your county election board. Most post offices, tag agencies, and public libraries have applications available upon request.

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. For questions, please contact the election board at 580-596-2718 or alfalfacounty@elections.ok.gov.

Obituaries

WILLIAM THURMAN CROUCH



Funeral services for William Crouch will be 10 a.m. Saturday, January 27, 2024, at Marshall Funeral Home Chapel. Burial will follow in the Alva Municipal Cemetery under the direction of Marshall Funeral Home. There will be a visitation for family and friends from 5-7 p.m. Friday.

William Thurman "Bill" Crouch was born January 12, 1930, to Charles Noah and Luch May (Martin) Crouch, on the farm near Greenleaf. He attended Greenleaf school. He worked on the farm and railroad until entering the United States Army in 1952, completing bootcamp at Camp Roberts in California. He was then stationed in Korea with the 179th Infantry, 45th Division. Bill was a 4.2 mortars man on Heartbreak Ridge in Korea.

In May of 1968 he was united in marriage to Kermalene (Quinlan) Hoffman. One child was born to them, William Michael Crouch, who he cherished along with his stepdaughter, Victoria Hoffman Morris.

Bill worked at Alva Electric for 42 years in refrigeration and electrician, retiring in 1995, where he continued to enjoy wheat farming and cattle ranching. His love was his family and always attended all their events.

Besides his parents, Charles and Lucy, he was preceded in death by his wife, Kermalene Crouch; his brothers,

Charles E. Crouch and James Gerald Crouch; his sisters, Susan Marguerite Carlson and Mildred Louise Morehart; and two infant granddaughters, Michelle and Mikiah Crouch.

He leaves behind a son, William Michael Crouch of Alva; a daughter, Victoria Hoffman Morris and husband, Jason Peck, of Bella Vista, Arkansas; grandsons, Wyatt Crouch and fiancée, Brittany Cunningham, of Avard, and Weston Crouch of Alva; granddaughters, Samantha Morris of Rogers, Arkansas, and Bridgitte Crouch of Alva; great grandchildren, Beckam Gottfried of Rogers, Arkansas, and Josie Mae Crouch of Avard; many nieces, nephews, cousins, and loving family and friends.

Memorial contributions may be made through the funeral home to the Moose Lodge or the Wounded Warrior Project.

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

RICHARD N. RYERSON



Memorial services for Richard Norman Ryerson will be held at 1 p.m. Friday, January 26, 2024, at the First United Methodist Church with Rev. Taylor Anderson officiating. Arrangements are

under the direction of Marshall Funeral Home of Alva.

Richard Norman Ryerson, son of the late Norman Albert and Mildred (Starr) Ryerson, was born on August 9, 1937,

at Alva, Oklahoma, and went home to be with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on January 12, 2024, at Edmond, Oklahoma, at the age of 86 years.

Richard was raised in his hometown of Alva, where he graduated from Alva High School with the Class of 1955. From there, he attended the University of Oklahoma, where he earned a business finance degree, graduating in 1959.

During his time at OU, Ryerson was active in Delta Tau Delta Fraternity, the Men's Glee Club, and the "Pride of Oklahoma" marching band. The band performed at OU football games throughout the country including the Orange, Sugar, and Cotton Bowls, as well as Notre Dame Stadium.

Additionally, as an undergraduate, Ryerson was commissioned second lieutenant in Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC). Richard's senior year, he was named the recipient of the Wall Street Journal Achievement Award as the Outstanding Senior in the College of Business Administration.

While at OU, Richard met the love of his life, Johnnece Ellen Houghlin. They were married at the Pauls Valley Methodist Church on June 12, 1959. Upon graduation, they moved to Lawton, Oklahoma, to start their life together. Richard was assigned active duty at the United States Army's Ft. Sill military base, where he graduated at the top of his class in officer artillery advanced training. After his years of active duty, Ryerson continued his service in the

See Obits Page 18

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RETAIL: \$18,900

MILES: 70,316

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ACADIA
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MILES: 103,849

OUR PRICE: \$16,999**LOW MILES**2017 CHEVROLET
SILVERADO
1500 LT

STOCK NO.
369058

RETAIL: \$31,775

MILES: 52,578

OUR PRICE: \$28,499**RECENT TRADE**2016
CHEVROLET
EQUINOX

STOCK NO.
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RETAIL: \$10,613

MILES: 125,145

OUR PRICE: \$9,999**1-OWNER**2009 HONDA
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STOCK NO.
009432

MILES: 76,329

OUR PRICE: \$13,999**LOW MILES**2023 GMC
ACADIA SLT

STOCK NO.
151109

RETAIL: \$34,700

MILES: 14,838

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4WD | 6.6L | AT

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From Page 16 Obits

Army National Guard as Captain and Headquarters Battery Commander of the 189th Field Artillery Battalion of the 45th Division, a post he held for 12 years.

Following his military service, Richard assumed management duties of the W.W. Starr Lumber Company, a business started by his grandfather in 1909. For over 50 years, Ryerson managed the day-to-day operations of Starr Lumber with locations in Alva, Blackwell, Enid, and Woodward. He also served in various leadership capacities of industry trade groups such as the Oklahoma Lumber Association and Mid-America Lumber Association.

Richard was active in many other arenas outside of his primary business. In 1998, Ryerson was appointed by Gov. Frank Keating to serve as Regent

for BOROC, the Board of Regional Oklahoma Colleges. During his nine-year term, Richard was involved in numerous campus building projects throughout the state, selected several college presidents, and was named Chairman of the Board of Regents.

Ryerson was a lifelong member of the First United Methodist Church, as well as founder and board member of Community Bank of Alva. He was active in various leadership roles with the Woods County Industrial Development Committee, Alva Chamber of Commerce, Northwest Family Service Center, Bill Johnson Correctional Center, and Alva Kiwanis Club (where he played piano). Upon his death Richard was the longest tenured Kiwanis member in the state of Oklahoma.

Throughout his lifetime, Richard was recognized in many different areas. One of the most important honors included being selected as a "Distinguished Goldbug" in 2017. This award meant so much to him, as he was always proud to share with anyone that he was a Goldbug.

Richard was preceded in death by his parents, Norman and Mildred Ryerson, and his wife of 59 years, Johnene Ryerson.

He is survived by his daughter, Julia Ryerson Witherington of Plano, Texas, and her children, Elizabeth, Sarah, and David Witherington; and a son, John and daughter-in-law, Amy Ryerson, of Alva, Oklahoma, and their children, Ben, Katherine, and Madeline; other relatives and many friends.

Memorial contributions may be made through the funeral home to honor Richard's life to the First United Methodist Church of Alva, the Northwestern Oklahoma State University Foundation, or the Alva Goldbug Education Foundation (checks made to CFO/AGEF).

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

JAMES DAVID WRIGHT

Memorial graveside services will be 1 p.m. Saturday, February 10, 2024, at the Fairvalley Cemetery, Freedom, Oklahoma, with Galen

Halsey and Dwayne Payne officiating. Cremation arrangements are under the direction of Marshall Funeral Home of Alva.

James David Wright, son of the late Harold James and Joyce Ann (Windecker) Wright, was born October 20, 1960, at Boulder, Colorado, and passed away January 11, 2024, at Oklahoma City, at the age of 63 years, 2 months and 22 days.

A military son, Jim grew up in many cities before settling in Waynoka and graduating from Waynoka High School with the Class of 1979. He obtained his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Central Oklahoma and his master's degree in cyber security at Webster University. In 1979 he joined the U.S. Marine Corp, serving three years before enlisting in the U.S. Army. He retired from the Oklahoma Army National Guard in April of 2020 at the rank of Chief Warrant Officer III, having served over 23 years.

On December 31, 2011, he was united in marriage to Sandra Elaine Stokes at Moore, Oklahoma. They made their home in Midwest City and Norman, before settling in Yukon. An avid billiard player, Jim could always be found competing at the pool table. In retirement, he worked as a professional billiards referee. He and Sandra traveled all over the country while he refereed both amateur and professional billiard tournaments. He enjoyed woodworking, riding his Harley motorcycle, antique shopping and being a firearms dealer and instructor.

Besides his parents, Harold and Joyce, he was preceded in death by his son, James "Adam" Wright.

Jim is survived by his wife, Sandra Wright of Yukon; his brothers, Bob Wright and Bill Wright, both of Woodward; a half-sister, Alaina Wright of Alaska; two stepsons, Joshua Johnston and wife, Diana, of Oklahoma City, and Jordan Johnston and wife, Heather, of Moore; four grandchildren, Amber, Ariana, Jaiden, and Kiara; other relatives and many friends.

Memorial contributions may be made through the funeral home to Veteran's Corner.

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

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From Page 10 VAP



VAP Board members at the 2024 Annual Meeting are: (l-r) Bob Baker, Mike Martin (Secretary/Treasurer), Gregg Glass, Gordon Karber, Steve Sterling (CEO) Jay Lohmann (President) Dean Goll (Vice-President) Biron Shirley. Not pictured: Dan Purvis and Jake Kelln.

more than anything I said. It was pretty cool.”

Positive News and C-Pace Loan

Sterling proudly told investors that VAP is current on loan payments and interest due. Property taxes are paid to date. They ended the year current on accounts payable. They celebrated a successful audit for the June 1, 2022 to May 31, 2023 FY. VAP received an A+ Rating for an unannounced BRC Audit. Profit was \$241K. Revenue increased by 13.7

percent (\$671K). “It’s all good stuff,” Sterling said.

VAP currently has 33 fulltime employees; six part-time; two contract. Benefits per employee total \$9,060.36. That includes: medical, dental, vision, life. Employees receive paid time off accrued by paycheck and the number years of service and seven paid holidays. They also have a 401 K investment that Sterling just implemented this year.

He said, “I’m trying to build a future here (in Alva) for people who can have a job and support their families.”

See VAP Page 22



Melody Edwards (left) receives her Years of Service award from Alicia Guyle with CEO Steve Sterling in the back.



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Wed Jan. 24-Chicken Enchiladas
Thurs Jan. 25-

Cheesy Ham & Potato Casserole

Friday Jan. 26- Fish

Mon Jan 29 -Tator Tot Casserole
Tues Jan 30 -Frito Chili Pie

Wed Jan 31- Bierocks Casserole

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From Page 4 Marione

flammable materials), or by wrapping pipes with towels soaked in hot water. As tempting as it may be, do not use a blowtorch, a kerosene or propane heater, a charcoal stove, or any device with an open flame; the high heat can damage the pipes or even start a fire.

- Apply heat until full water pressure is restored. Check all other faucets in your home to see whether you have additional frozen pipes. If one pipe freezes, others may freeze, too.

- Call a licensed plumber if you are unable to locate the frozen area, if the frozen area is not accessible, or if you cannot thaw the pipe.

I consider Consumer Reports a reliable source on all kinds of topics. For the near future, the forecast temperatures for the area are above freezing, but Oklahoma (and Kansas) weather can change quickly.

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A public service announcement of this publication and the
Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

From Page 6 **Burlington**

January 20th. January 24th the local spelling bee will be at 8:30 AM and will be on Skordle. Monday, January 29th will be elementary basketball vs Cimarron, which is the last elementary game of the season. Tues, February 6th will be the local science fair where elementary students will set up in the hallways. Tuesday, February 13th will be Reading with Parents, where students will be making Valentine's cards for nursing home residents and local elderly. Tuesday, January 15th

teachers will be attending a Math Caravan at Stride Bank Center where they will get samples to help with math curriculum, which is up for adoption next fiscal year. Pedersen said Miss Andrews will have pk-2nd graders participating in Read Across America in March. Summer library hours are being discussed. AR reward for the second semester will be bowling for 3rd-6th, or a party at Graham's pond for kg-2nd students meeting their AR goal.

From Page 20 **VAP**

As a reward for VAP employees' success, Sterling said they traveled to Tanganyika Wildlife Park and Zoo in Wichita and spent the day.

In his cost cutting measures the last two years, Sterling said, "We cut costs and eliminated non-resident management positions saving approximately \$300K.

Sterling said it takes nearly \$250,000 per month "just to show up." That's for utilities, insurance, loan payment, salaries, property tax, etc. That does not include the cost of ingredients, packaging, scrap, repairs, etc.

Sterling reminded investors the line they use to make dough and products on had a life span of about 20 years and here they are at 24 years. He and the board propose funding a \$2 Million Plant Capital Improvement Project to continue operating efficiently using a C-PACE LOAN. That will include Spiral updates – all four; Conveyor Belts, Electronics, Freezer Ceiling, Decking, Ammonia Coil (Proofer); Floor Freezer

ceiling replaced; Form & Fries – new drives & programming; Update Mixer Cage Hardware.

Product and Customers

VAP currently makes 37 different pizza crusts in various sizes and weights. They sell both proofed pizza crust that goes from freezer to oven and unproofed that you let rise before baking. Sterling said they make primarily pizza crust plus a few select custom orders VAP's new website vapalvaok.com shows their products in detail.

At the meeting Sterling showed slides that revealed over a dozen VAP customers and sales which are over 5M.

"Maintaining customer relations is important. Our goal is to build aligned partnerships with long-term customers vs. the transactional business experienced in the past. The process and equipment VAP uses produces premium products even after this many years in the industry."

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RECREATIONAL LAND AUCTION WITH PRODUCING MINERALS ONLINE ONLY LAND AUCTION Great Western Auction and Realty, LLC

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Sellers: Larkin Family Farm

Legal description: Approximately 400 acres comprising the NE1/4 and the N1/2SE1/4 of Section 23 and the SE1/4 of Section 14 all in T32S, R15W of the 6th P.M. in Barber County, Kansas.

Directions: From Medicine Lodge, go approximately 18 miles west on Highway 160 to Aetna Road. Then go south on Aetna Road 1.5 miles to the property.

Description

This diverse 400-acre property sits on a well-maintained gravel road near Deerhead, Kansas. The property features two ponds, one of which was built in the mid 1990s and has been stocked with fish from Hartley's fish farm. Another pond site was staked along the south boundary but never developed. Approximately 80 acres of farm ground on the south part of the property attracts wildlife from the surrounding area. The wooded draws that run from all sides of the farm ground up to the ponds are perfect for the whitetail and turkey hunters. The rolling upland grass hills on the north side of the property provide excellent cattle grazing and upland bird habitat. There is an old home-site on the property next to the road with a water well. In addition, the producing minerals will transfer with the surface. The opportunity to purchase a truly diversified property such as this Barber County tract does not come often. Great Western Auction and Realty, LLC is honored to sell this property. It has been in the family for well over a hundred years.

Terms and conditions

A 3% buyers premium will be assessed on the winning bid to establish the sales price for the property. For example, if the winning bid is \$1000 per acre, the contract price will be \$1030 per acre. 10% down as earnest money will be due at the conclusion of the auction. The balance is due at closing on February 29, 2024, with Slamal and Swayden, Inc.

Possession

Possession will be at closing, subject to tenants rights. There is a written lease with the long-time tenants that runs until April 1, 2024, on the pasture. The property is selling in "as is" condition and is accepted by the buyer without any expressed or implied warranties. It is the buyer's responsibility to have any and all inspections completed prior to bidding. The buyer and seller shall split equally in the cost of title insurance and the closing fee. Bidding is not contingent upon financing. Financing, if necessary, needs to be arranged and approved prior to the auction. Statements posted up to the day of the auction on the website take precedence over all printed advertising and previously made oral statements. Great Western auction and Realty, LLC is an agent of the Seller. Not contingent on or subject to inspections, financing, surveys or appraisals. The property is being sold for cash.

Contact

Jed Hill, Owner/Broker
620-886-1701

jed@greatwesternauction.com

Or go to greatwesternauction.com for more information.

Haley vows to stay in GOP race as Trump seeks commanding victory in New Hampshire

By Holly Ramer, Jill Colvin, Will Weissert and Bill Barrow

MANCHESTER, N.H. (AP) — Nikki Haley, the last major GOP opponent of Donald Trump, insisted she would not drop out if she loses Tuesday's New Hampshire primary to the former president, who aimed for a commanding victory to make a November rematch with President Joe Biden more likely than ever.

Trump's allies were already ramping up pressure on the former U.N. ambassador to leave the race if she falls by a large margin. She has focused considerable resources on New Hampshire, hoping to capitalize on the state's independent streak as she looks for an upset or at least a tight loss that could dent Trump's continued domination of Republican politics.

"I'm running against Donald Trump, and I'm not going to talk about an obituary," Haley told reporters.

Trump countered Tuesday, "Let her do whatever she wants," saying voters will deliver the nomination to him anyway. His aides have argued for several days that Haley has no realistic path if she loses in New Hampshire.

AP VoteCast, a sweeping survey of the state's voters, found Republicans have slightly more doubts about Trump than Iowans reported.

About half of New Hampshire GOP voters said they were very or somewhat concerned that Trump is too extreme to win the general election. Only about one-third said the same about Haley. Regarding Trump's criminal indictments, about one-third of GOP participants in New Hampshire believe the former president has done something illegal related to his alleged attempt to interfere in the vote count in the 2020 presidential election, his role in what happened at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, or the classified documents found at his Florida home after he left the White House.

Still, if Trump wins New Hampshire, he would be the first Republican presidential candidate to prevail in open

races in Iowa and New Hampshire since both states began leading the election calendar in 1976 — a sign of his continued grip on the party's most loyal voters and a suggestion that he would extend his winning streak no matter how long Haley remained in the race.

If Trump wins Tuesday, he would be the first Republican presidential candidate to win open races in Iowa and New Hampshire since both states began leading the election calendar in 1976 — a sign of his continued grip on the party's most loyal voters and a suggestion that he would extend his winning streak no matter how long Haley remained in the race.

Trump won New Hampshire's Republican primary big during his first run for president in 2016, though some of his allies lost key races during the midterms two years ago. Haley has to contend with an opponent who has a deep bond with the GOP base and has concentrated on winning New Hampshire decisively enough that it would end the competitive phase of the Republican nomination battle.

There was a Democratic New Hampshire primary, too, but it was unsanctioned and provided no delegates to the winner. Biden wasn't on that ballot, opting to wait for upcoming South Carolina.

Were Haley to drop out after Tuesday, that would effectively decide the GOP primary on its second stop, well before the vast majority of Republican voters across the country have been able to vote.

Trump won the Iowa caucuses by 30 points. Haley finished third in Iowa, behind Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, who ended his campaign on Sunday. Next month's South Carolina primary is the next state where both Trump and Haley would compete. Haley was twice elected governor of her home state, but almost every top elected Republican in South Carolina backs Trump.

Her campaign manager circulated a memo Tuesday to donors, supporters and media arguing that it was too early

to dismiss her path forward — while also tamping down expectations for New Hampshire.

"The political class and the media want to give Donald Trump a coronation," Betsy Ankney wrote in the memo, first reported by The New York Times. "They say the race is over. They want to throw up their hands, after only 110,000 people have voted in a caucus in Iowa and say, well, I guess it's Trump. That isn't how this works."

About 40% of New Hampshire's registered voters are not affiliated by party. Republicans allow those voters to cast GOP primary ballots. That opens Haley's potential coalition to more right-leaning voters who dislike Trump and even Democratic-leaning voters who want to oppose Trump or vent frustrations over Biden, who declined to campaign in his party's unsanctioned primary here after championing a new calendar that puts South Carolina first.

Laurie Dufour was among the independents who opted for Haley on Tuesday. She said she votes most often for Democrats and would vote for Biden "in a heartbeat" over Trump in a general election, though she said she wished Biden would consider stepping aside due to his age.

"I did not want Trump and she just sounded very knowledgeable," the 66-year-old said.

Trump, meanwhile, continued to look ahead. He declined Tuesday to say whether he had spoken to DeSantis since he dropped out, and he wouldn't comment on the possibility of asking DeSantis to be his running mate. He did say he is willing to smooth things over with rivals once they've exited the campaign.

Scot Stebbins Sr., who attended Trump's Monday evening rally in a Make America Great Again baseball cap, called him "the greatest president we've had since Abraham Lincoln. He said he thought the four criminal cases and 91 felony counts Trump is facing



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Arthur Rion Allen, 4 month old son of Jeremy and Emily Allen of Cherokee, Oklahoma, has been diagnosed with Barth Syndrome, a rare metabolic disorder that affects the heart, muscles, immune system, and growth. Arthur is currently waiting for a heart transplant at Dallas Children' Hospital. Arthur' parents and sisters, Fiona, age 10, and Alice, age 5, could greatly use any support to help provide necessities to their family while they make this journey.



Maintenance Director for the Alva Campus

Northwest Technology Center (NWTC) is seeking a full-time, 12 month Maintenance Director for the Alva Campus. This position will Perform minor repair of all buildings and equipment and assist with custodial duties, under the general supervision of the Assistant Superintendent, needed to maintain the school premises to provide students and employees with a safe, attractive, comfortable, and clean place to work, learn, and develop. Assist with general operational needs of the district to include, but not limited to, student transportation, assemblies, marketing, and recruitment. Applicants must possess a high school diploma, GED, or equivalent. Applicants must have evidence of successful work experience related to building and grounds maintenance and hold a valid driver's license. Training or certifications in job related areas preferred.

Agriculture and Small Business Development Program Coordinator for the District

Northwest Technology Center (NWTC) is seeking a full-time, 12 month Agriculture and Small Business Development Program Coordinator for the District. This position is responsible for planning and delivery of consulting services and training initiatives in both agriculture and small business development. Position involves collaborating with industry partners, subject matter experts, and district leadership to design and implement tailored programs catering to client needs. Coordinator will assist clients with financial statements, cash flow development, capitalization requirements, and business plan development. A Bachelor's degree in a related field is preferred. Related experience in agriculture and small business preferred. Applicants must have a valid Oklahoma Drivers' License. Applicant must have or be willing to seek certifications as required by the Superintendent or designee.

Job information and application requirements for both positions are available online at <https://nwtech.edu/about-nwtc/employment-opportunities/> or by calling the Alva campus at (580) 327-0344. Applications can be mailed to NWTC Human Resources, 1801 11th Street, Alva, OK 73717 or e-mailed to applications@nwtech.edu. Applications will be accepted until a suitable applicant is found. NWTC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

From Page 24 **GOP**

constituted “a witch hunt.”

The last polls in New Hampshire close at 8 p.m. EST. With temperatures above freezing across the most populous parts of the state, weather has not been the same deterrent for voters as it was in Iowa, which had the coldest caucus day on record with icy roads and temperatures below zero degrees Fahrenheit.

Democrats were also holding a primary Tuesday, but it was unlike any in recent memory.

Biden championed new Democratic National Committee rules that have the party’s 2024 primary process beginning on Feb. 3 in South Carolina, rather than in Iowa or New Hampshire. He argued that Black voters, the party’s most reliable constituency and a critical part of his win in South Carolina that revived his 2020 primary campaign after three opening losses, should have a larger and earlier role in determining its nominee.

New Hampshire’s Democrats, citing

state laws dictating that their state hold the nation’s first primary after Iowa’s caucuses, defied the revamped order and pushed ahead with their primary as scheduled.

Biden didn’t campaign here and his name wasn’t on the ballot, meaning the state’s Democrats could vote for the president’s two little-known major primary challengers, Minnesota Rep. Dean Phillips and self-help author Marianne Williamson. Still, many of New Hampshire’s top Democrats backed a write-in campaign that they expected Biden to handily win.

Instead of focusing on New Hampshire, Biden was joining Vice President Kamala Harris in northern Virginia for a rally in defense of abortion rights, which Democrats see as a winning issue for them across the country in November.

There’s a growing sense of

inevitability around November being a reprisal of Biden versus Trump. Both men have been criticized by their opponents over age — Biden is 81, Trump 77 — and each has painted the other as unfit for another White House term.

Public opinion polls suggest most Americans oppose a rematch. An AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll in December found that 56% of U.S. adults would be very or somewhat dissatisfied with Biden as the Democratic nominee — and 58% felt the same about Trump as the GOP pick.

Trump lost New Hampshire in both of his general election campaigns. Biden finished a distant fifth in the Democrats’ 2020 primary before going on to win the nomination. In the November 2020 election, Biden won 52.7% of the vote to Trump’s 45.4%

Rifts within Israel resurface as war in Gaza drags on. Some want elections now

By Tia Goldenberg

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Ever since Israel was attacked on Oct. 7, a main Israeli highway has been flanked by billboards preaching national unity and a ubiquitous wartime slogan: “Together we will win.”

But lately those billboards have been replaced with a starkly different message: a call for immediate elections.

The mood of the Israeli public is shifting after more than 100 days of war in Gaza — and the catalyst is a rift over the polarizing leadership of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Israelis stunned by the brutal Hamas attack initially put aside their differences and rallied behind the war effort. Now old divisions that could alter the course of the war are reemerging.

As the death toll among Israeli soldiers keeps rising, and with dozens of hostages still in Gaza and Hamas still standing, more Israelis are vocally

pushing back against Netanyahu and his government. The public is also increasingly divided over whether the military can simultaneously achieve Netanyahu’s stated goals of destroying Hamas and freeing all the hostages.

“The Israeli public is rediscovering its political tribalism,” said Nadav Eyal, a commentator for the Yediot Ahronot newspaper. “It inherently limits the decision-making process when you don’t enjoy the public’s trust.”

Netanyahu, the country’s longest-serving leader, still heads a coalition that is clinging to power despite the criticism. But opponents say he lacks a clear vision for how to get Israel out of Gaza. They believe political and personal motivations are clouding his decision-making.

The prime minister’s opponents say he is beholden to ultranationalist supporters in Parliament, many of whom have called for the expulsion

of Palestinians from Gaza or for Israel to resettle the area. And they point to corruption charges hanging over him as evidence that it is in his self-interest to drag out the war.

Netanyahu says he has the country’s best interests in mind and that he will answer tough questions about Oct. 7 — when more than 1,200 were killed and some 250 were taken hostage — after the war ends.

The blistering war has already killed more than 25,000 people in Gaza, most of them women and children, and it has sparked a humanitarian catastrophe because of widespread destruction and displacement, and limited supplies of food, water and medicines. International criticism has prompted a trial at the U.N. world court over claims that Israel is committing genocide against Palestinians in Gaza, a charge it

See Israel Page 28

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Age as of January 1, 2024

Age Groups:
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Dawn Blackledge
Jill Devries
Courtney Nesseralla
Megan Stratton
Chesnei Thomas
Steve Ward

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daughter is interested in playing please contact
a board member or message our Facebook page**



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From Page 26 Israel

vehemently denies.

Netanyahu, who has so far sidestepped accountability for Israel's military and intelligence failures on Oct. 7, vowed once again on Tuesday to continue fighting "until absolute victory," even after 24 soldiers were killed the previous day, the deadliest since the war began. He says fierce military pressure is what led to the first hostage release deal in late November and is key to bringing about another.

However, several hostages have died or been killed in captivity, including three mistakenly shot by Israeli troops. The families of hostages in Gaza say time is running out and that another cease-fire deal is needed urgently.

"When the prime minister says 'absolute victory,' 'war until 2025,' he knows that if that's the case the hostages will die and return in coffins," said Eyal Ben Reuven, a reserve Israeli general. "A long war in enemy territory is not a good thing."

While military experts say Israel has made gains in Gaza, these can be harder to grasp for a public still reeling from Hamas' attack. What the public sees most clearly are mounting soldier casualties, rockets being launched into Israel — although fewer than at the start of the war — and dozens of hostages still

held in Gaza.

The internal criticism gained a prominent voice last week.

Gadi Eisenkot, a member of the influential War Cabinet and a former military chief whose son and nephew were killed in the war, told the prominent Israeli news show "Uvda" that only a negotiated deal could free the remaining hostages.

That was a direct challenge to Netanyahu's claim that sustained military force is the best way. Eisenkot also called for elections to be held soon to restore the public's trust.

Before the war, Netanyahu presided over a period of political turmoil that included five elections in less than four years. Each one was a referendum on Netanyahu's fitness to serve while on trial for corruption.

The nation became even more fractured last year when Netanyahu and his religious-nationalist government launched a judicial overhaul plan that sparked unprecedented protests. Opponents said the plan, if enacted, would be a fatal blow to the country's democratic fundamentals; scores of military reservists vowed not to serve, leading top defense officials to warn that Israel's security was at risk.

Netanyahu's critics say Hamas' attack and Israel's failure to foresee or promptly contain it was a direct result of the divisions sowed by Netanyahu and his government. Polls show his coalition would not be reelected if elections were held today.

For the growing chorus of voices who oppose the government, patience is wearing thin.

A protest calling for elections last week drew thousands in Tel Aviv, the biggest anti-government rally since the war began.

A group of 170 former commanders and other senior defense officials signed a letter earlier this month calling for elections now. Some of the same commanders were outspoken opponents of Netanyahu's overhaul, an indication of how the divisions over the war have in many ways settled along the same fault lines as the disagreements over the legal changes.

A recent poll of Jewish voters by the Israel Democracy Institute found that

just 10% of respondents from Israel's left wing believe Israel has had large success toward toppling Hamas. The number among the pro-Netanyahu right wing was 35%. The poll interviewed 756 people and had a margin of error of 3.6 percentage points.

Those who oppose elections say they would tear open the old divisions.

"The very discussion of elections will stop the military momentum, present every strategic decision as a political ploy and put the legitimacy of the fighting in question," Eithan Orkibi, a professor at Ariel University in the occupied West Bank, wrote in the conservative newspaper Israel Hayom.

But public anger, often embodied by the families of those killed or abducted on Oct. 7, is growing.

At a recent protest outside the Knesset, or parliament, one man who said his brother was killed in the Hamas attack was caught on video being dragged away by police as he yelled: "I won't despair until this whole government gets the hell out of here." He wore a black T-shirt bearing the word "Elections!" in yellow.

The mother of a soldier who was taken hostage and then died in unclear circumstances while in captivity has waged a public battle against the government. She inscribed on his tombstone that her son was "kidnapped, abandoned and sacrificed in Gaza by the government of failure."

The families of hostages have also stepped up their campaigns to free their loved ones. They have held protests outside Netanyahu's private residence, barged in on a parliamentary committee session and blocked a highway in recent days.

"Right now, the most urgent thing — and there is nothing more urgent — is to return the hostages alive," said Gil Dickmann, whose cousin is being held in Gaza.

Yaacov Godo blames the government and Netanyahu for the death of his son, Tom, who was killed in his home in front of his family during Hamas' attack. He has camped outside of the Knesset since early November in protest.

"It'll take time, but I believe the day is not far off where we will topple the government," said Godo.

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21 Israeli troops are killed in the deadliest attack on the military since the Gaza offensive began

By Josef Federman, Samy Magdy and Najib Jobain

JERUSALEM (AP) — Palestinian militants carried out the deadliest single attack on Israeli forces in Gaza since the Hamas raid that triggered the war, killing 21 soldiers, the military said Tuesday, a significant setback that could add to mounting calls for a cease-fire.

Hours later, the military announced that ground forces had encircled the southern city of Khan Younis, Gaza's second largest, and thick, black smoke could be seen rising over the city as thousands of Palestinians fled south. Witnesses said Israeli tanks and troops had also moved into Muwasi, a nearby coastal area that the military had previously declared a safe zone for Palestinians.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu mourned the Israeli soldiers, who died when the blast from a rocket-propelled grenade triggered explosives they were laying to blow up buildings. But he vowed to press ahead until "absolute victory," including crushing Hamas and freeing more than 100 Israeli hostages still held by the militants.

Israelis are increasingly questioning whether it's possible to achieve those war aims.

In the wake of Hamas' Oct. 7 attack, outraged Israelis set aside long simmering political differences and rallied behind the war. More than 100 days later, divisions are re-emerging, and anger is growing over Netanyahu's conduct of the war. Families of the hostages have called for Israel to reach a deal with Hamas, saying time is running out to bring their relatives home alive.

A senior Egyptian official said Israel has proposed a two-month cease-fire in which the hostages would be freed in exchange for the release of Palestinians imprisoned by Israel and top Hamas leaders in Gaza would be allowed to relocate to other countries.

The official, who was not authorized to brief media and spoke on condition of anonymity, said Hamas rejected the proposal and insists no more

hostages will be released until Israel ends its offensive and withdraws from Gaza. Israel's government declined to comment on the talks.

Egypt and Qatar — which have brokered past agreements between Israel and Hamas — were developing a multistage proposal to try to bridge the gaps, the official said.

'ONE OF THE HARDEST DAYS' FOR ISRAEL

Israeli reservists were preparing explosives Monday to demolish two buildings outside central Gaza's Maghazi refugee camp, near the Israeli border, when a militant fired a rocket-propelled grenade at a tank nearby. The blast triggered the explosives, collapsing both two-story buildings onto the soldiers.

Israeli media said the troops were working to create an informal buffer zone, about a kilometer wide (0.6 miles) along the border to prevent militants from attacking Israeli communities near Gaza. Military spokesman Daniel Hagari said the mission was to clear buildings to "create the conditions" that would allow the residents of the south to return to their homes.

The United States has said it would oppose any attempt by Israel to shrink Gaza's territory.

Throughout the war, Israeli troops have used controlled detonations to destroy structures that the military says hide Hamas tunnels or have been used by militants as firing positions — one reason for the massive destruction wreaked by the ground offensive. Blasts have destroyed entire city blocks, apartment complexes, government buildings and universities, fueling Palestinians' fears that the territory will left unlivable.

At least 217 soldiers have been killed since the ground offensive began in late October, including three killed in a separate event Monday, according to the military.

Netanyahu acknowledged on social media that it was "one of the hardest days" of the war but vowed to keep up the offensive.

"We are in the middle of a war that

is more than justified. In this war, we are making big achievements, like the encircling of Khan Younis, and there are also very heavy losses," he later said in a video statement.

Israel launched its offensive after Hamas crossed the border Oct. 7, killing over 1,200 people and abducting some 250 others. More than 100 were released in November during a weeklong cease-fire.

The offensive has caused widespread death and destruction, killing at least 25,490 people — the majority women and children — and wounding another 63,354, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. Its count does not differentiate between civilians and combatants. An estimated 85% of Gaza's 2.3 million people have been driven from their homes in a humanitarian crisis that has left one-quarter of the population facing starvation.

TROOPS IN THE "SAFE ZONE"


With fighting raging in neighboring Khan Younis city, witnesses said that in the past few days Israeli troops and tanks had entered parts of Muwasi. Previously, the military had told Palestinians to take refuge in the tiny rural area on the Mediterranean coast, saying it would be spared military operations.

On Monday, troops stormed Al-Khair Hospital inside the zone and struck the nearby Al-Aqsa University where displaced people were sheltering, according to health officials.

The advance sent families who had fled to the area from fighting elsewhere fleeing once more, said one witness, Aseel al-Muqayed. One main street "had been very crowded with displaced people, you could hardly find a place without a tent. Now the area is almost empty," she said, adding that she had seen tanks now stationed nearby.

The 21-year-old al-Muqayed has already been displaced multiple times since her family evacuated from northern Gaza. They moved repeatedly, fleeing bombardment — her younger brother

See Gaza Page 32

	
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From Page 30 **Gaza**

brother and a cousin were killed in a strike that hit one of their refugees — and eventually ended up in Khan Younis. She came to Muwasi several days ago, learning there was electricity there to charge her mother's phone, and now was afraid to move.

"For two nights, we have not been able to sleep as the sounds of tanks, gunfire and explosions are very close," she said.

Inside Khan Younis, heavy fighting raged around the two main hospitals. Shelling hit the fourth floor of Al-Amal Hospital, where a shell hit the fourth floor, killing one person and wounding 10 others, according to Raed al-Nems, a spokesperson for the Palestine Red Crescent rescue service which runs the facility.

Shelling on Monday also hit a U.N. school in the city sheltering displaced people, killing at least six people, according to the U.N. agency for

Palestinian refugees, known as UNRWA.

Israel's offensive has focused for weeks on Khan Younis and several urban refugee camps in central Gaza, after the military claimed to have largely defeated Hamas in the north.

Israel believes Hamas commanders may be hiding in tunnels beneath Khan Younis, the hometown of the group's top leader in Gaza, Yehya Sinwar, whose location is unknown.

PRESSURE FOR A CEASE-FIRE

The growing death toll and dire humanitarian situation have led to increasing international pressure on Israel to scale back the offensive and agree to a path for the creation of a Palestinian state after the war. The United States, which has provided crucial military aid for the offensive, has joined those calls.

But Netanyahu, whose popularity has plummeted since Oct. 7 and whose governing coalition is beholden to

far-right parties, has rebuffed both demands.

Instead, he has said Israel will need to expand operations and eventually take over the Gaza side of the border with Egypt — an area where some 1 million Palestinians are packed into overflowing U.N.-run shelters and sprawling tent camps.

That drew an angry protest from Egypt's government, which rejected Israeli allegations that Hamas smuggles in weapons across the heavily guarded frontier.

Diaa Rashwan, head of Egypt's State Information Service, said Monday that any Israeli move to occupy the border area would "lead to a serious threat" to relations between the two countries, which signed a landmark peace treaty over four decades ago. Egypt is also deeply concerned about any potential influx of Palestinian refugees into its Sinai Peninsula.

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Kansas lawmakers want a report on last year's police raid of a newspaper

By John Hanna
TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — Dozens of Kansas lawmakers launched an effort Tuesday to direct the state's attorney general to release information from an investigation into a police raid last year on a weekly newspaper, but it wasn't clear that their measure would get a hearing in the Republican-controlled Legislature.

Thirty-five Democrats and 10 Republicans in the Kansas House introduced a resolution condemning the Aug. 11 raid of the Marion County Record's offices, the home of its publisher and the home of a city council member in Marion in central Kansas. The resolution would direct Attorney General Kris Kobach to provide a report on whether

the investigation found that people's civil rights were violated.

The raid put Marion, a town of about 1,900 residents about 150 miles (241 kilometers) southwest of Kansas City, at the center of a national debate over press freedom. It also focused an intense spotlight on the police chief who led the raid because the paper had been looking into his past.

The 98-year-old mother of Publisher Eric Meyer died the day after the raid, something he attributed to the stress it caused, and within days the local prosecutor declared there wasn't enough evidence to support the raid. Legal experts said it likely violated state or federal law, and then-Marion Police Chief Gideon Cody

resigned in early October.

"This is something that happened in Kansas that garnered international attention and concern about the state of our free press in the world and very particularly here in Kansas," said state Rep. Mary Lynn Poskin, a Kansas City-area Democrat and a leading sponsor of the resolution. "I felt it was really important for the Kansas House to send a strong message."

The resolution is likely to go to the House Judiciary Committee. Chair Susan Humphries, a Wichita Republican, said she needs to review the measure, adding, "I can't say for sure that I'm going to have a hearing."

Kobach, an elected Republican, said that if anyone is charged with a crime, information will come out during the legal proceedings.

He said when no one is charged with a crime, "Then our system has a preference for not throwing everything on the table."

Cody has said he was investigating whether the newspaper and city council member had illegally violated a local business owner's privacy or committed other crimes by obtaining her driving record, which included a past drunken driving offense. Meyer has said the newspaper only verified the information's authenticity, and no criminal charges have been filed.

Kobach oversees the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, which took over the investigation into the newspaper and the city council member. Later, Kansas

officials asked the Colorado Bureau of Investigation to look into the circumstances surrounding the raid.

Meyer said Tuesday that he'd like to have a formal statement from authorities that the newspaper or its staff is no longer under investigation. He said making information public would be "a first step," but there are questions about why the raid was necessary and about how search warrants are issued in Kansas.

The lead sponsors of the resolution are Poskin and another Democrat, Rep. Boog Highberger, of Lawrence. Meyer said it could be "the kiss of death" for the measure.

"You know, if a Democrat said the sun is going to rise in the east in the morning, the Republicans would deny it — and vice versa, I might add," he said.

Several legislators and staffers said the resolution drew criticism from some Republicans for explicitly linking the raid to the death of Meyer's mother, Joan Meyer, the paper's co-owner.

The resolution also declares that the raid undermined "the role of journalism in encouraging engaged, civic-minded, critical thinkers."

Asked about the resolution, House Speaker Dan Hawkins, a Wichita Republican, said in an emailed statement that it would go through "the normal committee process" — which gives a committee chair wide discretion in what measures to consider.

"Freedom of speech and law and order are two very important considerations here," Hawkins said.

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Alfalfa County Sheriff's Office Logs

Tuesday, January 16, 2024

During this day were three
traffic stops.

1:09 p.m. – Welfare check
needed in the 500 block of
Pennsylvania. Officer advised
everything was okay.

5:38 p.m. – Report of dogs
loose in the 200 block of Texas.
Wednesday, January 17, 2024
9:33 a.m. – Report of a pasture
fire at County Road 550 and
Grady Road.

10:32 a.m. – Caller wanted an
officer to remove her roommate
who had been hurting her.

Officer had an adult female in
custody.

11:06 a.m. – Caller advised
her sister was needing help
on Harper Road. Advised her
sister was cleaning a house and
let the dog out and the dog was
now in the pond and couldn't
get the dog out. Officer advised
the dog had wrapped a rope
around the dog and got it out.
All was okay.

4:28 p.m. – Caller advised she
saw her neighbors take their
dogs in their home and then
heard what she believed was

See Sheriff Page 36

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From Page 35 Sheriff

the owner beating the dog, to the point that the window were rattling. Officer advised all was okay.

Thursday, January 18, 2024

During this day were two traffic stops.

3:53 p.m. – Medic needed for a male with chest pains and shortness of breath. Medic took the patient to Bass Hospital in Enid.

Friday, January 19, 2024

During this day was one traffic stop.

4:03 a.m. – Caller advised several people were outside her house on her property. Advised they were messing with her air conditioners. They were unable to give descriptions of the individuals. Advised they could see there was a vehicle but couldn't give a description. Officer was notified.

10:55 a.m. – Report of a white SUV, with a light bar, driving recklessly on OK-11 headed east. Advised Grant County.

Saturday, January 20, 2024

4:15 a.m. – Report of a fire in the 200 block of 4th Street in an electrical box. Burlington Fire Department en route. Advised all the occupants of the house was outside. BFD advised everything was under control.

3:04 p.m. – Report of a hit-and-run at the Jiffy Trip in Cherokee. Advised a pickup hit a Dodge Caravan with

a chair lift on the back. No injuries. The vehicle left headed north on Ohio. Officer out with the vehicle at 4th Street and Pennsylvania.

8:19 p.m. – Medic needed in the 200 block of 6th Street for a female who fell down the steps and hit her head. Medic took the patient to Share Medical Center in Alva.

9:14 p.m. – Caller advised someone had stolen a battery-operated chain saw out of the bed of his truck.

11:20 p.m. – Alarm company advised of an alarm going off at Dollar General. All was okay.

Sunday, January 21, 2024

2:35 a.m. – Alarm company advised of an alarm going off at Dollar General. All was okay.

3:35 a.m. – Alarm company advised of an alarm going off at Dollar General. All was okay.

6:17 a.m. – Caller advised their neighbor has left their dog out in the 19-degree weather. At 7:13 a.m., caller advised the neighbors had let the dog back in.

1:26 p.m. – Report of a suspicious vehicle in the 300 block of Central driving around residence. Deputy made contact and advised all was okay.

2:37 p.m. – Major County requested mutual aid from Aline Fire Department.

See Sheriff Page 37

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From Page 36 Sheriff

3:45 p.m. – Medic needed in the 600 block of Main Street for a male who keeps passing out. Medic took the patient to St. Mary's Hospital in Enid.

4:59 p.m. – Alarm company advised of a medical alarm going off in the 200 block of 6th Street for an unknown

issue. Medic arrived on scene and advised it was an accidental hit.

5:01 p.m. – Report of a suspicious person in the alley of the 200 block of 7th Street messing with his stuff. Officer advised all was okay. Just a female trying to find her dog.

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 Woods County Courthouse. The Alva Review-Courier 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

Zachary Allen Emfinger, Avery, Texas, 30, has been charged with unauthorized use of a motor vehicle (\$402.75).

Joshua Thomas Price, Cherokee, 37, has been charged with possession of stolen implement of husbandry (\$721.50).

Wade Mosley, Oklahoma City, 45, has been charged with unauthorized entry into prison; bringing contraband (drugs) into penal institution (marijuana) and bringing contraband (cellular phones) into jail penal institution (\$1,418.25).

Shana Lynn Thresher, Cherokee, 50, has been charged with domestic abuse – assault

and battery (\$680.25).

Misdemeanor Filings

Thomas Chavez Jr., Tulsa, 27, has been charged with driving with license revoked (\$317.75).

Civil Filings

State of Oklahoma vs. Michael Lyn Penner, Cherokee and Michelle Penner, Cherokee: tax warrant (\$229.14).

Discover Bank vs. Alanna R. Nacion, Cherokee: indebtedness (\$239.14).

Divorce Filings

Allison Regier, Fairview, vs. Matthew Regier, Fairview: divorce (\$272.14).

Protective Order Filings

Ervin Lynn Norton, Helena and Kay Norton vs. Stephen Paul Bankston, Goltry: protective order (\$173).

Traffic Citations

The following individuals were cited with speeding:

Luevano Gaytan Sergio, Tulsa, has been cited for speeding 21-25 mph over the speed limit (\$319).

Thomas Chavez Jr. has been cited for speeding 15 mph over the speed limit (\$264).

Emma Michaela Place, Alva, has been cited for speeding 1-10 mph over the speed limit (\$100).

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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.

Noon Alva Kiwanis Club will meet at Cancun Mexican Grill.

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.

Alfalfa County real estate transactions

Real Estate Transfers

Book 895 page 559: Brenda K. Sidwell and Raymond J. Sidwell convey unto Goltry Grain LLC. Lots 1 through 6 in Block 68 in the Town of Goltry, Alfalfa County, Oklahoma, etc. Quit claim deed.

Book 895 page 565: Cory Glen Wilson conveys unto Leslie Booth. Lots 13

through 16 in Block 39 in the Original Town, now City of Cherokee, Alfalfa County. Quit claim deed.

Book 895 page 606: Tava Jo Edwards Trust conveys unto Cherokee Girl LLC. The southeast quarter of Section 3, Township 24 north, Range 11, WIM, Alfalfa County, Oklahoma. Quit claim deed.



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REFLEX-ACTIONS ON FACEBOOK

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The Town of Carmen is taking sealed bids

for surplus items until noon on Feb. 13, 2024. Any questions contact Town Clerk 580-987-2321. Bids can be mailed to Town of Carmen PO Box 98, Carmen OK 73726, or delivered to 421 W. Main. The Town of Carmen reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids.

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